

STADHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting *held on* **Tuesday 7th March, 2017 at the Village Hall at St. John's**

Clerk: Paul Isaacs, 11 Thame Road, Great Milton, Oxon., OX44 7HY

Attendees	Cllr. Ann Stead (AES), Cllr. Mike Stevenson-Smith (MSS), Cllr. Tony Brandon (AB), Cllr. Colin Keyser (CK), Cllr. Stephen Harrod (SODC), Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale (LLG) (OCC), Paul Isaacs (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.
Apologies	Cllr. Alaric Smith (Chair) (AS), Cllr. Sarah Madry (SM).

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
019/17	Welcome	Cllr. Ann Stead chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllrs. Alaric Smith and Sarah Madry. Cllr. Stead welcomed the attended audience.	AES
020/17	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were received.	For info.
021/17	Minutes of meeting, 3/1/17	The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Tuesday January 3rd, 2017 were confirmed, approved and signed by Cllr. Stead.	For info.
022/17	Matters Arising	<p><u>Increasing traffic volumes</u> - given the ever growing concerns regarding the increased volume of traffic caused by local planning permissions already granted and future permissions that are likely to be granted, SPC has written to SODC planning, to OCC Highways, to John Howell MP and to the local county and district councillors outlining the fears of Stadhampton & Chiselhampton residents.</p> <p><u>Bonfire Ashes</u> - Sue White apologised on behalf of the Fireworks committee that the bonfire ashes have still not been removed following the fireworks event on November 5th, 2016. They will be cleared when the ground is dry enough. Lessons have been learnt!</p> <p><u>Voluntary work being carried out</u> - thanks were expressed to the two teenage boys who are currently carrying out litter picking duties and other small jobs as they undertake their Bronze DoE Awards.</p>	<p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p>
023/17	Neighbourhood Planning	<p>Rachael Riach, one of two new neighbourhood planning policy officers at SODC, was unable to attend the meeting. Rachael has a background in development planning and consultancy and has experience with area appraisals, grant funding, SEA screening, evidence gathering, policy writing, consultation and conducting local referendums.</p> <p>The view was expressed that the difficulties in completing the Community (Parish) Plan has had a negative effect and that there might be a consequent struggle to find volunteers to carry out a Neighbourhood Plan. Furthermore, there was a feeling that the end result and effort involved may not carry much sway when Stadhampton is threatened with large-scale housing developments such as the Chalgrove Airfield proposal.</p>	For info.
024/17	Chalgrove Airfield / Local Developments / SODC Local Plan proposals	<p><u>Chalgrove Airfield and Harrington sites</u> As reported at the January meeting, local parishes have agreed to work together to oppose the SODC and HCA proposals that will be presented at an Enquiry-by-Design (EbD) scheduled for later this year (2017).</p> <p><u>SODC Local Plan proposals</u> On Tuesday 28/3/17 SODC will launch their 'Local Plan 2nd Preferred Options Consultation' at a briefing event in Didcot chaired by leader of SODC, Cllr. John Cotton. The public consultation on this 2nd stage of the Local Plan will then run from 29/3/17 to 17/5/17 to be followed by a pre-submission consultation in the summer. SODC then intend to submit their 'Final Draft' Local Plan to the Inspector by the end of 2017 with an Examination in Public (EIP) to be held sometime in 2018.</p>	For info.

025/17	Open Forum	<p><u>Post Office Closure</u> - following the closure of the post office at the garage on 24/12/16, AES reported that the Royal Mail has contacted the Village Hall committee to investigate the possibilities of providing a local service on a weekly basis. Further information to follow.</p> <p><u>Tree on the Green</u> - the majority of the lights and decorations have been removed from the tree but the wet grass has made it impossible for the cherry picker to be used to reach the top of the tree. Many people feel the tree is probably tall enough now so the PC will obtain a quote from a tree specialist for ongoing maintenance.</p>	<p>For info. AES</p> <p>For info.</p>
026/17	Better Oxfordshire (Unitary Status)	<p>On 6/2/17 OCC, SODC and the Vale of White Horse District Council issued a joint statement stating that they have agreed to work together on a joint bid named 'Better Oxfordshire'. The bid is based on the initial OCC 'One Oxfordshire' proposal which makes the case for abolishing the existing two-tier structure of six councils replacing them with one single unitary council for Oxfordshire. SODC and the Vale have decided to join the OCC bid upon receiving assurances that a single unitary model can genuinely deliver for the specific needs of local communities. The new bid envisages that the provision of services will focus on local accountability and community knowledge with decision making by area boards rather than at the executive level. The bid proposes to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that locally held reserves are used for the benefit of local residents while recognising the collective benefits of pooling resources to leverage investment; • revise council tax harmonisation across the county; • ensure that the planning framework builds on existing and emerging local plans; • establish a housing company to deliver sustainable housing and infrastructure; • encourage the City Council to join the working group to draw on their knowledge and expertise of running services and to develop local governance that works for Oxford. <p>It was noted that the bid is opposed by Oxford City Council and by the two other District Councils (West Oxfordshire and Cherwell). The bid proposals represent fundamental change which may have far reaching effects for local democracy and serious implications for Parish Councils. As there are so many unanswered questions at this stage, it is important that SPC should wait until the final 'Better Oxfordshire' bid proposal is put out for public consultation before deciding whether or not to support the new arrangements. When finalised, the joint bid will be submitted to the Secretary of State who will make the ultimate decision.</p>	<p>For info.</p>
027/17	Report from South Oxford District Council (SODC)	<p>Cllr. Stephen Harrod reported as follows:-</p> <p><u>SODC 2017/18 Budget</u> - SODC agreed to freeze its council tax rate for the 2nd year running having actually reduced its council tax in previous years. SODC remains one of the most cost effective and efficient local authorities in the country. In 2017/18 SODC will also make additional investment in car parking, will support regeneration in Berinsfield, will fund additional accommodation for rough sleepers, will make more than £1,000,000 in grants available to support community projects, will invest a £500,000 to help deliver Superfast Broadband and invest £99,000 towards volunteering.</p> <p><u>Young Achiever Awards</u> - on 22/2/17 46 young people from South Oxfordshire were recognised for their achievements in sport, art or citizenship. Each young achiever received £250 and included two local ballerinas from the Baldons.</p> <p><u>Volunteering</u> - the new £99,000 funding scheme will assist more people in the district to take up volunteering. The scheme will develop an online brokerage service to link potential volunteers with opportunities and will assist where costs may be a barrier - for eg, coaching qualifications, insurance costs and training.</p>	<p>SH For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p>

028/17	Report from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)	<p>Cllr. Lorraine Lindsay Gale reported as follows:-</p> <p><u>Oxfordshire County Council 2017/18 Budget</u> - OCC set its budget on 14/2/17 and approved a further £16m worth of cuts (adding to the £292m cuts made since 2010) and approving a 4.99% increase to the OCC Council Tax element. Of this the 1.99% increase is allowed by Central Government without the requirement for a referendum with an additional 3% allowed to be spent on Adult social care. LLG also reported that OCC has a £1,957,000 surplus to carry forward as a result of better than expected business rate and council tax collections and a higher than expected grant. Cabinet agreed to hold £926,000 over to 2018/19 and to spend the remaining £1.03m as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £170,000 to be spent on additional highway verge cutting; • £250,000 for a pilot Communities Fund for match funding following changes/reductions for funding for services; • £600,000 additional funding for children's social care which has continued to experience significant rising demand; • £11,000 additional funding for Flood Defence. <p><u>Berinsfield Children's Centre</u> - the new 'Berin Centre' will receive £30,000 start-up funding over 3 years to run open access services. The centre will be run by Employment Action Group occupying the existing OCC building with a 1 yr rent free period.</p> <p><u>Secondary School Placements for September 2017</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Pref 1</th> <th>Pref 2</th> <th>Pref3</th> <th>Nearest</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>91</td> <td>8</td> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> <td>104</td> </tr> <tr> <td>87.5%</td> <td>7.7%</td> <td>0</td> <td>4.8%</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>'Fix My Street' Website</u> - a new 'Fix My Street' service has been launched to make it easier to see what's going on in a given area. Members of the public who give good and consistent information will be given 'trusted reporter' status resulting in fast-tracked resolutions and reduced effort for the inspectors.</p> <p><u>Fire & Ambulance Service Partnership</u> - the OCC Fire and Rescue Service is undertaking a collaborative co-responding trial with Thames Valley Fire and Rescue. The trial builds on the partnership with South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) that has operated for over 12 years. To further support communities Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service are available for cardiac arrests so that casualties can receive the quickest available defibrillator and casualty support.</p> <p><u>County Council Elections</u> - these will take place on Thursday 4/5/17 with councillors to be elected for a 4 year period.</p> <p><u>Reducing food waste</u> - 30% of food waste is put in waste bins rather than in the food caddy. To reduce this figure the district councils have launched a campaign to encourage residents to increase waste food recycling. Food waste is treated at Agrivert's anaerobic digestion plants in Oxfordshire and is used to generate enough electricity for over 9,000 homes and to process fertiliser for local farms.</p>	Pref 1	Pref 2	Pref3	Nearest	Total	91	8	0	5	104	87.5%	7.7%	0	4.8%	100%	<p>LLG</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p>
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029/17	Play Area & Village Green	<p><u>Play Area</u> Repair works have now been carried out on the wooden play equipment and the concrete has been removed from under the benches surrounding the bark area to conform to ROSPA's recommendations.</p> <p><u>Cars on Green in front of the Pavilion</u> As cars are damaging the Green by driving across the corner at the entrance to the Limes off the B480 the PC has installed some temporary low wooden posts.</p> <p><u>Tree Preservation Orders</u> Following on from an enquiry made about the two Lime trees in front of the Pavilion, SPC has found out that a tree preservation order exists for nearly all of the trees in the Limes on the North side of the Green. Therefore SODC must always be contacted for permission before any work to trees in the Limes is carried out.</p>	<p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p>															

030/17	Transport & Footpaths	<p><u>Local Buses</u> - the Five Parishes Bus Users Group met with Edmund Treasham (Commercial Manager, Thames Travel) on 6/2/17. One small piece of good news is that the T1 service has now been extended to Lewknor and Chinnor to allow residents to catch a bus to the M40 Bus Link at Lewknor (the link for coaches to London, Heathrow and Gatwick). Thames Travel are aware that parking at Lewknor is a problem and are glad to be able to provide a public transport alternative.</p> <p><u>Footpath 359/1</u> - the footpath from Long Barn to the A329 Thame Road that crosses the bottom corner of the village green has narrowed over recent years to the point of almost disappearing. Work to improve the footpath will commence on the 10/4/17 (weather permitting) and take one week to complete. The surface will be Coxwell gravel which knits and bonds together to give a fairly solid surface so it should improve the path for everyone, particularly those using mobility aids and buggies etc. It is a typical stone colour which will blend in with the natural environment. SPC is grateful to the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2) who have provided a grant for this work.</p> <p><u>Anvils pavement</u> - the Parish Council continues the fight to negotiate the re-instatement of a safe pavement at the front of Anvils so as to provide safe access for village residents. The PC has received quotes to move the railings to their original position and to tarmac the small area now occupied by bushes. £2,550 was approved for this work but this can only be proceeded with if Mr. & Mrs. Fairbain express a willingness to agree and sign a two-way written agreement.</p> <p><u>Oxford to Cambridge Expressway</u> - the prospect of a new £3.5bn road passing south of Oxford through protected Green Belt land is becoming a stronger possibility with the release of 3 route options. Highways England insist that no option has been chosen as yet and stress that planning is at an early stage.</p>	<p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>For info.</p>
031/17	Village Hall at St. Johns	<p>AES reported that a sign will shortly be put up to remind residents that the car parking area outside the Church is for Village Hall and Church users only. Obviously visitors to Stadhampton will still be welcome to park there on an <u>occasional</u> basis.</p> <p>To help alleviate the issue of regular parking outside the church, it was agreed that the PC will create two hardstanding car parking spaces for general and allotment use near the allotments on Copson Lane.</p> <p>Parking in the village is a growing problem as car ownership increases and the issue is a threat to verges around the village green which need to be protected.</p>	<p>AES</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>For info.</p>
032/17	PAGE (Parishes Against Waste Extraction)	<p>At the Public Enquiry held in September 2016 OCC were instructed by the Inspector to make amendments to their proposed extraction strategy. OCC have now put out 'Main Modifications to the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 - Core Strategy' for further consultation to 20/3/17.</p> <p>PAGE will submit a response on behalf of SPC and other local parish councils. The expectation is that OCC will delay their final proposals until after 4/5/17 so as not to clash with the County Council elections. PAGE will attend the AGM in May to present an update but they fear the worse and, if the OCC recommendations prove to be a threat to the local area, PAGE may consider launching a Judicial Review.</p>	<p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p>
033/17	Financial Report	<p>It was reported that the SPC account balance at 7/3/17 stood at £18,927.92 reconciled by £12,704.92 in the current account and £6,223 to be received from SODC (the second and final grant payment for the pavilion project which can only be reclaimed once fully completed).</p> <p>Cheques requiring payment at the meeting were approved (appended).</p> <p>Finally, it was confirmed that SODC has approved the 2% increase to the parish precept for 2017/18 (from £11,355 to £11,582).</p>	<p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p>

035/17	Consultation	<p><u>Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Health & Care services consultation, phase 1</u> - a consultation running until 9/4/17 into potential changes in service provision. The consultation invites views regarding changing the use of hospital beds; increasing home care; planned care and critical care at the Horton General Hospital; acute stroke services; general maternity services; and consideration of Midwife Led Units.</p> <p>01865 334638 or cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net</p>	For info.
036/17	Any Other Business	<p><u>Allotments</u> - Edwina Humm (EH) reported on the changes to allotment plot holdings that have taken place as people have left the village. EH also reported that all of the allotment rents for 2017/18 have already been collected. AES thanked Edwina and Julian for their continued good work on behalf of the PC.</p> <p><u>Oxford Animal Sanctuary 2017 Open Day</u> - it was noted that OAS are to hold their Annual Open Day Sunday July 16th, 2017.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 9.34pm.</p>	<p>EH For info.</p> <p>AES</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p>
037/17	Next Meetings	<p>Tuesday May 2nd, 2017 (Annual Parish Meeting & AGM)</p> <p>Tuesday July 4th, 2017</p> <p>Tuesday September 5th, 2017</p> <p>Tuesday November 7th, 2017</p> <p>All meetings, 8pm at the St. John's Church Village Hall.</p>	For info.