

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

Present: Christine Chater, Michael Cochrane (Chairman), Linda Goodhead and Patricia Jones (Vice-Chair).
Other attendees: Cllr Bob Johnston (OxonCC) and Cllr Emily Smith (VoWHDC).
In attendance: Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk).

Time commenced: 7.00pm

The Chairman opened the meeting with a statement, which he introduced saying that he did not intend it to be included in the minutes, and that there would be no discussion about the statement.

The statement was that only a few days after the Council looking at the Civility and Respect Pledge it was something of a surprise that the Clerk and the Chairman had been accused in writing by a councillor not only of failing to follow the correct procedures but also that they had acted unlawfully.

The unlawfulness allegation was subsequently withdrawn without any apology for it having been made and it also became clear that the Chairman and the Clerk had properly followed the Council's laid down procedures.

The message from the Chairman was to ask that in future all councillors establish the facts before making serious professional allegations such as unlawfulness. The Chairman then suggested that an apology to the Clerk was in order, which he said could be made outside the meeting.

The Chairman then noted that a recent communication from a councillor to the Monitoring Officer had prompted a helpful reply from him which had in turn caused the Chairman to question the Council's procedure over the last few years whereby all members declared an equal interest on parish (or ward) wide issues such as the flood alleviation scheme.

In the light of this new doubt, the Chairman would write to the Monitoring Officer seeking his clarification as to how such issues should be treated under the new code.

Later, the Chairman commented on what was said at the previous meeting, where he had used the term husband and wife. He apologised for this and noted that he had referred himself for a session of equal opportunities training.

Procedural items

22/92. Apologies

Cllr Debby Hallett (VoWHDC).

22/93. 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.

22/94. Public questions, comments or representations

None.

Initialled:  _____

Date: Monday 5th December 2022

22/95. Minutes of the last ordinary meeting

The Council **agreed** the minutes of the October 2022 meeting. The Chairman then signed the minutes and initialled each page.

Action: Clerk to publish signed minutes on website

Business items

22/96. Financial report

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

The Council **agreed unanimously** to amend the Payments budget, as requested by the Clerk in his capacity as Responsible Financial Officer:

- to double the provision for Subsistence and travel to £200, and
- to increase the provision for the Website from £350 to £600.

Action: Clerk to update budget

22/97. Finance – payments and receipts

a) Payments

The Council **approved** the following payment:

Reason	Amount	Payee	Power to act
Website hosting and maintenance including email storage	£418.00	Parish Council Websites	s142 LGA 1972

The Chairman and CC signed the payment and initialled the supporting paperwork.

Action: Clerk to send payment to Town and Parish Council Websites

b) Receipts

The Clerk informed the Council that since the last ordinary meeting HMRC had refunded the VAT paid in the first half of the financial year, a total of £494.51.

22/98. County Councillor's report

BJ reported that OxonCC is preparing its 2023-24 budget but there is a great deal of uncertainty at the moment.

BJ said Network Rail had surprised OxonCC by requesting a one-year closure of the Botley Road, so OxonCC has decided to take a decision in principle to install the traffic filters but will not introduce them while the Botley Road is closed.

The Vice-Chair said she anticipated this would lead to more vehicles using the A34 to reach the station and the Westgate Centre via the Abingdon Road.

22/99. District Councillors' report

ES introduced the monthly report from her and DH, which the Clerk had circulated. She said the Botley West solar farm will be determined by the Secretary of State. A big challenge for VoWHDC is how to continue to fund its Community Hub.

Initialled: _____



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22/100. Planning applications

- a) **Highways, Hinksey Hill: Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 73 application to vary condition 6 (surface water drainage scheme) on application P20/V2039/FUL to reflect a revised drainage design (Demolition of existing detached residential property to be replaced with a new detached residential property) [P22/V2553/S73] [Consultation deadline: Saturday 19th November 2022]**

The Council **agreed** not to submit any comment to VoWHDC.

b) **The Firs**

The Council raised concerns with ES about the recent decision to allow sub-division of the plot at The Firs. ES said DH was familiar with the issue but she was less so.

c) **Responding to planning applications within the Oxford Green Belt**

LG attended a webinar on 7th October organised by CPRE Oxfordshire and asked a question about sub-division. She said Wheatley claimed to have ended the problem by adopting a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Council **instructed** the Clerk to include a Neighbourhood Plan item on the agenda of the January meeting. **Action: Clerk**

ES mentioned Baulking as an example of a small parish that had successfully developed a Neighbourhood Plan.

d) **Wrens Hobbit, Betty Lane**

LG and ES reported no date has been set for this application to be heard by Planning Committee.

LG asked that the issue regarding land belonging to National Highways be put on the agenda of the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

22/101. Correspondence

None.

22/102. Budget 2023-24

The Council **agreed** the proposals put forward by the Clerk. The Chairman said he would host the budget meeting. **Action: Clerk**

22/103. Community Governance Review

The Council noted the outcome of the Community Governance Review.

ES confirmed no other boundary change had been approved.

22/104. Traffic issues

a) **A34 new Lodge Hill slip roads**

BJ reported that the Lodge Hill planning application has been submitted but there is no date yet for Planning and Regulation Committee. BJ and CC are still seeking written confirmation of the weight limits protecting Hinksey Hill.

CC said she would be resigning from the Council at the conclusion of the meeting but believed it would be helpful if she could remain involved in the Council's work on

Initialled: _____



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this issue. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to CC, which was **approved unanimously**.

Action: Clerk to place on the agenda of the next meeting the creation of a Transport Committee

b) Botley Traffic Advisory Group

LG said she would attend the next meeting of the Botley Traffic Advisory Group on 9th November. **Action: LG**

22/105. Burial ground

The Clerk raised an issue about replacement of a headstone. The Vice-Chair suggested the Clerk write to the memorial mason saying the Council was minded to refuse the application but inviting him to put forward proposals for dealing with the excessive height of the headstone. **Action: Clerk**

22/106. Community woodland

The Clerk said he has requested a date and time for an annual site meeting with Oxford Direct Services but has not yet received a response.

22/107. Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Vice-Chair outlined the considerable amount of further information OxonCC had requested in August 2022 from the Environment Agency (EA) under Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

She explained that once the EA has submitted all of this additional information, OxonCC will run a 30-day consultation on the newly submitted information, before considering it alongside the rest of the planning application.

The Council **instructed** the Clerk to put an item on the agenda of the next meeting to re-appoint a Flood Alleviation Committee.

22/108. Oxford-Cambridge Arc/A34 Improvement Project

ES said she has heard nothing on either matter for several months.

22/109. Maintenance issues

The Vice-Chair offered to try to speak to the son or daughter of the residents of a property on Manor Road regarding overhanging trees that have made it impossible for pedestrians to use the pavement. **Action: Vice-Chair**

The Clerk said he had not been able to identify where there was an HGV sign missing at the entrance to the village.

The Council **unanimously agreed** three proposals from the Vice-Chair for additions to the draft maintenance specification for 2023 requiring the contractor to cut back brambles, etc. at the start of Manor Road; at the former location of the phone box, and near the church on St Lawrence Road. **Action: Clerk**

22/110. Dates of meetings for 2023

The Council **agreed** to defer to the next meeting the setting of a date for its 2023 Annual Meeting.

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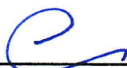
22/111. Feedback from members of the public

None.

Time concluded: 9.15pm

Signed: 

Date: Monday 5th December 2022

Initialed: 

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