

EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting held on June 21st at 7.45pm at Dunsden Village Hall

Present: Cllrs David Woodward, Richard Berkley, Clive Leeke, David Bartholomew (OCC + SODC) and Leigh Rawlins (SODC)

077/22 Apologies for absence Cllrs Ian Pringle, Naomi Baylis.

078/22 Declarations of interest No new declarations

079/22 Minutes of the last meetings The minutes of April 26th 2022 and those of May 3rd and May 17th 2022 were accepted as a true record by those that attended those meetings.

080/22 Matters arising from the minutes

048.05/22 The Vice Chairman is to look at the Playhatch noticeboard with a view to removing the broken doors and leaving it open. **(Vice Chairman to action)**

123.03/21 The Clerk was asked to again follow up on progress made on signage to give a pedestrian warning to motorists on the Playhatch Rd. **(Clerk to action)**

066.04/22 The light unit in the phone box has now been replaced.

081/22 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. The Vice Chairman will send a Google map with a pin to mark the position of the excessive speed so that a further speed check can be booked. It was agreed that the PC will pay for this. **(Vice Chairman to action)**

082/22 District Councillor's Report Cllr Rawlins summarised his report which is attached to these minutes. A first meeting of a Joint Parishes group on AONB extension had taken place. It was decided that the Parish will offer financial support for an overview report on landscape character at the next meeting. All agreed.

083/22 Public Question Time/Correspondence None

084/22 Financial Position

084.01/22 The present financial situation had been previously circulated.

084.02/22 The June accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £3,212.55 were authorised for payment. These payments were proposed by Richard Berkley and seconded by Clive Leeke. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

084.03/22 The Annual Governance Statement was presented to the Parish Council. This was read and approved by all Councillors present. The Accounting Statements were presented 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. **(Clerk & Chairman to action)**

084.04/22 The Clerk explained that the PC printer shared with BHPC had broken and could not be repaired. The Clerk had had to purchase a replacement and asked if it was possible to be refunded. Payment was proposed by Richard Berkley and seconded by the Chairman. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

085/22 Planning Matters

New Applications:

P22/S1301/FUL Demolition of the existing bungalow and the construction of a four bedroom dwelling. (Amended plans received 30 May 2022, Flood risk assessment received and Preliminary bat survey received 6 June 2022.) Lydden Sonning Eye RG4 6TN – deferred as inquorate

P22/S1601/FUL Change of use of an established lake for recreation and sport purposes. Caversham Lake Watersports Henley Road Caversham RG4 9RA – a working party response was ratified by the meeting.

Applications Granted: None

086/22 Eye & Dunsden Village Hall Naomi Baylis is appointed as a Hall Manager. Bookings are strong. The Environmental Survey undertaken for the NP had noted the lack of biodiversity on the field behind the village hall. A suggestion was made that Clive Leeke draw up a plan to improve the biodiversity of the area and that the PC will offer funding towards this work. All agreed.

087/22 Neighbourhood Development Plan The work on revising the policies continues. The next meetings are on Monday 27th June, 18 and 25 July.

088/22 Community Orchard Nothing to report

089/22 Highways, Footpaths & Open Spaces

089.01/22 Botany Bay. Issue in hand

089.02/22 Signage replacement. Deferred

089.03/22 Playhatch permissive path. The possibility of a permissive path between Playhatch and the Flowing Spring is to be considered. **(Vice Chairman to action)** Deferred.

089.04/22 The Clerk was asked to report that Spring Lane needed a litter pick. **(Clerk to action)**

089.05/22 The Clerk was asked to give Pricketts the phone number of the Vice Chairman so that a site visit could be made. **(Clerk to action)**

089/06/22 The Clerk was asked to contact Tarmac suggesting that new signs were erected to point out the permissive path from the Playhatch roundabout to Eye Marsh Drain. **(Clerk to action)**

089.07/22 To stop people using the main road, the Chairman suggested a sign on the pedestrian gate to show Pedestrian Route to the River. **(Chairman & Clerk to action)**

090/22 Allotments One spare allotment available. The Vice Chairman placed an advertisement on social media. If no response the Clerk will consider a tenant out of catchment. **(Clerk to action)**

091/22 Website deferred as Naomi Baylis is on maternity leave.

092/22 Minerals/Playhatch & Sonning pit Liaison Groups. Nothing to report

093/22 Code of Conduct The training for this is not to be for a month or two so this item was deferred.

094/22 Consultations Local Plan. A response is due and the Chairman will circulate suggestions for agreement and the Clerk will submit the response. **(Clerk/Chairman to action)**

Matters for future consideration Various signage matters; Code of conduct

Next meeting: Tuesday 19th July

REPORT TO EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL JUNE 2022

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

CONSERVATIVES CALL FOR GREATER FOCUS ON TOWNS & VILLAGES

The Conservative Opposition remains concerned that the LibDem/Green/Labour ruling administration is being heavily distracted by matters over which it has little control, or are beyond its remit. It remains to be seen if the £millions being spent on climate change will bear any fruit, while the imposition of a vegan diet at council meetings continues to generate a lot of debate, wasting councillors' and officers' time. Costs are still awaited for the transgender measures. Additionally, much of the council's effort is focused on the city of Oxford, where anti-car measures are generating much concern and some civic unrest. As previously reported, mundane matters – which are nevertheless of vital importance to residents – such as roads and drains in towns and villages do not feature in the administration's list of priorities.

UNAUTHORISED VEGAN MEALS BEING SERVED

The original, highly controversial, plan to serve only vegan meals at all council-catered events was scaled back in the report approved by OCC Cabinet in March, and it was agreed 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. However, complaints have been received that exclusively vegan meals are being served at other council meetings. The matter is currently being investigated.

NEW CHAIRMAN TO PRIORITISE VISITING TRAVELLER SITES

Labour councillor Susanna Pressel, who represents the Jericho and Osney division of Oxford city at OCC, has been elected as the new Chair of OCC. She has lived in Oxford for most of her life since being a student. She was Lord Mayor of Oxford between 2008 and 2009. She is to visit Traveller sites as one of her first acts in her new role as she believes they are the most underrepresented communities in our society. She is also to visit farmers where she may experience a frosty reception in view of the council's anti meat & dairy (vegan) policy. Press report here:

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/20160536.traveller-sites-top-priority-new-no-nonsense-council-chair/>

RESIDENT FURY OVER ANTI-CAR MEASURES IN OXFORD

Roadblocks that were set up by OCC as part of a new low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) scheme in East Oxford have been smashed down as fury against the measures continues. Residents are concerned that LTNs benefit one area at the expense of another, simply shifting traffic and pollution, rather than reducing it. There have been widespread reports of huge traffic delays and incidents of road rage. Royal Mail has been forced to close some postboxes. Reports here:

<https://www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/news/20158184.east-oxford-ltn-smashed/>

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/20158812.oxfordshires-ltns-may-increasing-pollution-nearby-roads/>

The public consultation is now open seeking residents' views on the measures. Anyone can provide feedback on the proposals before 30 November 2022. Details here: letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/east-oxford-ltns-2022

PLANS TO ATTEMPT TO DRIVE DOWN CARBON EMISSIONS APPROVED

OCC's Cabinet has approved plans which they hope will see OCC corporate carbon emissions cut over the next three

years. The OCC Capital & Revenue budgets for this period feature over £15m on climate change measures – only time will tell if this is money well spent.

£10.4 MILLION AWARDED FOR ACTIVE TRAVEL IMPROVEMENTS

OCC has been awarded funding from the third phase of the government's active travel fund. The grant will support infrastructure investment including the delivery of improvements to:

- Bicester, A41/London Road
- Bicester, Middleton Stoney Road and Shakespeare Drive
- Witney High Street
- Oxford, Garsington Road
- Oxford, School Streets programme

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PLANS

OCC has an annual budget of £212 million for adult social care which represents 40 per cent of its overall budget. It is responsible for funding care for more than 6,200 adults – made up of older people, people with learning, physical and mental health disabilities. Despite a swingeing 5% Council Tax increase, including an adult social care supplement, the council is calling on central government for additional funding.

PROPOSALS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Detailed plans are being developed by OCC and its partners in line with the following objectives:

- Improving outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Developing a continuum of local provision to meet the requirements of these children and young people.
- Good physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Improving post-16 education, learning, employment and training opportunities.
- Facilitating a positive move into adulthood for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR EYE & DUNSDEN

MOTORBIKE RACING ON A4155

I have not yet received location details for the further study to be funded by the PC.

GENERAL SODC REPORT

JOINT LOCAL PLAN

The consultation runs until 23 June. Full details are on the SODC website.

TEMPORARY OFFICE RELOCATION AND IMPACT ON PUBLIC MEETINGS

Details on timing of the move and subsequent arrangements for council meetings are awaited.

VEGANISM PROMOTION

SODC seems to have jumped on the veganism bandwagon and issued this message earlier this month:

Are you looking for ways to reduce your carbon and ecological impact? Why not try switching up your lunch and have something vegetarian or vegan on Monday 13 June. You can take part in the event by posting a photo of your vegetarian or vegan lunch on social media on Monday, using the hashtag #SwitchUpYourLunch – tag the council's official accounts into your social media posts and we'll share them.

LITTER MAPPING PROJECT

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have launched a joint litter mapping project aimed at identifying where and what type of items are littered, this information will then be used to target those areas. The summer-long survey asks litter pickers to record the location and types of litter either online using the online survey or by post using a set number of criteria - available on the councils' websites. More information is available here:

www.southoxon.gov.uk/littermapping

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR EYE & DUNSDEN

P20/S3501/FUL & P22/S1691/FULCHANGE OF USE OF LAKE

I have had this message from the planning officer:

"A revised planning application has been submitted, which the owner claims is supported by information addressing the previous reasons for refusal. They advised me that they will also now address those additional issues that I raised on site. The need for enforcement action is informed by the same planning issues that go into assessing a planning application. Therefore, no further consideration will be given to enforcement action until such time as the revised planning application has been determined. That determination will in turn inform the enforcement process."

There are few objections to the new application on the SODC planning portal so far, and I note the PC has not yet responded.

SODC ward councillor's report Eye & Dunsden – 21st June 2022

Covid-19

The reliability of data on Covid cases is now much reduced following the end of test and trace. However national figures suggest sharp falls in cases and this appears to be supported by hospital data and makes sense for this time of year. At 12th June reported cases in SODC were down to a weekly rate per 100k of population of 176 (it peaked at 1,504 on 6th Jan) although it may be that reporting is incomplete. Indeed Reading BC have ceased reporting their figures because of fears about accuracy. It seems reasonable to assume that levels will remain low as we go into summer except that there has been some increases following the Platinum Jubilee events. Omicron sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5 are said to be more transmissible and becoming prevalent. Omicron remains relatively mild and appears to be somewhat less associated with "long Covid" conditions.

Platinum Jubilee

The Platinum Jubilee celebration on 2nd-5th June passed off well and was saluted across the district and beyond. It is intended to support tree-planting across the SODC district – thus supporting the Queen's "Green Canopy" initiative.

Joint Local Plan

I repeat :- SODC is underway with consultation and work on a new Joint Local Plan with Vale of White Horse DC. The councils are trialling an innovative new digital approach to this consultation. This enables users to explore more interactive online content and hopefully will find the approach to be quicker and more appropriate. The aim is to gain more responses for ordinary residents – as well as parishes and others. The consultation is open from Thursday 12 May until 11.59pm on Thursday 23 June 2022. This is the link : <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/localplan-and-planning-policies/local-plan-2041/>

AONB extension

The next AONB extension meeting is on the evening of 22nd June at 6pm in Dunsden village hall. I will be attending and it would be possible for other councillors to attend. 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.

Ukraine

Refugee arrivals continue to arrive as the war in Ukraine goes on.

Women's Cycling Tour

The tour was on the 11th June with the finale in Oxford.

Energy rebate

The energy rebate of £150 for Bands A-D properties is being actioned. It is much simpler to do so for direct debit payers where the Council Tax account and Bank account have the same name. For residents who pay by other means much more administration is required to enable payment to the correct person. Once (largely) complete staff will move on to administering the (overall much smaller) discretionary scheme covering bands E-H. There's more information on the SODC website at [southoxon.gov.uk/counciltaxrebate](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/counciltaxrebate)

Litter mapping

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have launched a joint litter mapping project aimed at identifying where and what type of items are littered, this information will then be used to target those areas. The summer-long survey, which launches today, asks litter pickers to record the location and types of litter either online using the online survey here or by post using a set number of criteria - available on the councils' websites. Litter is

defined as any item left out in public which should have been put in a bin. The results from litter pickers might include some surprise items (a recent litter pick in Drayton St Leonard unearthed a Victorian Bovril bottle). The survey includes categories for the most commonly-littered items including: • Bagged dog poo • Bottles • Cans • Cigarette butts • Food items • Fast food packaging • Face masks and disposable gloves When results are collated later this year, then littering in the districts can be more accurately mapped and the information passed on to the councils' envirocrime team to ensure those areas are regularly patrolled. In addition, the councils' waste team can use the mapping to increase awareness among communities of any litter issues in their areas. The project results can also feed into the ongoing review of litter bins in the districts. Cllr Sue Cooper, Cabinet Member for environment, climate change and nature recovery at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "We would always encourage people to take their litter home or put it in a bin so items can be disposed of safely. Most litter takes a long time to decompose – even food items. "We know litter is a concern for many of us and we are so grateful to those who take it upon themselves to litter pick. Litter is also expensive for the councils to clear up, so they are looking at new ways to help improve the issue." "There are a great number of people who already improve our environment by taking part in litter picks. If they can take part in this survey too then this will help pinpoint more accurately where and what type of litter is being left. This means the councils can target those areas which need improvement most." The litter mapping survey will run until 30 September. More information is available here <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/ourlitter-mapping-project/>

New EV vehicle charging in Henley

The SODC car parks in Greys Road and Kings Road now have operational EV chargers. This work is part of a county-wide scheme to install hundreds of EV charging points in council-owned car parks. More info link : <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/parking-roads-andstreets/parking/car-parks/park-and-charge-ev-charging-sites-in-our-car-parks/> The Park and Charge scheme allows residents without off-street parking to park overnight and charge up using a 'fast' 7 – 22kw EV charging point. The chargers will also provide much needed battery top-ups to commuters and visitors during the daytime. More info on Park and Charge in the county is available via this link <https://parkandchargeoxfordshire.co.uk/>

SODC office move and meetings system

SODC are vacating their very expensive (temporary post January 2015 fire at Crowmarsh) offices in Milton Park – using an opportunity in the lease to break the let. On a temporary basis a very small essential part of the office will relocate to Abbey House in Abingdon. Abbey House is an old and rather run-down office which has been occupied by Oxfordshire County Council but which they have long been scheduled to leave as not fitting their needs. As yet they remain there. The move will be phased from July to September. In the context of the above and a future move to permanent offices expected to be in Didcot Gateway, near the station, officers are considering the best meeting system. The space at Abbey House will not support full meetings of council – so those will need to happen in hired locations. This implies that equipment might need to be mobile. The intent is to get back to more face-to-face meetings, but ideally with some capacity for virtual attendance – which has great benefits.

Councillor community grant scheme

The 2022/23 scheme is now for its first round (of 2). The first round closes on 1st September but there will be a second round for the same fund which may close at the end of January 2023. The overall value is as in previous years.

Chair of SODC At its annual council meeting on the 19th May Jo Robb (Green councillor for Woodcote and Rotherfield) stood down after her year in office and David Turner (veteran LibDem councillor for Chalgrove with 27 years' service as a district councillor) became Chair for the year ahead. David has previously been Chair of both SODC and OCC. He has been a parish councillor and school governor for 41 years and formerly served as a county councillor for 24 years, being a life alderman of Oxfordshire. He is a keen fan of rugby and played both rugby and tennis competitively in his youth. The new Deputy Chair is now Kellie Hinton (HRG councillor for Henley). She is a former mayor of Henley and known for her charity work.

Leigh Rawlins
District Councillor