

**Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council
At The Village Hall**

**Monday 26th June 2023 at 7:30pm
Minutes**

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Y Constance, District Cllr V Patel and District Cllr K Foxhall.

2. To receive any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting – Cllr J Greenham for Planning Application P23/V1221/HH as it is a neighbouring property.

3. To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 16th May 2023

An amendment to the Minutes by P Smith (Chair of NPG) regarding items under sub-committee reports- NPG, were highlighted to the Clerk prior to the meeting, with the amendment made, the Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

4. To approve the minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Tuesday 16th May 2023

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly were approved and signed as true record.

5. To address matters arising from the previous meeting

Community Speed Watch – A preliminary group has been established with Cllr D Crowley to lead. The next step is to register APC's interest in CSW.

Action: Cllr D. Crowley to register APC's interest in CSW

Ashbury Hill Speed Warning Indicator- The device is now working correctly.

Dog Waste Bins – Continuing action – Formally request Vale to empty these bins and quotes obtained for the cost of the bins.

Action: Clerk to consult with J Ruggiero (former Councillor) and forward most recent communication on this issue from Vale.

Flagpole- Cllr C. Prentice is meeting the PCC's architect on site regarding the potential fixing of the flagpole. N. Morgan (former Councillor) has identified a specialist company able to source and install the flagpole.

Action: Cllr C. Prentice to meet the architect and N. Morgan on site to discuss the potential fixing; and to seek a quotation for the project.

6. County & District Councillors- To receive reports from County and District Councillors (5 minute time slot) attached to the Minutes in appendix 1

The District Councillor report for May had been received and circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting.

In addition to the May report, the main update from Vale is to urge the PC and residents to give feedback on their views and experiences of waste services in the District. It is open until 10 July 2023:

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[Let's talk rubbish! Tell us what you think of our waste services - Vale of White Horse District Council \(whitehorsedc.gov.uk\)](https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Action: Clerk to publicise the survey on Facebook and via Round Robin email.

7. Chairs Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)

No further update provided.

8. Clerks Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)

No update provided.

9. Sub Committee Reports- To receive reports from Sub-committees (6 minute time slot)

- Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) -Report is submitted prior to the meeting – attached to the minutes in appendix 2

Request for APC to consider Review of Neighbourhood Plan and timings for such a review-

Timelines for the revised NP:

1. The current NP is up for review and to have been revised by July 2024 (to meet 5 year review timescales)
2. The VWHDC and South are producing for the first time a joint review of their own Local development Plans (LDP) in preparation for one to run from 2025-2041. The 2041 draft for consultation will now be circulated in October 2023, with adoption of the new plan expected by the end of 2025.
3. Any Ashbury NP revised and adopted by July 2024 or before July 2025 will be out of date by the time of any revised LDP, because significant changes to policies are expected in the Joint 2041 plan, particularly in relation to Climate Change and Sustainability
4. It is likely that a main review of the NP plan will take 30 months at least.
5. Access to funds and fund applications are likely to be available from January 2024. The amount is usually £10K. Allocating some of this for producing a Design code will be important to consider + the need for Admin support.

Risks:

1. The risk window for Ashbury would be if any revised plan was to be adopted any time after Dec 2025 for the New 2041 LDP and land in Ashbury parish became available; whether land does become available or not is unpredictable.
2. However, the VWHDC point out they have oversupplied on their 2019-2025 LDP build targets and have sufficient land supply to be able to manage 'speculative development' applications. (Such applications rely (i) on an out-of-date NP - ours doesn't have policies that would prevent development, should land become available in parts of the parish; and (ii) on district councils that have a less than 5 year land supply)
3. Any risks related to a national government change to Labour are stated in the NPG report. At present we now have a Lib Dem led District Council. We have evidence that they don't intend a large house build increase but their housing build distribution plans are unknown – this will become clear when the consultation papers for the revised LDP are circulated in October 2023 .
4. Any proposed APC NP Steering Group and or APC could agree not to revise the plan and have no Neighbourhood Plan in place.
Cllr J Greenham asked a question about any factors that may change the housing build and development agenda/numbers. P Smith noted that the Lib Dems and

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Green in South and Vale are not at this point pushing for an increase in house build; but their views on the distribution between urban and rural build are not yet clear.

Cllr C Prentice proposed that a core group of 5 people be recruited to form a steering group for the revision of the Neighbourhood plan and be asked to advise APC, if possible by the next meeting in September, on what timing would be appropriate.

Action: Cllr C Prentice to canvas more willing people to join the steering group

Agricultural Barns- P Smith requested the APC Cllr's, should they be approached by residents regarding the current barn conversion on the B4000 and Lower Idstone Farm, to confirm that all the builds are correct builds and are to plan.

- Website Update – **Action: Cllr M .Westen (i) to contact P. Cowx (former Councillor) regarding the handover of the website; and (ii) to explore options for refreshing the website with the expert who has volunteered advice over this summer.**
- Connectivity Update
An action plan has been drafted between G Turner, P Smith and Cllr M.Westen, including a staged programme (to be ready by September) for messaging residents about the change to landlines.
G Turner reported that a good response had been received from the residents of Idstone in response to the questionnaire about the broadband service. Apart from raw speed variation between properties, it looks as if most suffered quite bad outages at times. Unfortunately, however, the results revealed that, though generally poor, the service in Idstone wasn't bad enough to be able to invoke the Universal Service Obligation (USO) on BT / OpenReach.

10. Financial Matters

- Bank Reconciliation – signed by the Clerk and the Chair
- Insurance Renewal - The Insurance Renewal quotation provided by BHIB for £506.62p was circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting. This represented a £24 increase on last year's premium. The meeting agreed to proceed with the renewal.
Action: Clerk to arrange payment for the Insurance Renewal

The meeting wished it to be noted that the contribution towards fitting out the Village Hall for FTTP Broadband, which was agreed at the meeting held in May 2023, was still to be made, once the connection had been made.

A recent issue regarding the broadband installation in the Village Hall was brought to the attention of the APC Cllr's.

Action: Cllr C Prentice to contact the Village Hall to better understand the issues with installation.

11. Planning Matters

Applications;

- P23/V1221/HH - Waylands Idstone Road Ashbury- Single storey rear/side extension.

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Decisions:

- P23/V0377/FUL- Barn at College Farm, Station Road (B4000) Ashbury, Swindon- The application is for: Change of use of agricultural barn to single dwellinghouse (use class C3) and associated building operations – Approved.

P Smith requested that all planning responses submitted by the NPG are circulated via the Clerk to all APC Councillors.

Action: Clerk to circulate all planning responses from the NPG to APC.

12. Public Forum- To take comments , representation or queries on agenda items (15 minute time slot)

No comments, representation or queries were raised.

13. Individual Topics (12 minutes allocated)

- CIL Funding – With thanks to P Smith this has now been resolved. A Senior Officer at Vale confirmed that the CIL funding for planning application P21/V2915/FUL was not for specific Highways action in this situation
- EV Charging in the Village – A resident had emailed the Clerk regarding the village having no EV charging points. APC do not own any of the car parking in the village. The meeting agreed (i) to enquire with the Pub Landlord as to whether they might be willing to install an EV charging point; (ii) to be alert to any opportunities identified for EV charging points; (iii) the potential to include this issue in the revised Neighbourhood Plan.

Action: Cllr D Crowley to speak to the Pub Landlord about the potential for EV charging to be installed in the pub carpark

- Dog Waste Bin – discussed under matters arising.

14. Agenda Diary

- Playpark Inspection- The Clerk confirmed the annual playpark inspection is due to take place during the month of July.
- Cllr H Owen to contact A Reynolds (Former Councillor) for the contact information and quotation for the new playground equipment and upgrade to the surfaces from Playdale.

Action- Cllr Owen to contact A Reynolds for the information required to proceed with the quotation supplied for the new playpark equipment.

15. Correspondence

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

16. Future Agenda Items

- Website
- Neighbourhood Plan Group
- Connectivity
- Co- Option of a new Cllr

Cllr J. Greenham noted that the new tree planted this year beside the crossroads by VoWH is being taken care of by a resident volunteer.

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The meeting closed at 8:40pm

Signed.....Date.....

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Actions Arising

A. Cllr C. Prentice

Flagpole

Action: Cllr C.Prentice to meet the architect and N. Morgan on site to discuss the potential fixing; and to seek a quotation for the project.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Action: Cllr C Prentice to canvas more willing people to join the steering group

Village Hall Broadband

Action: Cllr C Prentice to contact the Village Hall to better understand the issues with installation.

B. Cllr J. Greenham

No actions arising

C. Cllr M.Westen

Website

Action: Cllr M .Westen (i) to contact P. Cowx (former Councillor) regarding the handover of the website; and (ii) to explore options for refreshing the website with the expert who has volunteered advice over this summer

D. Cllr D. Crowley

Community Speed Watch

Action: Cllr D. Crowley to register APC's interest in CSW

EV Charging in the Village

Action: Cllr D Crowley to speak to the Pub Landlord about the potential for EV charging to be installed in the pub carpark

E. Cllr H. Owen

Playpark

Action- Cllr Owen to contact A Reynolds for the information required to proceed with the quotation supplied for the new playpark equipment.

F. Clerk

Dog Waste Bins

Action:Clerk to consult with J Ruggiero (former Councillor) and forward most recent communication on this issue from Vale.

Feedback on Waste Services

Action: Clerk to publicise the survey on Facebook and via Round Robin email.

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Insurance Renewal

Action: Clerk to arrange payment for the Insurance Renewal

NPG Planning Responses

Action: Clerk to circulate all planning responses from the NPG to APC.

G. Chair of Neighbourhood Planning Group, P Smith

No actions arising.

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Appendix 1

Vale of White Horse

District Councillors' Report

Katherine Foxhall and Viral Patel

Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

May 2023

It is with great pleasure that we share with you our first report as District Councillors for Watchfield and Shrivenham ward. It has been great to meet so many of the parish council members during the annual meetings in May. Thank you all for the kind welcome and information about the priorities and issues in your areas, and we look forward to getting involved as we settle in to our roles.

Our plan is to submit a ward report monthly, in addition to any specific work that comes up in the parishes. Please do let us know what information you would find most helpful for us to include.

Ward Roundup

We have been busy with the Council's induction programme, the allocation of committee places, and training sessions. This has particularly included the planning process. Katherine will take a role as Nature Recovery Champion for the District, and a place on the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee, while Viral will be on the District's Joint Staff Committee.

During May we have begun to follow up several questions and issues from parishes and residents that came up both during the election campaign and subsequently. These include concerns about noise from holiday rentals, planning enforcement, existing and new large planning applications which Viral has been focusing much of his councillor time on. We are also looking at some possibly abandoned vehicles in residents' parking. Katherine spent several days working with local volunteers, District Council staff and the Environment

Agency on a pollution incident from a construction site, and we will continue to keep an eye on the site. It is worth being aware that any member of the public can report a pollution incident directly to the EA using their 24hr hotline: <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>.

District Council News

Local Elections

Following the local elections on 4 May, Vale District Council now has 34 Liberal Democrat councillors with our group of 4 Green Party councillors in opposition. While we are confident that the Council's general direction of travel is good, we take seriously the need to hold the council to account; in that context Katherine will chair Vale's Scrutiny Committee, and co-chair the Joint Scrutiny Committee with South Oxfordshire District Council.

There has been a great deal of concern about the effect of introducing a Voter ID requirement. Please do email any feedback to correspondence@levellingup.gov.uk or write to Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2 Marsham St, London, SW1P 4DF.

Full election results for Vale are available at: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/elections>

Climate Action Fund Now Open

Draft Minutes June 2023

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The Vale of White Horse's Climate Action Fund provides grants of up to £5,000 for climate-related community projects in the district. The Fund has opened again for applications from town and parish councils and local groups who have proposals which aim to tackle climate change. There is £100,000 available – double the amount previously available for those applying for grants. The fund will be open for applications until 14 July. For more information: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/climate-emergency/100000-now-available-forcommunity-climate-projects-in-vale/>

Financial Support for Food Banks & Community Larders

To help support the voluntary food network South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are inviting community food groups to apply for a grant of £2,500 for essential supplies. The grants can be used to help pay for a variety of expenses including food, additional storage and energy bills.

More information: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/uncategorised/council-grants-now-available-for-foodbanks-and-community-larders/>

Miscellaneous

Westmill Solar Power Conference WESET are hosting a free one-day conference on 'Solar Power, Farming And Nature: Maximising The Benefits' at Westmill on Friday 9th June 10:30am-4:30pm, and an Open Day on Saturday 10th June, 1.30-5.30pm. For more information and to register see: <https://www.weset.org/visit/specialevents/>.

Katherine Foxhall katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk or 07916 285305

Viral Patel viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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Appendix 2

Report to Ashbury Parish Council (APC) from Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) Pauline Smith as Chair NPG, for period 16th May 2023 - 26th June 2023

Internal Activity

1. Planning applications x 1 request for a single storey extension

2. Update: NPG May 2023 – May 2024 NPG Objectives/projects

a. Addressing safety dimension for vehicles, cyclists and walkers use of the Triangle of land B4507 as you leave Kingston Winslow (KW) Led by Dominick D with APC Highways Lead

Action: Questionnaire for Kingstone Barns/other Kingstone Winslow residents re foot, vehicle and cycle traffic and usage of the KW triangle under preparation.

b. Input and actions for the Connectivity and infrastructure agenda aligned to OCC Digital Infrastructure Implementation Plan specific to Ashbury Parish

Action: Meeting requested with OCC DiP Programme Director to discuss possible 5G Mast siting and any next steps + to discuss if no Project Gigabit supplier contract for Idstone is agreed and no opportunity to use USO, what other actions if any could be used.

c. Briefing of and support to APC re setting up an APC NP Steering Group for revision of NP --- **see item 3.2 below**

d. Addressing possible provision of Primary Health Care needs for Ashbury parish residents registered with GP practices inside and outside of Oxfordshire NHS service provision via NP planning input for GigaHub input and to meet ONPA paper April 2023

Action: 1. RE: Elm Tree Surgery only at this point (1 of 3 used by parishioners). Contact made with GP who is also the Primary Care Network (PCN) Lead Clinician for Brunell PCN, and with the other 2 NP areas where patients are registered and have a Giga Hub village hall – Uffington and Shrivenham – progress plan and action to be agreed

3. Update on previous recommendations made to APC at March 2023 meeting

3.1 ref: CIL number 6031, planning application P21/V2915/FUL, amount left after APC allocation from full amount = £4125.00 minus 5% admin, and then 50% transferred to OCC *but not for specific Highways action in this situation.* **CONFIRMED via Vale Senior Infrastructure Implementation Officer** with responsibility for infrastructure funding and implementation at South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils.

Action closed

3.2 Request for APC to consider Review of NP and timing for such a review process

Options for decision making laid out in NPG report to APC in March 2023

Proposal

- if APC are to proceed with a revision of the current NP at this point – to advertise for 2 Steering Group members + admin support
- if APC agree not to proceed at this point – to make record of decision and date for when to reconsider

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- NP are reviewed every 5 years. This NP adopted in July 2019 is 5 years old in July 2024 and valid from 2019 -2031 (the time of the current LDP) though will likely be out of date/invalid when the new Joint South and Vale LDP 2041 is adopted at the end of 2025

NPG will provide a host of information, resources and support to any reconvened steering group as stated in our 2023-24 NPG objectives year plan

3.3 Outcome of inter parish/extra APC Councillors meeting to brief all re the Connectivity Agenda

The meeting is to be held on 22nd June 2023 – verbal report at APC meeting on 26th June 2023

External Activity and actions

ONPA and NPG Chair:

- To note no membership fee £50.00 for ONPA this year
- Planning Actions continue re paper: **How can Neighbourhood Plans (NP) address the issue of Primary Health Care provision in their areas? As of April 2023**, re integration of planning, NP and housing need to the strategic structures for Health and Social care via the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, West Berkshire (BOB) Integrated Care Board (ICB) and associated structures

NPG Yearly report: Review section

(this Review section was omitted by mistake from the 2022 - 2023 NPG Yearly Report and will now be added to the yearly report before uploading on to the NP section of the parish website)

Internal: Agricultural Land

During 2022 PS with the help of our NPG Agricultural panel member specialist mapped the Land and landowners of the agricultural land that surrounds and makes up sections of and in our parish 'NP designation' area.

A piece was written by PS (recorded in an NPG – to APC report) about the agricultural business and landscape which is missing from the content and context of our parish in the current NP. The intention, for this to be drawn from in any revised Ashbury NP. This especially so given the national permitted development rights 2015 onwards and associated planning for Class Q schedule, conversion and change of use for agricultural buildings/barns to be converted to residential dwellings. We have many in our parish. Equally there are national permitted development rights for change of use for agricultural land.

We have a large number of Agricultural buildings and barns in the parish boundary that could at some point be converted to residential dwellings.

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It was noted there have been several changes of ownership to land in the parish in current and recent years. Land has been divided and sold at the time to a number of different owners for continuing agricultural purposes or for house build.

During 2022, 3 plots of land became available for sale, belonging to a farming family previously based in Ashbury making a move to Woolstone where they already had land ownership. From a NP and planning perspective we have noted that these 3 plots of land were sold to an owner now using the land for horse grazing purposes and not sold to a developer.

At the time of this report in May 2023, there is no land available for build in the parish.

External factors over the last year that impact or align to NP –

1. National level: actions related to Planning section 3 of the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill (LuRB) and draft revised NPPF

- Submission of evidence to the revised draft NPPF Select committee – by ONPA re importance and value of NPs see <https://ONPA.uk> and all the other evidence from responders' input
- Expected changes:
 - nationally set house build numbers– proposed loss of the 300,000 nationally set target per year,
 - nationally set planning management policies to be developed
- Progress on a number of nationally led LuRB planning and NP pilots – 1 of these being managed by VWHDC and SODC on the development and use of Priority Development plans (PDP).
 - Originally 6 parish councils involved, now 5, 2 from the VWHDC and 3 from SODC. Proposal for PDPs is that these will feed any developing LDP as priority planning concerns in those locations. These plans are NOT policy documents. Design code development required as part of this PDP

Pilot in progress.

2. OCC: In January 2023 a new Chief Exec was appointed to OCC. One of his key areas of focus is Integration. Integration of activity within and across OCC and Integration of OCC strategies and plans in/by the 4 DC/City Councils across Oxfordshire.

- This now means that NP are required to take account of/draw from/align any appropriate policy to the whole connectivity agenda: OCC Digital Infrastructure strategy and Implementation plan (DIP) and the Transport and connectivity plan as part of the Sustainability agenda and policy areas

To Note NPG already doing this

3. VWHDC and SODC now working together: As a Council they have reorganised, such that

- the Organisational Climate Change and sustainability strategy and plan is now to be integrated into all council Activity including planning and the LDP/ planning application process
- there has been a restructuring so there is now a Planning, Policy and NP Lead department. This leads on the development and delivery of the LDP. The Development department includes the planning applications process

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The draft Joint LDP2041 for Vale and South with the housing numbers and build plans is expected to be out for consultation this summer and despite no firm decisions on the new NPPF, **the LDP is expected to be adopted by December 2025**

The Planning and Policy Dept NP Lead provided this summary of points to the ONPA Leads for Vale and South in their April 2023 meeting, to be shared with those parishes where the NP is up for review:

- 5 points to consider in the context of the current LDP review – where there is no or very little expected planned growth, and where organic growth will continue - so to proceed with little fear of ‘speculative development’
 - To address what is most important in/for the parish
 - To tighten current or needed policies
 - To develop a design code (if not already in place)
 - To refer to the criteria, process (now agreed) for assessing settlements
 - To ensure the Connectivity agenda from the OCC Digital Infrastructure Policy and the Transport and connectivity plan are used to inform the content of the Sustainability agenda (so more than climate change build issues)

4. Political landscape both in Vale and South and Nationally and impact on house build activity

Conservative: South and Vale: the previous Conservative Councillors and Conservative led Councils had a visible view that housing planning and build should be more active in the urban, larger village locations rather than larger build for the smaller parishes

National Govt group currently reporting on need for more housing for the elderly

Lib Dems and Green: South and Vale at this point no push for an increase in house build.
Urban versus rural and spread unknown

Should Labour win the next election, it has been made known that they would require a massive house build campaign and reinstate a national yearly build target – unclear at this point if this would include prescribed % of Affordable and or social housing

Pauline Smith Chair Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan group June 2023
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