

West Hagbourne Parish Council



Minutes of West Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting held at Hagbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 13th May 2020 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllrs M. Butler, H. Lewis, M. Telford, O. Doogue, Cllr A.M. Simpson and Mr. A. Wise (Clerk)

	MB opened the meeting at 19:30 hrs via Voom Video Conferencing	
20/421 Apologies	L. Beaumont, Cllr S. Clarke and Cllr J. Murphy	
20/422 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
20/423 To elect a chairman and vice-chairman for 2019/20	It was proposed by MT, seconded OD, that Cllr. Butler remain as Chairman for another year. It was proposed by MT, seconded OD, that Cllr. Lewis remain as Vice-Chair for another year.	
20/424 To receive the Chairman's and Vice Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office	MB – Chairman and Cemetery Rep HL – Vice Chairman MT – None OH – None LB - None	
20/425 Report on OCC and SODC activities	<u>OCC Report</u> – None received <u>SODC Report</u> – attachment 6	
20/426 Hear representations from members of the public	John Baille wrote to the Clerk before the meeting to ask the PC ensure that when Taylor Wimpey finish building their houses on GWP, that the developer is made to not only re-open the footpath from Didcot to WH but to refurbish it so that is usable again. Clerk to wrote to SODC Councillors seeking advice and assistance with this matter.	AW
20/427 Approve the minutes of the meeting of 04.03.2020	It was proposed by MB, seconded MT, that the minutes be signed as a true record. Carried nem con.	
20/428 Consider matters, not take elsewhere, arising from the minutes of the meeting of 04.03.2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All action items had been completed 	
20/429 Receive reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
20/430 Financial matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of payments. It was MB proposed, MT seconded and carried nem con that the following invoices be paid: Parish Clerk's wages, expenses, PAYE, OALC annual membership subscription renewal, CFO annual membership subscription renewal, BHIB Insurance Policy Premium Renewal, Square Wave Technology for village newsletter printing, Community Heartbeat for Debif replacement parts and BGG Garden and Tree Care for grass cutting. Clerk reported that the 2019/20 accounts had been approved and signed off by the Internal Auditor. The clerk took the councillors through the 	

West Hagbourne Parish Council



	<p>Annual Governance Statement and this was duly completed. It was proposed MB, seconded MT and carried nem con that the Parish Council approve the 2019/20 accounts and instruct the clerk to submit them to the external auditor as soon as these minutes have been written and the external auditors paperwork has been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current financial situation. AW presented the current financial situation – attachments 2 & 3. 	
20/431 Planning since the meeting of 04.03.2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW presented the current planning application situation – attachment 4 	
20/432 Highways and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
20/433 Risk assessment	MB signed off appropriate parts on the current Risk Assessment Checklist - attachment 5	
20/434 Chairman's Report to the APM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to COVID – 19 we have been unable to schedule the APM 	
20/435 Chairman's Report for Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair will send a report to Editor Sue Totterdell before the end of the month in time for the next edition of the Village Newsletter. 	
20/436 Respond to Communications as the Chairman may direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
20/437 Attend to any other business at the Chairman's discretion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
20/438 Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 8th July 2020 (although this will be reviewed with Councillors) 	
20/439 Meeting Closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB declared the meeting closed at 20:09 hrs. 	

Signed:

Date:

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Financial Statements
3. Expenditure against Budget 2019-2020
4. Planning Applications
5. Risk Assessment
6. SODC Report

West Hagbourne Parish Council



Title	District Councillor's Report
Author	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson
Parish	West Hagbourne Parish Council
Date	12 th May 2020

Planning committees

SODC's first virtual planning meeting is scheduled for 28 May at 4.30pm. Members of the public will be able to watch online via a link on our website.

Anyone wishing to take part will need to submit a written statement by email in advance, which will be shared with all the planning committee members. We are aiming to introduce full public participation in due course, as soon as our IT security issues around public speaking are resolved.

In the next few days, the Parish Council should receive information from SODC on the changes to planning decision making and on the online planning meetings.

Local Plan

SODC are on track with the Examination process, and officers have had their first monthly progress meeting with MHCLG. Proposed modifications to the emerging Local Plan 2034 are being drafted for submission to the Inspector but it will be up to the Inspector to accept or reject these. It is looking likely that the Examination in Public (EIP) will be held digitally and by telephone conference as early as June.

Planning Reform

MHCLG is consulting on how to reform the current planning system, we suspect in an attempt to remove barriers to development. It is possible that District Local Plans will become less significant as spatial planning is elevated to the regional level (Oxfordshire Growth Board/Oxfordshire 2050 level), and that Neighbourhood Plans will be even more important as a way to identify specific sites for development.

You may be interested in reading Planning for the Future document produced by MHCLG in March of this year

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/872091/Planning_for_the_Future.pdf

It is therefore crucial for SODC Councillors and officers to engage actively and constructively with our regional counterparts and for us to demonstrate leadership in the need for a wholesale reduction in carbon emissions from construction and transport. It is clear that we will not be returning to the way we used to live, work and travel before the coronavirus pandemic and we need to set a positive vision for renewal and future prosperity.

Adapting our roads to accommodate safe cycling and walking

Across the nation authorities are preparing for the easing of the lockdown restrictions and it has become patently clear that our narrow pavements and car-oriented roads are simply unsafe for an increase in bicycle traffic and social distancing. We are trying to get wider support for making roads

West Hagbourne Parish Council



more pedestrian and cyclist friendly, and through the network of Cycling Champions across the County, are suggesting that OCC takes this opportunity to consider road closures (even if only on a temporary basis) or reallocation of road “real estate” to prioritise bicycles. We are not the only council considering it, you may have seen Oxford City Council on BBC Oxford news on Monday evening, which you can read about here

<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/1420/city-council-to-explore-once-in-a-generation-improvements-to-city-centre-beyond-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

Officers at SODC have suggested that Parish Councils go straight to OCC (Cllr Liam Walker is the Cabinet members responsible for Highways) to propose roads which could be adapted in this way or simply to support the principle of safer active travel.

Council Finances

We were very pleased to hear that SODC had been allocated an additional £1.4m in funding from the latest round of support from central Government. This brings the total awarded so far to £1.45m. While this is very welcome, our officers have calculated that a full year’s losses under the current circumstances would amount to £4m, which is a combination of the additional costs incurred plus the loss of income from services. The Government has committed to recompensing Councils for the additional expenditure but has not been clear on how it will fill the gap in lost income (if at all). We can only wait to hear more on this from MHCLG, but in the meantime our finance team is providing regular feedback to them on how much the crisis is costing and how it is being spent.

The higher allocation in this latest tranche of funding emphasises the important role being played by District Councils in the current emergency; we are certainly very proud of the way SODC staff have stepped up to the challenge and have responded to the new demands being placed on them.