**Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council**

**Ashbury Village Hall**

**Monday 9th March 2020 at 7:30pm**

**Minutes**

Present: Cllr C Davies (Chairman), P Cowx,C Prentice, A Reynolds,J Greenham, County Cllr Y Constance

L Evans (Clerk), 4 Members of the public.

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| **ITEM** |  |  |
| 1. **1**
 | **To receive apologies for absence**District Cllr S Howell, E Ware and Cllr A Alvarez Nishio |  |
| 1. **2**
 | **To receive any declarations of Personal, or Personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting**None |  |
|  | **To Co-opt new Council member**Cllr James Greenham was introduced to the meeting and in turn a short background statement was given.  |  |
| 1. **3**
 | **To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Monday 13th January 2020**Approved. |  |
| 1. **4**
 | **To address matters arising from the previous meeting**1. **Waste Bin-** Permission has been given by the Rose & Crown for the bus shelter bin to be emptied into their bin- **Resolved**
2. **Uppermill Pond-** A letter was sent to the Environmental Officer regarding the concerns raised, no response has been received. Cllr C Davies to chase.
3. **Possible non-compliance with planning consent-** Cllr C Davies to chase Enforcement Officer as confirmation of remedial works being complete has not yet been received.
4. **Fence erection on Village Green adjacent to Wixes Piece-**  Heads of Agreement has been signed and will be sent to HMLR- **Resolved**
5. **Missing Bollards-** These has now been replaced- **Resolved**
6. **Hillfurlands-** Still ongoing subject to defined conditions being met
 | CDCD |
| 1. **5**
 | **County & District Councillors-** To receive reports from County and District Councillors- County Cllrs reports attached in appendix 1 and District Cllr Reports attached in appendix 2* The government has given an immediate grant to OCC of £588,000 to revive supported bus schemes, OCC have to register their interest by Friday 13th March , following a strict criteria.
* West Berkshire Council have secured £10,000 of funding towards the number 47 bus service.
* Local Transport and Connectivity Strategy consultation is on OCC website, where a chapter for A420 has been included, due to the safety measures on this road needing to be upgraded. MP support has also been sought towards making the A420 safer.

Cllr C Davies again raised concerns over the poor conditions of the Wantage Road and Idstone Road to County Cllr Y Constance.Cllr J Greenham asked why the potholes are no longer being marked when reported- Cllr Y Constance to look into this. |  |
| 1. **6**
 | **Chairs Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)*** Parish maintenance- Cllr C Davies explained that with A Smythson having to step down from the council, we will be looking for a councillor to lead the Parish Maintenance. This will be addressed at the next meeting.
* Wixes Piece boundary- As addressed in item 5d.
* Old churchyard maintenance- Heads of Agreements have been countersigned by the PCC and Cllr A Reynolds is currently processing the first payment in accordance with the payment schedule.
 | **AR** |
| 1. **7**
 | **Clerks Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)*** **Deep Cleanse-** Email has been received from the Waste Team at South and Vale explaining that they will be spending a few days in each Parish across the Vale of The White Horse to perform a deep cleanse which is littler picking, sweeping,removing weeds and moss on pavements. Ashbury will be done for 3 days from 27/04/2020-29/04/2020, a spreadsheet has been given for areas requiring attention. Commuicate to residents through Round Robin email for feedback of areas.
 | **LE** |
| 1. **8**
 | **Councillors Forum-** To receive reports from responsible officers (12 minute time slot)Cllr A Reynolds gave a brief update on the finances of the Parish- which shows a surplus of £3,000 |  |
| 1. **9**
 | **Sub Committee Reports-** To receive reports from Sub-committees (6 minute time slot)1. **Village Green-** E Derrington presented the report (attached to minutes in appendix 3) the tree planting on 29th February went ahead as planned despite the poor weather. E Derrington expressed thanks to everyone who has helped, and that 27 trees have now been sponsored. A proposal was made to the Parish Council regarding the purchase a Eastbury Low Level Lectern to display information about the Green and the Tree Trail, and also the plaques with sponsors dedications. Cllr C Prentice asked if the plaques were replaceable, which they are- The meeting agreed to the design of the Lectern and E derrington will consult with the Council on the location. E Derrington also explained that with the surplus money left from fundraising, that the committee were looking at purchasing 2 or 3 plastic picnic tables for the Green and would like the Parish Councils comments on this, Cllr C Davies has asked to see samples of the material the benches will be made from.
2. **VE Day Celebrations-** The Village Green Committee have started work on planning the VE Day celebrations and have a few ideas to explore.

Cllr C Davies wished to thank E Derrington and team for all their hardwork on the Village Green.Cllr C Prentice raised a question regarding the use of The Village Green for private events as 6 events may be held on the Green annually - Cllr C Davies explained that neither the restrictive covenant, nor our current insurance permitted ‘private’ use, but agreed that the Parish Council need to explore the potential for staging private events in the future.* **Shopperbus-** Ashbury Parish Council has joined the UBW (Uffington) Minibus Association to be able to use their mini bus when the current Dial-a- ride bus ceases.

The Shopperbus shall run every Friday Afternoon from the 3rd April.The fare for non- bus pass holders is £5.80 for a return journey.Currently there are 9 registered volunteer drivers and 3 more going through the UBW procedures, with 8 registered assistants. A meeting was held with volunteers in conjunction with UBW on 9th March to go through organisational details, explain the workings of the bus and drive a route- this was very successful.Passengers wishing to use the service will have a dedicated phone number to ring and leave a voicemail to book the service- this must be booked before 12:00pm. More details will be published in due course. | **ED****LE/****CP/****CD****PC** |
| 1. **10**
 | **Financial Matters**1. Bank Reconciliation to be signed- Cllr J Greenham approved and signed bank reconciliation
2. BGG maintenance contract renewal- Cllr C Davies explained that the contract renewal prices have been received (excluding the old churchyard) for 2020/21, and other than the addition of 2 extra/over requirmeents arising from the landscaping of the Village Green the costings are unchanged from 2019/20- Cllr C Davies proposed to accept the renewal- which was unanimously agreed.
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| 1. **11**
 | **Planning Matters****Applications;** * **P20/V0303/HH & P/20/V0304/LB**- **The Old Forge High Street Ashbury -** Demolition of modern flat roofed extension, porch and lean-to utility to rear. Erection of a single storey extension to rear with covered walk-way, new flat roofed utility room and porch. **NPG report of 25.02.2020 refers.**
* **P19/V0027/FUL- Church of St Mary, Church Lane, Ashbury -** Discharge of condition 4 (Submission of Archaeological Investigation Findings) on planning application P19/V0027/FUL. Underground drainage connection to mains sewer. **As this was a discharge following the completion of approved works, no action required.**
* **P19/V3225/FUL-** **The Old Dairy, Kingstone Winslow,Ashbury** - The council has received a planning application amendment (no. 1) revising the design of some elevations – **awaiting NPG response**.

**Decisions:** None received**Other:*** **S/OUT/19/0582-** Outline Planning Application (means of access off Wanborough Road not reserved) for demolition and/or conversion of existing buildings and redevelopment to provide up to 2,500 homes (Use Class C3); up to 1,780 sqm of community/retail uses (Use Class D1/D2/A1/A3/A4); up to 2,500 sqm of employment use (Use Class B1); sports hub; playing pitches; 2no. 2 Form Entry primary schools; green infrastructure; indicative primary access road corridors to A420; improvements to Wanborough Road and associated works.

At: Lotmead Site, New Eastern Villages Wanborough SwindonAPC are not a ‘statutory body’ required that has to be consulted, but NPG intend to make a submission given the potential impact on the parish |  |
| 1. **12**
 | **Public Forum-** To take comments , representation or queries on agenda items- None Raised |  |
|  | **Individual Topics (12 minutes allocated)** Refer to item 16 below |  |
| 1. **13**
 | **Individual Topics (12 minutes allocated)**1. **Introduction of OCC climate change policies relating to emissions & congestion management-** Refer to County Cllr Y Constance report (attached to minutes in appendix 1)
2. **Rospa Play Park Inspection-** Cllr A Reynolds explained that after going back to Rospa for clarity regarding the swing installation, photos and a explaination were sent through- Cllr A Reynolds to forward to the Councillors to see if this can be altered as instructed.
3. **Idstone Noticeboard-** Cllr A Reynolds raised concerns over the Isdtone noticeboard, as it is falling apart.Cllr C Davies proposed using the 2019/20 surplus to replace the noticeboard, seconded by Cllr C Prentice. Cllr C Davies to contact the resident who made the noticeboard in Kingstone Winslow and report back.
4. **Residents with special travel needs-** P smith to provide a guide of what is required to be able to push this through.
 | ARCD |
| 1. **14**
 | **Agenda Diary*** Code of Conduct- All Councillors present signed the Code of Conduct for 2019/20
 |  |
| 1. **15**
 | **Correspondence*** **19/01/2020- Parking at Village Hall-** A complaint was received ragrding parking in Chapel Lane by the hall, Cllr C Davies spoke to the resident and explained its public parking as there are no restrictions in that area.
* **29/01/2020- The Great British Spring Clean –** Cllr J Greenham to organise a litter pick
* **03/02/2020- Pounds Piece early morning disturbance-** Was referred to the Neighbourhood watch committee by Cllr A Reynolds, and Cllr C Davies raised the matter with District Cllr E Ware, who has referred it to the senior officer for the community police. – Cllr C Davies to progress.
* **03/02/2020- Pounds Piece need for social housing safety lights-** Cllr C Davies now has thecontact information for the housing association to suggest motion sensor lights
* **25/02/2020- Kingstone Winslow horse-box-** Cllr C Davies to approach the owner of the horsebox to see if there is a more suitable location for storage.
* **19/02/2010- Post-storm street debris-** To be added to the deep cleanse list.
* **27/02/2020- Usage of White Horse Hill via NT-** A post has been added to the website and onto Facebook letting local residents know that cattle will be grazing on White Horse Hill.
* **02/03/2020- Dangerous Tree-** A dangerous tree had been reported between Upper Mill Pond and the Allotments- reported to landowner- Cllr C Davies to chase
* **02/03/2020- Archive Boxes-** P smith sent a list of content within the Parish Archive boxes, feedback is required in the next four weeks regarding items that need to kept for the Parish Councuils records. Cllr C Prentice proposed that any items that are of no interest to the Parish Council but to the residents of any of the houses involved, P Smith is to distribute- Cllr P Cowx seconded the proposal- unanimously agreed.
 | **CD****CD****CD****LE****CD** |
| 1. **16**
 | **Future Agenda Items**Tree Maintenance, Cllr C Davies waiting for tree-surgeon to get in touch. P Smith to progress with person dealing | PS/CD |

Laura Evans – Clerk to Ashbury Parish Council

Meeting closed at 21:05pm

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th May 2020

Appendix 1

**MARCH 2020 : COUNTY CLLR’S REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS**

ALLOCATION OF SUPPORTED BUSES FUND (SBSF)

Most Parish Councils are aware of that Govt has made an immediate grant of £588,000 to OCC to revive supported buses, and every PC hopes for a share of this fund. It seems a lot of money, but nowhere near the £3million we withdrew from 118 bus routes in Oxon in July 2016, and it comes with quite restrictive criteria :

* to restore services where most needed
* to improve existing services - and/or
* start new services

And any spend must also deliver ‘additional miles’ AND be spent/committed by March 2021 with no guarantee that the funds will be repeated next year, or thereafter. But we expect to get a proper share of Govt’s new £5billion rural bus fund, expected by November 2020.

I have discussed this with officers, and with all Cabinet members, recognising that we do not have time to start new services (esp.with no funding commit ment next year) and barely time to carry out a proper assessment of all the routes to fairly establish priorities. We have to register OCC’s interest by Friday 13th March, so will consult PTRs for local knowledge

Officers have emailed all PCs to be sure all have the same official information (however wordy!) and I report that we will work out the most effective allocation by then, and Cabinet agreed we will present it as a pilot scheme, making clear to all recipients that it is offered for one year only. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CONSULTATIONS from OCC are so many, they risk being confusing. Please respond to those that impact us here in western Vale :

LOCAL TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY (LTCP) - engagement published by next week . This programme refreshes LTP4 (now including digital connectivity) seeking ‘engagement’ by responses to 31 Topic Papers. The responses will be analysed to inform a final strategy for formal consultation by end of 2020. This is the right time to make yourselves heard.

I have ensured a chapter for A420, which is now the least safe road in the county, but the format invites ideas (to match the other topics) rather than presenting proposals, so I hope you will not hesitate to make strong suggestions. I think we can require proper bus stops; pedestrian islands; speed limits and safety improvements; bus priority; small Park&Rides along the A420 for villagers to park or cycle to catch the bus – we can require real change and then press for funding. (I will send separately the A420 note I submitted to get officers to highlight A420 in this exercise. Please use all/as much of it as you think useful.)

ZERO-EMISSIONS PLAN FOR OXFORD CITY : This formal consultation was published on Wed 11th March to progress a ZEZ in centre of OxCity by December 2020. It will restrict access to the very centre of the city to vehicles emitting zero emissions, or charge £10 for non-compliance to enter. This is first step in establishing zero emission zones across all of OxCity, and will be the first in UK, probably in the world. ZEZ will be supported by new congestion management project.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT scheme for Eastern Arc of OxCity will be consulted later in the year. By Dec 2022 it will restrict access to the city centre with 5 ‘bus gates’ to ease traffic congestion. Combined with Resident Parking schemes ( 9 will be installed in 2020 and all OxCity thereafter)) access to OxfordCity will be best by bus, so I mention it here to stress the new importance of bus stops and bus hubs.

MINERALS&WASTE STRATEGY consultation on site allocations closed on 4th March. This strategy sets the sites for extraction until 2030s. The real changes were re-allocating the main extraction from north of the county to the south (where development is due when the SODC delivers their Local Plan) and does not change any sites here in western Vale. ( But you will be aware that Grundon, Faringdon, got planning permission to increase their vehicle movements on A420 to 44 per day.

CORONAVIRUS: OCC’s Public Health officers are in constant contact with Public Health England, and NHS with a well-tested emergency plan, and will be sure to keep us all informed.

Cllr YVONNE CONSTANCE

Appendix 2

**District Councillors Report to Parish Councils**

**Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward**

**February/Early March 2020**

**Vale of White Horse District Council**

Full Council met on 12th and 19th February. The meeting on 12th was primarily to agree the Budget for 2020/21 and the Capital programme to 2024/25. It was necessary to meet again on 19th in order to agree the Council Tax for the forthcoming year.

**The budget** included an investment of over £100k of initiatives to tackle the climate emergency. In total the base budget will increase by £600k. A number of savings were identified and these included the reduction of two Environmental Health Officer posts and to cease the out of hours service. In addition the Planning Department will no longer provide hard copy plans to town and parish councils. This is in response to the climate change proposal to reduce printing costs. It is proposed that T&PC’s download from the website. However, if Towns & Parish Councils wish to have printed plans these will be provided at a small charge to cover printing and posting costs. For major developments the Vale will offer the documents on memory sticks in case there are any issues with access from the website. For larger developments the developer will be asked to provide sufficient copies.

**The Council Tax** was agreed at the meeting on 19th February. For the financial year 2020/21 the Vale element of the Council Tax will increase by £5. For full details of the new rates for individual Towns and Parish’s please go to the Vale website.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee** – The Committee met on 28th January and will next meet on 30th March. The Chair of this Committee is the Vale’s representative on Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Steering Group.

There was an open exhibition at Milton Park recently displaying the design and build of the new **Council Offices at Crowmarsh Gifford.** This new build is to replace the one that was subject to an arson attack on 15th January 2015. The Vale of White Horse District Council shares accommodation with South Oxfordshire and will continue to do so in the new offices.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – There has been a slight delay with the Feasibility Report but it is hoped that this will be published in the next few weeks. In the meantime Thames Valley Police will be carrying out more parking enforcement in the South and Vale area.

**Planning Appeals** – There are currently three planning appeals from the Ward with the Planning Inspectorate. These appeals tend to take some time but we will advise once determined.

**Planning Applications and current developments** – There have been a number of planning applications for the Ward submitted to the Vale in recent weeks. These will of course go through the normal processes and consulted upon. The developments in Longcot and Shrivenham are ongoing. There was concern about a speculative inquiry for land off Station Road in Shrivenham. Elaine wrote to the Head of Planning who has responded and gives some comfort to Shrivenham residents.

**Planning Consultation** – A public consultation has been launched for people to comment on a draft Statement of Community Involvement. This Statement will form part of the Development Plan. The consultation runs until 5pm on 9th April. More details on whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sci

**Shrivenham Neighbourhood Plan –** The referendum for Shrivenham’s Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 26th March. The work involved in preparing Neighbourhood Plans cannot be underestimated. Details of the plan can be found on the Vale’s website.

**Sustainable Shrivenham** – Pleased to report that the Vale recycling team will be supporting the Sustainable Shrivenham event at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 28th March.

**Watchfield s106 funding** – Delighted that Watchfield has received more than £250k from developers to improve community facilities in the village.

**Defence Academy** – The Station Commander has arranged for the Local Liaison Group to meet on 17th March. Representatives from the County and District Councils, Parish Councils, Schools and the Police will be attending.

**South Oxfordshire’s Local Plan** – The latest situation with the Plan is that SODc’s Cabinet will be considering a report on 5th March to decide on the way forward. The recommendations are that Cabinet recommends to Council to a) note the update on the submitted Local Plan 2034 and related matters set out in the report b) leave the submitted Local Plan 2034 at examination and confirms this position to the secretary of state for Housing, Communities and Local Government. We will report back once a decision has been confirmed.

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

Simon Howell – 01793 784491 – simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Elaine Ware – 01793 783026 – elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Appendix 3

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

**Progress Report March 2020**

1. The second tree planting on 29 February went ahead as planned in spite of very heavy rain during the previous week and cold winds and showers on the day. The ground was very wet but sponsors and volunteers worked doggedly to get all the trees in the ground and securely supported. I'd like to record warm thanks to everyone who helped. A total of 27 trees have now been sponsored, raising a total of £6725. Expenses so far come to c.£2500 and we hope (see 2 below) to spend just over £1750 on a wooden display board at the entrance to the Green. This will leave just under £2500 in the fund for future maintenance (a sum which should gradually increase as a result of ongoing fund-raising).
2. As just mentioned we propose, subject to the Parish Council's agreement, to buy an Eastbury Low Level Lectern from Fitzpatrick Woolmer Design to display information about the Green and the Tree Trail and also the plaques with sponsors' dedications. If we order it in the week beginning 9 March it should be delivered at the beginning of May. We ask the Council to make a decision on this proposal and also to give us guidance (in due course) on where to site the lectern.
3. The situation with the Malthouse Close entrance and the playing field remains as it was in January – both need further work by the contractor. We now hope that he will return in mid-March (rather than mid-April as previously suggested).
4. From visiting other local open spaces and talking to people in the village we believe that picnic tables would be a popular addition to the Green. Of the money raised for landscaping we have £1440.60 left and would like to propose that this is used to buy picnic tables and a litter bin. We think that tables made of recycled plastic would be most practical as they apparently require no maintenance. They are quite hefty (weighing around 100 kilos each) so probably would not need to be secured to the ground. We have samples from two companies, NBB recycled furniture and British Recycled Plastic, and I will bring these to the meeting. Depending on the design chosen we could get 2 or 3 tables with the funds available. We invite comments and questions on this proposal from the Parish Council and members of the public.
5. We have started work on planning an event for 8 May to celebrate the completion of the Village Green together with the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Ideas we're exploring at the moment are:
* A family picnic on the Green – tables provided, bring your own food
* A family treasure hunt
* A celebration hat competition for children
* Maypole dancing
* Morris dancing by a local Morris side
* Memories of Ashbury in the 1940s
* Bell-ringing and visits to the Church bell loft - offered by Ashbury Tower bellringers
* A beer and wine tent – run under a temporary licence from the VOWH Council
* 1940s dancing in the village hall – subject to a successful bid to the “Dance for VE Day” scheme run by English Heritage.

We'd welcome comments and suggestion and also offers of help both with preparation and running events on the day.

Liz Derrington

2 March 2020