

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a remote Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 10th November 2020 at 8.00pm

Councillors Present

Cllr Harbour (Chairperson), Cllr Connolly, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Stuart

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, District Cllr John Feilding and nine villagers

20/83. Apologies for absence

Cllr Chris Williams (unwell)

20/84. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

Cllr Stuart declared an interest in the Site Allocation Plan and Leys Field, Buffer Zone.

20/85. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2020

The minutes of the last meeting will be approved and signed at the next meeting.

20/86. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Bus Shelter – There has been a delay to works due to the supply of wood.

20/87. Public Participation Session

Mr Moore asked why the PC would not be contributing towards the cutting of the churchyard? A letter had been received from James Synge, Treasurer of the PCC. The Chair explained that money has been set aside in the budget but the Parish Clerk has received advice from WALC that no money can be given to the church whilst it is open and functional. It's the separation of church and state. The Parish Clerk is awaiting delivery of the new Charles Arnold Baker legal book which contains the information. Mr Moore asked to be kept in the loop.

Mr Moore spoke about Leys Field and confirmed that planting will start on Monday 16th November. The buffer zone has been blocked by a fence and the correct person has been alerted. The buffer zone was explained to those present at this meeting. It's a ditch on land between Leys Field and other land owned by villagers. A letter will be sent to the enforcement officer if needed.

Mr Moore asked if Gilks Lane had been reported? The Parish Clerk confirmed it had and would be inspected by WCC.

20/88. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

Cllr Chris Williams had circulated a report prior to the meeting. The main points included Free School Meals, School attendance, laptops for disadvantaged children and a COVID-19 19 update.

Free School Meals - WCC have given school holiday support to 1124 children. Funding for this family support has provided £520K through the COVID 19 period.

School Attendance – All 246 Warwickshire schools have returned and are open. Attendance rates have been high during the first six weeks. Pupil attendance in primary is higher than secondary school.

Laptops – 1036 children have received a laptop and 150 reconditioned ones were distributed too.

COVID-19 Update – Cases are continuing to rise. There could be the potential to move to Tier 2 if the trends continue.

Cllr John Feilding noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be looking at waste bins and a Gypsy and Traveller Policy and identifying sites suitable for them. The offices at Stratford District Council are going to be leased off as part of cutbacks.

The Chair spoke about the Whitehill planning application. He asked Cllr Feilding how he would be voting if the application went to committee? Cllr Feilding replied that he would vote as per the normal requirements of a District Councillor. He would look at the overall approach to the ward and countryside. There are affordable homes in the application and the site is a brownfield site. The Chair contradicted this and said part was a greenfield site. Cllr Stuart noted that a proportion of the application is a brownfield site and transport area. An area of land is used as a paddock to graze horses so this is equestrian land. The horses are fed and trained here. There is some confusion as a proportion is agricultural land.

Cllr Feilding was asked if this meets the requirements of the Core Strategy? There will be an impact on the environment and highways have made a strong argument. There is social housing proposed for young families but with no direct access to the village.

Cllr Feilding and another resident have already spoken to Sarah Brook Taylor at Warwickshire County Council (WCC). A bus stop could be put in and the footpath which runs down the back could be extended. Its suitability was questioned as in its current state, it is not appropriate for families to use in the dark and it crosses a resident's land.

Mr Moore asked Cllr Feilding if Sarah Brook Taylor had visited the site? Cllr Feilding did not know. He acknowledged that the Parish Council should have been involved in any discussions before the application was submitted. The applicant's consultant should have told the applicant.

Cllr Stuart expressed surprise that Cllr Feilding had not declared an interest at the beginning of the meeting. Cllr Feilding replied that he is not a member of the public but a ward representative. The Parish Council were surprised that he had put in his response before the meeting tonight. 25 people have expressed an opinion. 1 is for the application and 24 are against.

Cllr Feilding asked what the applicant should do with the site? The Chair said the Parish Council would be happy for some sort of appropriate development on the brownfield site but not the greenfield part.

Cllr Feilding noted the reference he made to a developer was a mistake. There will be no developer involvement until outline planning permission has been obtained.

Mr and Mrs Saffet-Cole of Whitehill House were at the meeting and noted they have no issue with building on the brownfield site. They were disappointed there had been no correspondence with themselves as neighbours. The grass verge down the hill and speeding traffic is of concern. There are no local facilities and transport will be needed to access the main part of the village. The current yard is not a haulage yard but one to keep horses in. Mr Saffet-Cole asked Cllr Feilding if he had been misled into thinking it was all a brownfield site? The red boundary line is not confined to the brownfield site. Mr Saffet-Cole agreed to send the drawings to Cllr Feilding.

Cllr Feilding left the meeting.

20/89. To receive an update on the waste bins

Two waste bins have been installed since the last meeting and both are well used. The bin near the Church was placed on a service strip. In consultation with SDC a villager has paid for the bin to be moved as they did not like the original position. There were emptying issues but these have been resolved now.

Cllr Robertson has explored the possibility of placing dog bins in the village. SDC have quoted and the cost is excessive plus there would be emptying costs. From the floor, Mr A Welford said he was happy for people to use his permissive path but he would close it if he needed to. He did not see a need for dog bins and sign reinforcement should be adequate. There are problems on other paths. It was agreed that more signage should be put up which would be a cheaper option. Cllr Robertson will have £150.00 to spend on signs.

20/90. To discuss noise in the village

Noise from motorbikes and general noise was discussed. Years ago, a voluntary code was put in the Oxhill News asking people to avoid using loud machinery on Sundays and it worked well. Garden machinery makes a lot of noise. This is a common rule in continental countries. The village has a mixed population and people work long hours. A bit of tolerance is needed.

Action: The Parish Clerk to send a form of words from another village to the Chair.

20/91. To discuss an equality and diversity policy

A draft equality and diversity policy were circulated. It was agreed to adopt the policies with immediate effect.

20/92. To receive an update on speeding

Cllr Rivers Fletcher has been updating the Parish Council regularly in between meetings. The police who had agreed to do a speed survey have not been answering emails and when telephoned said that they were very busy and could not offer a date for this exercise. Cllr Rivers Fletcher has purchased a radar speed gun. Cllr Connolly offered to help with any calibration tests required. It was agreed that Mr and Mrs Saffet-Cole could borrow the gun to check speeds of vehicles coming in and out of the village at the Kineton Road end.

20/93. To discuss Leys Field, a wildlife buffer zone

This has already been discussed under public participation session. The Parish Council will monitor the situation.

20/94. To discuss the website and adhering to the 2020 accessibility legislation

All websites have to be accessible to all. Cllr Stuart attended a training course in September and another training course with the Chair in October. The current website is old and poor and there is a second village website which uses the same provider. The current provider is not able to help in making the website accessible. Cllr Stuart had circulated three quotes. It would make sense to have one village website. It was agreed that Cllr Stuart could spend £500.00 on setting up a new website.

20/95. To discuss blocked drainage pipes in the layby on Whatcote Road

There is a problem with the pipe under the road which is not letting water through.

Action: Cllr Stuart to send the detail to the Parish Clerk who will report to Severn Trent.

20/96. To discuss dog fouling on Manor Fields and other footpaths

This matter has already been discussed.

20/97. To discuss the SDC Site Allocation Plan

The SDC consultation on Site Allocation Plans will run until 18th December. It is an additional plan which sits alongside the existing Core Strategy and will enable residents and communities to know where new development may occur in the future. There are two proposals in Oxhill on land off Green Lane. The link will be put in the next newsletter. The Parish Council are to give their views.

20/98. To receive an update on planning

- 20/02356/FUL, Proposed replacement single storey extension to rear and small infill to side of garage at Appletree cottage, Blackford Way. Supported.
- 20/02631/TREE, Tree work at Fern Cottage, Main Road. Supported with comments.
- 20/02196/FUL, Demolition of existing detached garage and construction of replacement detached garage, to match original, on new piled foundation at 2 The Sett. Granted by SDC.
- 20/02224/OUT, Demolition of existing steel framed buildings and brick building and erection of up to 11 no open market dwellings and 7 no affordable dwellings at Wixey Transport.

Councillors gave their views on this application. It is a massive over development on agricultural land. It is the wrong place for social housing with no suitable access to the village. Natural habit will be destroyed. It was agreed to object to the application with clear reference to SDC Policies.

Action: The Parish Clerk to reply to SDC on Wednesday 11th November.

To receive an update on any enforcement issues

There is no further news on the enforcement issues at Heritage Farm. SDC are aware of the time limit.

Action: The Chair to send another follow up letter to SDC.

20/99. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £278.66 to Cllr Rivers-Fletcher (speeding device)
- £19.76 to L Stuart (website)

20/100. The following correspondence was received and circulated:

- WALC, Guidance on Remembrance Events

20/101. To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Stuart spoke about the state of Green Lane. It was due to be resurfaced a few years ago but WCC were waiting for the building work to finish. The work is now complete. There was a recent incident where a tractor tore out a grass verge.

Action: Cllr Stuart to pass the incident details to the Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk to contact WCC about Green Lane.

Cllr Connolly gave an update on footpaths. Mr Beesley and his team carried out remedial work by the layby. The next plan is to tackle brambles. There will be two small teams who will unbury a bridge that is currently inaccessible. A lot of stiles and fences have been repaired. A lot of good work has been done on footpath SS14. 15 issues have been reported to WCC which includes 3-4 bridges. WCC are visiting one bridge repair this week.

Severn Trent have been in the village a lot recently. Work is being done and some is scheduled after Christmas.

20/102. To note meeting dates for 2021

The Parish Council currently meet every other month but have now agreed to meet more frequently. They will meet once a month excluding August and December and the meetings will start slightly earlier at 7.30pm.

12th January, 9th February, 9th March, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

DRAFT