

MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held on Wednesday, 1st December 2021

Meeting Number 21.374

Public Participation

A member of the public asked about the latest progress on the weir. DB highlighted that the Parish Council has sent a letter to local landowners requesting them to ensure they maintain their ditches, drains and watercourses and it was suggested this item was covered at the January 2022 Parish Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to place an update on the weir on the January 2022 Parish Council meeting agenda.

21.374.1 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Bohm (DB), Davis (SD) and Donne (HD) were all present. Councillors Mullane, Whitfield and Stafford-Allen sent their apologies prior to the meeting, which were accepted.

There were 4 members of the public present, including James Henderson (JH) and Roger Evans (RE), who attended in relation to the technology and oak tree footpath project updates respectively.

Councillor Nigel Simpson was also in attendance for the full meeting. Councillors David Hughes and Timothy Hallchurch sent their apologies.

21.374.2 Declarations of Interest

DB declared an interest in planning application 21/03909/TCA (Odd Tymes, Northampton Road). Although not present it was also noted that RSA had an interest in planning application 21/03897/TCA (Robins Folly, Mill Lane).

21.374.3 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd November 2021 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd November 2021 were discussed with no changes required.

The minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd November 2021 were then moved by DB and seconded by SD. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to present minutes to Chair to sign, then file and upload to the web.

21.374.4 To Note: It is noted that donations discussed at 1st September 2021 Parish Council meeting relating to Village Hall heating fund (minute ref: 21.370.13) and Village Hall hire for monthly coffee mornings (minute ref: 21.370.14) were approved in line with the Weston on the Green Parish Council Donations Policy. The Council used powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act in order to grant these donations. (DB)

The Council noted that donations discussed at 1st September 2021 Parish Council meeting relating to Village Hall heating fund (minute ref: 21.370.13) and Village Hall hire for monthly coffee mornings (minute ref: 21.370.14) were approved in line with the Weston on the Green Parish Council Donations Policy. It was noted that the Council used powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act in order to grant these donations.

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21.374.5 For Information: Chairs Comment

DB thanked Councillors for all their support following illness over the past few weeks, all essential business was covered comprehensively, and the budget being developed following the Neighbourhood Plan work.

Whilst many projects are currently ongoing DB was very pleased that the purchase of the playing field and spinney had reached its conclusion and is now owned by the Parish Council.

DB went on to thank the Councils planning team for the complicated work carried out on numerous planning applications this year and thanked SD for agreeing to speak at the planning committee meeting to be held on 2nd December 2021 where the Ben Jonson applications will be discussed.

Finally, DB noted the follow up correspondence received from MP John Howells following the parish meeting on 11th October 2021.

21.374.6 For Information: Clerk report (Clerk)

The clerk highlighted a report provided to the Council which confirmed that the £1,000 donation payment from the Parish Council to the Village Hall for a heating project has been paid.

The Parish Council is still awaiting a response from the technical officer regarding the verge degradation on Bletchington Road, the Highways Inspector is chasing this up again for us.

On the advice of Oxfordshire County Council letters from the Parish Council, have been sent to known landowners within the parish highlighting the need to maintain ditches, watercourses, pipes and drains with the aim of reducing potential flooding incidents.

The repairs to the footpath entrance between North Land and Westlands Avenue were completed by the contractor, Oxford Edens, on 16th November 2021 and grass growth will be monitored going forwards.

Further information is being provided by Cherwell District Council to clerks on Operation London Bridge (relating to the death of the monarch or senior member of royal family) and the updated plans will be circulated following the meeting.

Finally, KFC have been contacted to complain about the level of KFC litter found on B430 and to request support with the issue - we are awaiting a response.

Action: Clerk to circulate Operation London Bridge report to Councillors following updated information after the Duke of Edinburgh's passing.

21.374.7 For Information: Oak Tree footpath update (Roger Evans/RE)

RE presented a report to the Council regarding the latest developments on the Oak Tree footpath. Planning consent for the new proposed footpath was granted on 15th November 2021 following a supporting report by an arboriculturalist who was appointed by the Parish Council. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways objected to our application on numerous grounds, all of which were dismissed in the case officer's report. Three additional points were raised by Cherwell District Council (CDC):

1. The Council's tree officer advises that installation of the existing footpath has likely caused root damage and asks that if/when this structure is removed the project arboriculturalist examines the extent of root damage and advise on soil amelioration to mitigate damage.
2. No change will be needed to the S106 Agreement for the Southfield development in replacing the path.
3. Planning consent for demolition will not be required.

Costs: RE highlighted the costs currently incurred by the Parish Council as:

- £550 + VAT - Sylva Consultancy (Arboriculturalist)
- £142 - planning application fee

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Quotes are being obtained for the demolition of the existing footpath and also for the construction of the new footpath. The cost of the supervision, on behalf of the Parish Council including an arborist to advise on repairing any damage caused to the tree by the concrete structure, will also need to be considered.

Adoption of replacement path: while the Parish Council has agreed to adopt the replacement path as a last resort, there is no reason why OCC cannot adopt the path.

Enforcement action: We have asked CDC whether they intend to take enforcement action over damage to the oak tree, and whether due process has been followed as regards the approved drawings for what has been built. The developer's drawings on behalf of the local highway authority show a standard kerb detail. What has been built bears no resemblance to this.

To note the oak is subject to a Tree Preservation Order and is registered as a 'Notable Tree' on the Ancient Tree Inventory:

<https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/treesearch/tree?treeid=23315&from=3523&v=1938727&ml=map&z=16&nwLat=51.8684467>

Councillor Nigel Simpson agreed to take this issue forward with OCC directly and will find out the name of one person at OCC to deal with directly over this matter. Councillor Simpson will also try and arrange a meeting with John Rawlings-Hall (Arboricultural Officer at OCC) to discuss the matter in situ at the oak tree. He will also discuss the issue with various cross party County Councillors.

RE also suggested we contact the Hayden Homes Administrator to inform them of our intentions. RE will also inform the Parish Council if he receives any information from CDC on whether they intend to take (i) enforcement action over damage to the tree and (ii) whether due process was followed with what has been built.

DB passed on a huge thank you, on behalf of the Council, to Roger Evans for all work done over past year and support provided to the Council and to Councillor Simpson for his ongoing assistance. The Council are extremely grateful for all the guidance, advice and actions undertaken by many different parties regarding this issue.

21.374.8 For Information: Technology Advisory Group update (James Henderson)

JH provided an update on the full fibre project. We are reportedly still in the "Final Review" (3rd stage) of the DCMS governments review process and apparently, we have been "a few weeks" away from starting for three rounds of "a few weeks". JH confirmed only 4 projects have been approved in Oxfordshire since the voucher scheme ended in mid-March, we are reportedly project 6.

The Oxfordshire top-up scheme is now closed to new applicants, as the money has been used up. Weston on the Green should still benefit as we submitted the application long before it was closed. We won't know how much we have been given until government (DCMA) gives approval and we start pledging. The scheme was so successful that Oxfordshire is looking to secure more funding from central Government for a new one.

JH also provided an update on the planning proposal for the mobile base station. He has now contacted MBNL (EE's owner) to request information on their ability to raise their existing antennas. Neither Harlequin (project managers) nor Cellnex (designers) were technically useful. Vodafone and O2 users will benefit, so we want this to go ahead even if EE doesn't get improved as a result. For information:

- O2 includes: Giffgaff, Sky mobile, Tesco mobile
- Vodafone includes: Lebara mobile

If planning applications 21/03580/TEL & 21/03752/F are approved DB suggested placing an article highlighting the proposal and who will benefit in the next Village News.

Action: If planning applications 21/03580/TEL & 21/03752/F are approved Clerk, with JH support, to place article in Village News detailing what it is for and who it will benefit. Also, to go on other media channels.

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21.374.9 For Information: District and County Councillor updates

Councillor Simpson mentioned he had attended a meeting in the village with the Traffic Advisory Group and Dave Catling (Traffic & Road Safety Technical Officer at Oxfordshire County Council) to discuss reducing the speed limit on B430 and associated traffic calming measures. With regards to a weight limit for the B430, he indicated this would be difficult to implement as the B430 is a relief road for the M40/A34. However, he added that a full countywide HGV network is to be investigated, as the issue over HGVs through many Oxfordshire areas is of concern to many Parish Councils.

Councillor Simpson also highlighted the discussions regarding a potential merger between Kidlington and Gosford & Water Eaton Parish Councils and proposals to close Sandy Lane in Kidlington due to railway usage and accidents at the level crossing.

21.374.10 For Information: Purchase of Playing Field & Spinney update (HD)

HD confirmed that the Parish Council received confirmation from our solicitors, Spratt Endicott, that the purchase of the playing field and spinney was completed on 18th November 2021. The solicitor is now progressing the details with Land Registry.

21.374.11 Resolution To Approve Parish Council budget for FY 2022-2023 (HD)

HD presented the budget for FY 2022-23 and confirmed that, subject to receiving the estimated tax base for the parish, there would be no anticipated increase in precept request from the Parish Council.

Prior to the meeting the budget document had been circulated to the Finance Advisory Group for comment and approval.

The clerk confirmed that the Council is waiting for the notification of the estimated tax band information from Cherwell District Council, which is expected to be received week commencing 6th December 2021. The budget will then be updated with the information and circulated to Councillors.

Cherwell District Council have confirmed they would like the precept request to be submitted before 14th January 2022, approval for the precept request will be included on 5th January 2022 Parish Council meeting agenda.

The resolution to approve the Parish Council budget for FY 2022/23 was proposed by HD and seconded by SD. It was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to upload approved PC Budget FY 2022-23 to the PC website.

Action: Clerk to add Precept request to January 2022 agenda and provide update on estimated tax base to Councillors when received.

21.374.12 Resolution To Approve the following invoices for payment (HD)

HD requested approval of the following invoices detailed in the table below.

PC Ref	Payee	Purpose	Total (incl VAT)	Budget Line	Amount Remaining in 2021-22 Budget
238	Robin Stafford Allen	Playing field shed new lock & keys	£33.50	Works-Playing Field & Spinney/Playing Field Maintenance	£300.00
239	WotG Memorial Village Hall	Village Hall hire for PC meetings (Jan-March 22)	£45.00	Meeting Costs/Hire of hall for meetings	£215.00

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240	Sylva Consultancy	Arboricultural Method Statement, North Lane - Oak Tree alternative footpath	£660.00	NP Initiatives /Upgrading of footpath & cycle paths	£1,500.00
241	Oxford Edens	North Lane footpath entrance repairing and re-seeding labour	£384.00	Contingency/COMF Grant Funding	£324.00 (incl VAT) - COMF Grant Received £600.00 (excl VAT)
242	SLCC	Membership Annual Renewal 2022	£144.00	Subscriptions/SLCC	£140.00

The resolution to approve the invoices detailed in the table was proposed by HD and seconded by DB. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to update invoice log with approvals.

Action: Clerk to initiative request for payments from Councillors and ensure payments authorised.

21.374.13 For Discussion: Discuss and agree recommendations from the Planning Group (HD)

Key planning applications on the planning report (updated 1st December 2021) were discussed by the Council.

Building Applications:

Decision Received – Permitted:

21/00516/F - Grass Verge Adj to North Lane – Formation of Footpath at top of North Lane – Parish Council Application – 20.10.21 extra work shown on website.

21/03289/DISC - Southfield Farm - Discharge of condition 4 - Parking and condition 9 Bin Store from planning 17/01458/OUT.

Decision Received – Rejected:

21/02803/F – Lilywood House, 1 North Lane - Erection of a 5 ft featherboard fence at the front and side of property, to supplement existing yew and bay hedge (which, in parts, is considerably higher).

Awaiting Decision:

21/01580/F - Kemsley Farm Northampton Road - Change of use of land from agriculture to equestrian use. Erection of a building to provide stabling for 36 ponies with associated facilities. **Commented - Going to Committee 12/1/22**

21/00873/F – Kemsley Farm, Northampton Road –Conversion of barn to form a single dwelling house and associated works. – This has been altered to remove extension. **Commented**

21/03580/TEL & 21/03752/F Telecommunications Mast, towards A34. - The Installation of 3 x CTIL antenna at 26.7m on re used existing headframe. • The relocation of 3 x EE antenna at 19.0m and 1 x EE 0.6m HP Dish antenna at 20.0m on a new face frame on the tower at 20.4m. **Commented**

21/03382/F - Oakwood House, 3 Village Farm Court - Replace conservatory with single storey extension and remove a roof-light to rear elevation and add a dormer window. **Commented**

Ben Jonson Applications:

21/02472/F & 21/02473/LB – Ben Jonson Inn – Erection of two bed bungalow in pub garden. Access through car park and hole in Westlands Avenue wall. **Commented - Going to Committee 2/12/21**

It was confirmed that SD will speak for ten minutes on behalf of the Parish Council at the planning committee meeting to be held on 2nd December 2021 in relation to these two applications.

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21/03591/F - Ben Jonson Inn Northampton Road - Relocation of children's play equipment/memorial garden.

Commented

New Applications:

None

New Appeals:

None

Tree Works

New Applications:

21/03758/TCA - The School, North Lane

21/03909/TCA – Odd Tymes, Northampton Road

21/03897/TCA – Robins Folly, Mill Lane

Action: HD/Clerk to send appropriate planning replies to Cherwell District Council.

21.374.14 For Information: Works update

DB highlighted that it was not possible to provide a playground and works report for this meeting due to illness.

DB went on to add that RSA has been in communication with RAF Weston on the Green to request that aircraft do not fly so low over the village. The Airforce has replied highlighting that approaches to the airfield are chosen which are safer for the aircraft and parachutists. The RAF confirmed that pilots make every effort to avoid direct overflight of residences, but sometimes may come close if that is the safest path on the day. The pilots have been briefed again to make every effort to avoid proximity to properties, however highlighted that there may be occasions where it is simply not possible for them to do so for reasons of safety.

21.374.15 For Information: Traffic Advisory Group update

In NM's absence it was confirmed that the Traffic Advisory Group had met with Dave Catling (Traffic & Road Safety Technical Officer at Oxfordshire County Council) to discuss reducing the speed limit on B430 and potential associated traffic calming measures.

Dave Catling confirmed the project would be added to the list of areas requiring a proposal. A speed survey will be required on B430 and depending on costs, approval will be requested at a future Parish Council meeting.

The Traffic Advisory Group will hold a meeting to discuss the next steps and will feed back to the Parish Council in due course.

Action: NM to investigate costs and timing of a speed traffic survey to be undertaken on B430 and report back to the Parish Council.

21.374.16 For Information: Affordable Housing Update (DB)

DB informed the Council that she had been contacted by Ewan Stewart who has taken over from Frances Evans as Housing Strategy & Development Team Leader at Cherwell District Council. He highlighted that whilst there were eleven households in the village who indicated an interest in the recent affordable housing need survey, only four of those were on the housing register.

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Ewan very kindly offered to provide some additional information to see if we can increase that number and will put together some information for the next Village News edition and the Council’s other communication sites.

Action: Clerk/DB to include information on Housing Register/Affordable Housing in January 22 edition of the Village News.

21.374.17 For Discussion: Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (DB)

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill is a private members' bill with cross-party support of more than 110 MPs and a growing number of local councils around the country. It would enshrine in law a commitment to deliver policy and action in line with the latest science - and with our government’s own ambitions. It is the only proposed legislation which addresses the interconnected crises in climate and nature, with annual legally binding targets to keep us on track.

Resolution To Approve that Weston on the Green Parish Council will:

1. Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.
2. Write to our local MP urging them to support the Bill, or thanking them for doing so; and
3. Notify the Oxfordshire CEE Bill Alliance (Zero Hour Oxfordshire) of this motion by signing the Open Letter: <https://www.ceebillallianceoxon.co.uk>

DB presented information on the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. A discussion was held between Council members with opposing views over the support of this agenda item.

DB proposed that the resolution vote be deferred as there were only three councillors present and ideally a fuller discussion with additional councillors would be beneficial. This was agreed by the other councillors.

Action: Clerk to place Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill discussion on January 2022 PC meeting agenda.

21.374.18 Next Parish Council Meeting Date: 5th January 2022, 7.30pm

Meeting Closed: 21.27

Minutes Approved:.....Dated.....
