**Monday 12th July 2021 at 6.00pm**

**Minutes**

Present: Cllr C Prentice (Chair), P Cowx, A Reynolds, J Ruggiero, N Morgan, County Cllr Y Constance, District Cllr E Ware, L Evans (Clerk), E Derrington.

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| **ITEM** |  |  |
| **1** | **To receive apologies for absence**  District Cllr S Howell and Cllr J Greenham |  |
| **2** | **To receive any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting -** None |  |
| **3** | **To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 6th May 2021**  The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th May, were approved and signed as a true record |  |
| **4** | **To address matters arising from the previous meeting**   * Litter Pick – Cllr J Greenham was organizing for the Autumn, once the vegetation was not so overgrown. * Speed Survey – Cllr J Ruggiero had received the report. It seemed the speeds were not as excessive as first thought. County Cllr Y Constance explained that a scheme to support 20 MPH limits for all villages who wanted to participate was being developed by OCC and should be available later in 2021; and that the OCC have a new Community Speed Watch scheme which should also be available later in 2021. As consultations could be costly County Cllr Y Constance suggested waiting until the Autumn.   Cllr C Prentice proposed not to go forward with the speed consultation for now and to await the 20MPH scheme and Community Speed Watch. This was unanimously agreed.  Cllr Prentice noted that APC would like to mark a 10 meter line on the road at two junctions to discourage unsafe parking.  **Action**: County Cllr Y Constance offered to contact Highways to see if this could be done, or to recommend whom the APC could contact. |  |
| **5** | **County & District Councillors-** To receive reports from County and District Councillors (5 minute time slot)  District Councillor E Ware presented the report (attached to the minutes in appendix 1).  There would be a ‘Meet Your Councillors’ event at Shrivenham Village Hall on 24th July, 10:30am- Midday, with both District Councillors, County Cllr Y Constance and Thames Valley Police in attendance.  **Action**: Clerk to post the event onto Facebook and Cllr P Cowx to post to the web site.  County Cllr Y Constance reported that the County Council had earmarked funds for the No 47 bus service to continue on the Lambourn to Swindon route via Ashbury until April 2022.  £3 billion nationally had been approved to improve bus services and the County Council were preparing an enhanced strategy for consultation by the end of October. Cllr C Prentice noted that in a previous survey residents had indicated strong demand for a bus service from Idstone through to Shrivenham.  **Action**: County Cllr Y Constance to supply an email address so APC might respond to the consultation by the end of July.  **Action**: Cllr J Ruggiero to draw on the data from the Neighbourhood Plan when responding to the consultation. |  |
| **6** | **Chairs Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)**  Cllr C Prentice described the good progress made in informal conversations with local residents and the under-tenants of the shop to resolve some historical and current issues.  **Action** : Cllrs CP and PC to explore best form of signage on the verge at the road junction by the shop to discourage parking close to the junction. |  |
| **7** | **Clerks Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)**  Nothing to report |  |
| **8** | **Councillors Forum-** To receive reports from responsible officers (12 minute time slot)   1. Cllr J Ruggiero expressed concern that there had been a recent accident on B4000 due to the overgrown verges. County Cllr Y Constance confirmed that the grass verge cuttings had been delayed until July to protect nesting birds.   Cllr J Ruggiero would still continuing to report potholes via ‘Fix My Street’   1. Cllr Greenham had reported by email before the meeting:  * The Idstone railings were progressing slowly and were a case of patch and mend rather than replace. * The Resilience Plan for Ashbury seems in good order at the moment. * The electrical connections that were discovered to be “live” in the Idstone phone box had been reported by the Clerk to BT. BT had fitted a new cover and the electrical contractor would be attending on 2nd August to repair the faulty fusebox/cut out. |  |
| **9** | **Sub Committee Reports-** To receive reports from Sub-committees (6 minute time slot)  E Derrington presented the report (attached to the minutes in appendix 2). The Village Green project was complete. The Sub – Committee had served its purpose and proposed that they should be disbanded. Individuals with a continuing interest in the Village Green could operate in future as APC Volunteers.  The APC accepted the recommendation that the Village Green Sub-Committee be disbanded. On behalf of the APC and all Ashbury Parish residents Cllr C. Prentice warmly thanked the members of the Sub-Committee for all their hard work.  The APC were briefed by E Derrington on the covenants governing use of the Village Green and decided that it was a proper interpretation of these that informal sporting activities should be permitted on the Village Green.  **Action**: E Derrington to ask Ashbury School to conduct a survey of their students to establish what sporting equipment the children would use on the green, if it could be provided. APC to consider practicalities further at future meetings.  In response to a question from Cllr J Ruggiero, E Derrington confirmed that there were still vacant slots for news trees on the Village Green. If one was to be purchased, it had to be a native tree. The suggested donation was £300, to cover both the purchase cost of the tree and future maintenance. This was only a suggested figure; donations of any size were acceptable. |  |
| **10** | **Financial Matters**  Cllr A Reynolds had circulated the Financial Report prior to the meeting (attached to minutes in appendix 3). The APC took note.   * The Bank reconciliation- was signed by the Clerk and Chair |  |
| **11** | **Planning Matters**  The APC took note of the following:  **Applications;**   * P21/V1571/DIS - Odstone Farm Ashbury Swindon- Discharge of condition 4(Tree Protection) on application P21/V0515/FUL Construction of 40x20m all weather outdoor arena. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. * P21/V1532/HH- Lower Mill House Kingstone Winslow Swindon- Construction of a new 2 bay Oak framed Car Port on the site of the existing car parking area. Minor alterations to the existing car park gravelled hardstanding area and construction of new crossover strip adjoining the existing roadway. * P21/V0934/FUL - Icklestone Cottage 8 High Street Ashbury - Demolish 520mm length of boundary wall * P21/V1765/LB - : Craven Cottage 6 High Street Ashbury – Internal alterations to form first floor bathroom   **Decisions:**   * P21/V0007/FUL - Kingstone Farm Kingstone Winslow Ashbury Swindon SN6 8NJ- Demolition of redundant farm buildings, change of use and conversion of remaining redundant farm buildings to provide eight dwellings. together with associated ancillary works. (Amended plans received 4 March 2021- changes to application red line to include part of barn to be demolished, revised ownership certificate, proposed boundary treatment changes.)(Additional contamination and construction traffic information received 10 May 2021) - granted |  |
| **12** | **Public Forum-** To take comments , representation or queries on agenda items (15 minute time slot)  It was reported that a resident had raised concerns over the 30MPH speed limit sign on the road from Ashbury to Lambourn, as it is badly faded.  **Action**: Cllr J Ruggiero to report via ‘Fix My Street’ |  |
| **13** | **Individual Topics (12 minutes allocated)**   * **Bus Shelter**: Since the present structure was not unsafe and funding for the No47 bus had only been renewed to April 2022, the meeting decided to postpone the decision on repair or replacement of the shelter until there was clarity on the longer-term funding for the bus route. * Long term storage solution for **APC archival material** (4 boxes): The APC decided that a solution had to be found and the necessary funding allocated.   **Action**: The Clerk to contact commercial storage companies for quotes.  **Action**: The Clerk to ask Shrivenham Heritage whether they might have an interest in taking custody of the boxes as a potential research archive. |  |
| **14** | **Agenda Diary**   * **Insurance renewal** complete – Cllr A Reynolds has made a diary note to review cover required and Insurance quotes before renewal next year 2022. |  |
| **15** | **Correspondence**   * 17/06/2021 – Elm Tree Surgery update * 18/06/2021 – Vale News June * 18/06/2021 – Idstone Telephone Box * 24/06/2021- PCC for Thames Valley Newsletter * 30/06/2021 – OALC June Update |  |
| **16** | **Future Agenda Items**  Cllr J Ruggiero raised concerns on behalf of a resident that there seemed to be a lot of **HGV’s** driving through the village lately. The APC discussed the causes of this increased traffic volume and agreed it was troubling. However, potential remedies were beyond the powers of the Council. The Vale Authorities were already aware of the issue.  Cllr C Prentice noted that work on the **renewal of the Shop Lease** should begin in September. This should be a regular agenda item for meetings over the next year.  The APC agreed to constitute a sub-Committee to oversee the process, reporting to the full Committee for all decisions.  **Action**: Clerk to forward the timeline for the renewal process produced in January 2021.  **Action**: Cllr C Prentice to consult all Councillors individually about the formation of the new Shop Sub-Committee and to propose a procedure. The new Sub-Committee to be agreed and to start work by the first week of September. |  |

The meeting closed at 19:44pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th September in the Village Hall

Signed………………………………………………………………………………………………………Date………………………………………………….

**Councillors Actions Arising**

**Cllr C Prentice (Chair)**

* **Action** : Cllrs CP and PC to explore best form of signage on the verge at the road junction by the shop to discourage parking close to the junction.
* **Action**: Cllr C Prentice to consult all Councillors individually about the formation of the new Shop Sub-Committee and to propose a procedure. The new Sub-Committee to be agreed and to start work by the first week of September

**Cllr P Cowx**

* **Action**: Clerk to post the event onto Facebook and Cllr P Cowx to post to the web site.

**Cllr J Ruggiero**

* **Action**: Cllr J Ruggiero to draw on the data from the Neighbourhood Plan when responding to the consultation.
* **Action**: Cllr J Ruggiero to report via ‘Fix My Street’ 30 MPH faded signs

**Clerk**

* **Action**: Clerk to post the event onto Facebook and Cllr P Cowx to post to the web site.
* **Action**: The Clerk to contact commercial storage companies for quotes for APC Archive Material
* **Action**: The Clerk to ask Shrivenham Heritage whether they might have an interest in taking custody of the boxes as a potential research archive.
* **Action**: Clerk to forward the timeline for the renewal process produced in January 2021.

**Village Green**

* **Action**: E Derrington to ask Ashbury School to conduct a survey of their students to establish what sporting equipment the children would use on the green, if it could be provided. APC to consider practicalities further at future meetings.

**County/District Councillors**

* **Action**: County Cllr Y Constance to supply an email address so APC might respond to the consultation by the end of July.
* **Action**: County Cllr Y Constance offered to contact Highways to see if this could be done, or to recommend whom the APC could contact.

Appendix 1

**District Councillors Report to Parish Councils**

**Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward**

**July 2021**

**Vale of White Horse District Council**

**Covid** - At the time of writing the situation locally with Covid is that Oxfordshire has the highest infection rate in the South of England. The majority of new infections are in Oxford City but the Vale also has increased rates. As and when anything changes The Vale will inform Town and Parish Councils. In the meantime we would encourage keeping a watching brief on the Vale’s website – [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**Planning** – The good news is that the Vale has maintained its five-year land supply. Details may be found on the Vale website – Housing Land Supply Statement for the Vale of White Horse June 2021.

Concern has been raised by a number of residents regarding a community consultation survey for a small affordable housing development in Shrivenham. The online survey received by only a few selected residents indicates that the proposal is for a “Entry Level” housing scheme of up to 26 dwellings. This type of housing is suitable for first time buyers or renters. The site will be managed by South Oxfordshire Housing Association.

Over the past few weeks there has been a significant number of planning applications submitted to the Vale from Ward villages most of which are for extensions or listed building consent. Currently three applications (2 in Shrivenham and 1 in Longcot) are subject to call-in to Committee should they be recommended for approval. The number of planning applications submitted to the Vale for the period April-June is some 40% over that of the same period in 2020.

A Planning Pilot Scheme to improve engagement with Town and Parish Councils was launched in June. Shrivenham Parish Council was chosen as one of five councils to participate in the scheme. If the scheme is a success it is intended for it to be rolled out to all councils at the end of September.

**Oxfordshire Plan 2050** – The consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Reg 18 will begin on 30 July for 10 weeks. The consultation will be online and further details will be revealed nearer the time. The Plan will set out the framework for future planning decisions on housing and infrastructure needs. More information may be found at Oxfordshireplan.org

**Joint Local Plan 2041**-In March the Vale agreed to preparing a joint local plan with South Oxfordshire District Council. Work is underway and information is available on the Vale website: joint local plan 2041

**Boundary Review** – As mentioned last month details of the Boundary Commissions proposals for Oxfordshire may be found at <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/node/6488?postcode=SN68EL>  
  
The Vale will be included in three constituencies namely. Didcot and Wantage, Oxford West and Abingdon and Witney. The Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward will be included in the Witney constituency. Parish Councils are encouraged to review the proposals and make any representations to the Commission by 2 August 2021.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee** – The next meeting of this committee was due to take place on 9 August but has been postponed. A new quarterly meeting calendar will be available in due course.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Points** – Phase 1 of the County Council’s roll-out of the Oxfordshire-wide Park and Charge Scheme has been completed. The next stage is to appoint an electricity supplier and agree layout and design of bays. The County Council will arrange promotional events in Abingdon during August. The aim is to complete the installation by next March.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – The Department for Transport has approved the County Council’s application to progress this initiative. The County are to identify locations for on-street parking bay charges. It is still anticipated for the scheme to be implemented by the end of this year.

**Private Sector Housing –** The Vale is in the process of developing a new Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy (PSH). This policy will help to improve conditions for those residents living in private rented properties. Landlords who do not comply with defined rules could be fined up to £30,000.

**White Horse Community Lottery** – The lottery was launched on Monday 14 June. The Lottery now has its own website: whitehorselottery.co.uk which provides all the information required to participate.

**Ashbury Bus Service** – delighted that the County Council has earmarked funds for the bus service to continue on the Lambourn to Swindon route No,47 via Ashbury until April 2022.

**Swindon Borough Council** – **New Eastern Villages –** The works around Gablecross and Sainsbury’s continue to progress. However, there is a problem with the road base structure around the White Hart/Oxford Road area. This is significantly worse than originally anticipated and therefore additional works are required. The Borough Council is hopeful that the works will be completed later this year.

Although we don’t normally hold surgeries we are always available to deal with any issues. However, on **Saturday 24 July from 1030-midday** we have arranged a **Meet your** **Councillors** event. We shall be in the new Claridge Room at Shrivenham Memorial Hall and look forward to residents joining us for a chat about any concerns they may have or just have a moan about things that irritate them.

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

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

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Appendix 2

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

**Progress Report July 2021**

**Tree trail**

There was a splendid response to the request for volunteers to weed and mulch around the trees on 1

May and the job was finished in a couple of hours. Many thanks to Tony Craddock for providing wood

chippings for the mulch, and to James Greenham for arranging the volunteers. Free of weeds, and

watered by regular showers the trees have come on very well and almost all are thriving.

**Picnic tables**

The picnic tables have been installed. Many thanks to the volunteers who lent a hand on 17 May to erect

and secure them to the bases. Now we have them in place we feel confident that we made the right

choices. They look good, are getting regular use and will need very little maintenance.

**Playing field**

The Playing Field is also looking very good after a couple of months of regular mowing. We're hoping that

it will get more use as COVID restrictions ease.

**Maintenance**

BGG have responded to our requests and are now sticking to a regular fortnightly schedule. Huge thanks

to Julia Blake for monitoring the maintenance and weeding and to James Reade for mowing the Playing

Field in between BGG's visits. The benefits of the improved maintenance arrangements are plain for all to

see.

**Finance**

There are funds in the Landscaping (£1035.82) and Tree Trail (£4842.81) accounts that we believe are

sufficient to cover existing and future liabilities. We have not (in spite of prompting) received an expected

bill for £300 for soil delivered last year. We do not expect any further landscaping expenses apart from

small amounts for materials such as fertiliser and grass seed. Regular mowing should avoid the need for

any more large-scale weedkilling. For the Tree Trail, apart from replacement costs for 3 or 4 trees (some

of which we hope to reclaim from BGG as the result of strimmer damage) we do not anticipate any

significant expenses in the short/medium term as volunteers will look after maintenance. At the same

time we expect funds to increase gradually as sponsorship requests come in.

**Looking ahead**

We have now carried out three phases of development – initial landscaping/construction of playing field,

planting a locally sponsored tree trail, and installing picnic tables. As there was no great enthusiasm from

the community when we consulted about possible further development, we regard the main Village Green

project as complete and believe that the Subcommittee has served its purpose. If, in future, there is

interest in adding new features, it will be possible to set up working groups as needed, to obtain funding

and organise the work. Future maintenance will, of course, be vital, but we have found that if APC and

the Subcommittee share responsibility for this, it is difficult to avoid duplication of effort. Our proposal

therefore is that the Subcommittee should cease to exist and that individual members with specific

ongoing interests should now operate as part of APC's volunteer scheme, as follows:

• David Pain to take responsibility for maintenance of the trees and playing field and for sourcing

new/replacement trees as required.

• Liz Derrington to keep the tree sponsorship scheme going – dealing with enquiries, taking

bookings and producing dedication plaques.

• Julia Blake to monitor the performance of the maintenance contractors and co-ordinate weeding

of flowerbeds and other areas as needed.

• Mick and Sue Stannard to look after the blackberries on the fence near the Free Church and carry

out occasional checks for dog waste (this has not been a significant issue since our most recent

public reminder, so we hope that occasional publicity may be sufficient to keep it at bay).

Liz Derrington

7 July 2021

Appendix 3

**ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**FINANCE REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2021**

1. The Parish precept for 2021/2022 is £9,984.

2. The first tranche of the precept (£4,992) was received during April.

3. To 30 June 2021, precept-related expenditure was expected to be £2,379.

4. To 30 June 2021, precept-related expenditure was actually £1,878. The underspend was mainly due to the community bus service not having started (owing to Covid), partially offset by a large increase in the annual insurance premium. The details can be found in the attached report.

5. At 30 June 2021, total reserves stood at £46,921 (compared to £48,216 at 31 March 2021) of which £31,288 related to earmarked reserves. The main area of spend was on the bases and picnic tables, from the Village Green reserve. Again, the details can be found in the attached report