Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council

Ashbury Village Hall

Monday 13th May 2019 immediately followed the ‘Annual Assembly’

Minutes

Present: Cllrs C Davies (Chairman), P DuBois, C Prentice, P Cowx, District Cllr E Ware

L Evans (Clerk)

5 Members of Public

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** |  |  |
| **1** | **To receive apologies for absence**County Cllr Y Constance, District Cllr S Howell, Cllr A Alvarez Nishio  |  |
| **2** | **To receive any declarations of Personal, or Personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting**None |  |
| **3** | **To take reports from the District and County Councillors**1. District Cllr Report presented by Elaine Ware during the Annual Assembly (Attached to minutes in Appendix 1)
2. District Cllr E Ware explained that the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan is fantastic and is on target for referendum in early July.
3. Over the past four years the Vale have given grants of over £800,000 to local communities.
4. Agreement for temporary road access from the A420 to the Legal & General site in Shrivenham for construction vehicles. Longer term is for a roundabout to be placed on the A420 which will enable the residents direct access.
* County Cllr Report presented by Cllr C Davies (Attached to minutes in Appendix 2)
 |  |
| **4** | **To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11.03.19**Approved |  |
| **5** | **To address matters arising from the previous meeting*** **Online Banking-** Cllr C Prentice to confirm Lloyds log in is working
* **Emergency Response Plan -**Oxfordshire County Council have accepted the plan. Will be published in the forth coming weeks.

*An overview has subsequently been posted on the Ashbury website.** **Neighbourhood Plan Committee-** Cllr C Davies explained this will morph from the existing steering group to a more condensed form.
* **Maintenance of Churchyard –** CD to ensure that contractor gives necessary notice with future correspondence being sent to Community Liaison Officer C Prentice. Cllr C Davies to forward contractor information to Cllr C Prentice.
* **Trees On Ashbury Hill-** SSE have been made aware of the trees touching power cables on Ashbury Hill. SSE have visited the site and these will be pruned back- continue to monitor
 | **CP****AN****CD****CD** |
| **6** | **To take questions and comments from the Councillors*** **To co-opt two new Councillors**- Cllr C Davies explained that Cllr P DuBois has resigned from the council and with only four nominations being submitted there were now 2 councillor vacancies, which will be advertised.
* **Release of S106 Monies for improvements to Village Green-** Please refer to Village Green item 10.
* P DuBois explained that the Council is still awaiting a VAT Reclaim that has been sent- P DuBois to chase.
* Cllr P Cowx asked if residents are happy with BT internet as residents seem to be having issues, Cllr C Davies suggested that Cllr P Cowx do some modest investigation as report to BT.
* Cllr P Cowx explained that there was a serious accident in Berrycroft, whereby a lady was seriously hurt after tripping in a pot hole, District Cllr E Ware would like the details of the accident and to be the main point of contact in Vale.
* Cllr C Davies raised the issue of the numerous pot holes on the Wantage Road stating that the road is in a very poor state to District Cllr E Ware.
* Cllr C Davies asked if residents found the Parish Newsletter informative- Members of the public agreed they found the newsletter informative. Parish Newsletter will continue to be published.
 | **PD****PC****PC****CD/LE** |
| **7** | **Update on Planning Issues*** **P19/V0125/LB- Tealloch Cottage, 7 High Street, Ashbury-**Approved
* **P19/V0027/FUL-St Mary’s Church, Church Lane-** Approved
* **P18/V2934/LB- Rose Cottage Chapel Lane Ashbury-**Approved
* **P19/V0519/HH- Barkside The Malthouse, Ashbury -** Approved
 |  |
| **8** | **Other Planning Matters*** **S/OUT/17/1990- Great Stall East- Land South of A420 South Marston-** Explained in District Cllr Report
* **S/19/0703- New Road Link A419 Common Head Roundabout to New Eastern Villages Development –** Cllr C Davies explained that this is still under consultation, any feedback to be sent to Cllr C Davies
 | **CD** |
| **9** | **Update on Neighbourhood Plan**Cllr C Davies presented report (Attached to minutes in Appendix 3)Cllr C Davies explained that the examiners report is complete, but now awaited being ‘signed -off’ by the Vale prior to implementing the necessary [modest] changes. This is expected imminently.  |  |
| **10** | **Update from Village Green Committee**E Derrington presented the report (Attached to minutes in Appendix 4)The Village Green Committee would like to record their sincere thanks to County Cllr Y Constance and District Cllr E Ware for their support and generosity, and shows a great example of co-operation between different tiers of local government to make a real difference. Sincere Thanks to Graham and Marion Turner for a donation of £25 towards the Village Green.Cllr C Davies proposed that the provision of £2,500 from surplus S106 monies to Village Green improvements be confirmed: Seconded by Cllr P DuBois, and carried unaminously.E Derrington explained that a Calor Gas grant has been applied for the projects with the most online votes succeed. To vote visit [www.calor.co.uk/shop/communityfund/about-the-fund](http://www.calor.co.uk/shop/communityfund/about-the-fund) before the 17th June. Cllr P Cowx and Clerk L Evans to post on website & Facebook respectively. |  |
| **11** | **Update from Ashbury Parish A Team (Planters Group)** * **Ashbury Parish Council Assets- Mapping out of next steps and associated actions**

P Smith explained that there has never been a procedure or plan for maintenance of Parish Assets,it has only ever been reactive.Cllr C Davies to email district Cllr E Ware with Highways maintenance that needs tending to.Cllr C Davies explained that a meeting that was held with P Smith bought to light what assets need maintaining but it is not viable to maintain them all.P Smith has produced a draft questionnaire, and Cllr C Davies to edit this for circulation to residents to secure their feedback regarding parish assets. | **CD****CD** |
| **12** | **Village Green Access Update**Cllr C Davies explained that the Land Registry have admitted accepting contradictory title application and indicated that a measure of compensation would be available to put toward rectifying the situation.Cllr C Davies to look at costing another access and to take this back to Land Registry. | **CD** |
| **13** | **Finances to Note**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Date** | **Total Gross** | **Detail** |
| Transfer to ANP  | 22.02.19 | -£2000.00 | Transfer to ANP from Precept |
| Oxfordshire Playing Fields | 01.03.19 | -£42.00 | Subscription for Village Green |
| Village Hall | 13.03.19 | -£48.00 | Hire Of Hall |
| Laura Evans | 13.03.19 | -£467.95 | Clerk Pay Qtr 4 |
| HMRC | 13.03.19 | £589.00 | VAT Reclaim from 01/09/17-31/12/17 |
| Vale Of the White Horse | 04.04.19 | £4159.35 | Precept 1st Installment |
| DCK Accounting Solutions | 05.04.19 | -£30.00 | Payroll for Year End |

* **Annual Return**- Refer to Annual Assembly Minutes for necessary action.
* **Approval of insurance** – Refer to Annual Assembly Minutes for necessary action
 |  |
| **14** | **Agenda Diary*** **External Audit –** Refer to Annual Assembly Minutes
* **Registration of Members Interests –** All returned to the Clerk L Evans. Clerk to return these via post.
 | **LE** |
| **15** | **Correspondence**1. **25/03/2019- Overgrown Path-** Clerk L Evans to chase Highways
2. **01/04/2019- Rural Strategy –** Cllr C Davies to recirculate
3. **02/04/2019- Village Shopperbus –** Cllr A Nishio responded on 26th April, and the organisers have requested a meeting to discuss same.
4. **11/04/2019- Maintenance access to village green-** Any issues with the prior notice to be fed-back to Cllr C Davies
5. **18/04/2019- OALC Executive Committee Nominations-** No Further Action
6. **23/04/2019- Anne Henshaw- Traveller on the Ridgeway-** Clerk L Evans to reply, no complaints regarding traveller.
7. **02/05/2019- Maintenance of old Churchyard-** This is to be monitored and fed into the review and maintenance and affordability of same.
 | **LE****CD****AN****CD****LE** |
| **16** | **To take questions and comments from members of the public**Resident J Baker raised the issue of the 3 missing pillars opposite Chapel Lane, Cllr C Davies to include on the email to District Cllr E Ware | **CD** |
| **17** | **Any other Business**Community Liaison Officer C Prentice to contact Marion Turner regarding archive storage.Cllr C Davies Proposed a vote of thanks to P DuBois for all the work on finance- unanimously agreed.  | **CP** |

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Laura Evans

Clerk to Ashbury Parish Council

**Appendix 1**

**REPORT FROM VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (WATCHFIELD & SHRIVENHAM WARD) TO PARISH COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES 2019**

**Introduction**

The past 12 months have again been challenging. We represent 12 Parishes covering a wide range of issues from planning through to waste.

Simon continued as Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee. This Committee is responsible for ensuring compliance with principles and practice of good governance including the monitoring of financial arrangements. It also has a direct link to the Council’s external Auditors. Prudent management has ensured that the Vale’s finances are in a healthy position. Simon also continued as Chair of the Faringdon Area Grants Committee. Elaine as Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment has an extensive portfolio that includes Housing Needs, Environmental Protection, Food Safety, Waste, Car Parks, Mobile Home Parks, Licensing and Community Safety, Parks and Open Spaces.

This report which is the last under the current Vale administration covers the main updates for the whole of the Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward that we represent.

**Planning**

Planning issues have again been top of the agenda and we continue to do our best in representing the views of residents across the 12 Parishes.

The Local Plan Part 1 was adopted in December 2016. The adoption of the Plan has enabled the Vale to refuse speculative applications that have been submitted. Examples include the application from Gladman for 85 dwellings on the land to the north of the Bovis development known as Townsend Place and the Linden Homes application for 136 dwellings on the golf course..

**Local Plan Part 2**. The Plan is currently with the Inspector. Following the formal public inspection the Inspector requested that a number of minor amendments be addressed. These required further public consultation and the plan has been re-submitted. The plan does not identify any strategic sites in the Western Vale.

**Appeals –** Currently there is only one appeal outstandingin the Ward. This will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate in due course.

**Legal & General –** Phase 1 for 240 dwellings has commenced. Agreement for a temporary access road from the A420 has been agreed and construction vehicles will commence using it shortly. In the longer term there will be a roundabout on the A420 which will enable the residents of the new developments to access the road directly rather than through the village.

Legal & General have continued to hold regular progress meetings with the Parish Council and Ward Members.

**Bovis – Townsend Road** – Bovis has commenced constructing the 116 dwelllings known as Townsend Place. They did submit a change of house style application to the Vale. However, this was refused as the 3 bed design could easily have been converted to a 4 bed and would then be in breach of the required allocation of 3 bed dwellings.

**Taylor Wimpey - Longcot Road** – A number of the houses are now occupied. Construction is progressing and many of the original issues have been dealt with.

**Charles Church – Highworth Road –** The construction of 35 dwellings is well on track. There have been complaints regarding the access from Stallpits Road and these are being dealt with.

**Land South of Steeds Farm Gt. Coxwell** – An Outline application for a further 125 dwellings has been submitted to the Vale. This application is in addition to the 200 that are already being constructed on part of this strategic site. Amended plans and documentation have been submitted and a viability assessment was submitted in early April of this year.

**Lorry Park Chowle Farm Industrial Estate** – An Outline application for 9 residential dwellings and 9 offices with associated parking was submitted almost a year ago. Since then amended plans have been submitted and are currently under consideration.

Swindon Eastern Villages - The impact of the start of the new “Eastern Villages” in Swindon are starting to take shape and will have a significant impact on our villages which cannot be underestimated. A total of 8000 dwellings will be built in 8 villages and South Marston will expand. In partnership with the County Council we continue to represent our residents and highlight the many issues that are of concern including the A420.

**Recycling**

The Vale has slipped from No.2 to No.4 in the whole of the country for the % of recycling material. It is unfortunate that the Vale has been unable to maintain its level of performance. This has been primarily due to contamination of recycling material. To assist residents with recycling the Vale has produced a recycling wheel. The wheel gives information on what can be put in to which bin. Supplies are available from Parish Councils and libraries and further supplies may be obtained from the Waste Team at the Vale.

**Fly Tipping**

The Vale continues to successfully prosecute individuals for fly-tipping. One of the recent prosecutions was a Faringdon resident who paid two unknown men £25 each to dispose of DIY rubbish., The rubbish was found dumped in two different places in Buscot. He admitted his mistake in not checking that the men had the correct licence and as a result he was fined over £1600.

**Climate Emergency**

At the February meeting of the full Council the Vale like many other Councils declared a Climate Emergency and agreed to:

\*Ask the Leader to write to the Secretary of State to seek confirmation of the Government’s intention to work with local government on climate change strategies. This the Leader has done and the letter may be viewed on the Vale’s website.

\*Review the Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Management Plan

\*Ensure that all Council policies are routinely reviewed and as far as possible the reporting templates for Council, Cabinet and Committees include an Environmental Impact section.

\*Officers to provide costs and availability of training options for members and officers on how to promote carbon neutral policies for future consideration by Cabinet.

\*Request the Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment to bring a report to Council on the activities of the Oxfordshire Environmental Partnership of which the Vale is a member

\*Continue the positive collaborative work with partners across the district, county and wider region to deliver widespread carbon reductions.

**Oxford to Cambridge Expressway**

The Vale like other local authorities in Oxfordshire has discussed the proposal for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. However, to date there has been no formal consultation and until notification is received a full debate cannot begin. It must be recognised that the proposal is in its early stages and there is still considerable work to be undertaken.

The Vale has agreed:

\*To make clear the Councils concerns regarding the potential impact on residents.

\*Welcomes the commitment to greater investment by government in sustainable transport infrastructure options

and

\*Commits to using all reasonable measures to alert residents to the public consultation.

**Civil Parking Enforcement**

The Vale is exploring options for on-street parking enforcement.

A formal agreement from the county council is required in order to apply to the Department of Transport to delegate civil parking enforcement powers. If county agree and the council decides to take over responsibility it would then need to carry out a full review of the existing car parking orders and yellow lines. Arrangements have been made with other District Council’s and the County to undertake a feasibility study. The County are leading on the procurement of consultants to carry out this work.

**Grants**

Over the past four years the Vale has given grants of over £800,000 to local communities. Details of the Grants schemes are available on the Vale website.

**Policing**

As Ward Members we work closely with the local Neighbourhood Police Team. Elaine is a member of the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). Although the Vale is identified as a low crime area the recent burglaries have obviously caused concern. There are a number of crime prevention initiatives that are available including Smart Water. You may not always see evidence of our local police but you can be rest assured that the Neighbourhood Team are out there keeping a watching brief in all our villages.

**Conclusion**

Along with your local Parish Councillors we work tirelessly for our communities and deal with numerous issues that affect the area.

We attend a variety of meetings and make representation to various Vale Committees, Swindon Borough Council, the County Council and other organisations. We work hard to get our voice heard and our views listened to.

We continue to provide assistance and advice to residents when they have any problems or concerns. We may not advertise what we do on a daily basis but as locals we have our local community at heart and will serve you all as best we can.

Cllrs. Simon Howell and Elaine Ware

April 2019

**Appendix 2**

**REPORT TO [INSERT NAME] PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2019**

**FROM CLLR [INSERT NAME]**

**GENERAL OCC REPORT**

**DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS**

**Cherwell**

Remains under Conservative control.

**South Oxfordshire**

Moved from Conservative to No Overall Control; Liberal Democrat/Green coalition likely.

**Vale of White Horse**

Moved from Conservative to Liberal Democrat control.

**West Oxfordshire**

Remains under Conservative control.

**SIX RECYCLING CENTRES SET FOR SPRING CLEAN IN MAY**

During May six of OCC’s Household Waste Recycling Centres will be closing for two days to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance at the sites. This is part of the council’s planned approach to maintenance, and is designed to keep sites safe, looking clean and fresh and helping improve the customer experience when using these much valued facilities. Only one site will be closed at any one time and all other sites will be open on those days. Residents are asked to plan ahead for these closures, ideally holding on to your waste until the site reopens or if that is not possible visiting one of the neighbouring sites. Site Closure Dates:

* Alkerton - Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th May
* Ardley - Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th May
* Drayton - Thursday 16th & Friday 17th May
* Stanford - Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd May
* Oakley Wood- Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th May
* Redbridge - Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th May

For those residents with permits, please note that these can be used at any of the sites.

**MORE THAN 93 PER CENT GET THEIR FIRST CHOICE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR 2019**

More than nine out of ten parents whose children are set to enter the classroom for the first time this September have been offered their first choice of primary school in Oxfordshire. A total of 93.39 per cent of the 7,125 applicants have received their first choice – above all recent national averages across the UK. The consistent high number of first choices achieved in Oxfordshire is due to the county council’s careful forward planning to make sure the right numbers of school places exist – since 2010 the council has created more than 10,000 new primary school places. That means that since 2010 the number of primary school places in Oxfordshire has risen by 22 per cent. About a fifth of that has been achieved via the building and opening of new schools and the rest through expansions of existing schools – new buildings, making better use of existing accommodation, or marginal increases in admission numbers. This year’s figure of 93.39 per cent for first preference offers compares with the 2018 figure of 92.77 per cent. Although the national average for 2019 will not be published for some time, Oxfordshire remains ahead of the averages for 2018 (91 per cent) and 2017 (90 per cent).

**AMBITIOUS NEW OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP IS BREAKING NEW GROUND**

Residents in Oxfordshire are already benefiting from the impact of an ambitious and innovative new partnership between two councils – with plans being explored to develop closer working over coming months. Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council set up a joint working partnership in October 2018 – it is one of a very small number of examples of a district and county council sharing staff and services in the whole of the country. The county council’s cabinet approved the continuation of the partnership at its meeting on April 23.

**HENLEY-ON-THAMES REVEALED AS START LOCATION FOR WOMEN’S CYCLING RACE**

Henley-on-Thames will be the start location for stage three of the OVO Energy Women’s Tour professional cycling race. Full details of the Oxfordshire route were revealed at a ceremony at the town’s Leander Club – home to rowing greats like Sir Steve Redgrave CBE and Rebecca Romero – on Monday 15 April. The famous South Oxfordshire town will host a Big Bike Breakfast on the morning of the race, Wednesday 12 June. Crowds will line the streets, cheering off participants on the 145 kilometre-leg that will finish outside Blenheim Palace in West Oxfordshire. Elite cyclist Sophie Wright announced that Oxfordshire’s race section will start from Market Place in the centre of Henley. Oxfordshire’s county, city and district councils announced last month that a stage of the OVO Energy Women’s Tour, the UK’s most prestigious women’s cycle race, had been agreed to race through the county for the next three years, in partnership with event organisers SweetSpot Group. From Henley, stage three will traverse the Chilterns via Pishill to Watlington, before returning via the climb of Britwell Hill to Sonning Common and Goring. Crossing the River Thames at Wallingford, the route will pass through Didcot, Harwell and Wantage, crossing the Vale of White Horse to Faringdon, before looping through the West Oxfordshire towns of Burford, Charlbury and finally Woodstock in the closing kilometres. Oxfordshire is expecting economic and health benefits from hosting the prestigious event, with cycling fans expected to visit the county to watch the race, generating additional business for restaurants, bars, hotels, B&Bs and shops.

**SPECIFIC REPORT FOR [INSERT PARISH NAME]**

**Appendix 3**

**Report to the Parish Council Meeting**

**to be held on 13th May 2019**

**PLAN PROGRESS:**

Since our last report an independent examiner [Andrew Ashcroft] was appointed by VWHDC in late March and once ‘in post’ submitted his report within a matter of 3-weeks. We are currently constrained on what we can air about the report but suffice to say that the amendments proposed by the examiner are not onerous, comprising for the most part of changes of emphasis. The steering group are more than happy to adopt the proposed changes en-bloc and having confirmed this to VWHDC and requested that they authorise same, but they have yet to sign-off the examiner’s report meaning that we are unable to proceed and hence the process is again on hold.

We are still confident of meeting our original programmed completion date, however, but as previously stated the steering group are no longer able to control the process to any great degree as we are entirely dependent on third parties, a situation that continues to cause frustration!

**PLAN FUNDING:**

We have obtained a quotation and projected timescale to effect the changes proposed by the examiner from our consultants and as this is a relatively modest sum, we would hope that VWHDC would be able to fund same, however, too date they remain unforthcoming. Suffice to say we will continue to pursue this with our new ‘lead officer’ in the time afforded while they deliberate whether/not to sign-off the examiner’s report.

**Cliff Davies**

6th May 2019

Feedback received from publicity period:

1. R Meek Positive
2. VWHDC Leisure Neutral
3. VWHDC Lead Officer Neutral
4. Gladman Developments Very picky
5. Highways Neutral
6. Historic England Supportive
7. National Grid Neutral
8. Natural England Neutral
9. OCC Somewhat negative
10. Rob Stewart [?] Very picky
11. Thames Water Neutral

Appendix 4

Village Green Subcommittee Update May 2019

Since the last Parish Council meeting we have made excellent progress in raising funds for the playing field. We have secured: £7500 from the Vale of White Horse District Council. £2500 from Oxfordshire County Council. £7000 from the National Lottery Fund. Only our application to Sport England was unsuccessful.

The Village Green Subcommittee would like to record its sincere thanks to Yvonne Constance of Oxfordshire CC and Elaine Ware and colleagues of VOWH Council for their support which has been of huge value in getting Ashbury’s Village Green Project off the ground. It is a great example of co-operation between different tiers of local government to make a real difference at a grassroots.

We need to raise about £5000 more to complete the playing field and will work with the Friends of Ashbury School on an application to the Garfield Weston Foundation. We will also post our project on the Good Exchange website which invites offers of top-up funding.

We have now started work on the second phase of the Village Green Project - a Heritage Tree Trail including native trees, a commemorative space and a willow sculpture to be created by members of the community. We have applied to the Calor Community Fund for a grant of £5000 and to succeed we need the whole village’s support. The projects that succeed are the ones with the most online votes. So we’re asking everyone to 1 Log on to www.calor.co.uk/shop/communityfund/about-the-fund and register to vote. 2 Go to Calor Community Fund project list. 3 Search for ‘Heritage’ (it’s easy to spot because our picture is a drawing not a photo). 4 Cast your vote. 5 Please ask your friends and family to vote too. They don’t need to live in the village. The process is a bit fiddly and you may need a couple of goes. But don’t give up - we really need your help!

The Village Green Subcommittee meets next on 22 May.

Liz Derrington 5 May 2019

STOP PRESS – We have just received a donation of £25 from Graham and Marion Turner – the proceeds of recycling an old printer. Many thanks to Graham and Marion for this generous demonstration of support for the Village Green project.