

**EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting held on September 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 at 7.45pm at Dunsden Village Hall**

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

**111/21 Apologies for absence** None

**112/21 Declarations of interest** David Woodward declared an interest in P21/S3555/HH as it is a neighbouring property.

**113/21 Minutes of the last meeting** The minutes from the meetings on July 27<sup>th</sup> 2021 were adopted. Adoption was proposed by David Woodward and seconded by Ian Pringle.

**114/21 Matters arising from the minutes**

All items on the agenda for discussion.

**115/21 County Councillor's report** Cllr Bartholomew summarised his local reports. The full report will be attached to the minutes. Discussion about the lack of enforcement by SODC again took place especially regarding the amount of planning breaches at Caversham Lakes. OCC continue to oppose this application.

**116/21 District Councillor's Report** Cllr Rawlins' report is attached to these minutes. He also expressed his concern over planning enforcement.

**117/21 Public Question Time/Correspondence**

A resident had contacted the Parish Council regarding the cessation of the garden waste collection that is a paid for service. The clerk forwarded the relevant information.

A resident of Church Lane had telephoned with a complaint about the amount of noise from the Dunsden Brewery who were celebrating Loddon Fest. The clerk will write to the Brewery to request that perhaps a warning to resident living nearby could be prewarned of potential at any event. The resident will also be advised to write to the Brewery. **(Clerk to action)**

**118/21 Financial Position**

118.01/21 The present financial situation had been previously circulated.

118.02/21 The September accounts were presented for payment. Invoices to the value of £1779.24 were agreed. £968.41 is part of the Neighbourhood Planning costs. Richard Berkley proposed the accounts be paid. This was seconded by Ian Pringle. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

**119/21 Planning Matters**

***New Applications***

P21/S3122/FUL Erection of an Agricultural barn Pauline's Field Sonning Eye RG4 6TN This application was recommended for refusal. Decision ratified.

P20/S3501/FUL Change of use of an established lake for recreation and sports purposes Additional highway information submitted on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020. Further plans, ecological survey. Flood risk assessment and arboricultural report received 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 Preliminary ecological appraisal received 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Biodiversity metric information and further highways and transport statement received 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021: North Lake Caversham Lakes Henley Road near Reading RG4 9RA A negative response will be submitted from a working party.

P21/S3555/HH Conversion of bungalow to 2 storey house with 2 infill extensions and garage extension. Improvements and alterations. Lydden Sonning Eye RG4 6TN. A response is being prepared by a working party.

***Applications Granted***

None

**120/21 Eye & Dunsden Village Hall** The village hall booking management is undergoing changes.

**121/21 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

121.01/21 An NDP exhibition took place on 30<sup>th</sup> August with about 50 residents attending.

121.02/21 A local business consultation took place.

121.03/21 The Chairman asked all residents to respond to the NP questionnaire.

Cllr Rawlins suggested that a meeting between parishes to discuss the extension to the AONB took place in order to clarify the position of each PC.

**122/21 Community Orchard.** The remaining grass has been cut. The Insurance has been paid.

**123/21 Highways, Footpaths & Open Spaces**

123.01/21 Ian Pringle updated the meeting with progress to improve the flooding damage in Sandpit Lane. OCC Highways have dug out the ditches and the culverts have been replaced. Ten metres of Tarmac surfacing is being replaced near to White House. The PC will request a meeting with Phillimore Estate to discuss plans for the land drains and for dealing with the flooding at Thatched Cottage and in Playhatch. **(Clerk to action)**

Ian Pringle had also established that Tagg Lane is a metalled road that has been adopted by the Council.

123.02/21 Footpath from the allotments to the Flowing Spring: The Clerk was asked to write to the Phillimore Estate to request clearance of the first section that is impassable up to the footbridge. **(Clerk to action)**

123.03/21 Walkers have to cross the busy Playhatch Rd to continue the footpath along the B478. A resident has requested that advisory footpath signs could be erected either side of the road to warn motorists of pedestrians in the road. Another resident has requested a speed limit through Sonning Eye. The Clerk was asked to write to OCC Highways **(Clerk to action)**

**124/21 Allotments** There is one allotment to let. Rents are coming in. **(Clerk to action)** Another inspection will take place. **Cllr Baylis to action)**

**125/21 Website** The Chairman is to update part of the website this week. **(Chairman to action)**

**126/21 Minerals/Playhatch & Sonning pit Liaison Groups** Grabloader is to contact the Clerk with a suggested date for a liaison meeting.

**127/21 Consultations** 1. Ox-Cam Arc Consultation Ian Pringle & Naomi Baylis will consider this consultation. 2. OP2050 What Future Do We Want? David Woodward & Richard Berkley will look at this. 3. Statement of Community Involvement. Clive Leeke will consider a response to this. **(Councillors to Action)**

**128/21 Matters for future consideration** signage on Dunsden Green and Furleigh Bank

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

**Date of next meeting:** October 19<sup>th</sup> 2021

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

### **GENERAL OCC REPORT**

#### **PRIORITIES OF NEW ADMINISTRATION**

The new LibDem/Green/Labour administration has announced its priorities. I have concerns that some of these areas, while laudable, are matters beyond the council's remit and are for central government, or that the council can have minimal impact upon them. The priorities are:

- Tackle the Climate Emergency
- Tackling inequalities
- Prioritisation of wellbeing
- Review and reform of the social care system
- Increased investment in travel network to reduce car journeys
- Improved access to nature and green spaces
- Supporting children and young people to achieve improved health, wellbeing and educational outcomes
- The creation of a resilient local democracy
- Support for local employment and businesses to make Oxfordshire a centre for green technologies

The vast majority of the emails I receive are about road maintenance/improvement, traffic accidents, drains, grass cutting, flooding, footpaths, waste disposal and planning matters – these important but unglamorous matters receive barely a mention and the administration seems to focus more on grandstanding on national issues than the fundamentals of running a local council.

### **THANKING PEOPLE IN OXFORDSHIRE FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES**

People in Oxfordshire who are wanting to donate items to help those who have been evacuated from

Afghanistan are being thanked for their warm-hearted reaction to the situation. The generosity of Oxfordshire people to date means that no further donations are needed just now. Some of the items donated have already been distributed and gratefully received by arrivals at RAF Brize Norton from Afghanistan over recent days. OCC will be working closely with the district councils and the city council in coming days and weeks as the situation develops. Further information on support for refugees in Oxfordshire can be found here: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/support-afghan-refugees/>

#### **OAKLEY WOOD HWRC UNDER THREAT?**

I am concerned that once again, our Oakley Wood household waste recycling centre (HWRC) could be under threat. Please respond to the following consultation and forward it to any residents you think might be interested.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/tell-us-what-you-think-of-countys-household-waste-and-recycling-centres/>

#### **ROUTE REVEALED FOR OXFORDSHIRE STAGE OF WOMEN'S TOUR CYCLING RACE**

This year's Women's Tour professional cycling race comes to Oxfordshire on **Monday 4 October**. Route details can be found here: <https://www.womentour.co.uk/stages/stage-1/>

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

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

OCC continues to object to the application on highways and flood risk grounds. Full details can be found on the SODC website.

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

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

I have received multiple complaints about alleged breaches of planning. SODC Planning Enforcement will take no action until this retrospective application has been determined, even though it does not cover all the activities that have allegedly been occurring. I circulated a detail list of complaint options to interested parties, including the parish council on 27 August 2021 10:21, as follows:

In essence, residents should report:

- Noise and disturbance using this link: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/neighbourhood-services/reporting-a-nuisance/>

(If noise disturbance is occurring late into the evenings residents are also able to report the issue by telephoning 01235 422410.)

- Suspected planning breaches through this link: [planning.enforcement@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:planning.enforcement@southandvale.gov.uk)
- Comments on the retrospective planning application via this link: <https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P20/S3501/FUL>

#### **SODC ward councillor's report Eye & Dunsden – 21st September 2021**

**Covid-19** Covid cases are much higher than at the equivalent time last year, as the Delta (Indian - B.1.617.2) variant continues to make its mark. We will need to see how things develop now that schools are back and tertiary education is due to return. At 14/9, Oxford City was at a weekly rate of 265 per 100k population. By comparison, Cherwell DC was 323, West Oxon DC at 237, SODC at 193 and Vale of WH DC at 234. Reading BC (to 14th September) was at 269. On the plus side these rates are rather lower than when I reported to you in July. The vaccine programme continues – with particular focus on the younger groups down to age 16 and completing 2nd doses. A single Pfizer dose will then be offered to 12-15 year olds – partially subject to parental discussion. A booster programme is expected to support those over 70 or who are vulnerable and this will then extend to those over 50. There will also be a broad-based flu inoculation programme to try to protect the NHS during the winter. Government are hopeful that we may have seen the worst from known Covid variants. However in Israel there has been a marked 4th wave – despite having very high levels of vaccination that were achieved early; this

therefore raises some questions about the durability of antibody levels.

**New NPPF** A new version of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) has been published by MHCLG. I attach a note of some of the key changes.

**AONB extension** An extension to the Chilterns AONB is to be considered as advised separately. This begins to reflect the findings of the Glover report and also public concerns. It is understood that this review process will be done by Natural England.

**Planning for the Future** Radical proposals for a root-and-branch erosion of the planning system are to be paused for reflection – despite having appeared in the Queen’s speech at the opening of Parliament. Moreover there has been a UK cabinet reshuffle in which the former Secretary of State Robert Jenrick was unceremoniously defenestrated after a long series of gaffes, undue use of power and set-backs with unpopular proposed changes. The ministry has now been renamed from MHCLG to the Ministry for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – with Michael Gove appointed as SoS. Neil O’Brien who had been charged with leading a process to define and provide an action-plan for “Levelling Up” is to become part of the ministry team of politicians. It would appear that a change of direction is intended?

**Plan Consultations – Arc and OP2050** The Government have commenced a consultation on how they aim to dictate the future of the OxCam Arc. In February there was a statement on setting a spatial framework for the Arc in which Government would seek to dominate the overall aims and ambitions for the economic scale of desirable development in the Arc. To underline that it was stated that their dominance of the Arc would be written into national NPPF policy. Although reference was made to consulting with local “partners” and residents the thrust of the document was of central diktat. It can be found ; - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-for-sustainable-growth-in-the-oxfordcambridge-arc-spatial-framework/planning-for-sustainable-growth-in-the-oxford-cambridge-arc-anintroduction-to-the-spatial-framework> It is a matter of law and established practice that there must be consultation. Arguably, following the Chesham and Amersham by-election ministers are rather less confident of large-scale development and encouraged population growth in the South East. Moreover there are a lot of policy questions around the future of regional “levelling up”. The current consultation can be found here and closes on 12th October:- <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-vision-for-the-oxford-cambridge-arc> I would urge the view that the new investment in the UK economy should be focussed outside the over-heated South East – in the regions where the greatest growth potential and quality underutilised resources exist. Ideas of growing the arc population by 50% or more will have seriously adverse Environmental, Social and economic impacts – in my view! Milton Keynes appears to be content to double its population from 250k to 500k by 2050. It would appear that public sentiment in Oxfordshire would not support excessive growth? In the Government’s view the Ox-Cam Arc will dominate the sub-region with an overall view to 2050 and then each of the Counties will set out a Joint Spatial Strategy Plan for their Local Planning Authorities. For Oxfordshire it is the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and progress to date can be found here:- <https://oxfordshireplan.org/> The present stage is the “Regulation 18, part two public consultation. The responses to part one were fiercely negative, contrary to large-scale growth with associated concreting development and strongly in favour of more environmental and climate considerations. Since then progress have been made and the current consultation – which ends on 8th October can be found here :- <https://oxfordshireplan.org/have-your-say/> It is important to respond – to indicate views on policy, scale of desirable growth/development and the spatial shape of allocations for growth. Formerly the body for organising planning co-operation in Oxfordshire was called the “Oxfordshire Growth Board”. However its members have agreed to change its name to the “Future Oxfordshire – Partnership”. This is to re-establish a more balanced approach for the future.

**Thames Farm** A submission by Taylor Wimpey for groundworks and the void-filling (with coverage of the interrelationship with drainage) has been expected and something of a submission has now been received by SODC. Having taken advice, the position of SODC’s professional planning function is that the void-filling of the sinkholes on site will represent major engineering works that go beyond the scope of the original application and will thus need to be the subject of a separate application; the applicant disputes this finding – hence their submission. This will now be considered by all the appropriate expert bodies and the wider public. It will be necessary to take an holistic view of submissions since groundworks and drainage are intimately linked and inter-dependent; with input from key stakeholders and expert consultees.

**Refuse collection** The national shortage of HGV drivers continues. The Road Haulage Association (RHA) suggests that there is a current lack of 100k drivers. Moreover of the 380k licence holders it is estimated that one third of them are expected to retire within the next 5 years; this is because the age profile of HGV drivers is weighted to older drivers. Government have sought to simplify testing arrangements and to create more capacity by ceasing to require special testing for some other non-HGV categories. They have also temporarily relaxing safety rules limiting drivers' hours to 9 hours per day; 11 hours per day will be accepted for the present time. However government have not been prepared to issue temporary visa for foreign/EU drivers nor to list HGV skills as relevant to "skilled" foreign applicants for UK residency. Industry experts point out that in addition to a licence a driver requires a CPC and that new licence-holding drivers must complete some 8-9 weeks of having to have an experienced driver to mentor them before they can drive on their own; limits for this include employers' insurance arrangements. Currently BIFFA (SODC's refuse collection contractor) is facing challenges in having enough HGV drivers. There are a number of reasons for this :-

- Brexit/Covid – many HGV-qualified drivers from the EU etc have left the UK
- Re-start of the economy – there is now much more demand for drivers as activity starts to return post Covid – so widespread new recruiting. Many employers offering bonuses.
- Covid – staff off sick or isolating
- Covid – there has been much less training and test availability for HGV qualifications

Managers at BIFFA are doing their best to recruit more. In the meantime the brown bin garden waste collections have been on temporary stop to protect the main waste collections. (The subscription arrangements provide for 20 collections per annum – something that dates back to 2014 when the current contract began.)

**Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)** CPE will proceed in November and be organised through OCC. Details have been circulated to Clerks separately

**New offices for SODC** Progress is being made on new offices for SODC following the fire that destroyed the Crowmarsh offices in January 2015. The previous administration did all too little to progress matters causing all the insurance money and millions more to be eaten up by the expensive temporary costs of Milton Park. Decisions to move forward will be considered soon.

**Grants** Councillor grants are again open with round 1 of 2 closing on 1st October. The capital grants scheme is anticipated to re-open soon.

Keep safe!

Leigh Rawlins District Councillor