



Minutes of West Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting held at Hagbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 1 March 2023 at 7:30pm.

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

	MB opened the meeting at 19:30 hrs	
22/701 Apologies	Cllr J. Murphy	
22/702 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None received 	
22/703 Report on OCC and SODC activities	<p><u>SODC Report</u> – See appendix 6 for AMS Report.</p> <p><u>OCC Report</u> – None received</p>	
22/704 Hear representations from members of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rosemary Gardiner provided the councillors with an update on preparations for the forthcoming Kings Coronation on 6th May 2023. 2 invoices were submitted for approval and then payment by the clerk (see 22/708 below) Clerk reported that he had now received the go ahead from OCC's Countryside Access Team confirming that they are happy for the PC to proceed with going out to tender for the necessary repairs to the steps leading up to the kissing gate on the way to Upton which is now in poor condition and becoming unsafe to use and would suggest a like-for-like replacement, but would be happy with a slight change of design if required. As the area involved falls within Upton parish, the councillors instructed the clerk to approach Upton Clerk to set up a site meeting and agree on the way forward by working together to get the issue resolved for both parishes. 	AW
22/705 Approve the minutes of the meeting of 04.01.2023	It was proposed by MB, seconded MT, that the minutes be signed as a true record. Carried nem con.	
22/706 Consider matters, not take elsewhere, arising from the minutes of the meeting 04.01.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All action items had been completed except for 22/688 (steps) 	
22/707 Receive reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk briefed the councillors on the arrangements for the forthcoming elections on the 4th May 2023. Clerk confirmed that he had sent out a village email asking interested individuals to contact the clerk for further information. 	
22/708 Financial matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of payments. It was proposed MB, seconded DT, and carried nem con that the following invoices be paid: Parish Clerk's wages, Expenses, PAYE, Large Screen Hire and Insurance Policy both for the forthcoming village coronation party being organised by WHVA. Current financial situation. AW presented the current financial situation – attachments 2 & 3. Clerk reported that the VAT return was completed and the funds were now in the bank account. 	
22/709 To note decisions made with respect to planning applications dealt with since meeting of 04.01.2023 and consider outstanding applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications reviewed - attachment 4 Planning application P23/S0537/HH – Lizard Bank - Councillors instructed clerk to respond saying the PC Supports this application. Clerk reported that he will let both councillors and the whole village know the date and time for the SODC Planning Committee Meeting where the Horse and Harrow Pub application will be discussed and ruled on. 	AW AW
22/710 Highways and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	

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22/711 Risk assessment	MB signed off appropriate parts on the current Risk Assessment Checklist - attachment 5	
22/712 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. 	
22/713 Respond to Communications as the Chairman may direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
22/714 Attend to any other business at the Chairman's discretion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair to forward latest version of village map to both the clerk and the webmaster (John Baille) so that it can be updated on the village website. With Cllr Doogue announcing that after 6 years, he would not be continuing as a councillor after the 4th May election, the Chair on behalf of the PC thank Ollie for his 6 years of sterling service. 	MB
22/715 Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 10th May 2023 Wednesday 24th May 2023 (APM) 	
22/716 Meeting Closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MB declared the meeting closed at 20:36 hrs. 	

Signed:

Date:

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Financial Statements
3. Expenditure against Budget 2022-2023
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	1 March 2023

Council passes 2023/2024 Budget

Action on climate change and key projects to enhance community wellbeing and support those most in need can progress thanks to South Oxfordshire District Council's improved financial position.

The council can focus on these priorities because its Cabinet has recommended councillors approve a budget for 2023/4 that shows a financial position in a healthier state than previously forecast thanks to the careful budgeting work in recent years. It also means the council needs to draw over a million pounds less from its reserves to balance the budget than it had prepared for a year ago.

To read more on our budget please click [here](#) .



Everyone will need photo ID at the local elections

The government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections. This will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023, so **please help spread the word in your local area.**

Accepted forms of photo ID will include, but are not limited to, passport, driving licence (including provisional license), disabled parking blue badge, certain concessionary travel cards and identity cards with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme).

Anyone who doesn't have accepted photo ID can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. The deadline to apply for ID for the local elections is 25 April.

For more information, including details on how to apply, people should visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call the Electoral Commission helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Award nomination for councils' planning websites

A dynamic new digital approach to planning has been recognised with an award nomination.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have been shortlisted for the Digital Impact category in [the Local Government Chronicle \(LGC\) awards](#) for their work creating a digital-first approach to planning policy documents.

The councils wanted to move away from a traditional planning approach and create something engaging, easy-to-use and user-friendly.

For their Joint Design Guide, the usual pages-long document was ditched in favour of a new website, which people found easy to use and a great resource.

The same digital first approach was adopted for the Joint Local Plan consultation.

Rather than a long, text-heavy consultation document, an interactive website was created that allowed users to view maps and infographics, with survey questions embedded in the site so people could answer as they read through the different elements of the Plan.

The website was well-received by the public and was recognised by the government as a great example of a digital-first approach to planning.

This is great recognition of the hard work of our planning and communications team and well-



deserved and this nomination is an added bonus after the great feedback we got and the knowledge that we've improved a service for our communities.

The LGC awards seeks to recognise and celebrate the absolute best in local government.

The award ceremony is on Thursday 8 June when the councils will discover if they have won.

- You can view [the interactive Joint Design Guide website](#)
- [The Joint Local Plan Storymaps consultation website](#) is still available to view (but the consultation has ended)

Joint Local Plan - Hundreds use new website to help shape districts' future

A new interactive website helped ensure communities had their say on the future of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. The website was created by the two district councils to ask people their thoughts on their Joint Local Plan. The plan will help guide the councils when deciding on new housing and jobs up until 2041, as well as set policies to address climate change, environmental protection and ensure accessible community services for residents.

The new easy-to-use website made the process more engaging and interactive – when asked their views on the feedback process, about 70% of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied. This was the first stage of consultation to gain a better understanding of the community's priorities and concerns for the future. The results have reinforced that we're focusing on what matters to our residents, such as protecting our countryside, taking action against climate change, and improving infrastructure.

The consultation also highlighted the challenges our districts face, such as balancing the need to provide genuine affordable housing with ensuring the landscape character and green spaces in the districts is protected.

Following the consultation, we've set out some principles that will guide the Joint Local Plan, differing from the last local plan:

- Working to Good Growth principles means thinking radically about how much development we plan, where it is located and how it is done.
- Rather than more of the same kind of development we've seen in recent years, we will focus on delivering homes to meet the actual local need.



- We will look at the number of and types of homes, their affordability and the energy efficiency standards they need to meet.
- We will use the opportunities we have through the planning system to protect nature and increase nature recovery.
- We will help tackle climate change by reducing carbon emissions, recognising this as an emergency and in line with our ambition to become zero carbon districts.
- We will focus on community health and wellbeing and locate new homes near to work places and community facilities.
- We will work hard to secure new and improved social and physical infrastructure to support development, ensuring that developers contribute a fair share of the cost.

This approach was a new one for our councils and it's exciting to see how engaged and positively our community has responded. It has been important to us that our residents and businesses are part of this process from the beginning, to make sure the Joint Local Plan is on the right track from the very start, and these results will help guide the next stage of the process.

We are very grateful to everyone who submitted their thoughts through this initial consultation. We need everyone in our community to join in the journey to help plan and build our districts' futures and there will be another opportunity to have your say later this year, when we will set out proposed policies and sites for development.

View the Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation Statement and find out more about the Joint Local Plan 2041 on both the councils' websites.

- [South Oxfordshire website](#)

Household Support Fund closes but help is still available

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have now closed the Household Support Fund and are no longer accepting any new applications for this fund.

£139,615 has been made available to residents in the Vale and £142,615 to residents in South Oxfordshire to help people with the rising cost of food and energy bills. The councils each added £60,000 to funding from the county council to boost the funds available to people and provide support at a time when it's most needed.*

Applications are being processed

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Applications already received are currently being processed and all applicants will be informed about whether their application has been successful or not. As there are a high volume of applicants, anyone who has not yet heard back is advised not to contact the councils or advice centres about their applications so that teams can focus on working through the applications - these are being worked through on a first come, first served basis.

Help is still available

The councils recognise that many residents are struggling due to cost-of-living pressures and although this fund has closed, support is still available through the councils' Community Hub team who offer a wide range of advice, including information on free or affordable food banks and council tax support. The Community Hub Team can also help to signpost people for debt advice and other cost-of-living support and provide information on housing support as well as guidance on how people can look after their mental health and wellbeing.

Anyone in need of support can contact our Community Hub team during office hours on 01235 422600 or they can email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Notes: The Household Support Fund Extension (HSF3) was announced by government in September 2022.

Oxfordshire County Council receive the Household Support Fund for the county area as the upper tier authority and make the funding available to district and city councils as appropriate for the circumstances of the area.

*Oxfordshire County Council made £79,615 available for the Household Support Fund Extension to Vale of the White Horse District Council and £82,615 to South Oxfordshire District Council. Both district councils then added £60,000 each to help boost the funds available to help people who need it most with rising cost of food and energy bills.

Great British Spring Clean

This year we'll again be supporting the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean by loaning litter pickers, high-viz jackets and bags to community litter picking groups and individuals. The event runs from Monday 17 March to Sunday 2 April. Equipment can be booked by completing and returning the booking form and declaration document to waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk.

The forms are available on our **South** litter picking pages. Equipment is limited so to avoid disappointment bookings should be made as soon as possible.



Bookings for litter picking equipment can be made at any point during the year, not just during The Great British Spring Clean!

Business Rates Revaluation

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has updated the rateable values of all business and other non-domestic properties in England and Wales from 1 April 2023. This process is known as Revaluation.

Revaluations are carried out to reflect changes in the property market, which means that Business Rates bills are based on more up-to-date information. For more information, see the **South** and **Vale** revaluations page on our websites

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