

# Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council At The Village Hall

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm  
Minutes

**Present:** Cllr C Prentice (Chair), J Greenham, M Westen, D Crowley, E Lewis, District Cllr K Foxhall, P Smith (Chair of NPG) and six members of the public.

**1. To adopt the Agenda**

The meeting adopted the agenda.

**2. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr y Constance and District Cllr V Patel.

**3. To receive any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting - None**

**4. To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.

**5. To address matters arising from the previous meeting**

**Community Speed Watch (CSW)** – Need more volunteers to join the CSW.

**Action: Cllr D Crowley to put out a call for more volunteers.**

**20MPH Scheme-** The scheme has been implemented but without any further consultation. A resident has sent a strong letter to the County Council regarding the incorrect positioning of the signage. (Idstone bends 20MPH signage has been positioned after the first bend when there are strong reasons for it to be positioned on the approach). The Council have undertaken to review this.

The road markings also still state 30MPH which is incorrect.

**Action: Cllr D Crowley to contact the lead on this scheme, to check progress on the review of the signage and to enquire about the road markings.**

**Footpath from allotments to Upper Mill Pond** – Two Cllr's had walked the footpath. Their conclusions were that it was passable but potentially narrow and slippery over a length of 5 yards that has subsided. Some supporting stakes could be needed to support that stretch.

**Action: Cllr J Greenham to contact the owners, Compton Beauchamp Estate, with a request for stakes to be driven into the area to give it support.**

**Website** – Cllr M Westen now has access to edit and upload to the website and is currently working through updating the site.

**Action: Cllr M Westen to request feedback from residents as to what they wish to see on the website**

**Parking by the School** - Cllr D Crowley has written to the School Head about the nuisance parking. The research into the getting the parking line repainted is still ongoing.

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**Action: Cllr D Crowley to continue the research into getting the parking lines repainted; and to write to and encourage the local PCSO to attend at school arrival and departure times.**

**Playpark –Action: Cllr C Prentice to contact former Cllr H Owen to clarify whether a date for installation had been agreed with the contractor Playdale as no response has been received by the Clerk.**

### **Access to Village Green – Continuing**

**Action: Cllr D Crowley to approach the resident who holds the key to get two cut, one for the volunteer and one for the Clerk to hold.**

### **6. County & District Councillors-** To receive reports from County and District Councillors (5 minute time slot)

District Cllr K Foxhall encouraged APC and members of the public to engage and respond to the South and Vale Local Plan 2041 consultation.

P Smith has put District Cllr K Foxhall in contact with a local resident who has excellent knowledge of the chalk streams in the area as South and Vale are currently re-writing the corporate plan which includes nature and environment and the District Cllr's want to protect what we have.

### **7. Chairs Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)**

Cllr C Prentice wished to highlight the forthcoming agenda item - Ashbury Shop. Formal notice to surrender the sub-lease had been received from the sub-leaseholder. The shop had now closed and would formally cease trading on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Action: Cllr C Prentice to include the shop closure in Cllrs Corner article.**

### **8. Clerks Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)**

Nothing to report.

### **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. No questions were raised regarding the report.

**Action: Clerk to circulate the South and Vale Local Plan 2041 Consultation using the wording provided by P Smith**

- Website Update – discussed under item 5

### **10. Financial Matters**

- Bank Reconciliation was signed by the Clerk and Chair.
- Finalising of Budget for 2024/25 – The meeting agreed and approved the budget of £16,225 for FY 2024/25, an increase of 6.3% in line with inflation. An increase of £962 on last year 2023/24, which equates to a £1.61 increase for the year for the average household, 13pence a month.
- Precept Form 2024/25

**Action: - Clerk to send signed Precept form bidding for a 6.3% increase, as agreed.**

### **11. Planning Matters Applications;**

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- P24/V0020/LB - Triangle Cottage Ashbury - The application is for: Replace existing black fibre cement slates to kitchen roof with slate tiles.
- S/OUT/23/1454 - Lotmead Site, Eastern Villages Swindon- 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. Variation of conditions 9, 10, 41, 42, 43, 46 and 47 from previous permission S/OUT/19/0582.
- P23/V2372/HH - La Chaumiere Berrycroft Ashbury Swindon- The amendment is for: Additional information provided 18 December 2023

### Decisions:

- P23/V1376/HH - Watercress Lodge Ashbury Swindon SN6 8LN- Application proposal, including any amendments : Construction of gabion wall and landscaping to reinstate collapsed bank and associated works (amended and additional construction and landscaping details submitted 17 October and 24 November 2023)- Granted.

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

In response to a question as to whether fibre broadband to the village hall and the GigaHub project were the same thing, it was explained that the GigaHub project, as implemented in Oxfordshire, is providing fast broadband connections (Fibre To The Premises - FTTP) to a number of community facility buildings, including village halls. The purpose is to allow a range of services to be delivered which are not now available on site in rural areas. For example, in the future clinicians will be able to offer remote video consultations in these premises now they are equipped with FTTP.

In the case of Ashbury Village Hall, Airband provided the FTTP in the village hall, free of charge, with 18 months free service as part of their community service. This initiative was then linked into the Oxfordshire GigaHub project through Pauline Smith working with Craig Bower, the OCC Lead for the GigaHub project. The installation of fibre broadband in the Village Hall was a necessary step to allow the Village Hall to become a GigaHub under the Oxfordshire project but it also in itself enables the Village Hall to broaden its offer to the community and to those hiring the Hall.

### 13. Individual Topics (12 minutes allocated)

- a) Oxfordshire Councils Draft Charter Consultation 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024- 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
**Action: Cllr C Prentice agreed to lead on this and reply on behalf of APC**
- b) Flagpole – Cllr D Crowley has received ideas for fundraising. M Simons advised that the lead roof on the church has been leaking. This has been mended but it underlines the need for care in the siting and management of a flagpole. The APC undertook to address these concerns, when taking the project forward.  
**Action: Cllr D Crowley to continue generating fundraising ideas.**

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- c) Bin Mapping – **Action: Cllr E Lewis to contact District Cllr V Patel regarding how APC can register our interest in the Council scheme to map dog waste bins; also our interest in the installation and management of new bins (including one near the Rose and Crown Pub, as requested by the landlord).**
- d) **Ashbury Shop** – A Sub-Committee was formed, to be led by Cllr J Greenham with the support of Cllr E Lewis and Cllr D Crowley. The APC will seek to appoint new sub-tenants to run the village shop through an open and transparent tender process. The sub-committee will hold a public meeting to outline the situation, the three options for business models, and the timeline, within which interested parties would be invited to submit business plans/ proposals.
- APC wished to thank Lorna Halford for all the hard work she had done for the village since taking on the lease in 2015, especially during the difficult period of covid a few years ago when the shop provided such a vital service to so many people.
- Action: Shop Sub-Committee to organize a public meeting to outline the situation and to get the Tender process under way.**

### 14. Agenda Diary

- a) Review of Resilience Plan  
**Action: Cllr E Lewis to lead and ensure the plan is up to date and current.**

### 15. Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

### 16. Future Agenda Items

- Neighbourhood Plan Group
- Shop Sub-Committee
- Flagpole
- Website
- 20MPH Scheme- Signage
- Footpath
- Parking by School
- Playpark
- Access to Village Green
- Bin Mapping

### 17. Reserved Business

Email received from Electoral Services at South and Vale confirming that no one had come forward from the notices published to join APC.

The meeting agreed the best course of action would be to advertise the Cllr Vacancy in the Cllr Corner article to see if any interested residents come forward to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

**Action: Cllr C Prentice to include Cllr vacancy in the Cllr's Corner article.**

The meeting closed at 8:29pm

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

## Actions Arising

### **A. Cllr C. Prentice**

#### Playpark

Playpark –Action: Cllr C Prentice to contact former Cllr H Owen to clarify whether a date for installation had been agreed with the contractor Playdale as no response has been received by the Clerk.

#### Ashbury Shop

Action: Cllr C Prentice to include the shop closure in Cllrs Corner article.

#### Oxfordshire Councils Draft Charter

Action: Cllr C Prentice agreed to lead on this and reply on behalf of APC

#### Cllr Vacancy

Action: Cllr C Prentice to include Cllr vacancy in the Cllr's Corner article.

### **B. Cllr J. Greenham**

#### Footpath from allotment to Upper Mill Pond

Action: Cllr J Greenham to contact the owners, Compton Beauchamp Estate, with a request for stakes to be driven into the area to give it support.

### **C. Cllr M. Westen**

#### Website

Action: Cllr M Westen to request feedback from residents as to what they wish to see on the website

### **D. Cllr D. Crowley**

#### Community Speed Watch

Action: Cllr D Crowley to put out a call for more volunteers.

#### 20MPH Scheme

Action: Cllr D Crowley to contact the lead on this scheme, to check progress on the review of the signage and to enquire about the road markings.

#### Parking by the School

Action: Cllr D Crowley to continue the research into getting the parking lines repainted; and to write to and encourage the local PCSO to attend at school arrival and departure times.

#### Access to Village Green

Action: Cllr D Crowley to approach the resident who holds the key to get two cut, one for the volunteer and one for the Clerk to hold.

#### Flagpole

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Action: Cllr D Crowley to continue generating fundraising ideas.

### **E. Cllr E. Lewis**

#### **Bin Mapping**

Action: Cllr E Lewis to contact District Cllr V Patel regarding how APC can register our interest in the Council scheme to map dog waste bins; also our interest in the installation and management of new bins (including one near the Rose and Crown Pub, as requested by the landlord).

#### **Resilience Plan**

Action: Cllr E Lewis to lead and ensure the plan is up to date and current.

### **F. Clerk**

#### **South and Vale Local Plan 2041**

Action: Clerk to circulate the South and Vale Local Plan 2041 Consultation using the wording provided by P Smith

#### **Precept Form**

Action: - Clerk to send signed Precept form bidding for a 6.3% increase, as agreed.

### **G. Shop Sub- Committee**

#### **Ashbury Shop**

Action: Shop Sub-Committee to organize a public meeting to outline the situation and to get the Tender process under way.

### **H. Chair of Neighbourhood Planning Group P Smith**

No actions arising

### **I. District/ County Cllr's**

No actions arising