

**Minutes of the meeting of South Hinksey Parish Council
held at South Hinksey Village Hall on Monday 4th March 2019**

Present: Christine Chater, Michael Cochrane (Chairman), Matthew Frohn (Vice-Chairman), Linda Goodhead, Patricia Jones
Cllr Bob Johnston (OxonCC), Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk).

Other attendees: Paul Wheatley.

Time commenced: 7.30pm

18/240. Apologies

Cllr Debby Hallett (VoWHDC), Cllr Emily Smith (VoWHDC).

18/241. Declarations of interest

All members declared an interest in relation to the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme.

18/242. Public questions, comments or representations

None.

18/243. Minutes of the February 2019 meeting

The Council **resolved** to agree the minutes of the February 2019 meeting subject to an amendment in item 18/227 on page 55, so the sentence beginning "But the EA did not" went on: "give a commitment on the Devil's Backbone." The Chairman then signed each page.

18/244. Matters arising – February 2019 meeting

18/98 Trees of Remembrance project. The Clerk has not yet contacted OxonCC to request a second sapling, and no date has yet been set for planting. PJ offered to make enquiries. **Action: Clerk and PJ**

18/146b) Planning – Manor Barn, St Lawrence Road: development of outbuilding previously approved under planning approval P14/V1176/FUL into ancillary accommodation, a studio, a garden workshop room & storage area [P18/ V2565/HH]. The Clerk had sent the Chairman the draft of his proposed reply to the applicant's message, which was read to the meeting. Members were not satisfied with the final sentence of the proposed reply and PJ suggested the words "make no comment" would be much more appropriate. **Action: Clerk to send agreed reply**

18/146c) Planning – Dorking House, Badger Lane: use of annex as separate dwelling [P18/V2225/LDE]. The Clerk has written to VoWHDC's Adrian Duffield to ask what action is taken in this and similar cases to obtain any Council Tax that may have been evaded and to address any other issues where the law may have been breached, such as electoral registration.

18/174a) Planning – 37 Manor Road [General Elliott]: change of use from a mixed use A4 (Drinking Establishment) and C3 (Dwelling house) use to a wholly residential (C3 Dwelling house) use [P18/V2744/FUL]. The Clerk had

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contacted VoWHDC's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) team, as suggested by BJ, and had circulated VoWHDC's Frequently Asked Questions document for parish and town councils. The CIL team has told the Clerk that it has not yet calculated the CIL that may be due on this planning application.

The Clerk had also checked VoWHDC's CIL Register, which showed there were no CIL-liable planning permissions in the parish where development had yet commenced and a demand notice for CIL had been issued.

BJ said other parishes have put the CIL money they have received into an earmarked reserve.

18/174b) Planning – Land at Betty Lane, Hinksey Hill: redevelopment and conversion of stables to dwelling house [P18/V2809/FUL]. The Clerk reported that it appears VoWHDC has still not taken a decision on this application although the target decision date shown on its website is 15th January 2019.

18/201 Finance – The Clerk had circulated a very lengthy explanation of the Council's Council Tax increase for 2019-20 for circulation via Shinfo. CC said she preferred it did not go out. PJ drafted and read out a far shorter explanation, which it was **agreed** was more appropriate.

18/224b) Thickets, Hinksey Hill – The Clerk had written to VoWHDC objecting to the siting of this proposed property across the narrowest section of the plot.

18/224d) St Michaels, Hinksey Hill – The Clerk had informed VoWHDC it had no objection to this application.

18/224e) Bagley Croft, Hinksey Hill – The Clerk had written to VoWHDC saying architectural features should be retained, and that, in the Council's opinion, the building should be listed.

18/225 Correspondence – The Clerk brought copies of the nomination papers to the meeting. Each member took a copy, apart from the Vice-Chairman. The Clerk said he would be able to give candidates the elector numbers for their proposer and seconder, which are required on their nomination papers.

18/238 Staffing – The Chairman and the Clerk had signed the amended Clerk contract.

18/245. Finance – payments and receipts

Payments

Payee	Reason	Amount	Power to act
Oxfordshire County Council	Hinksey Hill 30mph TRO	£2,600.00	s274A HA 1980
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Clerk training	£96.00	s111 LGA 1972
Geoffrey Ferres	Clerk pay & expenses Q4	£1,010.18	s112 LGA 1972
HMRC	Tax and NICs deducted Q4	£315.58	s112 LGA 1972

The Council **resolved unanimously** to approve all four payments. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman signed the four cheques and initialled the supporting paperwork.

Receipts

None.

18/246. County Councillor's report

BJ said OxonCC's 2019-20 Council Tax increase will be 2.99%.

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BJ said OxonCC is producing Local Transport Plan 5. The new plan would be as low carbon as possible. It is likely to include congestion charging but not workplace parking restrictions.

BJ said he has attended a briefing session from the Environment Agency (EA) on the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme. The EA said no ash or sycamore would be planted: ash due to the disease ash dieback and sycamore because it is non-native and would not contribute to biodiversity.

CC questioned the contrast between OxonCC's actions and its sentiments on transport. BJ explained that the virtue of congestion charging from OxonCC's point of view is that will create an income stream that could be used for low carbon transport.

18/247. District Councillors' report

DH and ES had kindly circulated a written report.

18/248. Planning applications

a) Oxfordshire Plan 2050

There was no proposal for the Council to comment on any of the three documents currently subject to public consultation.

b) North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan

The Vice-Chairman said he had looked at the recommendations and did not notice anything that he felt this Council would regard as contentious.

c) Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Public Consultation on Schedule of Proposed Draft Main Modifications

There was no proposal for the Council to submit any comments.

d) Thickets, Hinksey Hill: full planning permission for demolition and construction of a replacement dwelling [P18/V3111/FUL] amended and amplified by drawings and Design & Access Statement received 13 February 2019.

There was no proposal for the Council to submit any further comments.

18/249. Correspondence

The Clerk informed the Council that Linda Slater had written on behalf of the Village Hall Committee to say that it had thought further about its communication in December warning the Council of a 10% increase in charges for use of the Village Hall for Council meetings, from £250 to £275. The Village Hall Committee's new proposal was that from April 2020:

"We would like the Council to move to "pay as you go" for all its meetings as is the case with all our other users. The hourly rate would usually be that for parishioners (£13 per hour) but we would reduce this to £11 per hour in view of the Parish Council's use being regular and long-term.

We suggest taking the duration of each meeting from the minutes, adding 15 minutes for time pre and post (that is a total of 15 minutes, not 30 minutes) (this is usual), charged to the nearest half-hour (up or down)."

The Clerk estimated this would mean the cost of hiring the Village Hall would rise to over £360 per year, a very large increase.

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In the light of this new proposal, the Council **agreed** to request a meeting with the Village Hall Committee to discuss the increase and its impact upon parishioners since the only obvious way for the Council to deal with the increase would be to pass it on to parishioners in the form of a 1% increase in everyone's Council Tax for 2020-21. **Action: Clerk**

18/250. Hinksey Hill speed limit

CC reported that the consultation commenced on 20th February on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order to implement a 30mph speed limit on Hinksey Hill. The deadline for objections is 22nd March.

18/251. Flood Alleviation Scheme

PJ reported that objections to compulsory purchase orders have led the Government to announce a public inquiry which will delay a decision on the planning application and means that work will not start before 2020

She reported that the latest message from the Environment Agency (EA)'s Joanne Emerson Wines says:

- With regard to constructing a new A34 junction – "Highways England have [sic] confirmed that a new access onto the A34 is not an option, due to it breaching safety standards to have 2 junctions so close together."
- With regard to hours of work – "Standard working hours for construction work is [sic] 7am to 7pm. Until we know more detail about the construction plan from VBA, we are unable to constrict working hours." PJ said these were longer hours than those given for the lorry movements in the EA's planning application

The Chairman was concerned that there were so many items listed by the EA as "Ongoing", which he felt is too vague. He would like the EA to be asked when answers will be given.

PJ said she would like the EA to confirm that the temporary Devil's Backbone footpath diversion will be raised, which is essential if access to the village is not to be reduced during the diversion.

PJ said she was particularly concerned to establish the timetable for switching to use the field referred to as Field 3. She was also concerned whether alternative gate access will be agreed and whether there will be a 100m buffer between the works site and the village.

The Chairman asked who owns Field 3 and PJ said she thinks Corpus Christi College owns it.

It was acknowledged that the EA has agreed that the Project Director will attend weekly meetings with the Council and has undertaken to share the Traffic Management Plan with the Council before submitting it to OxonCC

The Vice-Chairman noted that nothing was, however, said about meetings with the contractor, VBA. The Chairman said that even if there were meetings, it was essential they be at an appropriate level.

Members commented about the very reassuring message given by the EA in a lengthy article published in the latest issue of South Hinksey Echo.

Overall, members **agreed** they were very pleased with progress and **thanked** PJ in particular for her work.

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18/252. Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk had booked the Village Hall for Monday 20th May, the only day when it was available. The Council **agreed** that the meeting should start at 7pm and that the kind of snacks to be provided would be items such as Hula Hoops.

18/253. Heavy Goods Vehicles and Coaches in the village

Nothing to report.

18/254. Woodland

The Clerk had written to Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust's Andy Gunn setting out the proposed basis of the arrangement and had contacted the Chairman again to try to find a date to visit the woodland together.

The Clerk had also asked Andy Gunn whether he believes it would still be useful for the Council to purchase £100 worth of tree guards and straps to be used on the most damaged trees.

Andy Gunn had replied: "The contents of the letter are acceptable and we are happy to lead on the management of the woodland." He said that if the Forestry Commission's Sam Riley "has recommended that trees are protected we should follow his guidance. We will however need to decide what should be done about the ash as there is indeed dieback present at the woodland ...

Could I suggest that we have a meeting at the site in the coming weeks to have a look and make some decisions as to a course of action? I know Oxford City Council is removing small ash trees with dieback and re-planting with other species, might this be an option for the woodland?"

In relation to tackling ash dieback, the Council was reminded of the importance the Forestry Commission placed on allowing it to be apparent if there were any disease-resistant ash trees and preserving them in the interests of re-establishing ash in Britain.

It was **agreed** the Council needs to be sure the damage caused by Environment Agency vehicles during the Flood Alleviation Scheme excavations had been put right.

18/255. Grass cutting

The Clerk had made a further request to OxonCC for maps showing the grass verges at the top of Hinksey Hill that are in the parish of Kennington, had written to the owners of the former pub car park in Manor Road for permission to take on responsibility for its maintenance and had informed Peter Rawcliffe of the Council's decision not to include the disposal of the hay cut in the maintenance specification for 2019.

18/256. Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

LG and PJ are attending the meeting called by North Hinksey Parish Council on Friday 8th March to which have been invited representatives of Parish Councils from along the A34/proposed B1 corridor of the Expressway, together with a limited number of other Council representatives.

CC said the Council does recognise the national economic benefits claimed for such a road but as a parish South Hinksey does not want widening of the A34.

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The Vice-Chairman and PJ both felt it was not appropriate for the Council to take a position of opposition in principle to the Expressway. Members were interested as to whether sound protection would be provided for the village if the A34 were widened as it had not been provided to the village for the existing A34.

18/257. Burial ground

Oxford City Council's Laura Harlock has given the Clerk advice about how to handle the problem of a headstone recently placed in the burial ground which is three inches higher than approved and which therefore exceeds the maximum height permitted in the Council's rules. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk had established that the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) is not supported by the National Association of Memorial Masons, the masons' professional body.

The Clerk has yet to obtain two alternative quotations for a hardwood noticeboard to compare with the quotation from a company for a design favoured by the Chairman and himself. **Action: Clerk**

18/258. Housing development north of Abingdon

Nothing to report.

18/259. Hinksey Lakes footbridge

The Clerk has still not decided when to produce and make publicly available a summary of the accounts received of the impact of the closure on the lives of parishioners. **Action: Clerk**

18/260. Maintenance issues

The Clerk has examined graffiti along the Devil's Backbone on a Neighbourhood Watch sign, a "no camping" sign and the Council's own sign asking cyclists to give way to pedestrians on the Devil's Backbone. The only sign it appeared appropriate for the Council to pay to clean was its own. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk has also examined the damaged gate on the track leading to the electricity sub-station near the village. The Council **agreed** that the Clerk should write to SSEN because there is a gap notwithstanding the strong chains holding the gate closed. PJ was also concerned about the rubble that had been dumped to prevent other vehicles proceeding along the track. She felt SSEN should be required to place a proper barrier instead. The Council **agreed** that the Clerk should also raise this with SSEN. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk said he had been unable to establish the location of the rubbish on the Devil's Backbone on the City of Oxford side of the bridge. Members said they were concerned about two lots of rubbish, one of which seemed to be the remains of a tent occupied for a time by a homeless person. It was believed this land on the Oxford City side of the parish boundary was probably owned by Oxford City Council. The Clerk asked if PJ knew to whom it would be most appropriate for him to write and she agreed to advise him. **Action: PJ**

CC suggested the Council consider organising a litter pick. It was **agreed** to discuss this at the next meeting.

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18/261. Traffic issues

None.

18/262. Feedback from members of the public

None.

Time concluded: 9.20pm

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Date of the next ordinary Parish Council meeting: Monday 1st April 2019 at 7.30pm at
South Hinksey Village Hall

draft

Signed: _____

Date: _____