

# STADHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting *held on* Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2016

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

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

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
019/16	Welcome	The Chair, Alaric Smith, welcomed those in attendance.	For info.
020/16	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were received.	For info.
021/16	Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 5/1/16 were confirmed, approved and signed by the Chair.	For info. Approved
022/16	Matters Arising	<p><u>Newington Nursery and Restaurant</u> The Chair, AS, read out the following on behalf of the PC:- <i>Stadhampton Parish Council regrets the closure of Newington Nursery and Restaurant. The owners, Mr. and Mrs Hendry, have issued a statement alleging that its demise is due to false statements made by the Parish Council, an allegation which the Parish Council strongly refutes. Mr. and Mrs. Hendry state that the Parish Council stated that Newington Nurseries was insolvent. This is not true. In fact, in response to a request for observations from SODC Planning relating to a Certificate of Lawful Development sought by the owners in early 2015 requiring the business to have been continually in business for a period of ten years, the Parish Council pointed out that the business had been in receivership within the last ten years, which was reported at the time in 2010 by the Oxford Mail. This was published on the planning website of SODC for a short period of time as a result of the Parish Council's submission. The Hendrys also allege that this was then repeated in a questionnaire issued by the Stadhampton Community Plan Group. The PC has no knowledge of this. At no time has the Parish Council made any further comment on these matters except to report, as it is bound to do, on the existence of the dispute that then arose between the Hendrys and the Parish Council. Stadhampton Parish Council wishes Mr. and Mrs. Hendry success with their future ventures, but it accepts no responsibility for the failure of their previous business.</i></p> <p><u>Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) meeting</u> It was reported that SM attended the latest NAG meeting held on 10/2/16 and raised the potential issue of travellers arriving on the Green in the summer. SM explained that the Stadhampton village green has been visited by travellers on two separate occasions during the summer over the past four years and requested clarification on the best way to deal with such a situation should it occur again this year. SPC has had little assistance from the County Council in the past with the OCC Travellers Liaison officer, Peter Gammond, seemingly being more concerned for the travellers than the village. Indeed SPC received no assistance in attempting to move the travellers off parish land.</p>	<p>For info. AS</p> <p>For info SM</p>

023/16	<b>Report from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)</b>	<p>Cllr. Lorraine Lindsay Gale had forwarded the following report:-</p> <p><u>Budget: £69m worth of further cuts imposed</u> - OCC had been preparing to make a further £51m worth of cuts from 2016 to 2020 (on top of the £292m made for the period 2010 to 2018). However, due to a change in the funding formula penalising shire counties, the required cuts actually total £69m. Full Council met on 16/2/16 to debate the measures necessary to achieve the savings and OCC found a series of short-term measures, including drawing on £300,000 from reserves, to cover the difference. Only services with statutory protection (eg, education) will be protected from cuts. OCC now has £15.2m of unidentified savings to make as opposed to the previous figure of £11.2m and the new £4m of unidentified savings will fall in 2017/18.</p> <p>LLG noted that OCC has already sold more than 100 properties (realising over £62m) and has terminated 26 leases saving over £2.1m pa. The number of directors has been cut by 50%, senior managers by over 40% and staff generally by 30%. Various services are already shared with other councils and partners, and further options are being explored to find even more back office savings. Regarding the Central Government funding decision, up to 50 MPs signed a letter demanding that shire councils were being unfairly penalised. One Conservative MP stated: <i>"there are a lot of us who are absolutely furious. We accept the need for cuts, but it's about fairness. How can it be right that rural councils are facing cuts of 33%, but urban areas - where it is cheaper to provide services - are facing a reduction of just 19%? In Wales, it's just 8% and Scotland 4%."</i> However, Government insisted that the proposal was fair pointing out that it allowed local authorities to set their own business rates and increase council taxes to make up the shortfall.</p> <p><u>3.99% Council Tax increase</u> - the cuts also mean that OCC will be increasing the Council Tax for 2016/17 by 3.99% (the Government have changed the rules to allow an additional 2% to be spent on adult social care in addition to the 1.99% increase allowed without the requirement for a referendum).</p> <p><u>Emergency Planning</u> - Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) is offering up to £20,000 for Oxfordshire communities to tap into a special 'resilience' fund to help them to cope better with emergencies. The idea is to protect the welfare of vulnerable people during power cuts / severe weather emergencies; to enhance community facilities and services that may be needed during power cuts / severe weather emergencies; to improve communication during an emergency situation; and to keep communities informed or to aid contact between local groups and response services. For further information call 0141 224 7191 or visit <a href="http://ssepd.co.uk/Resiliencefund/">ssepd.co.uk/Resiliencefund/</a> AES mentioned that Veronica Fordham currently acts as the village emergency co-ordinator but that the Fordham's maybe moving shortly.</p> <p><u>Proposals for District Unitary Authorities</u> - see 024/16</p> <p><u>Didcot to Culham new Thames River Crossing</u> - see 028/16</p> <p><u>Third Reading Bridge</u> - notification that OCC and SODC have agreed to contribute funds to a 'Strategic Outline Business Case' regarding the proposal for a new Thames crossing linking the end of the A329(M) to Playhatch. Enthusiasm for the scheme is not shared by many Oxfordshire residents who are concerned about the large amount of extra traffic that would be added to already congested rural roads. Further consultation will take place with the impacted communities.</p>	<p><b>LLG</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>AES</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p>
--------	---	--	---

024/16	<b>Report from South Oxford District Council (SODC)</b>	<p>Cllr. Stephen Harrod reported verbally:-</p> <p><u>Proposals for District Unitary Authorities</u></p> <p>On 25/2/16 Oxfordshire's District Councils and Oxford City Council made an announcement proposing the abolition of OCC and the establishment of four district unitary authorities as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a new Southern Oxfordshire Unitary Authority covering the area currently administered by the Vale of White Horse and SODC;</li> <li>• an Oxford City Unitary Authority covering the area currently administered by Oxford City Council;</li> <li>• a West Oxfordshire/Cotswold Unitary Authority covering the area currently administered by West Oxfordshire District Council and Cotswold District Council;</li> <li>• a Cherwell/South Northants Unitary Authority covering the area currently administered by Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Council.</li> </ul> <p>OCC will shortly be putting forward its own proposals.</p>	<b>SH</b> <b>For info.</b>
025/16	<b>Open Forum</b>	<p><u>Speeding Issues</u> - SM reported that the local police conducted a speed survey on the B480 on 3/2/16. In the 90 minutes that the police were there, 26 speed tickets were issued. Six resulted in court summons as the speeds recorded were in excess of 50 mph. Due to the high numbers recorded, the police will contact other surveys. SM will then send the data to OCC Highways (the statutory authority) so that the possibilities of installing additional speed calming measures can be considered.</p> <p>Sue White asked whether a request could be made for a reduction to the speed limit on the A329 north from D'Oyley's pond to the Pasture/Coldharbour Farm entrances. Data will soon be available from a speed monitoring exercise that is being organised by Emma Fowler (Pasture Farm).</p> <p><u>Water Leaks</u> - it was noted that Thames Water have made numerous recent visits to 'repair' leaks on both sides of the village green. A manhole opposite the Church is being raised.</p>	<b>For info.</b> <b>SM</b>  <b>For info.</b>
026/16	<b>Pavilion project update</b>	<p>It was reported that SODC have indicated that they will agree to fund 50% of the estimated project costs (£12,445 of £24,859). This will be formally agreed on 10/3/16.</p> <p>It was also reported that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the area around the pavilion has been cleared;</li> <li>• the car-park area will be gravelled shortly (a car-parking area is necessary to ensure that vehicles of pavilion users are not parked on the verges of the Green);</li> <li>• planning permission is not required for the storage container;</li> <li>• initial preparation work is taking place to produce a playable cricket square;</li> <li>• TB is taking over from AES as the new PC representative on the Pavilion committee.</li> </ul>	<b>For info.</b>  <b>TB / AES</b>
027/16	<b>Play Area &amp; Village Green</b>	<p><u>Play area</u> - it was noted that the area is in good order, has been fully inspected and that the safety surface has been raked.</p> <p><u>Path across the Green</u> - SPC are looking into issues regarding footpaths across the Green. The clerk, AES and SM to contact the new OCC Countryside officer to request updated maps and to arrange a site visit.</p> <p><u>Temporary Access to Manor Barn</u> - a request for temporary access across the Limes whilst the building work is being carried out at Manor Barn was approved by the councillors.</p>	<b>For info.</b>  <b>For info.</b>  <b>For info.</b>

028/16	Transport	<p><u>Bus Services</u> - the OCC decision to withdraw ALL of their funding from subsidised rural buses in July 2016 is hugely disappointing. The weekend services are likely to be lost but the fight goes on and CK will continue to represent SPC at '5 Parishes' bus group meetings.</p> <p><u>Didcot to Culham new Thames River Crossing</u> - OCC has published a proposal for a new crossing of the River Thames appraising the corridor between Culham Science Centre and Didcot. This is required to facilitate housing and employment expansion in the Science Vale area around Didcot and neighbouring towns. The proposed crossing would link up with a further scheme from Culham towards Oxford (effectively a north-western Clifton Hampden bypass) taking into account:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental constraints (river and flood zones);</li> <li>2. Ecological impact (animal and plant life/habitat);</li> <li>3. Archeological constraints (historical remains);</li> <li>4. Construction costs; and</li> <li>5. Route suitability to provide the links required by growth in housing and jobs.</li> </ol> <p>Preparation for a new Thames crossing (including design, public consultation, planning and securing funding) is likely to take 10 years prior to construction and scheme costs are currently estimated at £125 million. During the initial design stage a full public consultation will be undertaken. For further information:- <a href="mailto:southandvale@oxfordshire.gov.uk">southandvale@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a> or call 01865 792422.</p>	<p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>CK</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p>
029/16	Village Hall at St. John's	<p>AES reported that there have been problems with the underfloor heating which have now, hopefully, been resolved. A full report will be presented at the May Annual Parish meeting.</p>	<p><b>AES</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p>
030/16	Planning Matters	<p>P15/S3392/DIS (INFORMATION ONLY) Summit Service Station Ltd. Discharge of conditions 4 and 5 on application ref. P13/S0061/FUL (granted permission by SODC on 11/3/13). Change of use of existing shop from A1 use to C3 to form two flats. No decision from SODC at 1/3/16.</p> <p>P15/S3826/FUL - Farm Yard, Access Road off B480, Ascott. Redevelopment of redundant farm yard and buildings to create a family dwelling with detached garage and detached ancillary accommodation. SPC recommended APPROVAL subject to resolution of redirecting the public footpath. SODC <b>GRANTED</b> planning permission on 12/1/16.</p> <p>P16/S0180/DIS - FOR INFORMATION ONLY Marylands Cottage, Section of B4015 passing Marylands Farm, Chiselhampton, Oxford. Discharge of conditions 4d and 4e on P12/S1462/HH (Demolition of single story extension and garage. New two storey extension with link to cottage and internal alterations. New garage). SODC <b>DISCHARGED</b> planning permission on 8/2/16.</p> <p>P16/S0232/FUL &amp; P16/S0233/A (Advertisement Consent) Summit Service Stations Ltd., Thame Road, OX44 7TP. Retention of an ATM installed through the existing brickwork to the far right of the store shop front incorporating the ATM fascia with black bezel surround and white illuminated lettering 'Free Cash Withdrawals' out of blue background. Blue LED halo illumination to ATM surround. SPC responded recommending an alternative to the intrusive blue LED surround. Otherwise 'No Strong Views'. No decision from SODC at 1/3/16.</p>	<p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p>

031/16	<b>Consultations</b>	<p><u>OCC Minerals and Waste Strategy / PAGE</u> The schedule leading to the public examination sessions to begin in September 2016 has been set as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an inspector, Brian Cook, has been appointed;</li> <li>• not later than 29/4/16 - OCC to present topic papers and documents requested by the inspector;</li> <li>• not later than 10/6/16 - organisations that have already made representations to comment on the OCC submissions. This includes PAGE (Parishes Against Gravel Extraction);</li> <li>• not later than 4/7/16 - OCC to respond to these comments;</li> <li>• w/c 25/7/16 - the inspector to publish a list of 'Matters &amp; Issues' and hearing participants;</li> <li>• w/c 19/8/16 - further statements prompted by the 'Matters &amp; Issues' to be submitted;</li> <li>• w/c 19/9/16 - hearing sessions commence.</li> </ul> <p>It is important to note that specific sites for minerals and waste development will NOT be put forward as part of this plan. These will be considered at a later date.</p> <p><u>Household Waste Recycling Centres</u> - it was noted that OCC deferred their initial proposal to reduce the number of recycling centres from 7 to 3 and to reduce opening hours following overwhelming public opposition at the consultation phase.</p>	<b>For info.</b>
032/16	<b>Financial Update</b>	<p>The cheques for payment at the 3/1/16 meeting were approved and authorised. At 26/2/16 the SPC current a/c stood at £25,381.79.</p> <p>It was noted that the parish councillors held a budget meeting on 26/1/16 and recommended that there be a NIL INCREASE in the parish precept and a nil increase in allotment rents for 2016/17. Proposed by AES, seconded by MSS. Approved unanimously.</p> <p>This is the fifth consecutive year that the PC have frozen the parish precept but, given ongoing County Council cuts and the likelihood that the PC may have to take on County responsibilities in the future, the precept for 2017/18 may have to be increased.</p>	<b>For info.</b>  <b>For info.</b>  <b>AES/MSS</b>
033/16	<b>Correspondence</b>	<p><u>Chippenhurst Stepping Stones</u> - notification that the public inquiry into the Modification Order issued to add a public footpath across the River Thames takes place on 8/3/16 at Garsington Village Hall.</p> <p><u>Oxford Animal Sanctuary (OAS) Open Day</u> - notification that OAS will be holding their annual Open Day on Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. OAS requested that they be allowed to use the northern section of the Green for parking. Granted subject to good weather and their agreement that they leave the Green in good order.</p>	<b>For info.</b>  <b>For info.</b>
034/16	<b>Any Other Business</b>	<p><u>Land to the east of Newington Road</u> - notification that the appeal lodged by Catesby Estates Ltd. will be heard by public inquiry for 6 days beginning on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the SODC offices at 135, Milton Park.</p> <p><u>Travellers Site at Tetsworth</u> - it was reported that a proposal to provide a site for 40 travellers units at Tetsworth has been refused but may go to appeal.</p>	<b>For info.</b>  <b>For info.</b>
035/16	<b>Next Meetings</b>	<p>Tuesdays May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Annual Parish Meeting &amp; AGM), July 5<sup>th</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016</p> <p>All meetings, 8pm at the St. John's Church Village Hall</p>	<b>For info.</b>