

Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council
Ashbury Village Hall
Monday 9th July 2018 at 7.30pm
Minutes

Present: Cllr K Watkins (Chairman), C Davies (Vice), P DuBois

County Cllr Y Constance

Anica Alvarez Nishio (Prospective Councillor)

C Arnold (Clerk)

P Smith (Planters Group)

12 members of public

ITEM

29 To receive apologies for absence

District Cllrs E Ware, S Howell

Cllrs B Spence and C Prentice

30 To receive any declarations of Personal, or Personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting

None

31 Report from County Council

Report 1. Attached (see appendix). Priority Fund discussed and potential funding for Pound Piece ramp, Speed Planters replaced etc, projects to be submitted by October. Council to investigate projects and clerk to add to September meeting. Member of the public mentions overhanging trees next to electrical wires – SSE will need to be informed.

CA

Potholes discussed and guidelines on their repair needs to be distributed on notice boards and

KW

website. If potholes are not being repaired in a timely fashion it is recommended that you go to fix

CA

my street and report the pothole again. Cllr YC assures work is being carried out on potholes and

she will check with the team on the concerns of the quantity of potholes in the Ashbury area.

Cllr CD states concerns on the number of houses being built in Shrivenham. Cllr YC assures no more buildings are planned in the area as a part of the LPP2. Cllr CD pointed out that they were nevertheless being approved/built.

Member of the public asks question regarding PC taking over highways issues. Cllr YC assures this is not the case although more grass cutting responsibilities will be passed on to the PC and therefore Cllr YC advises increasing precepts.

32 Report from District Council

Report2. Attached (see appendix) and read by Cllr KW.

33 To take questions and comments from members of the public

None

34 To take questions and comments from members of the Council

Cllr PD has investigated grants; Capital grants. In which only 50% of the project will be met by the Vale. Cllr PD believes this is not viable for the council as we do not have such funds for large projects.

35 To approve previous minutes dating 12.03.2018 and 8.01.2018

Council Agree.

Proposed: Cllr KW

Seconded: Cllr CD

Agreed: All

36 To approve the minutes of ordinary meeting held on 14.05.18

Agreed.

Proposed: Cllr KW

Seconded: Cllr CD

Agreed: All

37 To address matters arising from the ordinary meeting held on 14.05.18

All matters in hand or on the agenda.

Register of interest still outstanding for Cllr CP, clerk to follow up.

CA

OCC officer is coming out to investigate the requirement of a mirror along the B4000.

Play area and spraying and chippings looks great and council would like to thank the Planters group for all their hard work.

Cllr KW to obtain quotes for grass cutting. Clerk to pass Bawdens gardening details on to Cllr KW.

KW

Cllr CD notes the traveller has moved out of Ashbury PC area.

CA

- Cllr PD suggests the Archiving of minutes with the Vale and old planning documents to be read through by the council and passed on to a member of the parish who has interest in such documents for reading and storing. Documents of interest to be possibly passed to the village hall or school and out of date or documents now available online are to be destroyed. Council Agree. Internet Banking agreed. Clerk to organise. CA
- Cllr CD advised he had been unable to fulfil action 18 of the May minutes as the consultation period for application P18/V0275/FUL had already passed.
- The council would like to thank those involved in the litter pick, it was a fantastic job with 17 bags filled. Another will be planned when the hedges are cut.
- Finances are being separated to precept, S106 and ANP. Clerk to add to next agenda.
- 37 To Co-Opt new councillor**
- Anica Alvarez Nishio co-opted onto the PC. Anica introduces herself to the public and signs acceptance of office forms. Clerk to send register of interest to the Vale. CA
- Proposed:** Cllr KW **Seconded:** Cllr PD **Agreed:** All
- 39 To appoint Officers to the council**
- Cllr AN would like to take the role of Communication Officer. Cllr KW to pass Cllr email address details. Cllr AN to correspond with clerk, Cllr KW and Cllr PD on the responsibilities of the role. KW
AN
- 40 To appoint sub-committees**
- OpenSpace Committee to be established. Members of the public asked to join a committee and one volunteer stepped forward. Clerk to put notices up and KW to display notice on FB page and village newsletter asking for volunteers for an Open Space committee. Cllr PD would like to join this committee. Interest to be passed onto clerk. Clerk to add to Septembers agenda. KW
CA
- 41 To address Planning Issues**
- None
- 42 To agree and sign to internet banking**
- Clerk in the progress of setting up. Change in address has caused a delay in the process CA
- 43 Update on Shop Lease**
- Cllr CD advised that the head-landlord had agreed to the required changes to the respective leases, but requires additional information from the under-tenant before changes can be made. Planning permission for the change of use may not be required, but confirmation of this needs to be sought & documented. Opening hours were but this is down to the under-tenant. Providing the business is viable and lease changes implemented, then the running of the business is a matter only for the under-tenant.
- 44 Update on Neighbourhood Plan**
- Cllr CD states that the neighbourhood plan is in the pre-submission stage with only minor changes to be made that, because of budget constraints, will fall upon the steering group. Funding limit has been reached and ANP group are seeking sources for extra funding. An abbreviated version of the plan being considered which will be more concise and easier to read for the consultation process leading to the referendum. Some 20 feedback forms have been received, which was less than expected. Cllr CD will produce an overview of the feedback for the website. CD
- 45 To Agree updated Standing Orders and GDPR policies**
- Council Agree to Standing Orders
- Proposed:** Cllr KW **Seconded:** Cllr CD **Agreed:** All
- Council Agree to GDPR policies
- Proposed:** Cllr KW **Seconded:** Cllr PD **Agreed:** All
- 46 To review budget – Planters Group**
- Paper submitted by Planters Group, Report Attached. Cllr KW discusses – tree guards were removed and need replacing – grass cutting/strimming quotes to be obtained first.
- Paths – Weedkill each side once a year, also the triangle area - £50.00 per year.
- Doc Weed Clearance around the Open Space – either source contractor (estimated at £15 per 30mins) £600 for two years. Hiring oil filled strimmer for two years £300. Cllr CD estimates figures at around £500-£600 per year. The council will investigate quotes and budget for work ready for the next agenda CA
KW
- PS would like to mention whether the council can purchase and upkeep a lawn mower large enough for cutting the open space as volunteers have come forward to cut the grass and possible storage has been sourced. William Cash fund maybe a funding source, clerk to seek further information. PD
CA

Contractor would still be needed for church yard and verges.

Cllr PD recommends contractors to be investigated first – 3 quotes to be obtained- clerk, Cllrs KW and PD to investigate further. Open Space Committee to work on.

47 Finance to Agree

Name	Amount Net	Total Gross	Detail
Came and Company	£344.74	£344.74	Insurance – Hiscox provider

Council Agree

Proposed: Cllr KW

Seconded: Cllr CD

Agreed: All

48 Finance to Note

Name	Total Gross	Detail
Claire Arnold	£275.00	Clerk Pay
Barry Barwell	£590	Open Space and Village grass cut
Claire Arnold	£8.04	Stationary – Stamps
Cliff Davies	£56.64	ANP Group
J Loose	£87.50	ANP Group
Bluestone Planning	£672.00	ANP invoice
Barry Barwell	£250.00	Grass Cutting
National Trust	£75	Grass Cutting
Pauline Smith	£17.98	Planters Group – weed killer
Barry Barwell	£320	Grass Cut

Dates to be added

CA

49 To note correspondence

None

50 Any other business

Cllr CD- Open Space access meeting with neighbouring property owners planned, possibly this coming Wednesday. Suggests that another councillor also attend.

Cllr KW thanks village fete committee. £860 was raised and the committee would like to purchase another two benches. The council agree to this providing location (mapped) is supplied to the council for agreement and minuted. The fete committee has stated that they will maintain and upkeep the benches purchased. Planters Group are working on the asset register for the village.

CA

Previous clerk JG states the trees are not owned by the PC but the benches are. Cllr PD to look through the minutes

PD

Meeting Closed 21.04

Claire Arnold

Clerk to Ashbury Parish Council 04/07/18

Next Meeting will be held on 10/09/2018 at Ashbury Village Hall

Appendix

REPORT 1: GENERAL OCC REPORT

SHARED SERVICE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN OCC AND CDC

As reported previously, OCC and Cherwell District Council (CDC) are considering a proposal for shared service arrangements under a joint chief executive, while retaining separate councillor bodies, budgets and decision-making processes. The exact arrangements for sharing services and joining up functions still need to be worked out in detail and then agreed separately by each council. They will be implemented incrementally. Approval to move to the next stage was given by OCC's Cabinet on Monday 4 June. OCC's Remuneration Committee subsequently agreed to recommend the appointment of Yvonne Rees, the current Chief Executive of CDC, as joint Chief Executive of the County Council and Cherwell District Council. The appointment process now moves on to both Full Councils of OCC (10 July) and CDC (16 July). The final decision therefore remains a decision for Members.

DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE – OXFORDSHIRE FIGURES ARE IMPROVING

Delayed transfer of care (DToc) cases are now at the lowest level for many years in Oxfordshire. The latest national figures published by the Department of Health showed that the average number of people delayed has fallen from 168 in April 2017 to 117 this April. Since April 2018, the number of delays has fallen further and is currently only 78 – more than halving in just over a year.

Effective and sustained joint working by OCC and the NHS across Oxfordshire has seen consistent and on-going reductions in the number of people delayed in hospital.

Department of Health figures showed a 44% decrease in the number of social care delays, and a drop in the overall number of days delayed in a hospital. Only 13% of delays were attributable to social care, which is down from 15% in March 2017.

COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET OUTTURN HITS THE MARK

The council's Cabinet received final budget figures for the 2017/18 financial year at its meeting on Tuesday, June 19.

OCC managed its net budget with 99.8 per cent accuracy for 2017/18, with an underspend of just £1m (0.2 per cent) on an overall service budget of £422m.

SITE ALLOCATIONS CONSULTATION ON MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

The council reached a new milestone in the ongoing planning process to decide where minerals can be extracted and waste management facilities can be located in June with Cabinet asked to approve a site consultation exercise.

This will take place in July-September and it will be open to all interested organisations and individuals to respond. All parish councils, environmental and community groups, organisations and individuals who have previously asked to be informed about the plan will be notified when the consultation starts, where the consultation documents can be seen and how to respond.

A core strategy was adopted by the council in September 2017 and it was always planned that work on specific site allocations would follow this.

The report can be viewed here:

http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s42394/CA_JUN1918R15%20MWLP-SitesPlan_Report_final.pdf

HIGHWAYS UPDATE

The bad winter has taken its toll on road conditions across the county, so OCC welcomed the additional £2.7m the Government has provided for this year; additional gangs have been employed to ensure we utilise the funds during the summer months. Last month 6,236 defects were repaired showing progress is being made on the defects reported during the bad weather. A fact sheet has been produced giving details about the condition of the county's highways and the actions being taken to maintain them. This will be issued to all councillors and parish clerks during the month of July.

OXFORDSHIRE'S NEW DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE LAUNCHED

A new domestic abuse service for Oxfordshire was launched in June. The new service was set up by OCC in partnership with District Councils and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley.

The service is designed to be highly inclusive to address emotional and practical support needs for any victim suffering or fleeing domestic abuse in Oxfordshire. It incorporates a single access point for victims and professionals, community-

based Outreach Workers and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and includes specialist workers to support young people and Black Asian Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities. There is also a program to support victims with complex needs.

Victims fleeing abuse will be able to access refuge in Banbury and in one other location, located in either Didcot or Oxford. In addition, the service launches a new model of refuge, delivered from dispersed locations across Oxfordshire, benefiting those unable to access conventional refuge services including male victims, victims with live in carers and families with older male sons.

To report concerns, please use the A2Dominion ODAS helpline (0800 731 0055) or oxfordshiredomestic@a2dominion.org.uk

NHS HEALTH CHECKS

OCC-funded NHS Health Checks are designed to spot early warnings of stroke, kidney and heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and dementia. They are available to anyone aged between the ages of 40 and 74

who has not already been diagnosed with an existing cardiovascular condition. They are free and applicants will be invited to have one once every five years. GP surgeries will automatically send out invitations, but if one is not received, residents should contact their surgery and make an appointment. The check will take around 20 to 30 minutes.

For further information about free NHS Health Checks visit:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/nhshealthcheck

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE SCAMMERS

OCC is an enthusiastic backer of Friends Against Scams, a national scheme run by the country's trading standards services, which aims to:

Highlight the scale of the problem by getting communities and the nation talking about scams.

Change the perceptions of why people become scam victims.

Prevent people from becoming or continuing to be a scam victim by providing more adequate support.

Recruit people to join the fight against scams to make this a scam-free nation

Friends Against Scams works on several levels. It has a website which gives detailed

information on the huge variety of scams as well as encouraging visitors to take a more active role. Residents can become a 'friend' by completing an online course or build up to become a SCAMBassador – giving talks to local groups and organisations – after receiving further face-to-face training by OCC's own Trading Standards Service. For further information visit the Friends Against Scams website Advice is available on 03454 04 05 06.

REPORT 2. District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward – July 2018

Planning

Gladman –

Simon and Elaine have submitted their strong objection to this application.

NPPF –

The consultation on the revised National Planning Policy Framework is currently being considered by central Government and the outcome is due to be published this month.

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway

– We are awaiting further details from Government and Highways England and will provide information as soon as available.

Local Plan Part 2 -

The Planning Inspector

David Reed will commence the examination of the Plan 3rd - 6 th

July and 24th -27th

July at Abingdon & Witney College

and a third week will be at The Beacon Wantage commencing 4 -7 September.

Details of the process can be found on the Vale website.

Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP)

– The Government has put forward proposals

to provide Oxfordshire Councils with greater protection from speculative housing development. Under the proposal Councils will only need a three year land supply

whilst the JSSP is being developed. Additionally a revised Housing Delivery Test (HDT) would also be in place once the JSSP has been adopted. More details of the proposals can be found on the Oxfordshire Growth Board website. The consultation is open until Thursday 12 July.

Appeals

The result of the appeal for the Badbury Hill (Great Coxwell) site is awaited.

Legal & General –

The Reserved Matters application for Phase 1 has been submitted with a target decision date of 12 July. A number of discharge of conditions have been submitted. L & G are in discussion with Oxfordshire County Council Education Department regarding the provision of the primary school. The Reserved Matters application for Phase 2 is expected towards the end of this year.

Bovis – Townsend Road

– Bovis a number of applications for the discharge of conditions have been submitted for approval and ground work has commenced.

Taylor Wimpey - Longcot Road

– The Vale Enforcement Team and OCC Highways are continuing to deal with the numerous issues relating to this development.

Mobile Catering Vehicle -

on land at Watchfield Junction – This application was refused

The Plough on A420

– An application has been submitted for change of use to a Bed & Breakfast.

Chowle Farm on A420 –

An application has been submitted for erection of 9 dwellings and 7 office units.

Land South of Steeds Farm Gt. Coxwell

– An Outline application for a further 125

dwelling 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. This application will be considered by the full Planning Committee.

Swindon Eastern Villages

– An application is to be considered by Swindon

Borough Council for 370 homes on the Redland Airfield Site. This application is in addition to the 2380 for Rowborough/South Marston. 70 on the South Marston Hotel site and the 1800 at Great Stall. It is noted that an application for some 2800 dwellings at Lotmead Farm was dismissed at appeal.

Thames Water Reservoir Plans –

The Vale has responded to Thames Water's proposed draft Water Resources Management Plan recommending a public inquiry is held to examine the draft plan and to ensure that the water company has correctly followed procedures.

Other News

Privacy Policy Updated -

Following the introduction of the Data Protection Act 2018

the Vale has published a new privacy policy as well as information for residents about how they handle personal data. Information may be found on the Vale's website.

Abbey Meadow Outdoor Pool

– The refurbished pool in Abingdon was opened on

Saturday 16 June. The Vale invested £1.3 million into this popular attraction. The recent hot weather has encouraged use. Indeed in the first week of opening over 2000 people took advantage of this outdoor facility.

Grants –

The following dates have been confirmed for grant applications:

Capital and New Homes Bonus –Round two (budget permitting) for applications will commence on 11 September-22 October.

Festival Grants – 1 April-28 February 2019

The Grants Team are always pleased to offer advice and contact details are on the Vale website.

REMINDER

– Waste/recycling/food bins are now collected at different times on the normal collection day. This means for example that the waste/recycling bin may be emptied in the morning but the food bin not until late afternoon. If waste/recycling/food bins are not collected on the normal day please leave out and report to Biffa – 03000 610610 by 1700 hours on the scheduled day or by Email/Webform up until midnight. Parish Councils please circulate this information through your websites/Residents Email lists.

As you know we don't hold surgeries but are always available to deal with issues.

Simon Howell – 01793 784491 –

simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Elaine Ware – 01793 783026 –

elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

REPORT 3- PLANTERS GROUP

4.

No actions for the immediate maintenance requirements of a poorly prepared site were in place at hand over of the site in May 2015, so that endemic weeds have easily flourished

Maintenance work requirements

1.

Work undertaken to date,

with no cost

, via the Ashbury Planter Group and enlisted volunteers

In August 2017: All the tree stakes were removed from the new trees planted around the site. Many of these stakes had already damaged the growing bark and will need a yearly review to check for tree health. (given the way the stakes were inserted many would have been best removed at end of year 1

in 2016)

In September 2017: Tree guards were placed around all of the tree trunks on the left hand side of the open space because the base bark was being damaged by the strimming work provided by the contractor

6 of these tree guards have since been removed/stolen, so will need replacing if strimming rather than mowing takes place in this stretch of the open space

Action to be reviewed when ongoing open space mowing contract is agreed

In July/August 2017: a new entrance site was created and cleared of shrubs and plants. It has easily been taken over by couch grass so is now part of the open space mowing requirements

In July to September 2017: with the help of a handful of volunteers, some temporary weeding and tidying of the landscaped planted areas surrounding the play area and next to the new entrance site took place

In September 2017: the very overgrown and invasive blackberry bushes were cut back and some roots removed. Those left have new growth which will fruit next year, after which further pruning will be required

Action for September 2019 and then 2 yearly

In August 2017: A compost area in the left corner was created for green waste produced from Wixes Piece open space area ONLY

2. Path work requirements

Grass and weeds are now encroaching the path in the open space and triangle area so that it is already significantly narrowed in some parts, making it increasingly difficult for pram, pushchair or wheelchair use

Action:

1. to weed kill each side of the field open space path – one side each year, April/May time and the triangle area will need weed killer in May and September

- 2.

For the Parish Council to consider applying a top surface to the paths, materials that could be used: not costed at present

COSTS

: Total Weed killer amount for

each year £50.00

and any costs for someone to do this and clear away

the dead material 4 weeks after applying the weed killer --- suggest a volunteer

3.

Dockweed clearance to the back and right hand side of the open space

It will take at least 2 years of continuous actions for the dockweed to be significantly weakened and for alternative planting with grass seed or other to be put in place

Actions: Option

1.

To source a contractor with a machine that could mow the back and right side and slope area or someone with a strimmer. In the growing season it will need cutting every 2 weeks and to do this for 2 years at that rate to reduce vigour and allow for competing planting

2

COSTS:

Contractor work with equipment at £15.00 for each 1/2hour session, though the first initial session is likely to be a double session at $20 \times £15 = £300.00$ per year, for 2 years = £600.00 and then to be reviewed for frequency and need

2.

Mick Lippett in Wixes Piece has offered to do the strimming work every 2 weeks for 2 years in the first instance if the machinery was provided

COSTS:

Parish Council purchase of an oil fired strimmer + ongoing oil and cord = £300.00 for the 2 years
The strimmer could be a parish asset/resource and used for a number of areas around the parish in an ongoing way to make the outlay cost effective

COSTS:

in 2 years after this work is complete – so 2021, the budget to put aside for grass seed or other as replacement to growth of dockweed at this site = £200.00

4. Planted area external to the railings of the play area and which extends to left hand side on the near side of the play area

March to June 2018: This area has now been hand weeded and weed killer sprayed to remove the couch

grass and some of the bindweed. Following this:

bark chippings have been placed on the soil around the plants

those shrubs damaged by the cold weather this year have been pruned

Ongoing Actions required:

there is one part of the site which has a stretch of perennial geranium invaded with couch grass. At the end of the geranium flowering and growing season the couch grass will need to be sprayed – September 2018. There is an amount of the weed killer purchased previously held back for this purpose

Spot weed killing twice a year as it is very unlikely all the couch grass will have been removed and it will grow from the play area into the landscaped site

The bark chippings will need replacing every 2 years

COSTS:

Yearly from now: Weed killer concentrate £20.00

2 Yearly (so from 2020) replacement bark chippings £300.00

It is expected this will be managed by volunteer actions

To also include in maintenance activity:

Hedges at the back of the space should be kept at 3 metres height and pruned accordingly

There are a number of parishioners with the necessary equipment to do this as volunteer activity between them on a 'group asset maintenance day'

A yearly Review of the whole site is recommended to include the state and health of the trees and ongoing maintenance activity to be guided by the results of the review