

MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held on Wednesday, 6th July 2022

Meeting Number 22.383

Note for information: Cherwell District Council – CDC, Oxfordshire County Council - OCC

Public Participation

Patsy Parsons confirmed that the Neighbours Natter coffee mornings would resume in September.

22.383.1 To Receive: Apologies for non-attendance

Councillors Bohm (DB), Davis (SD), Stafford Allen (RSA), Rosser (CR), Mullane (NM) and Miller (JM) were all present.

Councillor Nigel Simpson (OCC), Councillor Gemma Coton (CDC) and Councillor Angus Patrick (CDC) were also in attendance for the meeting.

Two members of the public were in attendance, including Roger Evans (RE).

22.383.2 To Receive: Declarations of Interest

SD and RSA declared declarations of interest in relation to planning applications 22/01291/F & 22/01292/LB (Westfield Farm Cottage, North Lane) and 22/01778/F (Robin's Folly, Mill Lane) respectively.

RSA also declared an interest in the Village Hall in relation to the request for a donation.

22.383.3 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th June 2022 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th June 2022 were discussed with an amendment required from JE to JM under item 22.382.5.

The resolution to approve the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 13th June 2022, subject to the amendment being implemented, was proposed 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.

22.383.4 For Information: Chairs Comment (DB)

DB addressed the Council by remembering a long-term resident of the village who recently passed away – Pam Miller was in her nineties and up until the last few months of her life was holding meetings for several societies and groups in her home. A memorial service will be held for Pam on 22nd July 2022.

DB recently attended the AGM of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) on 26th June at Enstone Parish Hall where the importance of our rural hedgerows was highlighted as homes for wildlife, insects, and birds of all sorts. The area nearest the ground offers cover for ground creatures and those who nest on the ground. If hedgerows grow too tall, the bottom becomes exposed and part of the important function of the hedge is lost. We need to bear this in mind around the village and take expert advice from Robin regarding maintenance.

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Following a monthly Chair’s meeting, organised by OALC, it was noted that Weston on the Green are not alone in our concerns about biodiversity, traffic and the cost of development. Some parishes feel isolated and poorly represented. We are currently liaising at fairly senior levels both with OCC and CDC but DB commented that villages need representation at OCC Cabinet Level so perhaps our views on traffic, effects of side-by-side warehouse development and opportunistic land buying would be listened to.

DB finished her report by highlighting that this month’s Food Bank was actually a Baby Bank and an entire car boot was filled with food and equipment that went to the Bicester Baby Bank – they were thrilled and even more so by the £160 cash donation.

22.383.5 For Information: Clerk report (Clerk)

The clerks report to the Council was noted which confirmed that the clerk has placed all required audit documents onto the Parish Council website and has sent off the required documentation to the external auditors – Moore – who have acknowledged receipt and will contact if require further information.

The parish clerk has purchased a SSL certificate for the Parish Council website and has received confirmation from the website host (123Connect) that the website is secure.

The revised Code of Conduct for Oxfordshire has been released and will be considered for adoption once the councillors and clerk have undertaken training on the new Code by CDC.

The new email address of the Village News was noted: editor@wotgnews.uk

The clerk also confirmed that the rubbish issue at the SSE electrical station is still ongoing.

22.383.6 For Information: Oak Tree footpath update (Roger Evans, RE/DB)

RE confirmed that the Parish Council have written to CDC Planning regarding the apparent breach to the Southfield planning consent Ref:16/00574/REM which required that construction be carried out strictly in accordance with the recommendations and specifications set out in the approved Aboricultural Method Statement. We have also drawn attention to the Section 106 Agreement between the developer and CDC which required that a footpath connection to the village be constructed to the satisfaction of County Highways. County Highways have said that the design fails to meet their standards and must be replaced. Both matters have been referred to the CDC legal team.

CDC Councillor Gemma Coton asked to be copied into the correspondence and to be kept informed.

22.383.7 For Discussion: Overview of Parish Council Development Plan 2022 (DB)

In 2021 the Parish Council highlighted three key values for the Council to focus on:

- 1. We value the people and history of the village
- 2. We value our children and young people
- 3. We value the diverse resource of nature

Actions associated with each value were detailed in a document circulated to the Council and DB has requested each councillor to look into their assigned actions to highlight some objectives and prospective actions for 2022/23, ahead of the Annual Parish Council meeting in May 2023.

Action: Councillors to provide comments to DB on PC Development Plan by 25th July 2022

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22.383.8 For Information: County & District Councillor updates

Councillor Simpson – Oxfordshire County Council:

Councillor Simpson highlighted key topics within Oxfordshire County Council including:

- 250 bus – OCC cabinet member and OCC Director of Transport trying to find a solution, idea to potentially incorporate Weston on the Green in the route. An alternative option is the Siemens bus services proposed as part of the application which could cover c10 villages although funding is only currently for 5 years.
- Fibre project – OCC broadband lead to do zoom call with James Henderson to discuss further.
- Great Wolf development – investigating accessing S106 money for traffic initiatives.
- SEND funding – increased by £4m but still an £8m shortfall.
- Cabinet member for rural villages – discussion at Conservative Councillors Group meeting who were in favour and will look to bring the item forward as a motion or discussion point at a full OCC council meeting.
- No costings yet on CDC/OCC divorce.
- Increased aircraft from Kidlington but number should be reduced shortly.
- A34 plans – nothing further from OCC but Councillor Simpson will advise if hears anything further.

Councillor Coton & Patrick – Cherwell District Council:

Councillor Coton highlighted the following items in CDC's monthly update:

- **Oxford United Football club:** The football club have launched a dedicated website about the proposal to relocate to Stratfield Brake, Kidlington, as well as a survey to find out views from local residents <https://oufcstadium.co.uk/>
- **Cherwell Summer Family Activities:** Booking is now open for Cherwell's summer activity programme running from the 25th July at venues in Bicester, Banbury and Kidlington. <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/news/article/969/parents-can-book-summer-fun-for-children>
- **Cost of living support:** Cherwell District Council have a dedicated support page <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/118/communities/977/help-with-the-cost-of-living>
- **Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund:** The government have launched a village hall renovation fund to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund will provide grant funding over three years (to 2025) to support capital improvement projects for village halls, such as installing Wi-Fi, extending buildings and modernising facilities. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/platinum-jubilee-fund-creates-boost-for-village-halls>

22.383.9 For Information: Works update including playground & Oxfordshire Playing Field Association meeting reports (RSA/JM)

RSA highlighted that the playground will shortly undergo an annual inspection and therefore there was no inspection report submitted for this meeting.

RSA and DB met with Andrew Parson from the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association Life and discussed options and works for the playing field, spinney and playground. A report has been circulated to Councillors with potential project options.

Dalcour Maclaren have offered to do a community half day helping in the village, potentially in August, and work could be undertaken in the spinney, playground and playing field.

RSA also indicated there may be a handy man in the village who may undertake some work in the spinney.

RSA and JM will undertake the positioning of the new benches in the village.

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JM highlighted some verge areas in the village, particularly at the A34 end of the village, which would benefit from cutting back as OCC unlikely to maintain them. This work was carried out a few years ago and it was noted that it would be beneficial to obtain costings for the work in advance of the autumn.

Action: Works team to obtain costings for autumn verge pruning in village.

22.383.10 Resolution To Approve: a donation of £500.00 to the Village Hall committee, from the Parish Council Donations budget line, following a request for a contribution towards upgrading the audio visual equipment in the Village Hall (DB/SD)

The council discussed the proposal to donate Parish Council funds towards the upgrading of the audio visual equipment in the Village Hall. RSA withdrew from discussions due to his links to the Village Hall.

The donations budget line for FY 2022/23 stands at £500.00 this year and as such the Council unfortunately did not feel able to donate the full amount to the request this early in the financial year.

The Council suggested a direct donation of £250.00 from the d budget line and agreed to support an application from the Village Hall to utilise £500 from the Parish Council's portion of the Oxfordshire Councillor Priority fund to supplement it. Councillor Simpson agreed this would be acceptable to him.

The Council also agreed to notify and provide support if required to the Village Hall for any other potential funding opportunities.

Councillor Coton also suggested an Asda Foundation grant – Empowering Local Communities – which will be passed onto the Village Hall.

The resolution to approve a donation of £250 from the Council donation budget line to the Village Hall for a contribution towards the upgrade of the audio visual equipment in the Village Hall was proposed by DB and seconded by CR. The motion was supported in the majority by the Council, there was one abstention.

The request is in line with the Weston on the Green Parish Council Donations Policy and the Council has used the powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act in order to grant this donation.

Action: Clerk to arrange donation payment by Councillors to Village Hall towards audio visual equipment upgrade and provide advice on the Councillor Priority Fund application.

22.383.11 Resolution: To Approve the following invoices for payment (DB)

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

PC Ref	Payee	Purpose	Total (incl VAT)	Budget Line	Amount Remaining in 2022-23 Budget
273*	Oxfordshire County Council	Speed traffic survey B430	£168.00	Village Initiatives/Traffic calming initiatives	£9,500.00
274	Oxford Edens	Grass cutting 23/05/22 (playground, stocks/Ben Jonson)	£228.00	Village Works/Village contractor grass cutting	£3,516.00
275	WotG Memorial Village Hall	Village Hall hire for PC meetings (July-Sept 22)	£45.00	Meeting Costs/Hire of Village Hall	£180.00
276	Clerk (J Mullane)	SSL Certificate for PC website (123Connect)	£62.40	IT/Website/domain hosting	£116.20
277	Clerk (J Mullane)	Flowers for planters (Bunkers Hill)	£13.82	Village Works/General village maintenance	£576.16
278	Clerk (J Mullane)	Queens Green Canopy tree for Jubilee (Bunkers Hill)	£63.65	Contingency	£2,880.00
279	Clerk (J Mullane)	Compost for planters (Bunkers Hill)	£8.50	Village Works/General village maintenance	£562.34

*Paid in advance of meeting to avoid late payment fees

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It was noted that invoice 273 had already been paid to avoid late payment fees.

The resolution to approve the invoices detailed in the table was proposed by DB and seconded by CR. 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.

22.383.12 For Discussion: Discuss and agree recommendations from the Planning Group (SD)

Key planning applications on the planning report (updated 6th July 2022) were discussed by the Council.

Building Applications:

Decision Received – Permitted

None

Decision Received – Rejected

None

Awaiting Decision

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**

22/01287/F – Forge Farm, Northampton Road

Conversion of part of an existing stable building into single-bedroom dwelling for occupation by an equestrian worker. **Commented**

22/00977/F – Bay Tree House, Brooklands Close

Amendments to application 20/00541/F - to include single storey rear extension forming changing room/shower and outdoor swimming pool. **Commented**

22/01553/LB – Weston Manor

Internal conversion of storage rooms to staff accommodation. **Commented**

22/01506/LB – Weston Manor Coach House

Internal conversion of existing rooms to 6 new upgraded guest rooms. **Commented**

22/01778/F – Robin’s Folly, Mill Lane

Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with sun room. **Commented**

New Applications:

22/01291/F and 22/01292/LB – Westfield Farm Cottage, North Lane

Internal refurbishment of kitchen/bathroom on ground floor; addition of oak frame carport to side of existing garage.

DB presented this item and proposed agreement with the modifications as they do not affect the listed areas of the building.

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Appeals

21/04299/OUT- Reynards Lodge

Appealed removal of Condition 11 (no dwelling above one storey height) of 21/02146/OUT - Outline application demolition of workshops, stables and tennis court and erection of three dwellings and conversion of existing building to form a dwelling.

Appeal rests on the following arguments:

- The character description of the area in the Conservation Area Appraisal is not relevant to the site
- There is no relation of the site to Westfield Farm House or Westfield Farm Cottage and therefore the setting of a listed building is not relevant
- Errors in the Planning Officer’s Report

Commented

Tree Works:

22/01624/TCA – Weston Manor Cottage, Northampton Road

T1 x Ash – Fell (signs of die-back in crown); T2 x Oak - Fell T3 x Willow – Fell (close to drains and cottage) at rear of cottage.

Commented

Rejected / Issues

None

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

22/01144/F – Parcel of land SW of Grange Farm Chesterton (Siemens development) – WOTG PC to comment by 17th May

A meeting was held with Jonathan Dawes and Nicholas Wyke from Framptons Planning on 13th June 2022 to discuss our concerns.

This development will go to CDC Planning Committee on 14th July 2022.

Major concerns discussed around traffic volume – looking for restrictions on routes by tracking vehicles and some other solutions to manage traffic e.g. a working speed display; pedestrian crossing on B430. Raised concerns about village views not being given weight by developers.

Highways England have proposed that the extra pressure on road capacity is within the limits of the M40 stacking system and therefore the impact will not be severe. CPRE refute this and state that inevitably the increased commuter traffic will at times of heavy congestion translate to village and rural roads which are not capable of dealing with this.

Proposed travel plan for employees still not updated on the CDC portal (i.e. dedicated bus route Siemens – Oxford and West Oxford to Siemens, using £1.5m fund for 5 years to support this). Current travel plan proposes a target of 10% decrease in single occupancy car journeys (currently 80% of employees in the region travel to work by car), so this will still expect 70% employees travelling to Siemens by car. Strategies are: car sharing scheme, travel packs for employees, flexible working, car-free days incentives.

Concerns about biodiversity loss, particularly the proposed mitigation of preserving the small ancient wood (coppice) in the corner of M40/A41. Destruction of hedgerow on Parish boundary and the change of parish boundary.

CPRE noted that a development of this scale on green space cannot help but have a significant impact on the character of the area, particularly in combination with the Wolf Resort and the Chesterton Sports Ground developments. The scale of the footprint and elevations will dominate the area. CPRE and BBOWT point out that the current net biodiversity gain proposed in the application varies between 4-7%, whereas the required level is

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10%. This may need off-site mitigation which is not ideal. They (and we) suggested green roofs as part of the biodiversity strategy but currently they are planning large scale PVC arrays on the roofs.

A further meeting is proposed to suggest tangible solutions that would help the village manage increased traffic. The availability of funding through the S106 agreement will be discussed with reference to the concerns.

22.383.13 For Discussion: Instalment of plaques on village benches (DB)

DB highlighted that discussions are ongoing to ensure all benches have appropriate plaques on them and that work may be undertaken on the Coronation bench to ensure the commemoration is retained.

The Council were in agreement that DB should discuss a suitable plaque to commemorate Pam Miller with other village groups.

Action: DB to discuss a suitable plaque to commemorate Pam Miller with other village groups.

22.383.14 For Information: Traffic Advisory Group update and Community Speedwatch scheme (NM)

The Community Speedwatch scheme has been continuing to operate on Church Lane (20mph) and the B430 (40mph) sections of the village using the speed sentinel the Council shares with Islip Parish Council. Multiple offenders are being reported - 218 vehicles in the last month (4000 overall in the Thames Valley area).

More volunteers are required in order to help run the scheme and requests are going to be advertised in the Village News and Parish Council website/Facebook sites.

NM and the Council thanked Graham Barnett for his tremendous hard work leading the volunteers.

Dave Catling, OCC Technical Officer - Traffic & Road Safety, emailed regarding the 30mph speed limit on B430. He has not specifically priced the project but he considered the cost of the potential proposals for traffic calming discussed to be around £150k. For a 30mph zone the white lines in the middle of the road would require removing as they are not appropriate for a 30mph zone, he suggested utilising no lines as it has been known to reduce speeds as it changes peoples viewpoint of the space. The project will be discussed further following the outcome of discussions with Siemens.

22.383.15 Next Parish Council Meeting Date: Wednesday 3rd August 2022, 7.30pm (DB)

Meeting Closed: 21.36

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