

Minutes of the meeting of South Hinksey Parish Council held at South Hinksey Village Hall on Monday 7th February 2022

Present: Christine Chater, Linda Goodhead, Patricia Jones (Vice-Chair) and Janet Lester.
Cllr Bob Johnston (OxonCC) and Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk)

Other attendees: None.

Time commenced: 7.00pm

Procedural items

21/172. Apologies

Michael Cochrane (Chairman), Cllr Debby Hallett (VoWHDC) and Cllr Emily Smith (VoWHDC).

21/173. Declarations of interest

All members declared an interest in relation to the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and the A34 Improvement Project.

21/174. Public questions, comments or representations

None.

21/175. Minutes of the last ordinary meeting

The Council **agreed** the minutes of the January 2022 meeting subject to a correction to minute ref 21/153a that the statement "the new garage would be as high as a large house" had been made by LG, not CC.

The Vice-Chair initialled the correction and signed the minutes on each page.

Action: Clerk to publish signed minutes on website

Business items

21/176. Financial report

The Council **noted** the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring report up to the end of January 2022 presented by the Clerk in his capacity as Responsible Financial Officer.

The Council **agreed** to the Clerk's request that the Council increase the figure for Office and supplies from £250 to £350 due to the fact that the costs of six sets of Clerk's quarterly expenses were likely to fall in 2021-22, rather than the usual four.

Signed: Mike Cochrane

Date: Monday 7th March 2022

21/177. Finance – payments and receipts

a) Payments

The Council **approved** the following payments:

Reason	Amount	Payee	Power to act
Grounds maintenance 2021	£5,316.00	Oxford Direct Services Trading Ltd	s214 LGA 1972 s96 HA 1980

The Council agreed to draw Laura Harlock's attention to the difference between the invoice and her quotation. **Action: Clerk**

CC and LG signed the payment and initialled the supporting paperwork.

Action: Clerk to make payment to Oxford Direct Services Trading Ltd via Faster Payments

CC and LG also signed a cheque for £200 to Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice in respect of the grant approved at the last meeting [minute ref 21/160].

Action: Clerk to send payment to Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice

b) Receipts

The Clerk notified the Council of the following receipt which had appeared on the Council's December bank statement:

Reason	Amount	Payer
Forestry Commission grant 2021/22	£277.80	Rural Payments Agency

21/178. County Councillor's report

BJ reported that OxonCC would approve the next day a 4.99% increase in Council Tax for 2022-23. This was made up of three elements: the 1.99% maximum annual increase permitted by central government plus an extra 2% and an extra 1% allowed by central government for adult social care.

BJ also reported that OxonCC will be seeking a new Chief Executive. He reported that OxonCC would the next day vote to dissolve its partnership with Cherwell District Council, so OxonCC's current Chief Executive Yvonne Rees will return to Cherwell District Council.

BJ said that OxonCC will appoint Stephen Chandler, the current Director of Adult Social Care, as Interim Chief Executive.

LG asked BJ if he was aware of any specific funding for Platinum Jubilee celebrations and BJ said he was not aware of any special funding being made available by central government to local councils for this purpose.

BJ left the meeting before any planning application was discussed.

21/179. 20mph speed limits

JL proposed that the Council submit a request to OxonCC for the speed limit on roads in the village be reduced to 20mph.

The Council **agreed** and **instructed** the Clerk to submit a request, if possible, that the 20mph increase apply from the entrance to the village at the mini-roundabout, rather than from the two separate starts to the existing 30mph limit on different roads. **Action: Clerk**

BJ undertook to send the Clerk an email supporting the request.

Signed: Mimi Cochrane

Date: Monday 7th March 2022

21/180. District Councillors' report

DH and ES had sent their apologies as well as a written report, which had been circulated in advance.

21/181. Planning applications

- a) **Westwood Country Hotel, Hinksey Hill (Kennington parish): Demolition of existing hotel and associated outbuildings and erection of five detached dwellings [P21/V3544/FUL] [Consultation deadline: Wednesday 9th February 2022].**

The Council **instructed** the Clerk to object to the application on grounds relating to the Green Belt and VoWHDC's own Design Guide, and to support the Planning Officer's pre-application advice refusing any increase to the maximum volume, height or number of detached houses proposed. **Action: Clerk**

- b) **Planning Enforcement briefing**

LG had attended a briefing on 27th January for town and parish councils on VoWHDC and SODC's new Planning Enforcement Statement. She reported that what had come across to her was less what the Planning Enforcement Team would do than what it would not do.

- c) **Update**

Church Close: Installation of Pole [P22/V0021/T28] The Vice-Chair reported that she had written to BT Openreach wrote about the proposed pole, which had been shown on the map provided as if it were to be placed in the middle of the green.

The company had clarified that the new pole was to be placed right alongside the existing pole.

The Vice-Chair observed that, at 11m, the new pole would be very high indeed but the need for improved broadband in the village was very great.

21/182. Correspondence

The Clerk brought three matters to the Council's attention:

- a) The East West Railway Company had invited the Council to nominate a representative to join a new Local Representatives Group for Oxford & Surrounding Areas.
No one expressed interest in taking on the role.
- b) VoWHDC's Leigh Travers had asked the Council for information about areas that suffer with flooding as a result of either highway drainage or public sewer flooding. The caveat is that the flooding must be attributed to surface water connections into either of the public sewer systems.
The Clerk had forwarded the request to the Vice-Chair, who said she had forwarded it in turn to Adrian Porter.
- c) VoWHDC's Waste Team had written to parish councils in connection with Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean, which will be running from Friday 25th March until Sunday 10th April, but pointing out the team's services are available all year round.

Action: Clerk to forward information to JL; Hill councillors to consider whether there would be interest among Hill residents

Signed: Mine Cashin

Date: Monday 7th March 2022

21/183. Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Vice-Chair said there was nothing to report apart from the update circulated via Shinfo on 1st February in which the Environment Agency (EA) said it will submit its planning application for the scheme "shortly".

The Council **agreed** to seek another meeting with the EA. **Action: Vice-Chair**

21/184. Oxford-Cambridge Arc/A34 Improvement Project

The Clerk reported that ES had offered to send the Council a note in advance of tonight's meeting explaining what the project was considering and what it might possibly deliver – if necessary, through a Zoom session with interested councillors. However, he said he had not received a note from ES. **Action: Clerk to chase ES**

21/185. Banking

The Clerk reported that he has received some helpful communications from Unity Trust Bank and he believes it now has everything it should require to complete the processing of the Council's application to open a new account.

21/186. Burial ground

The Chairman had advised the Clerk that the Council should specify resin bound aggregate rather than black tarmac for the new hard surface.

Action: Clerk to inform the CDS Group of the Council's preference

21/187. Community woodland

Members signed a card thanking Maggie Rawcliffe for her help with developing and maintaining the woodland. **Action: Clerk to send off card with a letter once the Chairman has signed it**

The Council **appointed** JL as a member of the Woodland Committee.

CC had circulated a draft of a woodland specification earlier in the day. **Action: Clerk to send the specification to Laura Harlock of Oxford Direct Services**

21/188. Community Infrastructure Levy

The Clerk advised the Council that the amount of money in the Community Infrastructure restricted reserve was definitely sufficient to replace the two noticeboards outside the Village Hall and the one on the Hill but he was waiting for the Village Hall Committee's response as to whether it wanted to replace its noticeboard outside the Village Hall and, if so, what sort of replacement noticeboard it wanted.

CC advised that the new Hill noticeboard should be in two parts, one locked and one open, each capable of displaying four sheets of A4.

Action: Clerk to place order once Village Hall Committee has replied

21/189. Maintenance issues

The Clerk asked the Council if it wished to change the maintenance specification and the Council agreed it did not.

Action: Clerk to publish specification and invite quotations

Signed: Mimi Cochran

Date: Monday 7th March 2022

21/190. Traffic issues

LG had proposed and the Council had **agreed** to take this item after the County Councillor's report.

The Vice-Chair reported on OxonCC's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan 5 webinar for town and parish councils that she had attended on 1st February. She said she thought it was a very ambitious strategy and gave as an example the target for reducing car journeys by 25% by 2030.

She had raised three issues: firstly, the low level of rural bus services; secondly, the condition of the Devil's Backbone, which makes it less attractive to walk or cycle between the village and the City; thirdly, the frequent problems on the A34 which no longer acts as a by-pass for Oxford.

She thought there was little in the proposals that would be of benefit to this parish or rural areas generally. BJ did not disagree. He said the Plan would aim to reduce short journeys within and between urban areas.

Action: Vice-Chair to write to most senior officer reiterating the points she made at the webinar

LG and CC expressed concern about the ending of bus services on Hinksey Hill. BJ recommended that the Council write to Cllr Tim Bearder, the Cabinet member responsible for bus services. **Action: Clerk**

The Council **appointed** LG as its Parish Transport Representative so that she could attend the meeting of Parish Transport Representatives on its behalf on 9th February.

Actions: Clerk to notify OxonCC; Clerk to forward details to LG

21/191. Email addresses

JL, CC and LG all agreed to try to establish email accounts using the webmail addresses created by Town and Parish Council Websites.

CC asked the Clerk to send her details of her webmail address. **Action: Clerk**

The Council instructed the Clerk to ensure the emails on the Council's old gmail account were not lost. **Action: Clerk**

21/192. Feedback from members of the public

None.

Time concluded: 8.53pm

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Monday 7th March 2022

Signed: 

Date: Monday 7th March 2022