

**Minutes of the South Hinksey Parish Council  
at 34 Manor Road, South Hinksey**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

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**Present:** Sarah Balaam, Christine Chater, Matthew Frohn, Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair)

Cllr Bob Johnston (OxonCC), Sheridan Edward (Clerk).

**Other attendees:** Barry Russell (Environment Agency), Nick Frearson, Adrian Porter, Peter Rawcliffe, Irene Stratton, Ray Hartman, Pete Hughes (Ox Times)

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Time commenced: 7:35pm

### **1. Apologies**

None.

### **2. Declarations of interest**

None.

### **3. Public questions, comments or representations**

**Flooding.** Barry Russell from the Environment Agency attended the meeting to give a presentation and Q&A session on flooding. He gave a background to the history of flooding in the area, and the exceptional circumstances of the 2013/14 floods. He stated that the emergency flood barrier around South Hinksey had worked and showed that it was possible in future. However, with limited supplies of temporary barriers, the parish would be competing with other at-risk communities, many with larger numbers of affected households. The EA would be purchasing more barriers which would be stored at Osney. During a local flooding event it was very likely South Hinksey would receive one, but less likely with a more widespread incident. The EA would also be carrying out a viability study over the summer to assess what preparatory measures might be needed to accommodate a barrier. Once complete he would send to the Parish Council.

**The Western Conveyance** was also discussed. It had been announced that day that central government had given a further £26m towards its building. This meant that the total raised for the project was now £76m. The project would go ahead. The route would be to the east of the village running from Botley to Sandford. As the route runs under the railway line, BJ asked whether the EA were in discussions with Network Rail to coordinate their works to save time and money. Barry stated that as Network Rail would be carrying out their electrification work that winter, there was a time pressure.

Barry Russell presented the parish with a gift from EA – a frame with photos of the visits from the army and Prime Minister. The Council thanked Barry Russell and the EA for their continued work.

**Hinksey Hill Roundabout.** Irene Stratton noted that the proposed changes to the layout of Hinksey Hill roundabout, along with the closing of the underpass further down the road would impact heavily on pedestrian and cyclist journeys from Hinksey Hill to the city centre. BJ stated that he had raised this issue with various officers and was still investigating it. It was felt that pressure from the Council would also be beneficial. **Action: SE to write to Sue Scanes, Director of Environment & Economy, to request a better cycle path and provision for safe pedestrian crossing across the new roundabout.**

#### 4. Minutes of June 2014 meeting

The Council **resolved** to agree the minutes of the June 2014 meeting.

#### 5. Matters arising

**Road markings and pavements.** SE had confirmed with Highways Agency that the slip roads were the responsibility of Oxon CC. SE had emailed Bob Johnston to ask if these could be repainted. **Action: BJ to action.** SE had also raised the issue of the weeds and the dumping of the grass with BGG. SE had reported the issues of the crumbling pavement surface along Hinksey Hill, the deteriorating road surface to the garden centre and the overgrown footpath at Hinksey Hill interchange. Highways confirmed they were looking into it but were not offering to do a site visit.

**Verge maintenance contract.** SE had received a letter from Mark Kemp, Deputy Director for Environment & Economy, stating that they were unwilling to reconsider the proposed grant reduction for 2015/16. The Council discussed whether to continue with the agreement or end it and transfer responsibility back to Oxon CC. The Council resolved to discuss it fully at the next Council meeting. **Action: SE to add to September's meeting agenda.**

**Flood barrier letter.** SE had drafted a letter to Nicola Blackwood MP asking her to petition for a demountable flood barrier for South Hinksey. The Council agreed the letter and for similar letters to be sent to Matthew Barber, Bob Johnston, Ian Hudspeth, Rodney Rose, Philip Hammond MP, and Dan Rogerson MP.

#### 6. Finance – payments and receipts

##### Payments

Payee	Reason	Amount	Power to act
Berinsfield Community Business	3 x wildflower meadow cutting	£98.64	s214 LGA 1972
BGG Garden and Tree Care	June grounds maintenance	£435.00	s96 HA 1980
Peter Rawcliffe	Wildflower seeds	£43.90	s214 LGA 1972

##### Receipts

Payer	Reason	Amount
HM Revenue & Customs	2013/14 VAT refund	£1519.50
Reeves & Pain	Burial fee	£600.00

The Council **resolved** to approve the payments above with the exception of BGG Garden and Tree Care. The Council felt that although their work in the village was a good quality and to schedule, Hinksey Hill had been neglected and various jobs were still outstanding. **Action: SE to contact BGG to arrange for a site visit and withhold payment until the Council are satisfied they have met their brief.**

#### 7. Planning applications

None.

#### 8. Correspondence

**Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy consultation.** The Council was asked to contribute to the consultation. SE had circulated the information to the Council. **Action: SE to ask Peter Rawcliffe and Adrian Porter to draft a reply.**

**Winter Preparedness 2014/15.** Oxon CC would be holding Community Resilience events during the summer and would let the Council know when these would be. Another free salt bag was offered to the Council. **Action: SE to order salt bag.**

## **9. County Councillor's Report**

BJ reported that although the Hinksey Hill roundabout was a large project, it wasn't causing as much disruption as predicted and was on budget and schedule. He stated he'd received no update about the railway but would be attending a meeting that week and would report any progress back to the Council. He also noted that Oxon CC would be outsourcing much of their back office duties, including HR and payroll to Hampshire County Council.

## **10. Project updates**

**Community Woodland.** It was reported that the ragwort was just starting to appear. It was suggested that it would be a good job for Community Payback. **Action: MR to contact Adam Slocombe. If possible, then SE to contact Garden Centre re use of their facilities.**

**Hinksey Hill traffic issues.** LLF reported that the police were still monitoring traffic speed. SE had also contacted Tim Stringer who confirmed that the TPO had been served on Bagley Croft, was valid and in force. SE confirmed that Bagley Croft was not listed, and that any member of the public could make an application through English Heritage. The Council felt that an application should be made through the Council. **Action: SE to contact Oxford Preservation Trust to ask for their support and advice.**

## **11. Flooding and Parish Emergency Plan**

The latest draft of the plan had been circulated that day and it was felt that the Council did not have sufficient time to review it. **Action: SE to include on September's meeting agenda.** The Council thanked Adrian Porter and MF for their work.

## **12. Footbridge over the railway**

There was no update, although Bob Price (Leader of the City Council) continued to work with Network Rail.

## **13. Automated external defibrillator**

MR reported that Emmeline Bryant had offered to coordinate the fund raising efforts for the AED. She was to hold a garage sale and set up a Just Giving page. It was also suggested that the fete profits go towards it. It was noted that the installation costs were not included in the price. **Action: MR to ask Phil Saugman re obtaining a quote for the installation.**

## **14. Barleycott Lane / John Piers Lane / Betty Lane**

The Council had received a reply from Mark Kemp, Deputy Director, Environment and Economy, saying that a local highway representative had visited the areas, and had raised defects for remedial action. SE enquired as to what defects were to be repaired, but has yet to receive a reply. The Council agreed to monitor the situation and raise at the September meeting if no action had been taken.

## **15. South Hinksey to North Hinksey footpath**

SE had circulated to Councillors a draft letter for landowners of the footpath. The Council approved the letter. SE also reported that he had spoken to Jim Parke, Parish Path Warden Coordinator, who advised that VoWHDC and OxonCC did not need to be involved, and that there was no official process or paperwork. Once agreement from the landowners was obtained, Oxon CC could provide small discs to mark the path. Nick Frearson noted that there were

stiles along the route, and that the gates would need to be automatic shutting, to ensure that livestock didn't get out.

**Action: SE to send letter to landowners.**

SE also confirmed that he hadn't heard any more from Mark Sumner about the kissing gates along the South Hinksey to Redbridge footpath. **Action: SE to chase Mark Sumner.**

#### **16. Air quality action plan**

VoWHDC were consulting on an action plan, focusing on air quality around the A34. No actions were proposed for South Hinksey. The Council felt that although set further back from the A34 than parts of Botley, the traffic was travelling at a higher speed, and that there was still an impact on the community. **Action: SE to draft a letter.**

#### **17. Any other business**

**Clerk's new post.** SE reported that he had been appointed Parish Clerk for Stonesfield Parish Council. This was also a part-time post and would work alongside his current workload for South Hinksey.

**Botley development.** MR had attended Botley Traffic Advisory Committee (BTAC) special meeting to consider the working party report on the Doric Environmental Statement. This report has been submitted to VoWH. MR has received the report. **Action: MR to forward report to Councillors.**

**Wildflower picnic.** Peter Rawcliffe asked the Council if he could organize a children's picnic on the wildflower meadow. The Council agreed.

#### **17. Feedback from members of the public**

None.

Time concluded: 9:40pm.

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Maggie Rawcliffe – Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of next meeting:

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7:30pm at South Hinksey Village Hall