

EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting held on November 15th at 7.45pm at Dunsden Village Hall

Present: Cllrs David Woodward, Richard Berkley, Naomi Baylis, Clive Leeke, David Bartholomew (OCC + SODC) and Leigh Rawlins (SODC). One resident.

146/22 Apologies for absence Cllr Ian Pringle

147/22 Declarations of interest No declarations

148/22 Minutes of the last meetings The Chairman proposed that the minutes of October 25th 2022 were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Clive Leeke.

149/22 Matters arising from the minutes

048.05/22 The Vice Chairman has looked at the Playhatch noticeboard. Materials are on order for its repair. The receipt is to be forwarded to the Clerk. **(Vice Chairman to action)**

089.03/22 Playhatch permissive path. The Vice Chairman is speaking to Adrian Beales about the possibility of a permissive path between Playhatch and the Flowing Spring. **(Vice Chairman to action)**

150/22 County Councillor's report Cllr Bartholomew summarised his local reports. The full report will be attached to the minutes. The speed survey along the Henley Road is set for 2 weeks from November 7th.

151/22 District Councillor's Report Cllr Rawlins summarised his report which is attached to these minutes.

152/22 Public Question Time/Correspondence A resident asked David Bartholomew about the quarry planning application. He was told that unless the Environment Authority objected then the amendments will be approved.

153/22 Financial Position

153.01/22 The present financial situation had been previously circulated.

153.02/22 The November accounts were presented. Invoices to the value of £3,716.54 were authorised for payment. These payments were proposed by Richard Berkley and seconded by Naomi Baylis. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

153.03/22 The budget notes had been sent to the Councillors prior to the meeting. These were discussed and it was decided that the Precept for 2023/24 would remain the same as last year with a view to a possible reduction next year. **(Clerk to action)**

153.04/22 The NALC Clerk Pay award was discussed and will be included in next month's salary. All agreed. **(Clerk to action)**

154/22 Planning Matters

New Applications:

P22/S2354/FUL Amendment (No 1) Amended design and access statement and amended plans submitted on 28th October 2022 to show existing wall to be retained and new fence to be located behind existing wall as to not damage the wall. This amendment was discussed and was recommended for refusal as the fence in view is inappropriate in a conservation area. **(Clerk to action)**

P22/S3871/FUL New agricultural Barn to benefit agricultural field Pauline's Field Sonning Eye RG4 6TN. This application was discussed and a response recommending refusal will be prepared and circulated to Councillors prior to submission. **(Clerk to action)**

Applications Granted: None

Application Issue The boat moorings and boat storage being set up along the river bank in Sonning and Sonning Eye are causing concern. The Planning Authority has been contacted and details of the positions of apparent works are to be submitted. **(Chairman/Clerk to action)**

155/22 Eye & Dunsden Village Hall The hall is flourishing at present. The Community Fireworks evening was a great success. The Forest School is bringing in new income and a number of weddings are booked for next year. The Christmas Fayre takes place on December 3rd. An ash tree outside the hall has to be taken down as it has Ash dieback.

156/22 Neighbourhood Development Plan The first draft of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is out to the steering group for comments prior to going to SODC for their comments. A newsletter is being sent out.

157/22 Community Orchard The PC awaits quotations for dealing with the trees in the orchard and restoring the damaged hedge.

158/22 Highways, Footpaths & Open Spaces

158.01/22 A sign is to be placed on the Furleigh Bank Car Park to indicate that there is to be no overnight parking and that offending vehicles might be towed away. **(Chairman to action)**

158.02/22 The Vice Chairman is in discussion with a contractor to tackle the untidy area around the Playhatch bus stop and telephone kiosk and the area along the Henley Road to the Thames Water entrance. **(Vice Chairman to action)**

158.03/22 The Clerk was asked to enquire of the Forestry Commission if the Commission authorised the felling of trees in the field north of Blackmore Wood. **(Clerk to Action)**

158.04/22 The lights along the Henley Road between the Playhatch roundabout and the Caversham traffic lights appear to be lit all night. For environmental reasons and for the sake of biodiversity, the Clerk was asked if they could be turned off between midnight and morning. **(Clerk to Action)**

159/22 Allotments One rent awaited.

160/22 Website Naomi Baylis has received a quotation that will be forwarded to the Chairman. **(Naomi Baylis to action)**

161/22 Minerals/Playhatch & Sonning pit Liaison Groups. The Clerk was asked to contact Chris Dance regarding a meeting date. **(Clerk to action)**

162/22 Matters for future consideration 20mph limits; potential TPO's

Next meeting: Tuesday January 17th 2023

REPORT TO EYE & DUNSDEN PARISH COUNCIL NOV 2022

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

LIBDEM/GREEN/LABOUR WAR ON MOTORISTS CONTINUES IN OXFORD

A wide range of initiatives are either in place or being consulted upon. These include:

- ZEZ (Zero Emissions Zone): Non-electric cars are charged or fined if they enter the area
- LTNs (Low Traffic Neighbourhoods): Through traffic is blocked from certain areas
- Traffic Filters: The city is to be split into four sectors and cars without permits will be unable to travel directly from one sector to another
- Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs): Cars without permits are fined if they park in certain areas
- WPL (Workplace Parking Levy): Businesses are to be taxed if they provide parking spaces for employees

While understanding that traffic is a huge issue in Oxford, the Conservative Opposition wonders whether this is overkill and is concerned about the amount of Council time and Council Tax money being devoted to Oxford in comparison to towns and villages.

OXFORD ZERO EMISSIONS ZONE (ZEZ) GENERATES £120,000 IN FEES & FINES

The Cabinet Member in charge of Oxfordshire's highways insists the ZEZ scheme is not being used as a cash cow. Rolled out as a pilot on a handful of city centre roads in February, the ZEZ scheme sees automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras police charges between £2 and £10 for any vehicles that produce emissions. The prices will double from August 2025. The charges apply between 7am and 7pm every day on Bonn Square, Queen Street, Cornmarket Street, part of Market Street, Ship Street, St Michael's Street, New Inn Hall Street and Shoe Lane. It is set to be extended to cover much of the city centre next year, subject to public feedback.

HIGHWAYS OFFICERS DEVOTE LOTS OF TIME & EFFORT RESTORING LTN BARRIERS

The Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) in Oxford remain unpopular with many residents and the barriers are frequently vandalised at great cost to the council. Cabinet Member Andrew Gant said: *"We will continue to make safe and reinstate all damaged bollards that have been forcibly knocked down or uprooted. Vandalism of this kind is a serious criminal offence and correcting it takes a lot of time and effort from our highway officers."*

TRAFFIC FILTER PLAN TO SPLIT OXFORD INTO FOUR SECTORS

The intention is to create four 'Sectors' within the city: North, South, West and East. When the traffic filters are operating, for cars without a permit, movement within each sector is unrestricted, but direct movement between sectors is not possible and requires use of the ring road. Affected motorists will face much longer journey times and distances. The intention is to force a change in behaviour.

WORKPLACE PARKING LEVY

The plan is to tax businesses on every parking space they provide to employees. The decision whether or not to pass this charge on to the employee rests with the company.

CONSERVATIVES ATTEMPT TO SAFEGUARD OF COUNCILLORS' PRIORITY FUND

Conservatives successfully moved a motion at October Full Council to request that as part of the Budget process, the administration gives full consideration to extending the Councillors' Priority Fund, which is due to expire at the end of the year.

LIBDEMS PASS MOTION TO CUT VAT

The LibDems put forward a motion to Full Council in October stating Government should immediately introduce various subsidies and cut VAT to 17.5%. The motion was passed despite Conservatives pointing out that whatever the merits or not of the proposal, the administration was once again wasting council resources trying to get involved in central government issues way beyond the council's remit. Councillors are not junior MPs and they should focus on local matters. It is believed the motion was centrally generated by LibDem HQ as almost identically worded motions have been debated at other LibDem councils.

LIBDEM/GREEN/LABOUR ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES VEGANISM CAMPAIGN

Conservatives moved a motion at October Full Council to put a brake on the administration's veganism campaign but were unsuccessful.

HOMELESSNESS IN OXFORDSHIRE

Housing associations, charities and local authorities in Oxfordshire have come together to embark on a programme to help tackle homelessness in the county. OCC has helped to form the Oxfordshire Homeless Alliance, commissioning partners to improve homeless services by taking a collaborative approach to support those experiencing and at risk of homelessness.

COUNCIL BUDGET

This year, the government is not expected to hold a spending review, so government funding will not keep pace with inflation, leading to a predicted funding shortfall of over £30 million next year. OCC is also estimating around £20m of other demand-led pressures, which include: the growing nationwide costs of supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities; the rising cost of social care and care placements for both children and adults; and a national shortage of social care workers leading to a reliance on agency staff.

OCC DECLINES THE GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT ZONES INVITE

Councillor Liz Leffman, Leader of OCC, has written a formal letter to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up to explain why OCC has decided not to bid to be involved in Whitehall's investment zones initiative. Given that this decision has been made, the Opposition is questioning why time and money is to be wasted at Full Council in November debating a motion praising the decision.

UPDATED PARKING STANDARDS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS APPROVED

On Tuesday 18 October, OCC's cabinet approved an updated guide for parking standards for new developments. It means developers will need to work collaboratively with the council to help achieve the targets set in the [Local Transport and Connectivity Plan](#) (LTCP), which was adopted earlier this year. The LTCP aims create a net zero transport system in Oxfordshire by 2040, improving health and wellbeing, tackling the climate emergency, reducing private vehicle use, and prioritising walking, cycling, and public transport. While supporting many of these objectives, Conservatives are questioning how the restrictions will apply in rural areas where residents are still very much dependent on the private car.

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR EYE & DUNSDEN

SONNING QUARRY PLANNING AMENDMENTS MW.0122/22 and MW.0123/22

I have received representations from the Sonning Eye Action Group (SEAG) in relation to the recent non-material amendments to the approved planning permission. I have followed this up with an extensive exchange of emails with SEAG and officers. The officer view is that SEAG is revisiting concerns that were addressed during the original application. The Lead Local Flood Authority has no objections, so unless the Environment Agency objects, it is likely the amendments will be approved.

FURTHER SPEED SURVEY ON A4155

There was some confusion about locations for the survey but this has now been resolved. The traffic counter was relocated on 7th Nov and will left in place for a two week period at Street Light 22.

GENERAL SODC REPORT

SODC HQ MOVE

SODC has now moved out of Milton Park into temporary accommodation owned by VOWH DC in Abingdon. Conservatives are pressing that this move should be made permanent and the vanity project of building a brand-new HQ in Didcot should be abandoned.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR EYE & DUNSDEN

P22/S1691/FUL CHANGE OF USE OF LAKE

As previously reported, the application was been refused on multiple grounds. The matter has now been referred to Enforcement, and officers have made arrangements with the owner to attend the site with a view to measuring, cataloguing and mapping the full extent of the breach of planning control. They have already started to prepare a report considering the need for enforcement action and do not intend to wait to see whether the owner chooses to appeal the application before progressing the enforcement investigation. They aim to finalise the report for submission to senior officers by the end of November.

SODC ward councillor's report Eye & Dunsden – 15th November 2022

Covid-19 The reliability of data on Covid cases is now much reduced following the end of test and trace. However national figures have shown falls in cases – contrary to what might be expected for this time of year. At 5th November, reported cases in SODC were at a weekly rate per 100k of population of 36 (it peaked at 1,504 on 6th Jan) – a low level and one that has reduced albeit that reporting may be incomplete. Indeed Reading BC have ceased reporting their figures because of fears about accuracy. It is fair to note that it has been unseasonably warm and that cold weather has not yet set in. However there seems scope to hope that Covid will only be a modest problem this winter? In Australia and New Zealand winter flu was more impactful and more virulent than normal and this may well transmit into the UK's winter season. Booster jabs for both Flu and Covid for over 50s and the vulnerable have been and are being rolled out through the autumn, before any winter peak.

New CIL rates from 2023 SODC's proposals for increased CIL rates have completed inspection. They have now been approved by Cabinet and set for final approval by council on 8th December. There will be 3 zones of rates – these are:- • Brownfield built areas of Didcot and Berinsfield (lowest rates) • The south of the district south of a line just above Goring, up to Nettlebed and down across to Henley (highest rates) • The rest of the District – excluding the Greenfield Strategic Sites in LP2035. Subject to mix, it is estimated that these new rates might yield an extra c70%. It should however be noted that the pay-out effect will take a while to work through the system since pay-out comes after some delay following the triggering of charges; so the full effect may be (say) by 2024. In addition SODC are to adopt a SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) to provide detailed guidance on the application of Section 106 obligations. On Strategic Sites, where a great deal of infrastructure is required, only s106 will apply (no CIL). However by exception some S106 will apply to deal with special issues on other sites – alongside CIL. (E.g. if exceptional highways or education needs are triggered by a large or unusual site or other special factors apply.)

Henley & Harpsden NP The H&H NP goes to referendum on 24th November.

Investment Zones As noted in my last report these have been rejected by SODC (and OCC). We don't need extra development in addition to LP2035, it would be a bad idea to remove planning and environment safeguards and these have been economically and fiscally ineffective. It is suggested that the Treasury agree – we may see that in the Autumn Statement?

“Call for Sites” for new Joint Local Plan – the results are in SODC has published the results of our “Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change”, part of the process in creating the next Joint Local Plan. This process is usually called a Call for Sites, but the name was amended to encourage sites that could have community and environmental uses, such as public open spaces or renewable energy. The Comms team has created an informative short video to explain what the Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change is and what happens next. You can find the video on our Youtube channel. It's important to note these are not proposals the Council is making for development. The Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change does not grant planning permission to any site submitted or confirm that the site will be suitable for development. You can view the full results on SODC's interactive Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change website. You do not need to contact anyone to say whether you support or object to these sites. SODC will assess the submissions on a range of environmental, heritage and physical constraints to determine their

potential 'suitability', 'availability' and 'achievability'. Sites that may be suitable for further consideration will be identified through the Joint Local Plan work, and will be consulted upon. Around Eye & Dunsden, proposed sites include large ones around the north and east of Reading for housing plus the large "Caversham Lakes" sites for employment and "environment" use. You can find out more about the Joint Local Plan on the South/Vale websites.

The Queen's Canopy Following the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth, and in accordance with the wishes of the King, the Queen's Green Canopy initiative will be extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees to honour Her Majesty. SODC is creating a record of all the trees planted across the district for The Queen's Green Canopy and Communities are asked to send pictures of their planted trees into SODC at communications@southandvale.gov.uk. More information can be found at: southoxon.gov.uk/greencanopy

Councillor Grants Scheme The second round of the Councillor Grant scheme opens in November – see www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants.

SODC Housing Delivery Strategy SODC are in the process of developing a housing delivery strategy. This will develop over time, but includes a wide analysis of housing challenges, options to assist suitable responses including community-led housing, deployments of s106 and scope to address gaps of provision.

Ukrainian refugees Just to note that the war goes on and that many refugees in the UK are approaching the end of the committed six months with their hosts. In order to support hosts with cost of living pressures, councils across Oxfordshire are proposing to use some of the central government funding to increase the amount paid to hosts per month.

AONB extension A brief for the work required has been developed and has been shared with suppliers. Costing and delivery schedules are being discussed. The next meeting is pencilled in for 29th November.

Leigh Rawlins
District Councillor