

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 7.30pm
in Oxhill Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Connolly, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Stuart

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr John Mills, District Cllr John Feilding, Mark Wildish of ArchiWildish Ltd and two villagers

Cllr Chris Mills was welcomed to the meeting.

21/74. Apologies for absence

Cllr Harbour (isolating)

21/75. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

21/76. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held 4th May, 25th May and 29th June 2021

The minutes of the last three meetings were approved and signed.

21/77. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

There were no matters arising.

21/78. Public Participation Session

A villager asked about the draft precis of minutes which have not been put in the Oxhill news for a few months. This will be rectified but will always be a month behind due to timings of meetings and newsletter deadlines.

21/79. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The main points from County Cllr Chris Mills included:

- Businesses across Warwickshire are set to benefit from a £140M cash injection to boost the economy. This will stimulate the economy, create jobs support local businesses and attract investment into the county.
- 20 is Plenty. A motion was put forward at the Full Council Meeting reducing the speed limit in certain areas to 20mph which was given cross party support. A working party has been set up.
- Adult Social Care. Warwickshire provides support to older people.
- Protecting the most vulnerable residents. Throughout the pandemic the Council has protected and supported the most vulnerable residents and provided meal vouchers with an £8.2M investment to protect the elderly and vulnerable.
- Giving children the best start in life. A new Warwickshire School with special needs is to be built.
- Building Safer Communities. Investing with the police to make communities safer by adding £1M funding for voluntary and community sector.
- Supporting people with dementia. In Warwickshire there are approx. 8000 people who are living with dementia. Many are affected including those who care for them.
- UK100 Net Zero Pledge. At the Cabinet meeting on 17 June, WCC agreed to sign up to the UK100 Net Zero Pledge on carbon emission reduction.

- New environmentally friendly school buses. WCC has unveiled its fleet of ten new home to school transport buses. The new buses which cost just under £900K are better for the environment.
- Covid 19 cases across Warwickshire. Covid cases have been rising across the county and figures are going up.
- The Warwickshire County Council Parish Champion is Cllr Chris Mills.

The main points from District Cllr Feilding included:

- The amalgamation of two districts and how a consultation will proceed. It will create South Warwickshire Council. A way forward is to invite the Chairmen of all Parish Council's for a briefing.
- The SDC wards will be revised. The proposal is to increase from 36 to 41 District Councillors. Several of the larger wards will be broken up. Red Horse Ward is considered to be one of the larger wards but will remain as it is.
- Price of parking tickets. A great deal of time was spent on this issue.
- Affordable Homes. This will be dealt with next time as they ran out of time to discuss it.
- Edgehill Quarry. This will be filled. There are strict conditions around noise and type of material that is being used to refill the quarry. The material is to be spoil from building sites and the owners are allowed to recycle on site.
- Green bin permits. These are now around 46,000 which represents 74% of all properties. Expectations have been exceeded and it is one of the highest take ups of permits in the country.
- Fly tipping remains a major problem. April saw 63 incidents (an increase over last years 47 incidents) and May saw 35 incidents (down on last year's 38).

21/80. To discuss Leys Field and S106

The latest update from SDC is that they have visited the site and observed the concerns risen by residents of Leys Field. SDC have highlighted their concerns regarding the completion notice and other concerns connected with S106. SDC have requested an update of the developer's intentions as he has not requested an inspection of the open space prior to the completion notice being issued. No details have been provided of how the open space is to be maintained or that he has paid the open space commuted sum. The developer is currently on holiday. The case matter with the Wildlife Buffer Zone has been closed by SDC Enforcement. It was confirmed there will not be a footpath to the back of the village hall. This was one of the S106 agreements.

Action: Cllr Feilding to speak to the solicitor who drew up the S106 agreement.

21/81. To review the new bus shelter

There is a bench inside the new bus shelter but it takes up a lot of space. The shelter is appreciated by the school children. It was agreed that the bench is too big and that costs for a smaller seat for people to sit on whilst waiting for the bus would be explored.

21/82. To discuss village gates

Cllr Connolly has received information and costs from Pillerton Priors for new village gates. The gates were purchased from an outside company and had to be installed by Warwickshire Highways. A survey and road safety audit had to be done. Whilst discussing speeding it was noted that the 30mph on the Kineton Road cannot be seen. Moving speed signs were thought to be a good idea. A consultation with the village should take place to take this idea forward.

Action: Cllr Connolly to take photos of the faded 30mph signs.

21/83. To receive an update on speeding

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher gave the following update:

Recordings were made at various times of the day between 2nd April and 10th June using the radar speed camera located halfway along the straight part of the Whatcote Road. During 185 minutes, a total of 118 cars were logged. 40.5% were measured at 35mph and over and above 9.3% were above 40mph. The fastest speed was 55mph. Both uphill and downhill numbers and percentages were similar. A zoom meeting for local parishes to discuss speeding was held. The team leader of the Safety Engineering Team, Traffic and Road Safety Group of Warwickshire County Council has said that if more than 30% of traffic is over 35mph, there is a good case for better police action. There is a new community package being introduced during August. Future proposed action is to arrange speed checks on Green Lane and the Kineton Road, wait for details of the new package which might include bin stickers and examine the feasibility of regular community speed checks.

A speed survey was carried out a few years ago and provides good data. There can be a perception that people are speeding which is not reality. It was noted that there are speeding cars near the Gated Road.

Action: Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to draft a note asking for volunteers to go on Facebook, the village website and in the Oxhill News.

21/84 To receive an update on planning

The following update was given;

- *21/01665/FUL and 21/01666/LBC, Proposed conversion of outbuilding to new kitchen and hallway, construction of single storey link and construction of detached oak framed garage at Church House, Church Lane. Support from PC.*
- *2/02123/TREE, T1 (T500) - walnut - Rear garden: Remove major deadwood and lift the crown to 3 metres all round. T2 (T487) - horse chestnut - Front garden, adjacent to the drive: Reduce crown over road back by 2metres. Reduce back from house to leave a 2metre clearance. T3 (T489) - holm oak - Front of house: Fell to ground level and grind out the stump. T4 - lawson cypress - Rear garden left hand side: Trim back by 0.5metres and lift the crown to 3metres at The Old Rectory, Main Street. The PC will not object to the work to the walnut and horse chestnut. The holm oak is unusual and could be an old tree. The application does not say why the tree is being removed and whether it will be replaced. These comments to be sent to SDC.*
- *21/01403/OUT, Demolition of existing steel framed buildings and brick building and erection of up to 5 No dwellings at Wixey Transport, Kineton Road. Objections by PC and refused by SDC.*
- *20/03373/FUL, Proposed extension and alterations to Short Meadow and Short Meadow Cottage. Granted by SDC.*

Cllr Feilding advised that the planning application 20/02224/OUT, Erection of 11 market dwellings and 7 affordable dwellings at Wixey Transport is to go to full planning committee. A date is to be agreed by SDC.

To discuss the proposed redevelopment and future plans for Hogwood Farm

The meeting was attended by Mark Wildish who has designed the proposed development of Hogwood Farm. The development is in the parish of Pillerton Hersey but close proximity to Oxhill. He is aware of the history of the site and how it has impacted on village life. He is working on an exit plan/strategy with the current owner. The pig units will be replaced and all farming on site will be ceased. It is currently agricultural land and this will face difficulty as it goes against the Countryside Planning policy. They are confident to put a good argument forward. The proposal is for the development of 10 units which will look like agricultural buildings. Mr Wildish is hoping to get the support of local people. He asked if there were any questions.

Cllr Connolly liked the approach and look of the buildings. He queried the loss of employment. Mr Wildish replied that the site is being developed by the current owner and some staff will be given work. They are hoping to strike a planning balance.

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher and Cllr Robertson both gave their support. Cllr Stuart said it was an innovative design with four wind turbines. However, there are no solar panels. Mr Wildish replied that solar banks were going to be put on the earth banks but they felt it would spoil the aesthetics of the site. Each house will be properly insulated and there will be minimal energy costs. The paddock at the top will have a ground source heat pump in it and power from the wind turbines will offset the power. They may consider air source heat pumps. The sheds at the back will be retained and others will become storage units. By removing the sheds could mean losing bats. They will commission ecology, drainage and contamination surveys.

From the floor, a villager spoke about a bat survey and a lot of insects around that site already. Mr Wildish confirmed they will consider integral bird boxes, swift and swallow boxes and a wildlife pond.

21/85. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£19.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC Membership)
£40.00 to Parish Clerk (ICO membership)
£14.40 to TEEC (planning feature for website)
£7.39 to L Stuart (lock and key for filing cabinet)
£159.23 to Zurich Insurance
£15.00 to WALC (Training course for Parish Clerk)
£30.00 to J McKail (Internal audit)
£95.94 to GDR Solutions Ltd (first aid course)
£15.00 to WALC (Training course)
£434.40 to MB Groundworks and Landscaping (bus shelter)

To discuss the cost of adding the existing domain name to the website to raise the profile on Google It was agreed that this requirement is not needed.

21/86. To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Stuart has applied for a County Council Grant via Cllr Chris Mills as the deadline was 11th July. The grant, if successful, will improve accessibility for all on local footpaths and replace seven stiles with kissing gates.

The footpath working party group organisation has been handed to Dave Nash. An event has been planned for 31st July 2021. One of the volunteers has carried out the first aid training.

The overhead poles in Manor Field have been placed underground.

21/87. Date and Time of next meeting

Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.