

**Minutes of the meeting of South Hinksey Parish Council
held at South Hinksey Village Hall on Monday 3rd February 2020**

Present: Michael Cochrane (Chairman), Linda Goodhead, Christine Madsen
Cllr Bob Johnston (OxonCC), Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk).

Other attendees: None.

Time commenced: 7.00pm

19/214. Apologies

Christine Chater, Patricia Jones (Vice-Chair), Cllr Debby Hallett (VoWHDC), Cllr Emily Smith (VoWHDC).

19/215. Declarations of interest

All members declared an interest in relation to the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme and the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway.
The Chair, CC and LG declared an interest in relation to the Hinksey Hill 30mph limit.
The Chair asked the Clerk if he had yet received the clarification requested from the Monitoring Officer and he said he had not.

19/216. Public questions, comments or representations

None.

19/217. Minutes of the last ordinary meeting

The Council **resolved** to agree the minutes of the December 2019 meeting. The Chairman then signed each page.

19/218. Finance – payments and receipts

Payments

Payee	Reason	Amount	Power to act
SLCC	Share of Clerk's subscription	£87.00	s143 LGA 1972
OSAV Citizens Advice	Grant	£100.00	s144 LGA 1972
HMRC	Income Tax deducted period 8	£86.80	s112 LGA 1972
HMRC	Income Tax deducted period 9	£86.80	s112 LGA 1972

The Council **resolved unanimously** to approve all four payments. The Chairman then signed the payments and initialled the supporting paperwork. **Action: Clerk to meet CC to obtain her signature, then post the cheques to SLCC and Citizens Advice and make the payments to HMRC at a branch of the Council's bank.**

Receipts

None.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

19/219. County Councillor's report

BJ reported on Connecting Oxford. A workplace parking levy of £600 per parking space would produce funding for an improved bus service and possibly the abolition of fares on Park & Ride buses. There would be 26 additional residents' parking schemes.

He had attended a briefing on the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Arc from Bev Hindle, who has been seconded from OxonCC to lead the project.

He said OxonCC has more income for 2020-21 than expected so the ruling group is not proposing further cuts. In fact, he reported that a councillor who had been a member of the ruling group had resigned and her seat had been won by a Green councillor who would be voting with the Opposition, thus potentially reducing the ruling group's control at Council meetings.

19/220. District Councillors' report

DH and ES had both sent their apologies.

19/221. Planning applications

a) Consultation on pre-submission version of the Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan [Consultation deadline: 14th February 2020]

The Council **noted** the plan.

b) Consultation on VoWHDC's proposal to deviate from the Independent Examiner's recommendation in relation to policy BU1 - Oxford Brookes University Harcourt Hill Campus in the draft North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan [Consultation deadline: 13th March 2020]

The Council **agreed** that it had no comment to make on this matter.

c) Updates

- **Highways, Hinksey Hill** – The Clerk had contacted VoWHDC's Planning Enforcement Team who informed him there was a planning advice application for the "Erection of brick flat roof gym/sauna in the curtilage of property". The outcome of which was that the development, as described in the application, would comply with The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), Schedule 2, Part 1, Class E. The Clerk had been asked to provide more information as to what the Council believes the breach of planning control to be and what the planning harm is.
- **Charnwood, Hinksey Hill** – The Clerk had received the following response from Madeleine Palmer in VoWHDC's Planning Enforcement Team: "I have recently been allocated this case and I am scheduled to visit the property over the next fortnight, during which I will take measurements and make an assessment. I will then be able to update you. My apologies for the slow progress on this, but I have a considerable backlog of cases which I am working through."

19/222. Correspondence

None.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

19/223. Vacancy

The Clerk reported that VoWHDC had confirmed no petition for a ballot had been submitted and the Council was therefore free to co-opt. He had arranged for the vacancy to be publicised via Shinfo.

19/224. Council priorities

The Council briefly considered its priorities and **reaffirmed** that changes to the bank mandate were a priority. CC had obtained additional sheets so that the Chairman could continue to be a signatory. The Chairman suggested the Clerk should also be put forward as a signatory.

BJ advised the Council to seek expert advice before taking such a step. He believed it would be inappropriate for a Clerk to be included on a bank mandate as a signatory. The Chairman asked the Clerk to take expert advice on whether it would be illegal for the Clerk to be included on the bank mandate but continue to be prohibited by the Financial Regulations from signing cheques. **Action: Clerk**

19/225. Hinksey Hill speed limit

The new gates and 30 signs for the reduction in the speed limit at Hinksey Hill were installed on 30th January. OxonCC's Mark Francis has written to CC: "I have arranged for the 30 signs to be covered and the existing 40 signs and road markings to remain in place until the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) are installed. I believe that Chris has placed an order with his contractor and that he is currently awaiting an installation date from them.

As soon as the VAS signs are installed, we will remove the 40 signs/roundel markings and install new 30 roundel markings on the carriageway."

CC had proposed that the Council writes to residents of the fourteen houses, the majority of whom are outside the speed limit, to explain why and to reassure them that they are not forgotten. She said she is happy to draft something for the Chairman's approval. She also proposed that the Council puts out a notice via Shinfo. **Action: CC**

BJ said he had submitted the Council's application to OxonCC's Councillor Priority Fund before the deadline of 31st January. The Clerk reported that OxonCC had returned a copy of the Funding Agreement signed by both parties.

19/226. Flood Alleviation Scheme

There was nothing to report.

19/227. Woodland

The Clerk has received a message from the Forestry Commission saying it has noticed that not all the land of compartment 1 is registered with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and asking him to complete a form and send it to the RPA. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk approach BBOWT and write back to the Forestry Commission. **Action: Clerk**

The next site meeting has been arranged for Thursday 13th February at 9am.

Action: CC and Clerk

19/228. Burial ground

a) Waste

The Clerk reported that Biffa had yet to remove VoWHDC's bins.

b) Additional burial plots

The Clerk said he had not yet heard back from Cemetery Development Services.

c) Fees

The Council **resolved** to defer discussion of the proposed fee increases. The Chairman asked the Clerk to produce a comparison with the City Council's rates. CM emailed the City Council information to the Clerk. **Action: Clerk**

d) Burial ground hedge

The Clerk reported that Peter Rawcliffe had advised him that all the new beech trees and all the new hazel trees planted in the spring have died so a major replanting was needed. Peter Rawcliffe had suggested that the new trees probably died because the Council had not arranged for anyone to water them. BJ confirmed this would probably explain the death of the new trees. He believed each whip would need about one litre of water per week per whip between April and October.

The Clerk advised that the original budget of £200 for the hedge would be completely inadequate to cover the cost of a major replanting. The Council **agreed** to increase the budget at the Clerk's request from £200 to £350. CM volunteered to water the new hedge. **Action: CM**

19/229. Neighbourhood Plans

The Council was advised that VoWHDC's Cabinet is discussing a proposal to end its grant support to community groups preparing or reviewing neighbourhood plans and instead help community groups access the increased financial support available directly from central Government.

CM said she is meeting David Kay, who chairs North Hinksey Parish Council, tomorrow to learn about the work involved in preparing a neighbourhood plan.

19/230. Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

LG reported that the meeting of the North and West Parishes Expressway Group (NAWPEG) arranged for Thursday 30th January had been cancelled.

19/231. Annual Parish Meeting

The date of Monday 11th May was proposed. **Action: Clerk to find out if the Village Hall would be available.**

19/232. Grass cutting

The Clerk said there was nothing to report regarding the new agreement with OxonCC.

19/233. Great British Spring Clean

The Council **agreed** to defer this item to the next meeting in CC's absence.

19/234. Maintenance issues

a) Cycling sign

Oxford City Council's Rutendo Chigagure had informed the Clerk that the City Council will insist that signs for cyclists be white on blue as in the licence agreement, although it was a matter for their discretion. The Clerk has therefore ordered two replacement signs.

19/235. Traffic issues

CM reported that no sooner had the light on the roundabout gone out than there had been an incident of a large lorry entering the village in the middle of night. It was believed this was the first time for many months, the first time since the new traffic island had been built.

19/236. Feedback from members of the public

None.

Time concluded: 8.49pm

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7pm at South Hinksey Village Hall

Signed: _____

Date: _____