

West Hagbourne Parish Council



Minutes of West Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting

held at Hagbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllrs M. Butler, H. Lewis, M. Telford, D. Tozer, Mr. A. Wise (Clerk), Cllr A.M. Simpson, Cllr. B. Manning, Margaret Leishman, Ian Leishman, Julie Freeland, Rosie Gardiner, Terry Pritchard

	MB opened the meeting at 19:30 hrs	
24/784 Apologies	Cllr J. Murphy and Steve Carr	
24/785 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None received. 	
24/786 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>	
24/787 Hear representations from members of the public	<p>Margaret Leishman reported that she had now received her Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator training and had recruited some volunteers to assist her. Now waiting on Thames Valley Police to deliver the speed gun.</p> <p>Julie Hornsby confirmed that the damaged drain cover in Main Street has had its temporary fix and is now awaiting a permanent solution later in the month.</p>	
24/788 Approve the minutes of the meeting of 1 November 2023	<p>It was proposed by MB, seconded DT, that the minutes be signed as a true record.</p> <p>Carried nem con.</p>	
24/789 Consider matters, not take elsewhere, arising from the minutes of the meeting 1 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All action items had been completed 	
24/790 Receive reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk	None	
24/791 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, Village Hall hire and Grass Cutting. It was also proposed MB, seconded DT, and carried nem that the PC make a donation of £2185.00 to WHVA to enable them to purchase 50 x chairs and 2 x Gazebo. Clerk to send money to WHVA asap. Current financial situation. AW presented the current financial situation – attachments 2 & 3. Clerk presented budget for approval and sign off – attachment 4. It was proposed MB, seconded HL, and carried nem con that the 2024/25 Budget prepared by the clerk be adopted. It was proposed MB, seconded HL, and carried nem con that the Clerk request a Precept for 2024/25 for £9000:00. Clerk to complete paperwork and return to SODC. Councillors asked Clerk to contact BGG to ask them to include the grass verge along the ditch in Moor Lane to be included in the grass cutting schedule. 	<p>AW</p> <p>AW</p> <p>AW</p>
24/792 To note decisions made with respect to planning applications dealt with since meeting of 1 November 2023 and consider outstanding applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications reviewed - attachment 5 Councillors asked Clerk to respond to planning application P23/S4281/HH, Arvada, Main Street with SUPPORT. 	AW

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<p>24/793 Highways and Transport</p>	<p>Moor Lane Cllr Tozer updated the meeting on current progress with regards to changing the designation of Moor Lane from BOAT to Restricted Byway. He has now received correspondence from Arthur McEwan-James at the Countryside Access Team in OCC and is now awaiting confirmation of a date and time for them to do a safety inspection by walking the length of Moor Lane sometime in the coming weeks. They will then report on a number of different options and come up with a recommendation to try and resolve this issue to everyone's satisfaction. DT and ML will now meet up with the Chair of the Green Lane Association at 10:00 hrs on Sunday 7th January 2024 for him to view the Lane and see what assistance can be provided after the site visit. Cllr Tozer to update March Meeting with progress.</p> <p>Proposal for footpaths improvement received from East Hagbourne PC Clerk reported that he had received the following message from the EHPC Clerk: FP10 which runs between EH and WH past Shovel Spring, where there is a particularly muddy stretch between the footbridge and the gravel track, joint initiative between EHPC and WHPC. FP14 running south from Blewbury Road - the stretch with the two kissing gates is very muddy and rutted and initial thoughts are that this could be improved with some relatively straightforward laying of aggregate for a comparatively small cost, joint initiative between EH and WH PCs. Councillors asked the clerk to respond to EHPC Clerk saying that we can now add one more footpath to our list - EH Footpath 1 which is the footpath from York Road northwards to the Didcot boundary, which is mostly in East Hagbourne parish and is in very poor condition. For FP14, WH Councillors have agreed to make a contribution towards the cost of the laying of aggregate by the kissing gate posts. Once you have obtained a quote, we can work out the split something like 70/30 with EH paying 70% for FP14. As for the footpath from York Road northwards to the Didcot boundary (FP EH1) and in particular FP10, my councillors would like us to have a joint meeting with the countryside access team and also include County Councillor Jane Murphy, as would like support from the County, as FP10 from West Hagbourne, is the only safe way for the West Hagbourne School Children to get to Hagbourne School since the closure of the school bus by County from West Hagbourne.</p> <p>94 Bus Service Terry Pritchard explained that the bus had started servicing the village again with a new timetable that includes 4 visits a day to the village Monday to Friday. Chair asked Terry to write an article for the village newsletter and to also email the webmaster the new timetable so that it can be uploaded to the village website.</p>	<p>DT</p> <p>AW</p> <p>TP</p>
<p>24/794 Risk assessment</p>	<p>MB signed off appropriate parts on the current Risk Assessment Checklist - attachment 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to write to last years internal auditor inviting him to undertake the 2023/24 internal audit of the PC's accounts in April'24. • Clerk to update risk register with regards to newsletter invoices to be issued every January. 	<p>AW</p> <p>AW</p>
<p>24/795 Chairman's Report for Newsletter</p>	<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. 	
<p>24/796 Respond to Communications as the Chairman may direct</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
<p>24/797 Attend to any other business at the Chairman's discretion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Freeland kindly agreed to be co-opted onto the Parish Council as the 5th councillor with effect from the March'24 Meeting. • Clerk to prepare paperwork for JH to sign at the 13.03.24 Meeting when she will be co-opted onto the PC. 	<p>AW</p>
<p>24/798 Date of next meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 13 March 2024 • Clerk to change Village Hall Meeting Room Booking from 6 to 13 March 2024 	<p>AW</p>
<p>24/799 Meeting Closed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB declared the meeting closed at 21:00 hrs. 	

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Signed:

Date:

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Financial Statements
3. Expenditure against Budget 2022-2023
4. Draft Budget 2024-25
5. Planning Applications
6. Risk Assessment
7. SODC Report

Title	District Councillors' Report
Councillors	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Ben Manning
Parish	West Hagbourne Parish Council
Date	3 January 2024

[Booking link](#) for planning surgeries for town and parish councils

Corporate Plan Performance Report – Second Quarter

Preparation is underway for the next stage of South & Vale's Joint Local Plan

A preview of the Joint Local Plan consultation materials is available on both the [South Oxfordshire District Council website](#) and the [Vale of White Horse District Council website](#)

Innovative new planning policies to help South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse reach full potential and address challenges we face, are on the local agenda – and you'll soon be able to have your say.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are preparing to launch a second round of consultation in January to develop our new Joint Local Plan to 2041.

The Joint Local Plan will help the councils determine planning applications, set out how and where new housing developments should take place, set standards for developments such as carbon and energy efficiency requirements, and guide what infrastructure is needed across the districts.

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The next public consultation will ask for people's thoughts on proposed approaches across various policy areas, from reducing carbon emissions and nature recovery, to protecting and enhancing local heritage, meeting community infrastructure and transport needs, affordable housing, jobs and economic opportunities, and more. New policy areas which previous local plans haven't covered include policies to protect valued landscapes, tranquil places and dark skies.

Backed by extensive feedback gathered in 2022, as well as a suite of new studies and the latest industry research, the councils are proposing to reduce the number of new houses needed each year, improve minimum standards for water and energy efficiency, increase biodiversity and the number of affordable houses developments need to deliver, and more.

The first Joint Local Plan consultation received over 2,500 responses through a new interactive platform, for which the councils were announced a finalist in a national award for creating an interactive, digital-first approach in planning.

This innovation will continue in the new consultation, where the councils will be using a new digital engagement platform for people to read easy-to-understand summaries and share their feedback, or delve into the details of the draft policies. This will be as well as holding events and providing paper copies in libraries for those who prefer to get involved in more traditional formats.

A direct link to the Joint Local Plan Consultation document is <https://jlp.southandvale.gov.uk>/A direct link to the Emerging Policies Map is <https://jlp.southandvale.gov.uk/pages/policies-map>

Neighbourhood Planning Resources

In November SODC delivered an online presentation on neighbourhood planning for Town and Parish councils. If you or any of your town or parish councils missed the presentation, it is [available to watch here](#), alongside further useful information on the value of neighbourhood planning and what support is available.

Solar power in Wallingford

At the end of last year, Wallingford Sports Trust officially opened its new solar panels and batteries installation thanks in part to more than £40,000 of our grant funding.

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Following a huge increase in electricity costs which threatened the future of the Sport Park, they took urgent action. This has resulted in the installation of 130 solar panels, eight batteries and an enormous reduction in energy consumption, expected to save them between £25,000 to £50,000 per year in the future. The energy created by the solar panels is enough to power five houses every day and is expected to make carbon savings of 28 tonnes per year!

We were very pleased to be able to contribute to this major energy-saving project to help keep the sports park going for years to come. You can find out more about this fantastic project, and other case studies, on the [South Oxfordshire improving energy efficiency webpage](#)

National Landscapes

All designated “Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty” (AONBs) in England and Wales have been renamed as ‘National Landscapes’. The new name reflects their national importance and the vital contribution they make to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis.

This means our local AONBs will now be known as the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and The Chilterns National Landscape. You can find out more about the name change and the National Landscapes’ vision on the [National Landscapes website](#)

Developer contributions

In October 2023, our two districts transferred and released over more than two-and-a-half million pounds in infrastructure funding to provide a boost to our communities.

South transferred £908,127 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions to town and parish councils to help support new development in the area. Since April, a further £115,557 of Section 106 funding has been released to relevant council departments, town or parish councils or local organisations towards improving community facilities for the benefit of current and future residents of the district.

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To find out more about the council's [CIL spending](#) and [applying for S106 funding](#) please visit our website

National Planning Fee Increases

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities implemented planning fees increases on 6 December 2023. The Government expects the fee increase to result in increased investment in the planning service and lead to an improved service.

The new regulations will do the following:

- Increase planning application fees by 35% for applications for major development and 25% for all other applications.
- Introduce an annual indexation of planning applications fees, capped at 10%, from 1 April 2025.
- Remove the fee exemption for repeat applications (the 'free-go'). An applicant will still be able to benefit from a free-go if their application was withdrawn or refused in the preceding 12 months, subject to all other conditions for the free-go being met.

If the Council does not determine non-major applications within 16 weeks (was 26 weeks), the applicant can seek a refund of their fee.