

**Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council
Via Zoom**

**Thursday 6th May 2021 at 6.00pm
Minutes**

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

At the start of the Annual Assembly meeting, CD had stated for the benefit of the public that, being via Zoom, the meeting would be recorded for ease of minuting. This continued into the Regular Meeting.

ITEM

- 1 To receive apologies for absence**
County Cllr Y Constance and District Cllr S Howell
- 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 Monday 8th March 2021**
Approved.
- 4 To address matters arising from the previous meeting**
Cllr C Prentice suggested listing any actions for Councillors on a separate page after the minutes to help ensure follow-up.
Cllr J Greenham informed the meeting that a litter pick is still to be arranged. This action would be carried forward.
- 5 County & District Councillors-**
County Councillor report attached to minutes in appendix 1
District Councillor E ware presented the report (attached to minutes in appendix 2)
Extremely proud of the local communities and the effort they have made to keep everyone safe.
150+ planning applications were submitted to the Vale from Ward villages from April 2020 to March 2021 some of which have proved to be controversial.
The Vale was again in the top 10 UK Local authorities for recycling.
District Cllr E Ware reiterated to the Parish Council that she and District Cllr Howell are always available to provide assistance and advice to residents and Councillors.
- 6 Chairs Verbal Update (3 minute time slot) – No update provided**
- 7 Clerks Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)**
Village Shop - The Clerk informed the Councillors that a request had been received from the under-tenant of the Village Shop, requesting photos that been sent to the VOWH Enforcement team, on which APC were copied in. The meeting agreed for the photos to be released.
The second request from the Village shop under-tenant was for the names of the complainants.
Cllr C Prentice suggested that this should be handled as part of the plan to arrange a meeting between the complainants and the under-tenants. Cllr C Prentice to approach the complainants to lay the ground for such a meeting. This was agreed.
- 8 Councillors Forum-** To receive reports from responsible officers (12 minute time slot)
Idstone Road Railings- Cllr J Greenham explained that he had been informed that a drainage investigation would be taking place shortly. He would chase the outcome.

Cllr A Reynolds circulated the Financial Report prior to the meeting (attached to minutes in appendix 3).

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Cllr J Ruggiero to chase the speed survey results.

Cllr C Prentice had been asked by a resident about resurfacing the road in Pounds Piece but there were a lot of areas within the Parish that need attention. District Cllr E Ware noted that the roads are the responsibility of the County Council. Cllr J Ruggiero to gather information on the bad road surfaces and potholes that need attention for future discussion of priorities. The Clerk drew attention to 'Fix My Street', which shows what has been reported and estimated completion dates. It also shows any problems that have been reported in the area.

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 4)

Cllr C Prentice asked whether Ashbury School is making regular use of the playing field. E Derrington said they had not, for lack of the staff needed to supervise the children. Cllr C Prentice suggested that the Volunteers of Ashbury might be able to help once their credentials were checked. E Derrington to contact the school in regards to this.

E Derrington wished to thank Cllr J Greenham for organizing volunteers for the weeding and mulching around the trees.

The need or not for a litter bin once the picnic tables are installed in late May. It was agreed that this should be reviewed after the tables have been installed and the amount of any litter left behind is apparent.

A resident has offered to donate removeable goal posts for the playing field. This raises an issue of storage and access. E Derrington to explore options. The Clerk to look at how the covenant for the Villate Green is phrased regarding its use as a sports field.

E Derrington thanked the Parish Council for ensuring that the maintenance of the village green by the contractor is going well. The green looks much better already after just 4 cuts. Cllr Morgan to be the contact point between the Village Green and contractor.

Covid-19 Emergency Support- Cllr J Ruggiero had spoken to Sally- Ann regarding an update on the situation. Sally-Ann confirmed that there had been no significant developments. Cllr C Prentice explained that with the vaccination drive having its effect and incidents getting lower the need for emergency support will be reduced but to keep in mind the potential need for a response in the Autumn should there be further waves of infection.

Cllr. Cowx asked about the Emergency Resilience Plan. Cllr J Greenham has a copy of the plan and intends to make contact with A Alvarez Nishio to better understand the plan and what points need updating. The biggest task will be to complete checks on the residents listed to ensure the contact details are still valid and that individuals are still willing to be on the list. Cllr C Prentice suggested that this should be reviewed annually and be an agenda item.

It was suggested that a Parish Councillors WhatsApp group be formed. Clerk to obtain all Councillors mobile numbers and set up the group.

10 **Financial Matters**

- Receive and note Annual Internal Audit Report – Received and noted
- Approve Annual Governance Statement- Approved
- Approve annual Accounting Statements - Approved
- Approve Certificate of Exemption - Approved
- Bank reconciliation – Cllr C Prentice signed and returned.

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11 Planning Matters

Applications;

- P21/V0693/DIS- : Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Ashbury- The application is for: Discharge of condition 3(Lime Mortar), 4(Materials), 5(Method Statement) & 6(Stone 7 render Repairs) on application P20/V1978/LB Removal of patches of external render, subsequent masonry repairs and replacement. - Approved
- P21/V0515/FUL- Odstone Farm Ashbury Swindon- Construction of 40x20m all weather outdoor arena. Consultation ended, target decision date 13th May
- P20/V3046/HH – Four Winds, Church Lane, Ashbury - The amendment is for: As amplified by plans received 19 April 2021 - Target decision date 30th April

Decisions: None received

Other:

- P21/V0007/Ful- Kingstone Farm- Consultation ended, decision overdue- Will respond when the decision is received.
- Enforcement Investigation VE19/469 - Latest response circulated 8th April – no further action at this point, District Cllr E Ware recommended the Parish Council to pursue the application that is outstanding and that neighbours should note any issues arising. District Cllr E ware has a diary date to follow up with the Enforcement Officer should no application be received.

12 **Public Forum-** To take comments , representation or queries on agenda items (15 minute time slot)
None received.

13 **Individual Topics (12 minutes allocated)**

14 Agenda Diary

- Insurance Renewal - AGM refers

15 Correspondence

- 29/03/2021 – OALC March update
- 31/03/2021- CPRE Oxon – Sustainable Water Campaign
- 14/04/2021 - Copy complaint from Wixes Piece Residents 1 & 2 – Cllr C Prentice to contact to try to arrange a meeting between the complainants and under-tenants. As the head lease-holders APC need to try to improve relations and ensure valid issues are being addressed appropriately. Cllr P Cowx to accompany Cllr C Prentice to the meetings.
- 15/04/2021 – Vale Town and Parish Council update

16 Future Agenda Items/ Any Other Business

Future Agenda Item – September meeting review of litter on the Village Green and whether a bin is necessary.

Cllr J Greenham asked Cllr C Prentice if he will take on the task of contributing the Councillors Corner item in the Parish newsletter as the previous Chair had done. This gives the residents an update from APC. Cllr C Prentice agreed to do this and would check with the editor on the deadlines.

Meeting closed at 7:16pm

Signed.....Dated.....

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Councillors Actions Arising

Cllr C Prentice (Chair)

- Arrange meeting between complainants and under-tenants of the Village Shop (with **Cllr. Cowx**)
- Contribute the Councillors Corner section for the Parish Newsletter. Speak to Marion Turner about timings.

Cllr J Greenham (Vice Chair)

- Speak to A Alvarez Nishio regarding Emergency Resilience Plan, and begin to update contacts.
- To organize outstanding litter pick

Cllr A Reynolds

- Insurance Quotes

Cllr J Ruggiero

- Chase Speed Survey results
- Start survey of road surfaces and potholes needing attention within the Parish for future discussion of priorities.

Clerk

- Set up Parish Council WhatsApp Group
- Check the phrasing in the Village Green Covenant regarding use of the green for sporting activities

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Appendix 1

APRIL 2021 : OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STRATEGY : deliver ‘Good Growth’ : social, environment; net gain for bio diversity; net zero carbon as well as economic

OXFORDSHIRE is a growth area of increasing importance to UK economy. Currently one of only 3 net contributors to Gov Exchequer, and predicted to double the GDP from the Ox/Cam ARC by 2050.

Oxfordshire County Council has a leadership role in the EEH/ARC. The Oxon science- based economy is globally significant in bio sciences, motor engineering (esp. autonomous vehicles) and energy esp renewables. County Council employs a team of researchers in Innovation Hub (iHib) who keep 600 companies and University researchers connected to develop cutting edge technologies.

PARTNERSHIPS with other Councils

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL works in successful partnerships : in the EEH REGION with Bucks, Herts, Beds, Cambs in England’s Economic Heartland where East West Railway is under construction already (Bicester to Bletchley) and EEH Transport Strategy now published aiming to be net zero by 2040 with increased BB connectivity and reduced car travel In the COUNTY OCC has developed partnerships with OxCity and all the District Councils in Growth Board to co-ordinate future strategy for housing and infrastructure planning. Oxfordshire’s Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development is now approved by OCC and Growth Board and sets the basis to inform all future development, including the LTCP , OXInfrastructure Strategy and future Nature Recovery Network Strategy around defined ‘good growth’ for Oxfordshire: social, economic and environmental .

PARTNERSHIP with LEP

OCC works also with the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) to reach private sector throughout the county. OXLEP is committing £2.2 billion investment into Oxon’s innovation eco –system with new business accelerators/hubs in emerging technologies. Over 3,000 businesses are supported each year to grow, invest, innovate, creating new jobs, new products new services. LEP supports also significant infrastructure improvements (e.g. A40 widening scheme and P&R and OxCity’s flood scheme, as well as active travel cycle/walking schemes in Witney and Bicester)

Local Industrial Strategy is the main public statement of future Oxon plans, responding to Gov Industrial Strategy . We hear the EEH/OxCam Arc is one of 32 major programmes on the PMs desk for regular updates, so we know it has major political support.

HOUSING

In 2012 when new NPPF was introduced, economic development in Oxon was estimated to require up to 85,000 new jobs, which clearly required many new houses, not only for new arrivals but also to meet the need for OxCity’s keyworkers who are priced out of OxCity’s properties – now as expensive as London.

The LEP reports that 50,000 new jobs have been created already, just 9 years after NPPF

OXFORDSHIRE’S GROWTH DEAL was successfully negotiated with Gov, for £150 million over 5 years to deliver infrastructure improvements for 100,000 houses by 2031 In addition Gov has agreed to new HOUSING Infrastructure Funds : HIF 1 north of Didcot through to new river crossing at Culham, for about 15,000 houses in Didcot Garden Town (£218 million) and HIF2 widening west bound A40 from OxCity to Witney (£105 million). OCC has supported David Johnston’s bid for Gov funding for GROVE STATION which could serve residents from about 7,000 houses .

2.

THERE WILL BE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN NEXT 4 YEARS, incl. new Shrivensham roundabout on A420 at Highworth Road for direct access for new development (end May21)

OXFORDSHIRE SERVICES : 2020/21

OCC ‘s Covid response has been a model with growing awareness of the impact of inequality which has been focus of the new Director of Public Health since he joined OCC early in 2020.

OCC received about £72 million in Gov funding to manage the pandemic, and was able to supply 4500 school children with free meals during Easter holidays

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90 % (and up to 95%) residents have been vaccinated and OCC's Public Health continues to encourage the uncertain along with managing the difficult test and trace connections.

RECOVERY

will require a new role for OCC to support Community Restart (£3million) ; its share of Levelling-up Fund (£4billion nationally) and Community Ownership .

BUSINESS GRANTS

RESTART – for non-essential retail and hospitality

Local Support Grant

Additional Restriction Grant : Oxon businesses have shared £520 million from Gov

Closed Business Lockdown payments

OTHER SERVICES with major public impact

S106 FUNDS : £839 MILLION secured from developers in 10 years: all but £150,000 spent or committed (Shrivenham roundabout funded by S.106 moneys)

EDUCATION : 93% children offered first choice school placements : attests to provision of school places : 7 new schools opened in 2020:, 5 more in pipeline

HIGHWAYS : over 40,000 road repairs (potholes!) repaired in past year : resurfacing programme of about £10 million p.a. continues

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING ; 7 sites remain open; OCC best recycling council for 7th year at 58.9% with target to achieve 70% by 2025

BROADBAND : OCC completed roll-out superfast broadband to 98% premises and now embarked on programme for final 2% rural premises to ultrafast broadband

TRANSFORMATION : access to services moved to digital, with savings of £14.5 million achieved

BUDGET MANAGEMENT : OCC APPROVED COUNCIL TAX increase of 2.99% plus 1% for ring - fenced Adult Social Care, lowest possible increase in time of greatest stress on household budgets

Cllr Yvonne Constance

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Appendix 2

**District Councillors Report to Parish Councils
Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward
April 2021
Vale of White Horse District Council**

The Vale is now in Purdah until after the Elections on 6 May. This means that there are restrictions on what may be communicated by both the Council and Councillors. However, the Vale will continue with its regular Covid updates and we would encourage you all to keep a watching brief on the Vale's website – www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

We are sad to report that the former Leader of the Vale Roger Cox passed away on Saturday 27 March. Roger represented the Faringdon Ward for many years and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Planning – At the full Council meeting on 24 March it was agreed that the Vale would join with South Oxfordshire DC to develop a Joint Local Plan up to 2041. Work has already commenced and further details will be communicated.

Locally we would remind Parish Councils that if there are concerns about any individual planning application and the Council wishes to call it in to Committee it is necessary to firstly discuss with either Simon or Elaine. Any discussion must be undertaken before the 28 days from the registration date has expired. It is recognised that this may cause problems as not all PC's meet on a monthly basis. However, if the 28 day deadline has passed we would not be able to call in the application. Note: any amendments to an application do not change the original registration date therefore call-ins may not be possible.

The application for land to the North East of Swiss Cottage has had its consultation period extended due to a delay in registration.

The application for 10 new dwellings on land at Townsend Road was due to be considered by the Planning Committee on 31 March. However, the Vale withdrew it from the agenda as more detailed information is required from the developer.

Full Council Meeting – the full council met virtually on 24 March. Agenda items included Joint Local Plan, an update from the Oxfordshire Growth Board, allocation of s106 funds to help towards the provision of 8 affordable home in Botley and a financial offer to support GLL the Leisure contractor. Further details are on the Vale website under Latest News.

Cabinet - the next Cabinet meeting will be held virtually on Friday 9 April. The meeting will consider the establishment of a Growth Board Environment Advisory Group and the Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy.

Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages – The road works in and around the A420/A419 at White Hart and Gablecross continue apace. OCC Officers met with SBC Officers on 18 March. They will meet again in June for a further update on the NEV and transport matters. Two matters that were discussed were the main construction of the Southern Connector Road which is due to begin in May and that SBC are also concerned about the cumulative impact of the developments in and around Highworth.

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

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Appendix 3

ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE REPORT TO 30 APRIL 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 April 2021, precept-related expenditure was expected to be £64.
4. To 30 April 2021, net precept-related expenditure was actually -£136. It was negative because of a receipt from HMRC in the form of reclaimed VAT. The details can be found in the attached report.
5. At 30 April 2021, total reserves stood at £53,666 (compared to £48,216 at 31 March 2021) of which £36,019 related to earmarked reserves. Again, the details can be found in the attached report.

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Appendix 4

Ashbury Parish Council - Village Green Sub-committee Progress Report May 2021

Tree trail Weeding/mulching round the trees had to be postponed but is now due to happen on 1 May. It's still a little early to assess the impact on the trees of the strimmer damage last July, but it looks as though most have recovered surprisingly well. Picnic tables Our bid for lottery funding was successful.

Concrete bases for two picnic tables are due to be laid in the week of 17 May and the tables themselves should arrive the following week. We haven't so far proposed installing a litter bin near the picnic tables as this would bring longterm responsibility for emptying, but we'd welcome APC's thoughts on whether a bin would be a good idea.

Weedkilling The whole of the Green has now been treated with weedkiller. We hope that regular mowing will now be all that is needed to keep the weeds in check.

Playing field We have marked out the Playing Field and applied fertiliser. Mowing has started and we have advertised that the Field is available for use. We've also made a renewed plea to all dog owners to pick up waste and keep the Green safe for everyone.

Maintenance Things are looking good. The grass has now been cut twice and we are optimistic that the contractors will stick to a fortnightly schedule over the summer.

Liz Derrington 29 April 2021