

**EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting held on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7.45pm at Dunsden Village Hall**

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**Present:** Cllrs David Woodward, Richard Berkley, Ian Pringle, Clive Leeke, and Leigh Rawlins (SODC)

**058/21 Apologies for absence** Cllr Naomi Baylis and Cllr David Bartholomew (OCC + SODC)

**059/21 Declarations of interest** None

**060/21 Minutes of the last meeting** The minutes from the APM and the APCM meetings on April 20<sup>th</sup> 2021 were adopted. Adoption was proposed by David Woodward and seconded by Richard Berkley.

**061/21 Matters arising from the minutes**

043/21 Litter pick along the Playhatch Rd Due to the traffic control required this was delayed but as Naomi Baylis was unable to attend the meeting the PC was unsure whether it had been carried out. The Clerk will check. **(Clerk to action)**

06/21 Continued fly tipping opposite the quarry entrance See Cllr David Bartholomew's report.

010/21 Cosmonaut Leisure Letters regarding the change of use have been received and published in the Henley Standard.

127.01/20 The phone box floor just needs a small adjustment and then is to be fitted. Residents have been leaving boxes of books in the kiosk. While the kiosk was not designed for this purpose the PC is happy for book exchange but as one book is left another must be removed. Clear signage is to be provided. **(Cllr Berkley to action)**

050.01/21 The replacement signage on Dunsden Green and Furleigh Bank is in progress.

050.03/21 Clive Leeke contacted Kate Ashbrook of Open Spaces Society but there is little that can be done to secure the rights of way.

**062/21 County Councillor's report** Cllr Bartholomew's report will be attached to the minutes.

**063/21 District Councillor's Report** Cllr Rawlins briefly introduced aspects of his report. His full report is attached to these minutes.

**064/21 Public Question Time/Correspondence** No public presence.

**065/21 Financial Position**

065.01/21 The present financial situation had been previously circulated.

065.02/21 The increased insurance premium was briefly discussed.

065.03/21 The May accounts were presented for payment. Invoices to the value of £3039.00 were agreed. David Woodward proposed the accounts be paid. This was seconded by Richard Berkley. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

065.04/21 The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had scrutinised the accounts and had no issues. The Audit Commission Accounting Statements were presented to the Parish Council. These were read and approved by all Councillors present. The Chairman and Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements. Paperwork will now be prepared, submitted to the external auditor and placed on the parish website. **(Chairman & Clerk to action)**

**066/21 Planning Matters**

Planning Appeal: P20/S4677/FUL Erection of one dwelling and garage.

Hunters Cottage Row Lane Dunsden RG4 9PS

***New Applications***

P21/S1724/HH Proposed single storey garage extension. Hawthorne Cottage Sonning Eye RG4 6TN This was discussed and a working party will discuss this application before a response is made.

***Applications Granted*** None

**067/21 Eye & Dunsden Village Hall** The Village Hall Committee is in need of some new Trustees.

**068/21 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

068.01/21 The NDP continues to make good progress and another newsletter is in preparation.

068.02/21 Draft policies are being discussed and an exhibition is being planned for August.

068.03/21 A consultant from the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre is to lead a workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in July to identify 'green corridors' for wildlife.

**069/21 Community Orchard** The hedge laying was thought to have been very successfully carried out and should deter the deer from entering the orchard from the north. The grass needs cutting and the Clerk was asked to arrange for this to be undertaken. **(Clerk to action)**

**070/21 Highways, Footpaths & Open Spaces**

070.01/21 Grass cutting along the Playhatch Road Richard Berkley is negotiating with 2 contractors to undertake this.

070.02/21 Drainage Liaison Meeting Unfortunately the Phillimore Estate was unable to attend the recent planned meeting so it was cancelled. However, the residents in Tagg Lane and Sandpit Lane and Highways from OCC have undertaken the agreed work that is helping to stop the persistent flooding on the roads. Adrian Beales is to meet Daniel Depp onsite and then a further meeting can be arranged.

**071/21 ICO errors** The ICO has confused Binfield Heath and E&D PC bank accounts so it is necessary to cancel the existing direct debits and send new instructions. The Chairman and Richard Berkley signed the form for E&D **(Clerk to action)**

**072/21 Allotments** Nothing to report

**073/21 Website** The Chairman is trialing a new system to upgrade the website and ensure improved accessibility compliance. **(Chairman to action)**

**074/21 Minerals/Playhatch & Sonning pit Liaison Groups** Richard Berkley will contact Grabloader as a meeting has not taken place for two years. **(Cllr Berkley to action)**

**075/21 Matters for future consideration** signage; Community orchard boundary trees to be considered later in the year.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm.

**Date of next meetings:** June 15<sup>th</sup> 2021

## **REPORT TO EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2021 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW**

### **GENERAL OCC REPORT**

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION**

The county council is holding elections for all 63 seats across 61 divisions on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Verification will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Counting will take place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May and results will be announced the same day.

#### **OXFORDSHIRE TO BENEFIT FROM ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE GROWTH**

Residents of Oxfordshire can look forward to a future of good, environmentally responsible growth in the years ahead to 2050. The Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development is a landmark document for Oxfordshire led by the Oxfordshire Growth Board and being voted on this spring by its constituent members including the county and district councils.

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet approved the vision with some amendments at its meeting on Tuesday, April 20. The document sets out specifically the concept of "good growth" based on enhanced social, environmental and economic wellbeing. This means that by 2050 amongst other goals that Oxfordshire will:

- Be healthy and inclusive, with all development addressing inequalities and contributing positively to the overall health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire's communities, environment and economy.
- Support diverse, accessible employment, generating a highly productive and inclusive economy based on our world-class research, innovation and technology.
- Build resilience to change, with growth planned in ways that: build on strengths and assets to support communities during periods of change; support economic diversity and can accommodate changes in technology; recognise changes in the way that people live and work and changing demographics; and respond to worldwide impacts, particularly from climate and economic changes.

These goals will form the basis of county council-specific plans for growth including the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS) and the future Nature Recovery Network Strategy. In addition, the vision includes working towards a County target of 2040 for net zero carbon. This emphasises a shared commitment for county-wide net zero target of 2040 in alignment with district councils within 10 years of our own Carbon Reduction Framework target of 2050.

#### **MAJORITY OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN OFFERED FIRST CHOICE PRIMARY**

A total of 93.09 per cent (6,409) of applications have been awarded their first choice for starting infant or primary school in Oxfordshire. Last year's figure was 90.60%, meaning a higher proportion of parents and children across the county have been offered their first choice of primary school for 2021/22. A total of 98.86 per cent (6,806) have been offered one of the four choices they listed on their application.

#### **COVID STATISTICS**

In the seven days up to 23 April, there has been a total of 141 confirmed new COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire. This is a decrease from 153 new cases in the previous week and is equivalent to a weekly rate of new cases of 20.4 per 100,000 residents. In South Oxfordshire there were 19 cases in the same period, a weekly rate of new cases of 24.3 per 100,000 residents

#### **SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR EYE & DUNSDEN**

##### **ELECTION RESULT**

I am delighted to have been returned as your County Councillor for another four years. However, across the county, the Conservative Independent Alliance have lost their majority and the Greens, Liberal Democrats and Labour have formed a coalition and will run the council. I move from being Cabinet Member for Finance to Opposition Spokesman for Finance.

##### **P20/S3501/FUL-3: CHANGE OF USE OF LAKE FOR RECREATION/SPORTS PURPOSES**

OCC continues to object to the application on highway and drainage matters, and reiterates that there is a conflict between the proposals and the S106 agreements relating to Caversham Quarry.

#### **SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR EYE & DUNSDEN**

##### **LITTER, FLY-TIPPING AND RAVES OPPOSITE QUARRY ENTRANCE ON A4155**

At the last Sonny Quarry Gravel Liaison Committee meeting, Tarmac indicated it would consider allowing SODC to mount CCTV equipment at its entrance to combat the problem above. The initial response from SODC was rather unhelpful in that it said Tarmac would have to be responsible for all costs, including maintenance. I pointed out that Tarmac would be doing the council and residents a favour and could not be expected to pay for the privilege! The further response I received was as follows:

*Unfortunately, we are not able to take the quarry up on their offer to site permanent CCTV at the site entrance due to the resources and liabilities that would be required.*

*However, our enforcement team does have access to mobile cameras which could be deployed if required. In the past the best angle for capture has been the opposite side of the road from the quarry. I will ask Gary to regularly monitor the area to determine levels of fly-tipping so we can assess any deployment.*

## **SODC ward councillor's report Eye & Dunsden – 28th May 2021**

#### **Local Elections – 6th May 2021**

In the election for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley Police, Matthew Barber (Conservative) was elected on the second round.

In the County elections, there was one result where it is generally admitted that the result was misdeclared. In Banbury and Ruscote, a safe Labour seat was misdeclared as a Conservative gain - due to a mix up causing a reversal of the ballots; it will now have to go to the High Court to be corrected. There are a total of 63 seats and there were sweeping changes at the election with Ian Hudspeth, the Conservative leader who had championed high growth, losing his seat to the LibDems. Amongst a number of issues the most influential one was about what level of growth, inward migration

and housing development is desirable. Adjusting for the error at Banbury Ruscote, the Conservatives lost 10 seats and associated Independents lost a further 2 seats, with gains for the LibDems – 8 seats, the Greens – 2 seats and Labour – 2 seats. Adjusting for Banbury Ruscote, in the new council there are 21 LibDems, 3 Greens (jointly 24), 21 Conservatives, 16 Labour, 1 Henley Residents Group and 1 Independent. (There were some echoes of this result across the OxCam Arc.) The LibDems and Greens will work as one group on the county council. Arrangements will now need to be made to form an administration. I am hearing today that an arrangement has been forged between LibDem, Green and Labour county councillors – under the LibDem leader Liz Leffman; however as yet I have not heard details. The new administration's press release focuses on the environment and climate change together with the shared elements of respective election commitments and principles. (In the local county division of 'Sonning Common', David Bartholomew was returned – congratulations to him!)

In South Oxfordshire there were two bye-elections. One in Didcot NE which went from independent to Conservative and one in Forest Hill & Holton which went from Independent to LibDem. The council has 36 seats – now split as follows:- LibDem 13, Greens 5, Independents 2, HRG 3, Labour 3 and Conservatives 10.

A number of Neighbourhood Plan referendums were also held – all with strongly positive “Yes” votes. (Chinnor, Cuddesdon & Denton, Ewelme, Sydenham, Tetsworth, Wallingford and Wheatley.)

### **Covid-19**

Covid cases continue at a low level. At 11/5, Oxford City was at a weekly rate of 14 per 100k population. By comparison, Cherwell DC was 12, West Oxon DC at 5, SODC at 15 and Vale of WH DC at 14. Reading BC (to 11th May) was at 22.

Today 17th May the next stage of relaxation of lockdown is proceeding. Now the rule of 6 or two households will apply indoors and with cinemas/theatres etc re-opening. However it is not yet clear if total relaxation will apply from 21st June – pending a review of some localised spikes of infections in some areas of England - arising from the “Indian” variant (B1.617.2). This variant has much higher transmissibility. However, early evidence suggests that the current vaccines still have a material effect on its scope to cause hospitalisations and deaths.

The vaccine programme continues apace. All adults are expected to have a first dose by end July. The programme will continue with 2nd doses with the aim of reaching all adults before the end of September. In some areas facing a Page 2 of 2 challenge from new variants, and where supplies allow, the second dose may now be accelerated to 8 weeks after the first one – rather than 12 weeks. It may be that there will need to be booster vaccinations for new strains and to maintain antibody levels in the autumn.

Increased testing is being provided in centres and with at home testing to be provided via pharmacies. As yet it is believed that having had a vaccination is no guarantee against being infected by the virus or indeed against passing the virus to others – though it is expected to improve matters. However elsewhere in the world in India, Chile (and South America generally) and Africa a new Covid wave is all too apparent. Thus, with the progression of new variants – notably the Brazilian, South African and “double-mutation” Indian ones – nothing can be taken for granted for the autumn and beyond.

### **In-person meetings**

Unfortunately the Government and Communities ministry failed to renew special Covid legislation enabling virtual meetings. Furthermore, a legal initiative to the High Court to argue that existing powers could support virtual meetings was refused by the court – despite the ministry belatedly supporting it to the court. Wherever meetings are decision-making they must therefore be in person with members present. It is thought possible to include members of the public by virtual means.

### **Extra Garden Waste collection**

SODC's “Extra Garden Waste Week” is from 17th – 28th May - according to area. This means garden waste customers can put out twice as much garden waste as usual on their brown bin week. The extra waste can be put in cardboard boxes or old compost bags but are asking residents to not put any waste into trade waste bags. Keep safe!

**Leigh Rawlins**

**District Councillor**