**Monday 9th November 2020 at 6.00pm**

**Minutes**

Present: Cllr C Davies (Chairman), P Cowx, C Prentice, A Reynolds, J Greenham, J Ruggiero, District Cllr E Ware, District Cllr S Howell, L Evans (Clerk), 1 Member of the public.

At the start of the meeting, CD stated for the benefit of the public that; meetings are run to a strict time-schedule, and being via Zoom, would be recorded for ease of minuting.

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| **ITEM** |  |  |
| **1** | **To receive apologies for absence**  County Cllr Y Constance |  |
| **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 approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Monday 14th September 2020**  Approved |  |
| **4** | **To address matters arising from the previous meeting**  Cllr C Davies stated that due to his internet problems he would asks that all refer to the previous minutes and report back on progress or complete as soon as possible. | **All Cllrs** |
| **5** | **County & District Councillors-** To receive reports from County and District Councillors (5 minute time slot)  District Councillor report attached to the minutes in appendix 1  Climate Emergency Advisory – Issues with the website, this has been raised and is being addressed.  New Council Offices – South and Vale Councils agreed that the replacement headquarters will be constructed on a site opposite Didcot Parkway Station.  New Eastern Villages- SBC has lost the appeal regarding access through Symmetry Park. This will have an enormous impact on the New Eastern Villages. A well known distribution company is expected to move into Symmetry Park in the near future which will have an impact on traffic using the A420  District Cllr S Howell is continuing to send regular Covid-19 updates as and when new information is received.  County Councillor report attached to minutes in appendix 2 |  |
| **6** | **Chairs Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)**   * Co-option of Councillor- The meeting thanked James Ruggiero for offering his service as a councillor, and formally co-opted him to the council by a unanimous decision. * Covid- 19 response group- with the reintroduction of a national lockdown the Ashbury support group have been mobilized and will be providing regular updates as well as offering support to residents. Cllr C Davies thanked Sally-Ann Spence and her team of street Coordinators for the speed at which the have reacted. |  |
| **7** | **Clerks Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)** No update given |  |
| **8** | **Councillors Forum-** To receive reports from responsible officers (12 minute time slot)   * Finance update- Cllr A Reynolds presented the report (attached to minutes in appendix 3) * Idstone Road Railings – OCC came out and marked a few railings that needed to be repaired and secured the footings better but is still not aesthetically pleasing. Cllr J Greenham believes that the Council have addressed the issue of safety with regards to the railings, as some were loose. District Cllr E Ware confirmed that these railings are the responsibility of the County Council, and District Cllr S Howell suggested emailing to state that the job carried out was not satisfactory as the railings still do not run along side the path. * Cllr C Prentice has suggested going back to the County Council regarding the 40MPH entering the village from Wantage, Shrivenham and out towards Bishopstone * Allotments- Cllr C Prentice to be the secretial contact point for the allotments as this will aid in the management. * Bus Shelter- Cllr J Greenham confirmed it is in a bad state of repair, and is unsure of where to take the matter from here, the shelter will be fine for a couple of more years but will need a plan for the future. To be reviewed when considering 2021/22 precept. | JG  CP  ALL |
| **9** | **Sub Committee Reports-** To receive reports from Sub-committees (6 minute time slot)   1. **Village Green** usage and Maintenance budget (report attached in appendix 4) 2. E Derrington apologised for the lack of progress since September but this is due to the weather. Concerned about weeds on the Green, especially thistles, as only the central area was effectively treated. Quotations are being obtained for further treatment in the spring of next year.   Cllr Davies requested that £100 of the saving in this year’s S106 provision be put toward the cost of this exercise – this was agreed.   1. Dog owners are again failing to clear up after their pets. Regular checks will be re-started and fluorescent paint to highlight the failure.   ***Cllr C Davies had it bought to his attention that the banks leading up to the church need cutting. With the likes of the War Memorial this is kept very tidy and cut by two residents who volunteer. If there is further maintenance of an area required please contact APC.***   1. **Planning for the future**- Cllr Prentice reported that on 28 October, the APC Planning Group sent a detailed and challenging response to the Government’s ‘Planning for the Future” public consultation. The letter from Yoshi Nishio to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was copied to John Howell MP.  A core theme of the response was the need to protect the role of Neighbourhood Plans in any future planning system.   Cllr C Davies thanked Yoshi for submitting such a comprehensive response. |  |
| **10** | **Financial Matters**  Bank Reconciliation to be approved – unanimously accepted. |  |
| **11** | **Planning Matters**  **Applications;** None received  **Decisions:**   * P20/V1728/HH – Ashbury Manor, Berrycroft- Erection of Potting Shed- Granted * P20/V1978/LB – Village Hall Road between Idstone Road and Ashbury - Removal of patches of external render, subsequent masonry repairs and replacement- Granted * P20/V1641/FUL - Ashbury Manor Ashbury- Construction of 40m X 20m outdoor arena- Granted   **Other:**   * Enforcement Investigation VE19/469 - The enforcement officer has confirmed that the new extension does need planning permission, and has called for a retrospective application to be submitted. * We have yet to receive an update on the annex. The meeting agreed with Cllr Prentice that we should progress the situation with the enforcement officer. | CD |
| **12** | **Public Forum-** To take comments , representation or queries on agenda items (15 minute time slot) No comments or questions received. |  |
| **13** | **Individual Topics (12 minutes allocated)**   1. Reafirm Councillor Roles – Cllr J Ruggiero to take the combined role of Communications and Community Liaison Officer, with all other roles remaining the same. Cllr C Davies explained that the Council will need some guidance to be able to set up emails. Cllr C Davies and Cllr P Cowx to produce a list of Cllrs names and roles to see if Steve Treadwell will be able to assist.   Cllr P Cowx to focus on improving the website accessibility .   1. Determine 2020/21 Parish Precept – to include maintenance review – Cllr A Reynolds confirmed that the draft budget had been sent out to all Cllrs to review. Cllr A Reynolds to circulate the information used to generate the budget as the Precept needs to be set by the end of January. 2. Waste Bins- Bus Stop and War Memorial- Cllr Davies advised that the War Memorial bin is emptied by Vale but is regularly conjested with dog waste. The meeting thanked Mrs S Stannard for monitoring both bins and emptying them when over-full, but agreed that it should not necessary for a residen to take on such an onerous task. District Cllr E Ware to confirm with the Vale how often the bin at the War Memorial bin is emptied, and will check who was responsible for emptying the bus shelter bin. District Cllr E Ware confirmed that dog waste can be placed in residents general waste. Cllr J Ruggiero asked why we have no dog waste bins, this is due to the Parish Council having to purchase the bin and pay Vale to remove – Cllr Ruggiero to investigate the costs involved. District Cllr E Ware encouraged the idea of putting signs up regarding taking dog waste home. | **CD/PC**  **PC**  **AR**  **EW**  **JR** |
| **14** | **Agenda Diary** |  |
| **15** | **Correspondence**   * 21/09/2020- Temporary Road Closure, unnamed road off of Walnut Tree Hills- 2nd November- 4th November a- has been completed * 21/09/2020 – OCC News * 23/09/2020 – Covid-19 Emergency Resilence Plan update * 24/09/2020- Ashbury Footpath 13 * 01/10/2020 – OALC September update * 02/10/2020- Update from Healthwatch Berkshire * 02/10/2020- Elm Tree Surgery update * 15/10/2020 – District Council update * 15/10/2020- Press Release- Firework Safety in Oxfordshire * 16/10/2020- OALC Remembrance Day Government Advice * 20/10/2020- VOWH Christmas Tree Collection |  |
| **16** | **Future Agenda Items**  Cllr C Davies made the Cllrs aware of his intension to resign from the council at the AGM in May 2021. The object of providing 6-months notice is to provide members sufficient time to agree a successor and prepare for the handover. | ALL |

**Meeting Closed at 7:20pm**

Appendix 1

**District Councillors Report to Parish Councils**

**Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward**

**October 2020**

**Vale of White Horse District Council**

The Vale Communications Team continue to provide regular updates to all Town and Parish Councils.

The majority of Vale staff are working from home and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. As previously mentioned working from home doesn’t provide the same support as in the office and it would be appreciated if there is a need to contact officers please do so by Email rather than telephone.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee –** The Committee last met on 7 September and the minutes for this Committee are available on the Vale’s website. The items discussed included Power Purchase Agreement and England’s Economic Heartland – Transport Consultation. In addition, a specialist planning team have created a 7 page guide to planting trees for local community groups. This too can be found on the Vale’s website.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – This project is at an advanced stage. OCC’s Cabinet has agreed to apply to Government to take over the responsibility for civil parking enforcement across the whole of the county. OCC already enforces parking in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire and this arrangement would be extended to Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and the Vale. If the plans are approved the new measures could come into force by November 2021. The Vale Scrutiny Committee will consider a report in November and make any recommendations. A final report will be presented to the Vale Cabinet in December.

**Proposed changes to off-street parking in the Vale -** The Vale is giving people the opportunity to have their say before a new parking policy is finalised early next year. The proposed changes: additional parking for electric vehicles, fines for parking non-electric vehicles in charging bays or leaving an electric vehicle when not charging. Details of the consultation are on the Vale’s website and it closes on 19 November.

**Corporate Plan –** The Plan was presented to full Council on 7 October but a decision was deferred due to an administrative error. The Plan was considered by a special full Council meeting held on 22 October and approved. There are six themes and they are: Providing the homes people need, Tackling the Climate Emergency, Building Healthy Communities, Building Stable Finances, Working in Partnership and Working in an Open and Inclusive Way.

**Planning –** The Government consultation – **Planning for the Future -** This consultation has caused controversy throughout the country. A copy of the Vale’s response will be forwarded to Parish Council Clerks under separate cover.

A number of Parish Councils in our Ward have responded and we should like to thank them as the consultation document was lengthy and required a great deal of time and effort to complete.

The three controversial planning applications mentioned in last month’s report are ongoing. There have been a significant number of new applications which are currently passing through the formal planning process.

**Vale Website** – The Vale’s new website is now operational. However, there are still a few inconsistences which are currently being ironed out. Hopefully these will be resolved in the very near future.

**New Council Offices –** South and Vale Councils have agreed that the replacement headquarters for both Councils should be located at Didcot Gateway. A new building will be constructed on the site which is opposite Didcot Parkway Station. It is anticipated that the move could take place in spring 2023 but it is too early for a firm date.

**Extra Garden Waste –** during w/c 9 November residents who have signed up for the brown bin garden waste service can put out the equivalent of two bins worth of garden waste. They can put out up to three black bin bags but please no rubble or trade waste.

**Swindon Borough Council- New Eastern Villages –** Residents may be aware that Swindon Borough Council has lost an appeal regarding access through Symmetry Park. This decision will have an enormous impact on the New Eastern Villages as it was key to the new developments. SBC are considering whether to appeal to a higher court. In the meantime a well-known distribution company is expected to move into Symmetry Park in the near future and will have an impact on the traffic using the A420.

Although we don’t hold surgeries we are always available to deal with any issues.

Simon Howell – 01793 784491 – [simon.howell@whitehorsec.gov.uk](mailto:simon.howell@whitehorsec.gov.uk)

Elaine Ware – 01793 783026 – [elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Appendix 2

COVID in Oxon

Reports from the OCC Chief Executive on management of Covid have been emailed recently..

The National Lockdown at the weekend relieves County Council of another debate, and is raising serious challenges at last to following the secret advice of SAGE.   There are alternatives presented by scientists of global standing which we are ignoring:  for example the Great Barrington Declaration, initiated by Dr. Sunetra Gupta of Oxford University has been largely ignored and not made fully public.   I wish you all successful outcome from this lock down and hope we’ll be ‘free’ for Xmas. . .  . and maybe beyond?

TRANSPORT : CPE

County Councll has approved the OCC proposal to introduce Civil Parking Enforcement to Cherwell, South and Vale, which is long overdue.  (City and West Oxfordshire introduced CPE2014)

I initiated this project on taking the Transport portfolio, determined to end the complaints from residents about parking chaos which had to be enforced by the (absent) police.

OCC officers  proposed an innovative scheme where OCC will deliver on-street parking for these 3 Districts, providing the funding and taking most of the financial risk, retaining all ticket revenue and penalties, and undertake ALL parking enforcement for off- street as well as on-street parking.    The District Councils still have to approve this project, but we expect it to make parking enforcement effective in all the market towns (  penalties on all the high streets and all the commuter parking at railway stations) if  controlled by the Council and not have to wait for the police.    In time I hope CPE will enable village wardens to enforce parking in the villages too.

PLANNING WHITE PAPER ;  Gov’s White Paper has caused a number of concerns, not least that it was written on assumption that all Councils would be Unitary or Combined Councils.   OCC has responded highlighting many issues about the planned national diktat for  housing numbers; the possibility of a national replacement for S.106/CIL; distribution of receipts under such a scheme for a first- tier Council which is not the local planning authority etc.   We made strong comment about loss of local input and local knowledge, and await Gov response.

DEVOLUTION

We do not expect any change on the Devolution issue until after next May’s election.   SoS Robert Jenrick has written to announce that the unitary applications already committed would go ahead (in Cumbria, Somerset and Yorkshire ?) but no new ones will be considered until these are complete.

IN AHBURY  I am pleased to see OCC officer agreed that repairs are necessary to the railings on Idstone Rd ( raised by James Greenham).   Keep me informed as I may have some funding from my Cllr Priority Fund if OCC traffic budget runs

Appendix 3

**ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**FINANCE REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2020**

1. The Parish precept for 2020/2021 is £9,984.

2. To 31 October 2020, precept-related expenditure was expected to be £6,872.

3. To 31 October 2020, precept-related expenditure was actually £5,988. The details can be found in the attached report.

4. At 31 October 2020, total reserves stood at £46,825 (compared to £46,554 at 31 March 2020) of which £31,666 related to earmarked reserves. Again, the details can be found in the attached report.

5. The General Reserves increased as both precept instalments have been received (£9,984) and the Village Green earmarked reserves decreased by £3,681 mainly as a result of the retention for the landscaping being paid.

6. The transfers from the General Reserves to the Parish Maintenance reserve (£750) and to the Village Green (future maintenance) reserve (£1,750) were actioned in October.

Apendix 4

**Ashbury Parish Council - Village Green Sub-committee**

**Progress Report November 2020**

1. Four of the original trees planted in December 2019 – three beeches and a yew – have had to be replaced. The reason they died remains a mystery – but is not connected to the strimming incident in July.

1. Since September we've received offers to sponsor 8 more of the already-planted trees. We have raised £600 so far and are expecting a further £400 shortly, giving us nearly £3500 in the tree fund. We are currently looking for sponsors for the 7 remaining trees.
2. We remain concerned about weeds on the Green, especially thistles, and the fact that only the central area has been treated, but it's now too late to carry out further weed treatment this year. We are in the process of getting quotations for the work to be done in the spring and are grateful to the Council for it's offer to contribute to the cost.
3. To get the Green looking really good next year, regular, effective maintenance will be vital. One of our members has offered to act as maintenance monitor and we believe that this will significantly enhance oversight arrangements.

1. We're continuing to get positive feedback from the community about the Green in general and the playing field in particular. The School has assured us that it is keen to start using the space when it is safe to do so.
2. There have been quite a few recent cases of dog owners failing to clear up after their pets. We are going to re-start our regular checks, and spray any poo we find with fluorescent paint to highlight the failure – and we trust embarrass the person responsible.
3. We're still working on plans for picnic tables, a wild flower area, and a quiet space. It has taken longer than expected to get the quotations we need to enable us to apply for funding. We expect to be able to report in more detail in January.

Liz Derrington

6 November 2020