

West Hagbourne Parish Council



Minutes of West Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting held at Hagbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 3 March 2022 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllrs M. Butler, H. Lewis, M. Telford, O. Doogue, D. Tozer, Cllr J. Murphy, Margaret Leishman, Sheila Taylor, JL and Mr. A. Wise (Clerk)

	MB opened the meeting at 19:30 hrs	
22/603 Apologies	Cllr A.M. Simpson	
22/604 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None received 	
22/605 Report on OCC and SODC activities	<p><u>SODC Report</u> – See appendix 6 for AMS Report. JM mentioned that there was still money left in SODC Household Support Fund which was a grant from central government to help those struggling during Lockdown. She will send a link to the application form to the Clerk who will forward onto the village email distribution list for any individual who feels that they could benefit encouraged to apply. Any questions please email her on jane.murphy@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p><u>OCC Report</u> – JM reported that the OCC ruling coalition (largest party Labour) are about to sign off on the 2022/23 budget but had decided not to proceed with the £300M local infrastructure grant from central government as it wasn't green enough in its proposals, which she feels will almost certainly result in the Local Plan falling over and not delivering the proposed much needed 3rd bridge to Abingdon at Culham and Didcot by-pass etc. in the coming year. She also reported that £8M had been allocated in the budget to finance the rollout of 20mph speed limits in local villages. Clerk confirmed that he has applied formally on the OCC website on behalf of the PC. Currently there is a pilot involving 5 local villages. See 22/612 Highways and Transport.</p>	AW
22/606 Hear representations from members of the public	WHVA Chair Margaret Leishman and her Secretary and Treasurer formally submitted a written budget to the PC and requested a sum of £2426:00 from the PC. It was proposed by MB, seconded MT, that the PC fund the village Platinum Jubilee Party in June 2022 up to a sum of £2426:00. All invoices to be submitted to the Clerk at the May and July Meetings for approval and payment.	
22/607 Approve the minutes of the meeting of 05.01.2022	It was proposed by MT, seconded MB, that the minutes be signed as a true record. Carried nem con.	
22/608 Consider matters, not take elsewhere, arising from the minutes of the meeting of 05.01.2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All action items had been completed 	
22/609 Receive reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Lewis reported that the current campaign to attract high speed fibre broadband has been suspended for now, as there wasn't sufficient indications of interest and therefore take up of the required minimum number of vouchers by the residents of West Hagbourne. For a further update on Broadband rollout in Oxfordshire see Cllr Simpson's SODC report in appendix 6. 	

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22/610 Financial matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of payments. It was proposed MB, seconded HL, and carried nem con that the following invoices be paid Parish Clerk's wages. Expenses, PAYE, Margaret Leishman and Sheila Taylor expenses incurred for paying deposits for the village Platinum Jubilee Party in June 2022. • Clerk will pay for the village Platinum Jubilee Party expenses from PC's CIL Fund which is kept in the Reserve Account. • Current financial situation. AW presented the current financial situation – attachments 2 & 3. • Clerk reported that he had completed the annual VAT Return and the money was now in the PCs Bank Account. • Clerk to provide contact details and the latest bank statements to enable Vice Chair to contact Barclays Bank to complete the process of adding himself to the list of councillors who have signing rights for the online banking account in addition to MB & AW who currently are the only ones who can make and approve payments. 	HL/AW
22/611 To note decisions made with respect to planning applications dealt with since meeting of 05.01.2022 and consider outstanding applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning applications reviewed 	
22/612 Highways and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed 20mph speed limit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair explained that the next stage in the process is to undertake a survey of villagers to ascertain which streets in the village the 20mph speed limit should apply to. ○ Chair to draft the survey questions and circulate to councillors for feedback and review before sending to be printed and circulated door to door in the village with an agreed mechanism for collecting completed surveys, most likely through nominated councillors letter boxes. 	MB
22/613 Risk assessment	MB signed off appropriate parts on the current Risk Assessment Checklist - attachment 5	
22/614 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. 	
22/615 Respond to Communications as the Chairman may direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
22/616 Attend to any other business at the Chairman's discretion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
22/617 Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 4th May 2022 • Wednesday 11th May 2022 (APM) 	
22/618 Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB declared the meeting closed at 20:35 hrs. 	

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Closed

Signed:

Date:

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Financial Statements
3. Expenditure against Budget 2021-2022
4. Planning Applications
5. Risk Assessment
6. SODC Report

Title	District Councillor's Report
Author	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson
Parish	West Hagbourne Parish Council
Date	2 March 2022

Broadband

You will have received communication from Oxfordshire County Council drawing your attention to the BDUK (Bringing Digital UK, part of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, & Sport) Public Review which is currently underway: [UK Gigabit Programme: Oxfordshire and West Berkshire Public Review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/uk-gigabit-programme-oxfordshire-and-west-berkshire-public-review) .

In general, this kind of consultation is quite data driven however anyone can respond and the parish may wish to take the opportunity to raise concerns about specific underserved areas of the village, if this is still the case.

The closure date is Friday 4th March at 5pm.

2022/23 Budget

The SODC budget was approved by Council on 17th Feb so we can now focus on delivering plans for the projects identified for the second full year of our current Corporate Plan (e.g., the roll-out of our Climate Action Plan, which was approved by Cabinet on 3rd Feb. The proposed increase in the SODC portion of the Council Tax (a £5 increase to £136.24 for a Band D property) is less than the current rate of inflation and compares to last year's national average of £198.96 for a shire district.

As part of the budget-setting process for 2022/23, a prioritised list of projects which will use the SODC portion of CIL funds has been created; this new approach will ensure that 3rd party funds are used wherever possible for major projects, thus reducing the demand on the Council's reserves. The majority of these projects relate to the district's leisure centres, the Riverside pool, campsite and other facilities in Wallingford, tree planting projects and to the purchase of housing for social rent.

This year's budget also includes additional investment of £500k to kickstart some of the priority projects which



were delayed by Covid, with an extra £200k going into the delivery of the Climate Action Plan and more funds going into improving both our natural and built environment.

All Council grant schemes have been funded at previous levels in the 2022/23 budget, so look out for announcements about their opening and closing dates.

Council Tax and Energy Bill Rebate

You have probably seen the [announcement](#) about the measures the Government is taking to help protect households from rising energy costs. This includes a £200 Energy Bills Rebate and a £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate.

Households in England, which are in council tax bands A-D, will receive a £150 rebate. The rebate to bills will be made by local authorities to households from April directly rather than through the Council Tax system. This will not need to be repaid. This one-off payment will benefit around 80 per cent of all homes in England.

On top of this discount, discretionary funding of £144 million will also be provided to support vulnerable people and individuals on low incomes who do not pay Council Tax, or who pay Council Tax for properties in Bands E-H.

Joint design guide consultation extended

We've extended the deadline for responses to our draft Joint Design Guide consultation. The Joint Design Guide sets out the steps and design principles to be followed when designing a scheme for planning permission. It follows best practice and demonstrates how high quality and sustainable developments can be achieved. Additionally, it ensures that identity, character and heritage landscapes are preserved and enhanced.

To help people understand what the guide is and the principles it contains, we've created an [easy-to-use website](#) dedicated to it.

Following some initial technical issues with the site, we have extended the consultation deadline to Tuesday 15 March. Find out more on our [South](#) websites.

Two more consultations launched recently

We've recently launched two consultations about how we plan to raise funds for facilities and infrastructure in South Oxfordshire to support housing growth in the district. We know this is an important topic for many residents, and it is one of our council priorities. The first consultation relates to the **Community Infrastructure Levy** or CIL – this is essentially a local charge that the council can choose to apply to new development in our district. As you know, the money raised can be used to fund a wide range of local infrastructure such as transport schemes, community or health facilities, parks, green spaces and leisure facilities. The consultation proposes some increases in the CIL charges and a differentiated approach to



different parts of the district (e.g. Berinsfield compared to Henley).

The second consultation relates to the review of our Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (or SPD), which identifies how the council will ensure new development contributes to the provision of infrastructure such as roads, schools, community facilities, leisure facilities and open space, through what are known as 'Section 106 Agreements'.

All open consultations are listed on the SODC website at <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/about-the-council/get-in-touch/consultations/live-consultations/>

Letter to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP on the 5-year Housing Land Supply Rules

On 31st January all of the leaders of the 6 Oxfordshire authorities (instigated by SODC Leader David Rouane) [wrote to Michael Gove](#) at DHLUC to express their concerns about the 5-yr HLS system, which is in urgent need of review and completely unfit for purpose. All Oxfordshire MPs were also copied, and some have responded positively.

Sessions to help health and beauty staff identify victims of domestic abuse

Free training is now available to help ensure hair and beauty staff know what to do if they suspect a client or colleague is at risk of or suffering from domestic abuse.

The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership and Oxfordshire charity Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse are running a series of free online training sessions for people in the hair and beauty industry to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

The events, called 'Transformations – changing our response to domestic abuse', are now available for anyone working across Oxfordshire in hair and beauty, including nail bars, tattooists and ear-piercing establishments.

Domestic abuse affects 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men in their lifetime, so it's very important that people know how they can support those affected.

For more information and to register visit – southandvale.gov.uk/youcanhelp.

For advice and support on domestic abuse please call Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service's Helpline number **0800 731 0055** (Mon-Fri 10am-6pm Sat 10am-4pm) or visit reducingtherisk.org.uk

South Oxfordshire tree-planting drive

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Tackling the climate emergency is a major priority South Oxfordshire District Council which is aiming to become carbon neutral within its own operations by 2025.

The council's new [Climate Action Plan](#) outlines the steps it will take to achieve this aim, as well as how it will support local efforts to tackle the climate emergency. This includes identifying sites for new tree planting and wilding opportunities on council land or through partnership opportunities on privately owned land to support natural carbon capture.

A district-wide tree planting drive begins in March in Wallingford where South Oxfordshire District Council has just granted an application from [Friends of Wallingford and Cholsey Green Spaces](#) to plant trees at Radnor Road and Wilding Road. The applications are the first to be approved following the launch of the council's new tree planting policy, which outlines how it will support local tree planting initiatives as well as how it will protect, plant and manage trees on council land.

The Friends will plant approximately 45 trees at Radnor Road, including a community orchard and walnut, sweet chestnut, oak, rowan and hawthorn trees, while a new community orchard on Wilding Road will feature ten apple and plum trees; a hornbeam, oak, field and horse chestnut; and a new hedgerow.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere so this work will play an important role in helping to reduce local emissions.

District councillors are now urging more groups to come forward with proposals for planting trees on council land across the district – for more information visit southoxon.gov.uk/trees