**Monday 13th March 2023 at 6.00pm**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Cllr C Prentice (Chair), N Morgan, J Greenham, P Cowx, A Reynolds, District Cllr E Ware, P Smith (Chair of NPG), one member of the public.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** |  |  |
| **1** | **To receive apologies for absence**  County Cllr Y Constance, District Cllr S Howell, J Ruggiero and L Evans (Clerk), |  |
| **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 16th January 2023**  Following a request from P Smith the minutes of the Jan 2023 APC meeting regarding hedge trimming were slightly amended by Cllr Prentice.  With the one change to the draft proposed by Cllr. C. Prentice, Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2023 were approved and signed as a true record. |  |
| **4** | **To address matters arising from the previous meeting (items in blue remain from January meeting)**  **Footpath by Pond**- Cllr C Prentice had consulted the owners of Upper Mill Pond , who were now considering whether they would support such a path and whether it was practicable**.**  **Action: Cllr C Prentice to follow up with Upper Mill Pond with a view to a joint approach to Compton Beauchamp Estates, the landowners, if a path around the pond seems practicable and desirable.**  **Invoice for Legal Fees**- Letters have been sent to the solicitor stating that if no invoice is received by 31st March, then APC shall assume there is no fee to pay. APC to carry as a reserve in the accounts during 2023-2024.  **Action: Cllr Reynolds to make a reserve in the accounts.**  **Resilience Plan** – Cllr J Greenham had updated the Resilience Plan and distributed to councillors and no further action is required this year.  **Dog Waste Bins-** Cllr Ruggiero had confirmed with the planning department that no planning permission was required for erecting two dog waste bins. Cllr J Ruggiero had been informed by the Clerk at Bourton that OCC empty the Parish’s dog waste bins at no cost. The meeting agreed the two locations for the bins; one on the Village Green and one by the Church.  **Action: Cllr Ruggiero to source a quote for 2 dog waste bins and to formally request OCC to empty these bins, as they do at Bourton.**  **Ashbury Hill speed warning indicator**. An email had been received by the Clerk from a resident reporting that the flashing sign on the descent of Ashbury Hill was not working.  **Action: Cllr Ruggiero to find out who installed the sign (probably OCC Highways) and report to them that it is not working.**  **Climate Fund-** Still ongoing.  **Action: Cllr P Cowx will investigate to borrow an existing thermal camera to assess insulation of properties if the owner wishes.**  **Risk Assessment**- continuing action**-**  **Action:** Cllr P Cowx reported that the clerk generated documents are uploaded to a separate hard drive as back up, to mitigate risk of data loss. |  |
| **5** | **County & District Councillors-** To receive reports from County and District Councillors (5 minute time slot)  There was no County Councillors’ report due to sick leave absence.  District Cllr E Ware asked for voters to be reminded about the new ID requirements to vote. In addition she reported that Botley Road in Oxford will be closed from April to October during 2023 and 2024 respectively. Stanford waste depot will be closed on 27-28 March 2023 for maintenance. **Action: Clerk to advertise new ID requirements as part of information about the May Local Elections**  County Cllr Y Constance agreed to try to get publicity for the major risks currently being ignored from the planned switch-off of traditional telephone lines. Ofgem should be engaging more forcefully.  **Action: County Cllr Y Constance to lobby at OCC level and with the media on the risks associated with the switch-off of traditional telephone lines.** |  |
| **6** | **Chairs Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)**  There was no verbal update at the meeting. |  |
| **7** | **Clerks Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)**  Nothing to report. |  |
| **8** | **Sub Committee Reports-** To receive reports from Sub-committees (6 minute time slot)   * NPG (Neighbourhood Plan Group) Report attached to minutes in appendix 1. **In relation to its seven recommendations:** * Recommendation 1. It was agreed that P. Smith should update her communication about Change of Use planning applications used for Agricultural buildings and barns and that it should then be posted by on Ashbury Events and Information.   **Action: P. Smith to update the document. C.Prentice to approve it and Clerk to post it on Ashbury Events and Information**   * Recommendation 2.Website- It was noted that Cllr Cowx, Website officer and a member of the NPG, were not invited to the NPG meeting when the Website was discussed. * Website - Cllr Cowx confirmed the website is in full working order. There was brief discussion about keeping it up to date and it was felt the overall purpose of the website and the Council’s broader communication strategy should be considered by the next Council. * Recommendation 3. It was agreed that G. Turner’s mandate as Connectivity Lead could be broadened to include any emerging technologies.   **Action: P. Smith and G. Turner to draft expanded brief.**   * Recommendation 4. It was agreed that P. Smith should seek to arrange a meeting with County and District Councillors, with APC Chair and G.Turner to take forward the parish’s engagement on the OCC Digital Infrastructure strategy and potential future funding for FTTP provision in Idstone in round 2 of the BDUK process / Project Gigabit.   **Action: P.Smith to seek to arrange the meeting**   * Recommendation 5. The recommendation (that APC hold regular meetings with NPG to discuss the broad Connectivity Agenda in the months between regular APC meetings) was deferred for consideration by the next Council, after the May elections. * Recommendation 6. It was agreed that the Highways Officer should activate the CIL fund available from completed build planning application P21/V2915/FUL   **Action: For J. Ruggiero, in consultation with P.Smith, to activate this CIL fund**   * Recommendation 7: The proposed scheme (for monitoring traffic at the junction between the B4507 and the lane to Kingstone Winslow) to be discussed again by the next Council after the May elections. Meanwhile, preparatory contact could be made by NPG member Dominick Donald with APC Highways to explore the actions required for traffic monitoring at this triangle area. * Connectivity Issues: Under 4 and 5 above, there was discussion about extending Airband, not only to Idstone, but also to the roads in Ashbury that are not currently covered by the Airband spine on the B4000. P.Smith has identified the roads. If agreement to proceed was reached this would be via a Demand / Sales-led piece of activity from Airband. First stage would be to explore with residents in these roads to establish any current or likely demand. It was thought that KW residents could act as ambassadors for using Airband, if appropriate. There was concern about APC acting, in effect, as an agent for Airband and the implications, if the company and/or service were subsequently to struggle or fail. PS agreed that NPG would offer further information about FTTP to any interested residents in the parish.   **Action: P. Smith and G. Turner to consider a communication to residents without FTTP provision, for consideration by the next Council, after the May elections.**   * Cllr C Prentice reported on developments to install Broadband in the Village Hall, in which the APC had an interest as a public service in a public space in the Parish. Airband had offered this as a free of charge community service in January 2023. So APC financial support to the initiative was not an immediate question. However, The Village Hall needed help to take the project forward. P. Smith had offered to re-engage with Airband Sales and Install Teams. The APC welcomed this offer.   **Action: P. Smith to engage with Airband.** |  |
| **9** | **Financial Matters**  Financial report attached to the minutes in appendix 2   * Bank Reconciliation – was signed by the Chair. * Quotations for Grounds Maintenance Contract 2023-24 - Cllr N Morgan had reported separately on the quotations received for grounds maintenance. His suggestion to appoint CW Countrywide for 2023-2024 was approved. It was confirmed that the green in KW will be maintained under this contact and will not be maintained, as currently, by local residents. The council formally thanked Cllr N. Morgan for the work involved in successfully concluding this task.   **Action: Cllr N.Morgan to liaise with CW Countrywide accordingly to implement the appointment.**   * It was confirmed that the council will renew its subscription to OALC for the 2023-2024 period. |  |
| **10** | **Planning Matters**  **Applications;**   * P23/V0377/S73- Barn at College Farm, Station Road (B4000) Ashbury - The application is for: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans) under application reference number P21/V2311/N4B to provide detailed proposals of the layout, external appearance and materials which have been developed to meet the specific requirements of the applicant. (Proposed change of use of agricultural barn to single dwellinghouse (use class c3) and associated building operations.) * P22/V2905/FUL -: Lower Idstone Farm Idstone - The amendment is for: As amended and additional information and plans received 13 February 2023 * P23/V0137/HH - 3 Kingstone Farmyard Kingstone Winslow- The application is for: Proposed ancillary building for use as garden office.   **Decisions:**  The meeting noted that no decisions had been received. |  |
| **11** | **Public Forum-** To take comments , representation or queries on agenda items (15 minute time slot)  No comments or representations were made by the members of the public in attendance. |  |
| **12** | **Individual Topics (12 minutes allocated)**   * Footpath by Pond- covered under item 4 * Dog Waste Bins – covered under item 4 * Speed Indicator Device (SID) – Cllr J Ruggiero to forward the information received regarding the SIDs. Cllr C Prentice had attended the OALC Chair’s online forum for Parish Council Chairs. An initiative is being run in Oxfordshire called ‘Quiet Lanes’, which could be of interest to Ashbury. He had two email addresses for follow-up.   **Action- Cllr Ruggiero to explore ‘Quiet Lanes’ from the details passed by Cllr C Prentice.**  Community Speed Watch had also been discussed at the OALC Chair’s Forum. Any CSW initiative needed a committed group of volunteers. 3 people were needed each time. This was difficult to sustain over time. The meeting agreed it was worth exploring how many residents were interested in volunteering.  **Action- Cllr J Greenham to put a call for volunteers who wish to take part in CSW and if needed hold a separate meeting to gauge interest.**   * **Flagpole**- After considerable discussion about a possible location of the flagpole, including the church tower (impractical), village hall (unsuitable), the war memorial green (possible but congested) or the Village Green (possible but remote), it was agreed by a majority vote of councillors not to proceed with the installation   **Action: Cllr Prentice to seek to have the funds from OCC redirected to other causes within the parish eg new equipment in the Playpark.**   * Playpark- Quotations have been received from various contractors for new toddler equipment and Cllr Reynolds will continue to follow up with site meetings.   **Action- Cllr A Reynolds to contact the companies requesting a site visit.**   * May Elections – It should be noted that the relevant application forms have been circulated with guidance on how to fill and submit the forms. It was agreed that the APC should advertise the opportunity to serve on the next Council. It was important that the Council be as diverse as possible in all respects.   **Action: Clerk to advertise the opportunity in the coming weeks.**   * Proposed Public Memorial to Airey Neave. The proposal for a memorial on or near to the War Memorial had been withdrawn. It was now proposed that a suitable memorial (framed picture with inscription) might be installed in the village hall. This would be considered by the Village Hall Committee. No further action for APC. * Cllr Greenham confirmed the **annual litter pick** will take place on 1st April 2023 at 10.00am outside the village hall. |  |
| **13** | **Agenda Diary**   * Standing Orders were approved. * Financial Regulations were approved. * The Bank mandate was approved. * Review of Asset Register. It was noted that the Register needed to be updated, including the condition report. P.Smith volunteered to help Cllr. A. Reynolds with this task.   **Action: P. Smith to assist Cllr. A. Reynolds with the updating of the Asset Register** |  |
| **14** | **Correspondence**  The meeting noted no correspondence had been received. |  |
| **15** | **Future Agenda Items**   * **For next Council to consider outstanding items from the NPG report (paragraph 8 above)** * **Playpark** * **Flagpole (to be reconsidered perhaps)** |  |

The meeting closed at 8:35pm

The next meeting will be held on Monday 15 May at 6pm in the Village Hall.

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………………………… Dated………………………………………………….

**Actions Arising**

1. **Cllr C. Prentice**

**Upper Mill Pond Path**

Action: Cllr C Prentice to follow up with Upper Mill Pond with a view to a joint approach to Compton Beauchamp Estates, the landowners, if a path around the pond seems practicable and desirable.

**Flagpole**

Action: Cllr Prentice to seek to have the funds from OCC redirected to other causes within the parish eg new equipment in the Playpark.

1. **Cllr. A. Reynolds**

**Invoice for Legal Services:**

Action: Cllr. A. Reynolds to make a reserve in the accounts.

**Playpark Equipment**

Action- Cllr A Reynolds to contact the companies requesting a site visit.

1. **Cllr. R. Ruggiero**

**Dog Waste Bins**

Action: Cllr Ruggiero to source a quote for 2 dog waste bins and to formally request OCC to empty these bins, as they do at Bourton.

**Ashbury Hill Speed Warning Indicator**

Action: Cllr Ruggiero to find out who installed the sign (probably OCC Highways) and report to them that it is not working.

**CIL Funding**

Action: For J. Ruggiero, in consultation with P.Smith, to activate the CIL fund for completed build planning application P21/V2915/FUL

**‘Quiet Lanes’**

Action- Cllr Ruggiero to explore ‘Quiet Lanes’ initiative from the details passed by Cllr C Prentice.

1. **Cllr. N. Morgan**

**Ground Maintenance Contract**

Action: Cllr N.Morgan to liaise with CW Countrywide to implement the appointment. Cllr. C.Prentice to sign the contract on behalf of APC.

1. **Cllr. J. Greenham**

**Community Speed Watch**

Action- Cllr J Greenham to put a call for volunteers who wish to take part in CSW and if needed hold a separate meeting to gauge interest.

1. **Cllr. P. Cowx**

**Climate Fund**

Action: Cllr P Cowx will investigate to borrow an existing thermal camera to assess insulation of properties if the owner wishes.

1. **Clerk**

**Local Elections**

Action: Clerk to advertise new ID requirements as part of information about the May Local Elections

1. **Chair Of Neighbourhood Planning Group , P. Smith**

**Change of Use Planning Applications**

Action: P. Smith to update her document. C.Prentice to approve it and Clerk to post it on Ashbury Events and Information

**Brief for Connectivity Lead**

Action: P. Smith and G. Turner to draft expanded brief.

**Engagement with OCC et al about Digital Infrastructure Issues**

Action: P.Smith to seek to schedule the proposed meeting

**Potential for FTTP Connection in Ashbury and Idstone**

Action: P. Smith and G. Turner to consider a communication to residents currently without FTTP provision, for consideration by the next Council, after the May elections.

**Airband Offer to the Village Hall**

Action: P. Smith to engage with Airband.

**Asset Register**

Action: P. Smith to assist Cllr. A. Reynolds with the updating of the Asset Register

1. **County Cllr. Y. Constance**

**Connectivity Agenda**

Action: County Cllr Y Constance to lobby at OCC level and with the media on the risks associated with the switch-off of traditional telephone lines.

Appendix 1

Neighbourhood Plan Group

1

Report to Ashbury Parish Council (APC) from Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Group

(NPG) Pauline Smith as Chair NPG, for period 16th January 2023 – 13th March 2023

Internal Activity

The last 2 months have been very busy for both NPG activity and as myself for APC with

Planning Lead input – (last part input not recorded here).

I would like to thank the 2 NPG members Richard Meek and Dominic Donald (both recruited

to NPG last year by me) for the support and input over this time period, which despite the

fact they both work full time has involved considerable reading, attention and response to a

number of current agendas that we have been addressing.

These they have taken on with their usual willingness to learn, question and contribute to our

activities, leading to some very constructive collective agreements and ways forward as

illustrated in our items reported below.

For this time period we therefore have 7 recommendations/requests to APC – as listed below

Theme for this time period – responsibilities for NPG (and APC) to proactively

function, align and deliver to meet the needs of the 21st century -- we are already in

2023

It is to be noticed that the recent Agricultural Barn build conversions, Bog End and Black

Barns and renovation build of the Old Dairy in Kingstone Winslow are the most:

• Ecologically/climate change, sustainable properties in the parish: solar panels, air

source heat pumps, building and roof insulated to highest standards, triple glazed

windows, car charging points

This is matched in part only by: another ‘older’ building, the Manor for biomass energy

source and 1 newer build, which has through its current build works: installed solar panels,

air source heat pumps, property insulation of highest current standard, glazing upgrades, car

charging points

• Aligned to 21st century connectivity for Fibre optic broadband (FTTP)

All new builds are now required (by national standards) to contract with Openreach to

provide FTTP.

o The 9 Black Barns and the Old Dairy have FTTP. Bog End has fibre and then copper to

property (choice) but can easily be switched to FTTP

o Again it is the Manor that has Airband FTTP in Ashbury and a number of properties in

Pound Piece, Chapel Lane (B4000 end) have Airband contracts for FTTP because of

proximity to the Airband spine in Station Road.

o 27 properties in Kingstone Winslow now have access to Airband optic fibre Broadband

FTTP service

What is required is a 21st century APC Communication plan fit for current and ongoing

purposes that ties a website, parish wide email (though not all by any means are all residents

are on this current circulation list), parish Facebook activity and any parish newsletter, notice

boards under 1 umbrella and which facilitates 2 way communication activity between NPG

members and residents in regular forms. (see Uffington PC as good example of such) NPG

messaging for 2 way communication and for news would benefit from such

Ashbury Parish

Neighbourhood Plan Group

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Planning applications from 16th January to 7th March 2023 : x 3

• 1 set of amended plans to Lower Farm Idstone Barn conversions

• 1 for an ancillary home office 3 Kingstone Winslow Barns

• 1 for a Class Q permission to move to a FUL type planning application College Farm

Barn B4000 (Variation of condition 2 from Class Q)

Recommendation/Request 1: For the piece that I sent to Councillors after the January 2023

APC meeting, re the planning requirements for ‘change of use’ Agricultural Barns and

buildings converted to RESIDENTIAL dwellings the APC, to be used for sharing with local

residents and be circulated via the Ashbury email.

The piece to be updated with feedback both from NPG member RM and APC Neil M

and to add in another example of a Class Q permitted development permission, where a set

of changes to this permission are submitted via a FUL planning application – as in College

Farm Barn B4000

NPG meeting This was held on Feb 17th 202I Items discussed included:

1. Parish website: we discussed what we would want from a 21st century website and parish

wide communications plan for NPG

Recommendations/Request 2: DD also ‘offered’ his daughters very tech savvy input to set

up a website/re vamp current one over the summer using Square space or other, but of course

would require a parish resident to take over and keep up to date at end of the summer

See www.dominickdonald.com and Uffington Parish website powered sustainably and puts

out weekly newsletter, + for posting on their parish website (a communication plan)

2. \*Infrastructure for the 21st century and how this will affect Ashbury parish re the

whole of the Connectivity agenda as outlined in the piece at the end of the report

2.1 Update on OCC Digital Infrastructure contract for fibre broadband awarded to

Airband - 24 dwellings in Kingstone Winslow (actual number 27)

• Contract completion end of February 2023: The contracted work is now complete for the

Infrastructure Build and the Airband Build Team input. The next steps involve the Sales

and Install Teams – to complete actions for those residents that have previously signed up

for but not yet receiving the service and for those residents who now choose to sign up for

the Airband service

• KW as a rural hamlet proved to be a very complex site for infrastructure build

2.2NPG actions included:

• responding to the request from OCC and our County Councillor to provide an update to

them on 1. the status of the contract and 2. our experience of Airband during this contract

(I changed brief to providing information about the final 3 months for contract

completion only, (to note OCC could have gained this info direct from Airband)

• The requested report was submitted to OCC and County Councillor early February 2023.

NPG, APC, Graham Turner, Airband, County and District Councillors received a

response from OCC to the report – (awaiting wider discussion by APC and others for any

next steps to be agreed, see recommendation 4)

Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group

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• The report contained a model of Parish Council working with any contractor for any

Infrastructure Build, a model tested in parts by the working arrangement I had in planning

role with the Airband Build Lead for this final 3 months completion of the contract

activity. Airband have noted.

2.3 Next steps Idstone – and infrastructure for a fibre broadband service

• Idstone currently has a very poor Broadband service

• A very complex Infrastructure build would be required and at present would be very

difficult, costly to build

• Request made in APC/NPG report to OCC for Idstone to be considered for any 2nd

round of BDUK funding, via the Gigabit project. Process for agreeing sites active at

present. South Oxfordshire (South and Vale has £16.7 million allocation, contracts to

be awarded Sept 2023)

• NPG Actions: to keep active connection to procurement decisions via OCC Lead

2.4 Next steps: rest of Kingstone Winslow (those properties not included in the OCC

contract) and parts of Ashbury (at a distance from the Airband spine in B4000)

o The OCC funded fibre broadband contract with Airband was only for 24 properties in

KW (+ 3 that Airband included) = 27, + the 11 now with Openreach = 38. There are

47 properties in KW

This means there are another 9 properties in KW with no FTTP or Airband infrastructure to

provide to these properties.

• 2 properties owned by CBE and next to Bog End Barn, The 2 CBE properties could be

FTTP from the Openreach box by Black Barns (I have already discussed this with CBE).

• the Farmhouse and Upper Mill would require too many Airband poles for install and

connection at these sites and too costly/complex if cable routed underground. These 2

properties remaining with no options at present

• The other 5: (which are the collection of houses on the road track out of KW and up

towards B4507), were offered an infrastructure build plan by our Airband Lead, at

Airband cost, but this was refused by 1 house owner. who has refused a pole installation

on their hedge land. – The pole would have allowed connection to all 5 houses. At this

site there are no other options because of the extensive Electricity supply and poles.

o To note that Airband have left this offer on the table and I am attempting

ongoing discussions with this land owner In Ashbury

• The core Infrastructure build by Airband to deliver the KW contract is the Airband spine

on the B4000. This because there were a few houses from Ashbury to Bourton included in

the OCC contract plan. To note the KW connection is actually now routed to Shrivenham.

In Ashbury, the following roads currently have no access to an Airband FTTP, Idstone Road,

College Farm Road, Church Lane, Berrycroft, Kings Close, but roads/areas not included in

the list can request a connection to their property and some have so done so already.

The parish council now needs to decide any next step actions – this could be to include a

sales/demand resident and PC led request to Airband for further pole infrastructure so that

Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group

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the opportunity to secure an Airband contract for FTTP will exist across the whole of

Ashbury (see Uffington Parish Council activity re this)

Recommendation/Request 3: for the brief for APC Connectivity agenda Graham Turner to

be widened and to include keeping attention focussed on any emerging new technologies re

connectivity as neither FTTP or wireless solution maybe the Idstone answer. If agreed PS and

GT to action for additional activity inclusion in the brief

Recommendation/Request 4: Following APC march meeting for: APC Chair NPG Chair,

APC Connectivity Lead, County and District Councillors to meet to discuss OCC response to

APC/NPG report. This will include:

• issues arising or submitted by PS re the function/activity of the South and Vale Councillor

leads for the delivery of the OCC Digital Infrastructure strategy

• any next steps given the impending 2nd round of national funding for addressing provision

of fibre broadband to hard to reach rural sites – Idstone and Gigabit Project

Recommendation/Request 5: for APC to consider holding an APC/NPG Connectivity

meeting in the months between the APC meetings, purely focused on Connectivity agenda

and actions. This is a huge agenda and requires active understanding and involvement of

APC as key 21st century agenda issue. The first meeting would address FTTP Airband

options an decisions to proceed with residents for those parts of parish as above –

3. Highways and Planning

3.1 Unadopted Highways roads KW: information about the status of this road –

unclaimed land, unadopted road emerged during the Airband build in this road when

attempting to source permissions from owners for a required dig of a trench to run

cable and secure Toby Network Boxes.

• In NPG role I collaborated with residents on this road section to establish status of

road and choices to move to adopted Highways status. Brought in JR as APC

Highways Lead.

• Residents chose to remain as status quo, so they are responsible for maintenance of

this unadopted road (whole unclaimed land unadopted road status had not been

discussed collectively between them previously).

• JR agreed to submit attached (separately) to Laura to provide a record of status of

this road – should there be any further infrastructure build requests on the road in the

future

3.2 Idstone and unadopted part unclaimed road ---

• Featherbed Lane supplies all of Idstone and then carries on as unadopted and as

unclaimed land track to Bourton. The adopted road ends at the beginning of the

barns/end of white gate part of Lower Idstone Farm

• Lower Idstone Farm owners have applied for planning permission to convert the

agricultural building there into 4 dwellings.

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o To note that Highways requested adjustments to the red boundary lines for the

current owners and the road - so that their part of the road now abuts the

adopted road.

o Until now 3-4 other agricultural families have had equal access to and use of

the previous total unadopted and unclaimed road to access their land.

o These parties will need to agree between them how any status quo access and

use of this track will remain – all aware of situation

• APC/NPG no current actions at present but keep watchful support on any process to

agree how to maintain status quo access as we agreed this planning application

3.3 Activating CIL fund from completed build planning application P21/V2915/FUL

see delegated report, CIL reference 6031. This is £5,460 for highways improvement to the

road in KW that the Black Barns front onto

Recommendation/Request 6: For James R as APC Highways Lead to activate this CIL for

Highways action

3.4 Development of Plan to monitor use of the triangle piece of road from KW to B4507

in preparation for new resident population as they move into Black Barns.

• Previously recorded by NPG this site has poor visibility.

• There will be 17 + parking spaces on the barn site, + 3 car for the Bog End barn and 2 for

the Old Dairy == 22 extra cars/traffic exit and entering from this triangle + those further

down from the Farmhouse and Lower Mill and the road down to and in KW traffic

• There is also a bike shed on the Black Barn s site though it is unclear which route cyclists

will take from this site

Recommendation/Request 7: To capture the experiences of this increase in traffic we

recommend the following be put in place by April or May 2023 time to collect data and

experiences and over time this analysed data be used to make the case to Highways for

alteration of this junction triangle of land

1. For DD and JR at APC to work together on this piece of activity

2. To put together a data collecting sheet by end of March to be used by the each of the

residents using this entry and exit route monitoring for them to record the experience of

using this junction – include dates and other

3. As the sheet fills to collect and replace

4. Set out project plan, monitoring and review of plan times

External Activity and actions

1. ONPA and NPG Chair: To note that at the January AGM I was nominated and voted in

to become an ONPA Exec Team member

This involves: monthly Exec Team meetings, me in the Vale role being the contact point for

all those parishes with an adopted NP or plan in progress for 2 way info and issues sharing,

regular meetings with South Team member, another and myself for planned meetings with

South And Vale Policy and Planning Leads + other pieces of agenda items I have taken lead

on.

6

And lastly ONPA have been asked to submit evidence to the current Levelling Up and

Regeneration Bill Select Committee -- to give evidence re the changes to the proposed

National Planning Framework (NPPF) and any impacts or consequences for Neighbourhood

plans

\*Infrastructure: A key element of APC activity in this 21st Century

Background and current context

In the 21st century the types of infrastructure are different to those in the 20th century. See

attached from OCC re elements of the Digital infrastructure strategy for what we need to

expect over the next few years.

See separate attachment for the OCC update – Digital Infrastructure strategy

In the 20th century Ashbury parish from 1939 – 1960’s and beyond, the infrastructure

built/installed included electricity, piped water to households, a sewerage system in parts of

the parish only, telephone lines and the start of digital technology. These builds were often

unsystematically planned in and over time so that we have a number of piecemeal, add on

types of infrastructure both overground and underground. (Airband discovered 2 different

pieces of electrical live wiring near the KW Green as they were installing their underground

Toby network boxes for cable routing and had to call SSE out to address. These wires were of

course not listed on any of the nationally sourced survey data that Airband and others use.)

It will be noted that gas lighting in the parish and the poles for this were removed as

electricity infrastructure was completed and that it was the parish council agreement not to

fund (as requested) any electrical street lighting, that is the reason for dark skies. So sorry but

at the time this decision had nothing to do with access to dark skies. That’s a later

repositioning/reframing of reasons for no street lighting.

Digital technology Infrastructure: Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

The Kingstone Winslow activity was part of the Defra funded allocation for the provision of

a fibre optic broadband service (FTTP) and the contract for this site was awarded to Airband.

(Airband secured the contracts for all of the rural parish sites in Vale of White Horse District

Council (VWHDC) and South Oxfordshire, including closest neighbour parish Uffington).

This contracted activity was part of national activity and each County Council chose to award

contracts to a wide range of Broadband FTTP providers. Airband were awarded a number of

these County Council funded contracts and have delivered in Devon, Shropshire, Somerset,

Herefordshire and other. For Airband rural fibre broadband is their brand niche.

From this experience of the contract in KW it is suggested for APC activity to include

• 21st century addition to APC agenda and activity for infrastructure – any element of the

connectivity agenda, now part of APC Connectivity brief, but which all APC councillors

to be aware of

• To be actively alert and ready to respond to any Infrastructure programme/installation in

or for the parish –appoint a lead to connect to the delivery programme (this did not

happen with Airband so that when Airband made the request to have a slot in the APC

agenda (request in May 2021), the input did not happen until the September 2021 – by

Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group

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which time the core build infrastructure plan had both been agreed by Airband and

infrastructure mostly in place.

• No acknowledgement of any need to be involved in any infrastructure build or plans was

made by APC following the presentation.

o No contact was made by APC to Airband until I put together APC Connectivity

brief and agreed Graham Turner to lead this brief at end of January 2022. By

which time the initial contract time was expected to have completed. The contact

with the Lead for the contract also does need to be someone APC operational as

well as any technology expertise that GT can bring in.

• Lead APC appointment to connect to Lead service provider/Build team with immediate

effect following any information about any infrastructure build in or across the parish:

the key influencing point for any infrastructure build is at the very outset of the

delivery plan. Input by APC lead would be all the local parish/site features, any NP

policies, idiosyncrasies of the setting (as in model laid out in APC/NPG report to OCC)

• To agree contact and frequency plan with Lead service provider/Build Team + reporting

to APC

• To act as link between provider and residents for updates and or actions (different models

of doing this available)

• To contribute to any contract monitoring

While some of the infrastructure may require planning permission, not all does, so it could be

any named APC councillor.

Pauline Smith March 2023

Appendix 2

**ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**FINANCE REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

1. The Parish precept for 2022/2023 is £14,536 and both tranches have now been received.

2. To 28 February 2023, precept-related expenditure was expected to be £13,402.

3. To 28 February 2023, precept-related expenditure was actually £9,977. The underspend was partially due to no costs having been incurred to date in relation to the work undertaken on the website. There was also no requirement for a reserve to be established for the bus shelter as the work has been undertaken by parish residents, at a fraction of the cost. The details can be found in the attached report.

4. At 28 February 2023, total reserves stood at £52,787 (compared to £46,840 at 31 March 2022) of which £35,190 related to earmarked reserves. Again, the details can be found in the attached report.