

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

Present: Michael Cochrane (Chairman), Linda Goodhead, Patricia Jones (Vice-Chair) and Janet Lester.
Cllr Bob Johnston (OxonCC), Cllr Emily Smith (VoWHDC) and Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk)

Other attendees: None.

Time commenced: 7.00pm

Procedural items

21/193. Apologies

Christine Chater and Cllr Debby Hallett (VoWHDC).
The Council **accepted** Christine Chater's reason for absence.

21/194. 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.
The Vice-Chair declared an interest in relation to the Arts and Crafts grant application.

21/195. Public questions, comments or representations

None.

21/196. Minutes of the last ordinary meeting

The Council **agreed** the minutes of the February 2022 meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes on each page. **Action: Clerk to publish signed minutes on website**

Business items

21/197. Financial report

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

21/198. Finance – payments and receipts

a) Payments

The Council **approved** the following payments:

Reason	Amount	Payee	Power to act
Detailed burial layout plan	£1,182.00	Cemetery Development Services Ltd	s214 LGA 1972

Signed: _____



Date: Monday 4th April 2022

Reason	Amount	Payee	Power to act
Maintenance of woodland, mowing of former General Elliott car park, mowing for fête	£2,442.00	Oxford Direct Services Trading Ltd	s10 OSA 1906 s137 LGA 1972
Annual membership subscription	£150.00	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils	s143 LGA 1972

The Chairman and LG initialled the supporting paperwork and the Council **agreed** that all three payments should be made via internet banking, if CC agreed.

Action: Clerk to contact CC

The Clerk advised the Council that following last week's announcement of the local government pay scales for 2021-22 the final salary payment of this financial year would need to be recalculated.

The Council **agreed** to instruct the Clerk to cancel the existing monthly standing order, calculate the correct amount of the final payment and put it to the Chairman and one other signatory for approval. **Action: Clerk**

b) Receipts

The Clerk notified the Council of the following receipt since the Council's last meeting:

Reason	Amount	Payer
VAT refund 2021-22 Q3	£104.35	HMRC

21/199. County Councillor's report

BJ reported that the day after the Council's last meeting OxonCC did approve the 4.99% increase in Council Tax for 2022-23 that he had predicted and that it did dissolve its partnership with Cherwell District Council: Stephen Chandler is now OxonCC's Interim Chief Executive and Anita Bradley is its interim Returning Officer.

BJ has received communications from parishioners about the loss of the Hinksey Hill bus service and has discussed the issue with Layla Moran MP, who is trying to persuade the bus company to send one of its Abingdon routes via Hinksey Hill instead of the A34.

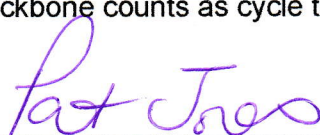
CC is seeking a meeting at County Hall with Cllr Tim Bearder.

CC had asked the Chairman to ask BJ about a weight limit for Hinksey Hill. BJ said he thought no one in Highways is taking responsibility for the review of traffic calming measures. BJ offered to contact Owen Jenkins, Director of Growth and Economy.

JL asked about repairs to potholes in the village that seem to have lasted less than six months. The potholes are in fact bigger than before. BJ said he will take up the matter.

The Vice-Chair asked BJ about the Devil's Backbone. She and JL had walked the Devil's Backbone with the new Parish Path Warden. She said the importance of the route has increased now that OxonCC has changed school catchment areas so village children are expected to go to St Ebbe's Church of England Primary School in the City, rather than North Hinksey Church of England Primary School.

BJ said the Footpaths section of OxonCC is dreadfully understaffed. BJ offered to get the Clerk a name of someone to contact. It is understood that part, but not all, of the Devil's Backbone counts as cycle track.

Signed: 

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BJ left the meeting before the Council discussed any planning application.

21/200. Traffic issues

The Vice-Chair said she had sent comments, as agreed, on OxonCC's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan 5.

LG had attended the Parish Transport Representatives meeting on 9th February on the Council's behalf and gave a report. She said the meeting started at 1.30pm and went on for 2 hours 50 minutes!

It was well attended by many parishes and they all had their issues with the buses. Some of the villages have been very badly hit in the recent reorganisation.

LG said she had a good chance to have her say about the Hinksey Hill situation.

Dave Harrison from OxonCC seemed to be answering the various questions.

According to him, OxonCC has no leverage on what the bus companies decide to do with their routes.

He said he knew in advance of our issues here and he told her that OxonCC has approached Thames Travel about the X3 diversion. The company is apparently immovable on this and will not contemplate the diversion down Hinksey Hill once an hour. The company says it will disrupt its route planning.

Strangely, at this important meeting which only occurs every six months, there was no representative from any bus company. LG said she understands the companies have attended in the past.

LG concluded that the Council must continue to pursue its case with the bus company.

21/201. District Councillors' report

ES introduced the monthly report from DH and herself, which had been circulated in advance. She answered questions about the Community Governance Review process.

21/202. Planning applications

a) St Michaels, Spring Copse: Parking lot for two cars under the common roof [P22/V0304/HH] [Consultation deadline: Tuesday 8th March 2022].

The Council **instructed** the Clerk to object to the application on the basis of the previous planning decision and inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

Action: Clerk

21/203. Correspondence

The Clerk brought two items to the Council's attention:

- a) CPRE (formerly the Campaign to Protect Rural England) Oxfordshire has invited the Council to send representatives to a workshop "What's next for the Oxford Green Belt?" on Tuesday afternoon 5th April, in Sandford Village Hall.

LG said she would think about attending the event. **Action: LG**

- b) VoWHDC and South Oxfordshire District Council have invited applications for four spaces on a national pilot to create Local Placemaking Plans that are intended to be a new, simpler approach to neighbourhood planning for which the two councils have made a successful joint application to the Government.

The Council **agreed** not to submit an application for the pilot.

Signed: _____



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21/204. Grant application

The Council **agreed** to make a grant of £75 to the South Hinksey Arts and Crafts Committee for an Arts and Crafts event in the Village Hall. The Clerk advised the Council it had the power to give such a grant under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Action: Clerk to identify to what account the Council should send the grant.

21/205. Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

ES said she understands the Environment Agency (EA) will submit its planning application very soon.

The Vice-Chair said she will write to the EA requesting a meeting as soon as it has submitted the planning application and she will organise a Village meeting. **Action: Vice-Chair**

21/206. Oxford-Cambridge Arc/A34 Improvement Project

ES had sent the Council a note in advance of tonight's meeting explaining what the A34 Improvement Project is considering and what it may possibly deliver. She understands there will be a consultation in the summer.

ES said she is attending a meeting of the Arc Leaders Group on Friday and VoWHDC has paused work relating to the Arc due to uncertainty about the Government's future plans.

21/207. Banking

The Clerk reported that the switch is now complete: HSBC has closed the Council's current account and transferred the balance and all the standing orders and direct debits to the Council's new account with Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk advised that it is now possible to change the bank mandate and to open a deposit account.

21/208. Burial ground

Nothing to report.

21/209. Community woodland

The Council **agreed** to delegate to the Woodland Committee the power to accept the quotation expected from Oxford Direct Services provided it does not exceed the sum of £1,750 by more than 10%.

21/210. Noticeboards

The Clerk had received a response from Adrian Porter, who chairs the Village Hall Committee, following a committee meeting on 28th February. Adrian Porter said the Committee:

- Is happy for the Council to replace its noticeboard (on the left of the gate) with something that will accommodate 2 x 4 A4 sheets, accepting that will be a (modest) increase on the current size
- Feels it would seem sensible, provided it is possible and practical, to replace the other noticeboard (on the right of the gate) at the same time to ensure they keep a similar look and feel

Signed: _____



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- Does not believe there is a need for the Village Hall to have its own noticeboard and it can share space with the community noticeboard, even given that board will need to be a little smaller to be accommodated
- Believes it will be good for the community noticeboard to have a protective front, but it doesn't need to be locked
- Welcomes the suggestion of oak noticeboards, as it would like something close in colour to the oak bench already in place – the committee is looking to stain the replacement handrail to match the bench
- Has no issue with the new noticeboards being attached to the wall as they are at the moment, but if additional holes are drilled it may be useful to fill the existing ones to prevent excess damp penetration
- Is grateful to the Council for offering to provide the replacement boards and for organising the fitting service.

Action: Clerk to place order

21/211. Grant award policy and procedure

The Council **approved** the amended procedure, updated to take account of the Section 137 limit for 2022-23.

The Vice-Chair said she would like to see a better link between the application form and the relevant sections of the guidance. **Action: Clerk**

21/212. Maintenance issues

The Council **agreed** to accept the quotation from Oxford Direct Services Trading Ltd for the 2022 maintenance contract.

The Clerk had drawn the Council's attention to the fact that Oxford Direct Services had left out of its quotation the cutting of the former General Elliott car park.

The Council **agreed** that the Clerk should arrange for the grass to be cut twice.

Action: Clerk

21/213. Remote and hybrid meetings

The Council **agreed** to pass the motion requested by the National Association of Local Councils:

"This Council supports the petition launched by the Association of Democratic Services Officers and Lawyers in Local Government on 5th January with regard to remote and hybrid meetings.

We agree to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling on the Government to change the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deem appropriate within agreed rules and procedures."

Action: Clerk

21/214. Email addresses

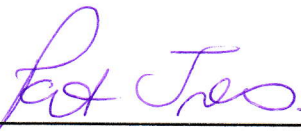
Nothing to report.

21/215. Feedback from members of the public

None.

Time concluded: 9.01pm

Signed: _____



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