

**EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting held on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7.45pm at Dunsden Village Hall**

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**Present:** Cllrs David Woodward, Ian Pringle, Clive Leeke, Naomi Baylis (via Skype), David Bartholomew (OCC +SODC) and Leigh Rawlins (SODC)

**076/21 Apologies for absence** Cllr Richard Berkley

**077/21 Declarations of interest** None

**078/21 Minutes of the last meeting** The minutes from the meetings on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 were adopted. Adoption was proposed by David Woodward and seconded by Ian Pringle.

**079/21 Matters arising from the minutes**

070.02/21 Drainage Liaison Meeting Residents have cleared ditches, Highways have undertaken some of the planned work, the landowner has cleared a ditch and constructed a new channel. A request for a further meeting will be made. **(Ian Pringle & Clerk to action)**

As Cllr Berkley was unable to attend the meeting the following items were deferred:

070.01/21 Grass cutting along the Playhatch Road.

074/21 A Grabloader liaison meeting.

**080/21 County Councillor's report** Cllr Bartholomew summarised his local reports. The full report will be attached to the minutes.

**081/21 District Councillor's Report** Cllr Rawlins' report is attached to these minutes.

**082/21 Public Question Time/Correspondence** No public presence. A member of the public contacted the PC about the ongoing work to alleviate the flooding in Tagg and Sandpit Lanes. (See **079/21 Matters Arising from the minutes**)

**083/21 Financial Position**

083.01/21 The present financial situation had been previously circulated.

083.02/21 The June accounts were presented for payment. Invoices to the value of £750.09 were agreed. David Woodward proposed the accounts be paid. This was seconded by Ian Pringle. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

**084/21 Planning Matters**

P21/S1298/FUL Replacement of existing rehearsal/accommodation building to form two dwellings The Mill at Sonning (Theatre) Ltd Sonning Eye RG4 6TY + Updated Flood Risk Assessment (07/06/21). A working party recommended approval of this application. Decision ratified.

P21/S1724/HH Proposed single storey garage extension. Hawthorne Cottage Sonning Eye RG4 6TN A working party recommended refusal of this application. Decision ratified.

P21/S1844/LB Removal of existing tiles. Insulate with a multilayer insulation fabric (supplied SuperFoil Insulation Company reg: 3479247 which is breathable) and then retile. Rebuild the dormer windows frames in the roof with same materials. Single glazed. Custom made windows would replace rotten existing. Gully would be repaired or re-lead lined as original. The Homestead Road from The Homestead To Frizers Farm Sonning Eye RG4 6TN A working party recommended approval of this application. Decision ratified.

P21/S1932/HH Extension at rear of property together with change in window configurations. The Old Cottage Sonning Eye RG4 6TN A working party recommended approval of this application. Decision ratified.

***New Applications***

P21/S2373/LB Repair to damp inside the building. Following inspection by Stonehouse Property Care Ltd the recommendation is to carry out remedial works. Add guttering to the northern (rear) and eastern(end) elevations. Bishopsland Farm, The Bothy Bishopsland Dunsden RG4 9NR

P21/S2496/HH Removal of existing conservatory, to be replaced with new porch and boot room Littlestoke Row Lane Dunsden RG4 9PU

***Applications Granted*** None

**085/21 Eye & Dunsden Village Hall** New Trustees sought as their lack is preventing the planning of

public events. The Village Hall AGM is to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.30pm at the hall. All welcome.

#### **o86/21 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

o86.01/21 The NDP group continues to make work extremely hard. Draft policies are being circulated.

o86.02/21 The exhibition for residents' draft policy consultation is being planned for August 1st.

#### **o87/21 Community Orchard.**

The grass is to be cut soon.

#### **o88/21 Highways, Footpaths & Open Spaces**

The footpath near Millgate is again threatened by the overgrowing foliage from Millgate. The Clerk was asked to write to the occupier.

#### **o89/21 Allotments**

Nothing to report

#### **o90/21 Website**

The Chairman has improved accessibility compliance. He will run another compliance test. **(Chairman to action)**

#### **o91/21 Minerals/Playhatch & Sonning pit Liaison Groups**

Discussion deferred till July

#### **o92/21 Matters for future consideration**

signage; flooding in Playhatch and at Thatched Cottage

#### **o93/21 Date Change**

It was agreed that the next meeting will be a week later than usual. The Clerk expressed her thanks.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

**Date of next meeting:** July 27<sup>th</sup> 2021

## **REPORT TO EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL JUNE 2021**

### **FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW**

#### **GENERAL OCC REPORT**

**COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION** A new administration has been formed at Oxfordshire County Council following the 6 May elections. The final shape of the council following the election count on 9 May was: Conservative 22 seats; Liberal Democrats 21 seats; Labour 15 seats; Greens 3 seats; Henley Residents Group 1 seat; independent councillors 1 seat. A total of 32 of the 63 seats are required to form a majority and no one individual party reached this number. The Liberal Democrat, Labour and Green groups have now agreed to form a new administration. The new leader of the council will be Councillor Liz Leffman. The deputy leader will be Councillor Liz Brighouse (with responsibilities for education, children's services and youth services). The former Leader, Conservative Ian Hudspeth, lost his seat. The new Conservative Leader of the Opposition is Councillor Eddie Reeves.

**RESIDENTS URGED TO GET VACCINATED TO STOP NEW VARIANTS IN OXFORDSHIRE** Oxfordshire residents are being encouraged to ensure that they come forward as soon as they are eligible to receive both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, as one of the best ways to stop any new variants spreading. This comes as the variant first identified in India continues to spread across parts of the country. Those over 30, and those who will turn 30 before 1 July 2021, are now eligible to receive the vaccine in Oxfordshire. Over 634,800 doses have been administered in Oxfordshire already, and nearly 95 per cent of those over 70 across Oxfordshire have now received both doses. The current number of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 of the population in Oxfordshire is 8.1, which breaks down as follows:

- Cherwell: 10.6
- Oxford: 9.2
- South Oxfordshire: 4.2
- Vale of White Horse: 5.1
- West Oxfordshire: 11.7

**OXFORD TO PLAY HOST TO CRUCIAL G7 HEALTH TALKS** The 2021 G7 Health Ministers' meeting will be held in-person in Oxford on 3-4 June and will bring together health leaders from the world's leading democracies to agree life-saving action in critical areas of global health. They will convene at Oxford University – a global centre of clinical, scientific and academic excellence – which has been at the heart of the global fight against COVID-19, with world-leading clinical trials and its not-for-profit partnership with AstraZeneca on COVID-19 vaccines already saving thousands of lives across globe. The G7 health meetings represent a unique opportunity to demonstrate the commitment of the world's major economies to protect lives across the world from current and

future global health threats. Attendees will come together to address the issues of global health security, antimicrobial resistance, clinical trials, and digital health.

**FUNDING BOOST TO TRANSFORM FUTURE OF TRANSPORT IN OXFORDSHIRE** Oxfordshire's road users could see a technological revolution in the coming years that could involve traffic information being used to help them to get around more easily with the launch of the second phase of a government-backed research project. The Oxfordshire launch of phase two of the GovTech Catalyst initiative on work to transform the existing Oxfordshire traffic management system will allow two new and complementary technology solutions to be developed and completed by June 2022. Details can be found [here](#).

### **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.

**NARROW SECTION OF A4155 NEAR FLOWING SPRING/BOTANY BAY** I have asked officers to arrange for vegetation to be cut back from signs and road markings to be refreshed. Large vehicles continue intrude onto the verge, sometimes propelling stones at high speed. I have asked officers to investigate possible solutions.

**P20/S3501/FUL-3: CHANGE OF USE OF LAKE FOR RECREATION/SPORTS PURPOSES** As per my May report, 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. I have no update.

### **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.*

Notwithstanding the above, I have been pressing for a major litter/fly-tip clear-up here, and that has now happened.

**MILL FARM SONNING EYE RG4 6TR LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE** An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against South Oxfordshire District Council's decision to refuse the above application for a certificate of lawful development.

## **SODC ward councillor's report Eye & Dunsden – 15th June 2021**

**Covid-19** Covid cases are fairly low, but have increased sharply over recent weeks. At 09/6, Oxford City was at a weekly rate of 72 per 100k population. By comparison, Cherwell DC was 41, West Oxon DC at 31, SODC at 55 and Vale of WH DC at 29. Reading BC (to 9<sup>th</sup> June) was at 95. There is a particular increase in Reading with a lesser echo in SODC and City. It appears that we are beginning to see some impact from the "Delta" or "Indian" variant (B.1.617.2). This variant has much higher transmissibility (perhaps by 60+%) than the "Alpha" or "Kent" variant – which itself had far higher transmissibility than the original (perhaps by 70%). However, early evidence suggested that the current vaccines still have a material effect on its scope to cause hospitalisations and deaths. Nonetheless the sharp increases seen generally and particularly in the North West are concerning – with hospitalisations being a lagging indicator.

The vaccine programme continues apace. All adults are expected to have a first dose by the 19th 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 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. Testing adds to defences against new variants – tracking any local surges. In view of the current data the full relaxation of statutory lockdown constraints has been deferred from 21st June to 19th July.

**Hiring out land: Covid-19 safety measures for landowners** It's important that landowners are up to date with the current Covid safety regulations for hiring out their land now that we've reached Step 3 of the government's roadmap out of lockdown. This includes parish councils, who must help ensure that the hirers of their land are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the current coronavirus regulations. It is important event holders and landowners get in touch with the SODC Licensing team as soon as possible about their planned activities to ensure they are managed in a Covid secure way. Landowners should refer to the latest version of the working safely sector guidance, which includes 'visitor economy guidance' for fairgrounds, events and shows. Guidance on all types of events and information about the Safety Advisory Group can be found on our websites, along with lots of other useful links and guidance: South website Landowners can also get advice for any events held on their land by emailing [events@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:events@southandvale.gov.uk)

**SODC Council and meetings in person** SODC Council met in person for the first time since early 2020 on 20th May for its Annual Meeting. This was quite a strange meeting, as you can imagine, with 2 Councillors unable to join in person and participating via Teams instead (and therefore unable to participate in any votes). However, the meeting was successfully concluded with the adoption of 7 new Neighbourhood Plans. Please don't forget to respond to the Government's consultation on virtual meetings, which runs until 17th June; see <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetingscall-for-evidence/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence> Fortunately, SODC's Chief Executive recently took an executive decision under emergency powers enabling members of the public and representatives of Parish Councils to attend Planning Committee meetings virtually, thereby saving them the time and trouble of travelling to the meetings in person. They will be able to make their representations to the Committee using MS Teams.

**New Chair and vice-Chair at SODC** SODC's new Chair is Cllr Jo Robb (who represents Woodcote & Rotherfield for the Greens) and the new Vice-Chair is David Turner (who represents Chalgrove for the LibDems). They succeed Cllrs David Bretherton and Elizabeth Gillespie respectively.

**Town and Parish Council Forums** The two sessions held recently, on Assets of Community Value and on The Climate and Ecological Emergencies were very well attended and there was a lot of positive feedback received. Councillors may be interested to know that the meeting on the Climate Action Plan held on 27th May was recorded so can be watched at a future date. There is a plan in development to hold Town & Parish Council Forums on a much more regular basis, with each one focusing on a different topic. Hopefully this will also help Parish Councils to work collaboratively on issues of common concern. Are there any subjects which you would like a Town & Parish Council Forum to tackle?

**Performance Management at SODC** As part of this Council's commitment to Openness and Transparency, we will be launching a new Performance Management Framework shortly, which will ensure that progress towards achieving the objectives set out in our Corporate Plan is monitored, measured and reported to all interested audiences. Quarterly performance reports will be published on the SODC website and this will be a good way for local residents and businesses to hold the Council to account for how it spends public money and how it responds to the needs of the local community. An interim performance report to be published shortly reveals how much has already been achieved since the new Corporate Plan was adopted in October 2020, despite the challenges and restrictions caused by the coronavirus situation.

**Leigh Rawlins**  
**District Councillor**