

Sonning Common Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 18 February 2019 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mrs Diwell; Mr Fort; Mr Howe; Mr Kedge and Mr Rawlins. Also: Mr Collings (Parish Clerk), Mrs Varnes (Deputy Parish Clerk) and Mr Axel Fithen (Henley Standard).

- 19/136 Apologies for absence: Mrs Lewis; Mr Stoves; Mr Greenwood and Mr Rinta-Suksi No declarations. In the absence of Mrs Lewis and Mr Stoves, Mr Rawlins took the chair.
- 19/137 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders. Mrs Henderson of Wood Lane asked if the Council is planning to support 'the Climate Emergency' and was advised that it could be considered.
- 19/138 Police Matters – no input received.
- 19/139 Minutes of previous meetings:
139.01 Finance Committee held on 6 February 2019 - presented and approved.
139.02 Planning Committee held on 21 January 2019 - presented and approved.
139.03 Parish Council meeting held on 21 January 2019 - presented and approved.
- 19/140 County Councillor's Report – see Appendix A.
- 19/141 District Councillor's Report see Appendix B
- 19/142 Parish Clerk's Report – noted.
- 19/143 Memorial Hall Field Working Party (MHFWP) little to report beyond completion of the transfer.
- 19/144 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP) – Mr Howe reported that efforts are being made to find someone to take things on from Ben H-B..
- 19/145 Environment Working Party – work to clear dangerous trees from our woodland is complete.
- 19/146 Neighbourhood Plan Revision – Mr Fort reported that this is moving along and seeking volunteers to carry out surveys.
- 19/147 To agree funding of up to £1,800 for the acquisition and installation of a public access defibrillator and the associated training of volunteers. The meeting was advised that we have been offered a new device for nothing. It was resolved to accept the offer and hold onto the funds just in case needed.
- 19/148 Grant applications – to be advised of and to consider possible grant applications over the next few months – item deferred.
- 19/149 Co-option of new members. Mr Nick Shanagher and Mr Brian Giles both introduced themselves and their interest in serving on the council. It was resolved to co-opt both and they will sign declarations of acceptance of office before the next meeting.
- 19/150 Members were reminded of the timetable etc for May elections.
- 19/151 Matters for future agendas.

Meeting closed at 21.01. Next meeting: Monday 18 March 2019 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated:

Appendix A

REPORT TO SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL FEB 2019 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

BUDGET

1. COMMUNITIES TO BE OFFERED HELP WITH YOUTH SERVICES

Young people and their families in Oxfordshire are now set to benefit from improved community-run youth services if county councillors agree grant funding when they set the council's budget next week. Youth groups will be invited to bid in to a £1m fund over two years, with encouragement to find match-funding from their local communities. Feedback from residents points to strong support for improving community-run youth services, and this money would help existing projects expand and new ones get off the ground. By offering start-up funding, the council has already helped many community-run groups provide support for young children and families, and it is hoped the same could happen for youth services. Community-run youth services would complement the work of the county council's Children's Services department, which targets its resources at children at risk of abuse and neglect. This proposal has been made possible by better than expected Council Tax collection following growth in Oxfordshire.

2. COUNTY COUNCIL TO INVEST IN SCHOOLS, TRANSPORT AND STREETLIGHTING

Residents of Oxfordshire will see highway improvements, new school buildings and energy-efficient streetlighting thanks to a £1 billion investment over the next ten years as part of the county council's budget. However, the county council is also warning that funding pressure on services remains as demand for social care for vulnerable children and adults continues grow and continued financial prudence is required to meet those demands.

Transport schemes across the county are set for funding approval so the county council can improve journeys for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. Nearly £20m will be invested to increase the provision of school places for children with special needs in the county, including rebuilding Northfield School in Oxford with more pupil places.

Capital funding is for large one-off projects such as highway repairs or building work to assist the council meet its obligations, such as creating extra school places - as opposed to the normal revenue budget which covers funding for the costs of day-to-day services. Most of the funding for capital programme is made up of government funding and developer contributions, which cannot be used for any other purpose.

The proposed capital programme includes government funding through the Oxfordshire Growth Deal, agreed by all Oxfordshire councils. Elsewhere in the Capital Programme a £41m street lighting improvement programme continues to be part of the investment plan, with traditional lanterns to be replaced with more energy efficient LED lighting, saving money in the long-run. The ten-year capital programme is part of the council's proposed budget for next year, which has been put forward following public consultation. The proposals will be put before all councillors on 12 February 2019.

Pressure on funding for day-to-day council services continues as the council increases funding for to support of Oxfordshire's most vulnerable children and adults. There is also uncertainty about future government funding, which is making budget planning harder.

To make sure the growing number of children at risk of abuse and neglect are protected, the children's social care budget has increased annually. It was £46m in 2011 and is forecast to be £95m in 2022/23 – more than doubling in ten years.

The council's budget for adult social care could increase by £5m in 2019/20, with further annual increases reaching nearly £6m by 2022/23 to increase support for the growing number of older and disabled people.

Meanwhile planned redesign of the council around the changing needs of residents and communities will maintain or improve services, with investment in digital technology enabling us to save money in the process.

OCC is now reviewing the digital technology needed to make the council run more effectively and efficiently, including improving customer service by making it easier to access services online. The council has identified savings of £50m from changing the way services are delivered and has already started implementing these changes, including improving online 'self-service' HR and finance systems used by staff. As part of the partnership with Cherwell District Council, legal services for the two councils are being joined up.

OXFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY SURVEY IS LAUNCHED

People living, working and studying in Oxfordshire are being encouraged to help set the future direction of the county's health and wellbeing strategy. A draft strategy has been developed by Oxfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Board – the partnership between local NHS services, local councils and Healthwatch Oxfordshire. The board's joint working approach aims to improve everyone's health and wellbeing, but especially of those people who have health problems or are in difficult circumstances due to age or vulnerability. The strategy outlines the actions the board is proposing to take, but it now wants further input from the wider public. Feedback from previous public engagement, especially around the health and wellbeing of children and young people and older people was used in developing the document. The survey document and draft strategy is available at:

<https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/HealthWellbeing/consultationHome>

CASH BOOST FOR FUTURE OF TRANSPORT IN OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordshire's road users could see a technological revolution take place in the coming years that could involve important traffic information being used to help them to get around more easily thanks to a successful bid for £1.25m of Government funding.

The cash, which has been through the national GovTech Catalyst initiative towards work to transform the existing Oxfordshire traffic management system – ready for the Government's hoped-for introduction of connected vehicles by 2021 as well as other new mobility options, such as electric vehicles. Many people think of the new wave of transport in terms of cars.

However, connected vehicles – anything that can be linked up via the internet to a wider system – could mean vans, buses, lorries, motor or pedal cycles. Even wheelchairs could take advantage of new technology to get around more easily. Everyone

stands to benefit. Oxfordshire's money will pay for researching how data – of which there is lots and from varied sources – could be used to help manage traffic in the future.

MORE THAN 40,000 ROAD DEFECTS REPAIRED IN OXFORDSHIRE SINCE LAST WINTER

OCC's highways teams are out daily relentlessly resurfacing roads and pavements. They have been able to more work than last year thanks to the county council putting in extra cash over and above the normal budget in response to the problems caused during the last cold spell. Since January 2018 the council has repaired 40,117 defects. That's an average of 3,652 repairs a month which is quite colossal compared to what was needed during the same time period the year before – a total of 34,677 defects were repaired between Jan-Dec 2017. Due to severe weather last winter, pothole fixing peaked between February and May with nearly 18,000 being repaired. The county council this year invested an extra £10m in road repairs which has resulted in extra major resurfacing projects being completed as well as smaller, but no less important, repairs being completed across Oxfordshire.

WATCHDOG SAYS OXON HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES MORE JOINED UP

Significant work has been done to join up services across Oxfordshire that is already demonstrating improved outcomes for people, according to a follow-up review by the national regulator for health and social care published on Wednesday, January 9. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) found key improvements had been made eight months into an 18-month action plan that was agreed by Oxfordshire health and social care organisations after an initial review by the CQC in November 2017. Following the first review, a key priority for system leaders has been to work more closely together to plan and deliver health and social care services, particularly for older people.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SONNING COMMON

SONNING COMMON ROAD/BLOUNTS COURT ROAD

As previously reported, the section from Devil's Hill to the Coppid Hall crossroads was substantially patched during the first week of the year. Further good news is that it has been recommended for surface dressing in the next financial year. However, the section from the B481 to Devil's Hill requires more substantial repairs and such repairs are not included in the current budget. I am pressing for a review and a supportive email from the parish council confirming the importance of this road would be very helpful.

POND END ROAD SETTS

I understand the PC has now agreed to replace the setts with concrete kerbs and that an estimate is in progress. I remain pleased to match-fund using my Councillor Priority Fund up to the limits discussed.

GROVE ROAD, SONNING COMMON SALTING

I have been in contact with Sean Rooney (Service Lead, Highway Maintenance) and he has said he is not in a position to add Grove Road to the salting routes this year but will ensure it is considered as part of the route review in the summer.

COUNTY YOUTH PROVISION FUND

I can confirm both new and existing youth clubs will be able to bid for funding. I'll let the PC know as soon as the application process has been finalised.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXHIBITION

I was pleased to attend the Neighbourhood Plan exhibition on 2nd February and was impressed both by the quality of the exhibition and the number of attendees.

READE'S LANE, SONNING COMMON - S278 SITE ACCESS OPTIONS - SON 3/MHF

Subsequent to Cllr Rawlins' email, Eric Owens (Assistant Director – Growth & Place) has instructed his team to investigate the situation.

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APPENDIX B

District Councillor's Report February 2019

Best Places to Live Survey

Halifax sponsored Best Places to Live survey has rated South Oxfordshire top in the South East and 6th overall in the country. Up from 14th overall when the survey was last done in 2017. This is a great response considering the amount of extra housing and traffic the South East has had to take in the last few years.

£100,000 to tackle air quality issues

We've allocated £100,000 to help tackle air quality issues in our district. We're working on a number of projects including studies to install more electric charging points in our car parks and will be running an 'anti-idling' campaign to encourage drivers to switch off their engines whilst parked or waiting at traffic lights.

Funds have also been made available to support town and parish councils to address air quality issues including known trouble spots in Wallingford, Henley and Watlington.

If you know of a project that we could help fund, please contact the [environment health team](#).

env.health@southandvale.gov.uk

Brownfield registers

We've published details of all brownfield development sites in our districts that have full or outline planning permission. The register also includes sites that may be considered as appropriate for residential development.

You can view the brownfield land registers on our webpage at

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/brownfield-land-register>
Oxfordshire Plan 2050

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is the new public name for the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) and is being prepared as part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The team behind the plan have produced a summary of the stakeholder workshop they held in December. The summary gives details of how the organisations, charities and groups from across the county explored future trends that will affect the plan and what practical actions could be taken to address these issues.

You can read the summary here.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/i8xocky4e5uiu5d/Oxfordshire%20in%202050%20-%202018%20December%202018%20workshop%20report%20from%20WSP.pdf?dl=0>

Local Industrial Strategy

The Economic Development team has summarised OxLEP's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) to explain the implications the strategy will have for businesses and residents in our area.

The LIS is an ambitious strategy aimed at securing government and private sector investment that could benefit approximately 20 per cent of businesses in the South and Vale. This means that we will need to continue to support the remaining 80 per cent of businesses that are not in the science and technology sectors and have less than nine per cent growth in one year.

Crowmarsh consultation update

Thanks to everyone who filled in the survey about our new building. The survey is now closed and we received 266 responses. We will send the feedback to Ridge, our contractors, to help inform the design for the new building. We have also contacted Crowmarsh site's immediate neighbours and local parishes and communities to take part in a survey on the design of our new offices. These two consultations were open until 10 February and we will send the results over to Ridge.

We'll keep you up to date on the project, but if you have any questions, please contact Ben Coleman, our project lead at ben.coleman@southandvale.gov.uk

Cooking oil recycling

We've just introduced a new cooking oil recycling service for residents as part of our food waste collections.

Council Tax for 2019/20

The budget at SODC has now been set with a £5 increase in council tax for SODC. Therefore, the council tax rates based on a band "D" property for the individual parishes in the Sonning Common Ward are: -

Binfield Heath	£1,833.74
Eye & Dunsden	£1,881.37
Harpsden	£1,823.34
Shiplake	£1,825.85
Sonning Common	£1,882.60

This includes, Oxfordshire County Council, Police, Parish and District Council taxes.

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