

**EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Dunsden Village Hall**

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

**054/22 Apologies for absence** Naomi Baylis, Clive Leeke.

**055/22 Declarations of interest** None

**056/22 Minutes of the last meeting** As the meeting was inquorate the minutes could not be accepted as a true record. This will be brought to the next meeting.

**057/22 Matters arising from the minutes**

048.05/22 The Clerk is awaiting a further quotation for the repair to the Playhatch noticeboard. **(Clerk to action)**

123.03/21 The Clerk was asked to chase the idea of signage to give a pedestrian warning to motorists on the Playhatch Rd. **(Clerk to action)**

**058/22 County Councillor's report** Cllr Bartholomew summarised his local reports. The full report will be attached to the minutes. Cllr Bartholomew had sent the results of the speed survey that had not shown excessive speed from the motorbikes at the time. He recalled that Cllr Berkley expressed a wish for the PC to pay for a second one halfway between the Playhatch roundabout and the Caversham traffic lights. The Vice Chairman was asked to send a Google map with a pin to mark the position. **(Vice Chairman to action)**

**059/22 District Councillor's Report** Cllr Rawlins summarised his report which is attached to these minutes. The idea of local parishes working together to promote the AONB extension was briefly discussed.

**060/22 Public Question Time/Correspondence** A resident had reported that one of the large trees on Dunsden Green is leaning. The PC will look into this. **(Clerk to action)**

**061/22 Financial Position**

061.01/22 The present financial situation had been previously circulated.

061.02/22 Invoices to the value of 1,047.60 need to be paid. The Councillors present agreed to payment. This will be ratified at the next meeting. **(Clerk to action)**

061.03/22 The Clerk reported that all paperwork was now with the internal auditor.

**062/22 Planning Matters**

**New Applications:**

P22/S1004/HH Two storey rear extension and roof alterations 2 Waterside Sonning Eye RG4 6TT This application had been discussed by a working party and had been recommended for refusal.

**Applications Granted:** None

**063/22 Eye & Dunsden Village Hall** Naomi Baylis is acting as a Hall Manager. The PC expressed its thanks.

**064/22 Neighbourhood Development Plan** A successful walk around Sonning Eye took place on Saturday. Two more walks are being planned, one in mid-May and one on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is making good progress for all residents. It does need more nominations for residents' favourite heritage buildings/structures on order that they can be protected. In addition, if there is someone interested in enhancing the footpaths within the parish please contact the Clerk or Chairman. A projector for use by both BHPC and EDPC is to be bought jointly. Decision to be ratified. **(Clerk to action)**

**065/22 Community Orchard** Nothing to report

**066/22 Highways, Footpaths & Open Spaces**

066.01/22 Botany Bay. Deferred

066.02/22 Signage replacement. Deferred

066.03/22 Playhatch permissive path. The possibility of a permissive path between Playhatch and the Flowing Spring is to be considered. **(Vice Chairman to action)** Deferred.

066.04/22 Light in phone box. The Clerk or Chairman will meet the electrician to discuss replacing the light unit. **(Clerk to action)**

**067/22 Allotments** One spare allotment available.

**068/22 Website** Naomi Baylis is looking at the website and is getting quotes for compliance. David Woodward has found a template which is said to be WCAG compliant.

**069/22 Minerals/Playhatch & Sonning pit Liaison Groups.** The PC is waiting for a meeting date from the Playhatch Liaison Group. The Sonning Liaison Meeting took place. **(Clerk to action)**

**070/22 Platinum Jubilee**

070.01/22 The Clerk had no success researching a fire basket to be erected on the green or in the

field outside the village hall and set alight for the Jubilee. The Clerk was asked to contact the Clerk from Rotherfield Peppard as there is one on Peppard Common. **(Clerk to action)**

070.02/22 The grant for the trees to be planted at the village hall has been received. The trees will be ordered ready for planting in June. **(Clerk to action)**

**071/22 Annual Parish Meeting** This will follow the pattern of the previous APM **(Clerk to action)**  
**Matters for future consideration** Various signage matters

**A short extraordinary meeting will take place to ratify decisions not taken on 26<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Next meeting: APM & APCM      Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

## **REPORT TO EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL APR 2022** **FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW**

### **GENERAL OCC REPORT**

#### **FARMERS PROTEST AT CABINET MEETING – WITH JEREMY CLARKSON!**



In December, the LibDem/Green/Labour administration at OCC forced through a motion at Full Council to “*ensure that food provided at all council-catered events and meetings is entirely plant-based.*” The motion also sought to “*ensure that Council school meals services have plant-based menus available as part of their regular offer on at least **two** days per week.*” In the face of a wall of negative publicity, including a demonstration by local farmers at County Hall that overshadowed the council’s budget-setting meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February, the officer report published on 7<sup>th</sup> March massively scaled back the proposals. It recommended that the vegan diet was only to be imposed on councillors at Full Council meetings six or seven times a year and on the general public at civic events, with officers entirely exempt. A ‘graduated approach’, starting with one day per week, was to be applied to schools. The report was approved by Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> March, despite strong Conservative opposition. Once again, there was a large protest outside by farmers – including Jeremy Clarkson – as the meeting took place.

#### **PARTNERSHIP WITH CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Efforts to unpick the agreement between OCC and Cherwell District Council continue.

#### **INTERNATIONAL TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY**

On Thursday 31 March OCC celebrated the annual international Trans Day of Visibility (TDoV), which is dedicated to recognising the resilience and accomplishments of trans and non-binary people and raising awareness of discrimination and struggles faced by the trans community.

#### **FIRE AND RESCUE COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

A four-year community risk management plan (CRMP) has been launched by OCC’s Fire and Rescue Service as part of its commitment to reduce dangers from fires and other emergencies. The CRMP details priorities until 2026, divided into four categories: response, prevention, protection, and people and wellbeing. The plan’s objectives include:

- Becoming a more diverse workforce.
- Targeting residents most at risk from fires and accidents.
- Reducing risks in commercial buildings and acting when dangerous situations are found.
- Maximising resources to provide the quickest responses to emergency calls.

#### **FOCUS ON OXFORD CITY**

A large number of initiatives focusing on the city of Oxford have been announced or continue. These include: electric buses; e-cargo bikes; zero emission city grant; Folly Bridge repairs; Kennington improvement programme; Oxford City Football Club land issues.

#### **WOMEN’S TOUR CYCLING RACE SET FOR OXFORDSHIRE FINALE**

The 2022 Women's Tour, an international women's cycling stage race, will end with an Oxfordshire finale in June. Stage six will start in Chipping Norton before culminating in Oxford city centre. OCC is one of race organiser SweetSpot's sponsors.

### **RESIDENTS URGED TO FOLLOW THE CODE AND 'SCRAP' FLY TIPPING**

The Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership, made up of all the councils in Oxfordshire, has launched a campaign to SCRAP fly tipping by making sure people know their responsibilities when it comes to disposing of their waste.

Residents are being urged to follow the SCRAP code, developed by the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership, to avoid fines and prosecution:

- Suspect all waste carriers.
- Check with the Environment Agency through its [website](#) or on 03708 506 506 that the provider taking waste away is licensed.
- Refuse unexpected offers to have waste taken away.
- Ask what will happen to your waste.
- Paperwork should be obtained – such as a detailed invoice, waste transfer note or full receipt.

### **PRIORITIES OF LIBDEM/GREEN/LABOUR ADMINISTRATION**

The administration has re-announced its plan for the period of 2022 to 2025. The plan details nine key priorities the council aims to address, including tackling inequalities in the county, the climate emergency and creating more opportunities for children and young people. Unfortunately, Highways issues such as road repairs and drainage are not mentioned, despite these matters featuring in the majority of emails received by most councillors. Details can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/our-vision-0>

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

#### **FMS ENQ22922958 VERY LONG POTHOLE NEAR SPAN HILL**

I have asked officers to increase the priority level in respect of this, as although the potholes are shallow, they are very long and getting worse.

### **MOTORBIKE RACING ON A4155 & A4130**

Both Bix & Assendon PC and Eye & Dunsden PC have previously complained about motorbikes racing on the A4130 and continuing on to the A4155. I have always advised that speeding is a matter for the police, not OCC. However, as Eye & Dunsden PC were told by the police that speed data would be helpful when addressing the issue, I arranged for a speed survey, funded from my Councillor Priority Fund; the results have been sent to both PCs.

### **GENERAL SODC REPORT**

#### **COUNCIL MEETING FORMAT**

As previously advised, I have had many complaints from residents (in relation to planning meetings in particular) that they feel it is anti-democratic to compel members of the public who wish to attend meetings to equip themselves with laptops and headsets then travel to Didcot to sit in rows looking at screens. This practice also impairs the smooth-running of meetings for councillors. Conservatives are pressing for a return to normal but the administration intends to continue with Covid-style meetings for reasons that aren't clear.

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

#### **P22/S1004/HH: 2 WATERSIDE COTTAGES**

I have provided advice to a neighbour but will not get directly involved in this matter as it is a householder (HH) application.

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

The case officer has changed. Julie Perrin has been replaced by Robert Cramp, who will be visiting the site next week to familiarise himself with the situation. Robert has been advised that a fresh application addressing the previous objections will be submitted shortly.

## **SODC ward councillor's report Eye & Dunsden – 26th April 2022**

### **Covid-19**

Following the national pattern, Covid cases fell back then surged strongly again and appear now to have plateaued and to be falling back a bit. At 03/04/2022, Oxford City was at a weekly rate of 704 per 100k population (it peaked at 1,504 on

6th Jan and then troughed at 437 on 28th February.). By comparison, Cherwell DC was 857 (peak was 18,826 on 3rd Jan.), West Oxon DC at 795 (peak was 1,565 on 3rd Jan.), SODC at 910 (peak was 1,522 on 3rd Jan. and it then troughed at 430 on 27th February) and Vale of WH DC at 844 (peak was 1,565 on 3rd Jan.). Reading BC (to 3rd April 2022) was at 763 (having peaked at 1,780 on 4th Jan). These levels were still higher than they were in November and December; by way of comparison at 4th November SODC was at 363 and by the 3rd December was at 764 – whereas at 3rd April the figure was at 910 weekly per 100k of population!

The incidences are mostly mild for those with boosted vaccinations and those with antibodies. However local hospitals have reported being under increased pressure. Since the end of free testing the data feeds into the dashboards are much less reliable and Berkshire has therefore removed their one from their site. The Oxfordshire one continues and at 17th April showed a much reduced rate of 368 as a weekly rate per 100k of population for SODC. There is some reason to believe that incidences have indeed been falling back, however there is also some doubt as to how fully this reporting reflects the whole truth. There are suggestions from WHO that the BA.2 variant of Omicron is some 30% more contagious than the main Omicron variant and is becoming dominant. More recently there have been suggestions of a “Deltacron” variant comprising elements of Delta and Omicron in France and the USA; however little is yet known about it. However we are seeing a firm climb in cases after the ending of restrictions – probably driven by the BA.2 Omicron variant. Boosters and vaccinations continue. The advice must still be to proceed with caution and to protect the more vulnerable.

### Ukraine

The local councils of Oxfordshire have organised an emergency structure for dealing with all the aspects of Ukrainian refugees at both county and district level. It is anticipated that staff will be diverted from roles to support this – echoing what was done for Covid. (Unfortunately, as noted above Covid has not gone away!) So overall staffing will be under considerable pressure. Government is providing local councils with funding to help with their role in supporting refugees; this will be routed through county and shares provided to districts. SODC will register host who can receive refugees and also vet the properties to ensure that they meet reasonable standards. There will also be a need to do DBS (enhanced level) safeguarding checks on hosts and those living there. SODC are already scheduled to receive 200 refugees and more will follow. If residents would like to contribute to relief it is recommended that donations are made to the Disasters Emergency Committee online. The link is:-

[https://www.dec.org.uk/?gclid=CjoKCQjwz7uRBhDRARIsAFqjulkn5K11ryFs9xQQoLwvss231BefXsmrv2t32MdCrEB83ZpefccWiYMaAjQAEALw\\_wcB](https://www.dec.org.uk/?gclid=CjoKCQjwz7uRBhDRARIsAFqjulkn5K11ryFs9xQQoLwvss231BefXsmrv2t32MdCrEB83ZpefccWiYMaAjQAEALw_wcB) The Government (DLUHC) has suggested a scheme to contribute £350 per month to those who can accommodate refugees. Also where a householder is in receipt of a single-occupier discount this will not be lost if they become a host for Ukrainian refugees. Anyone who wishes to make a housing offer can contact the councils’ (joint) housing team using the email: [housing@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:housing@southandvale.gov.uk). SODC have set up the following link:- Support for Ukraine webpage that provides all the information on how you can support the various organisations that are helping those still in Ukraine with food, water, medicines and shelter during the conflict.

### Communications and Engagement

SODC is reviewing its approach to communications and engagement to provide a more consistent approach and to plan sustainable uses of new media.

### CIL Rates

New CIL rates are being proposed by SODC for examination by an inspector in the autumn. All being well we would hope to see a significant uplift in rates.

### AONB extension

On 20th April local parishes from Harpsden along to Kidmore End met to start to prepare a case to Natural England for an extension of the Chilterns AONB. Subject to parish confirmations, work will be prepared to integrate existing landscape studies, address any gaps and to prepare a robust case to Natural England as to why the nominated areas of extension are appropriate and fulfill the relevant criteria. A further meeting is to be held – probably in June – and Mapledurham parish will be invited to join in.

Leigh Rawlins  
District Councillor