

FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FULBROOK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Date: 4TH May
7.00pm

Venue Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Present: Councillors Mr Peter Burns (Chairman) PB
Mr Malcolm Taylor MT
Mr Robert Warner RW
Mr Mike Thompson MTN

Parish Clerk Mrs Sarah Ebeling

Parishioners attending: 8 electors attended

OCC Councillor Mr N Field-Johnson
PCSO Darryn Moulding

For convenience the following abbreviations may be used in some instances in these Minutes.

FPC	Fulbrook Parish Council
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
POF	Parishioners Open Forum
WODC	West Oxfordshire District Council
OALC	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
CHA	Cottsway Housing Association
TVP	Thames Valley Police

1 **Apologies**

WODC Councillor Mr D Cotterill

2 **Minutes of the meeting 20th May 2019 (no meeting last year due to COVID restrictions)**

Minutes to be signed at the next meeting in July, when a face-to-face Council Meeting is Permitted.

3 **Financial Statement**

A financial statement had been sent out to everyone ahead of the meeting. There were no questions with regards to the financial statement however PB explained that the Council currently have a high reserve due to the fact that it is being kept for improvements to the playpark. He also explained that we are also in the process of buying a Speed Camera and paying for its installation.

4 **County and District Councillors annual reports**

District Councillor - DC has sent his apologies to the meeting and asked parishioners to refer the recent Bridge Magazine for his annual report.

County Councillor – NF-J has submitted a report which is attached to these minutes. NF-J spoke about the sewage crisis and how the private members bill had been pushed aside a few months ago but he hoped that it will be pushed through again soon.

5 **Annual Parish Report**

The annual report for distributed out to everyone attending the meeting and it was also put in both of the village notice boards. The report is also attached to the end of these minutes. There was a general discussion on the Speedwatch Campaign and questions on whether this had now ceased. PB explained that it had only ceased due to COVID and it will be picked back up once it is safe to do so again. PB also explained about the new speed camera that recently been purchased and explained that data can be collected from the camera. The data from both the camera and the hand-held speed gun could then be used to help with a case for future speed measures.

6 **Reports from Fulbrook Societies**

Fulbrook News: Laurance Balbes discussed that Fulbrook News is a quarterly magazine with 24 pages of A5 which is delivered free of charge to everyone in Fulbrook as well as some postal copies which are charged at £5 per year. There are 6 people on the Committee; Laurence Balbes, Lynn Bibbings-Burns, Lesley Beveridge, Diana Brown, David Foster and Jenny Jones. The newsletter is funded by adverts and last year further donations were needed due to a drop in revenue. Laurance wanted to remind everyone that the newsletter is for all of us so if there is ever anything you would like to be included then please get in touch with them at Fulbrooknews@gmail.com.

Amenities Group: MT discussed that they managed to have a village clean up which took place over a week with villagers helping out when they could and in their own bubbles rather than in groups as normal. There were talks of doing a summer clean up and hopefully more events can be planned now that COVID restrictions are starting to be lifted. PCSO Darryn Moulding asked if we had ever considered doing a Fulbrook Fun Run to raise money, PB suggested this could be linked to health/Couch to 5K. The possible route that was discussed was the circle route round Fulbrook/Swinbrook/Widford/Burford.

PCSO Darryn Moulding: Darryn Moulding discussed Speedwatch and said that other areas are now starting to go back to doing Speedwatch. He suggested that 3 people are needed to carryout speed watch with the handheld camera. It is thought that Richard Newport may still have the speed gun that had been

used previously and it would be a good idea to ask him if he would also want to resume his position of coordinator.

Crime Statistics:

- There has been a decrease in certain crimes and an increase in others. Dog napping is minimal in our area by national statistic. However we shouldn't be complacent as this type of crime is becoming worse.
- There have been 6 reported burglaries in this area (this covers surrounding areas such as Windrush/Burford/Swinbrook).
- **Drugs:** Very low on the scale – only a few instances.
- There has been an increase on action fraud such as mobile, home phone and door scams.
- The biggest increase is theft from vehicles – these are known as 'beauty spot thefts'.

The following question was asked to PCSO Darryn Moulding: **We have lost our neighbourhood watch coordinator and wondered whether you would be interested in taking on this role? And also writing a crime report for the Fulbrook News?** PCSO Darryn Moulding said he would be happy to however it would be more beneficial to get someone from the village to take on the role. With having someone local take this role on it means that reports of crime can be reported in real time and therefore real time action. There is a WhatsApp group up and running for the Neighbourhood watch coordinator to report crimes on.

7 Any other business

No other business was brought up in this meeting.

8 Closure and provisional date for the next meeting

Provisional date for next years meeting is the 10th May 2022.

FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Parish Councillors for the reporting period:

- Peter Burns (Chair)
- Malcolm Taylor
- Bob Warner
- Mike Thompson
- The Parish Clerk is Sarah Ebeling

Note: *the number of councillors recommended for a Parish of this size is 5. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact Peter Burns directly. We are aware that there is a need for diversity and encourage female applicants.*

The Parish Council would like to express their sincere thanks to Jo Glyde and Kim Kekwick for their work as Parish Clerks.

Covid Actions and Responses:

The Councillors would like to express their grateful thanks for the way in which the village pulled together in the face of the unprecedented Covid crisis.

- Covid actions and responses both dominated and curtailed Council activities during the reporting period. Nonetheless the Council acted swiftly and responsibly to ensure the wellbeing and safety of the village. This included a number of mandatory and voluntary actions
 - Conducting Council business and meetings via Zoom
 - Ceasing the village speedwatch initiative
 - Closing the playpark following government instructions and reopening with safety and user-advise signs later in the year when such restrictions were eased
 - Undertaking a needs-assessment survey of every house in the village to ensure that vulnerable villagers were identified and contacted
 - Creating a database of volunteers (numbering over 50) to help vulnerable villagers with shopping, wellbeing phone calls, prescription pick up, etc.
 - Cancellation of annual events such as the plant sale and village clean up

2020-21 Achievements:

- In response to village concerns about speeding, the Council has purchased a permanent vehicle activated speed sign which will be installed at the old bus stop site opposite the Carpenters Arms. This will provide a visible reminder to drivers that the speed limit is 30mph. The sign is solar powered and thus does not require electrical hook up. Moreover, vehicle speed data can be downloaded from the device to enable us to get useful data on speeds through the village that could act as empirical support for any case we may make in the future about speed calming measures. Installation is scheduled for late June 2021.
- In recognition of the global climate change emergency, climate change has been added as an ongoing agenda item for Council meetings

- Parish Councillors routine monitoring of the Play Park continues with maintenance tasks resulting from those inspections being completed immediately. Followed by Annual ROSPA checks.
- Continued financial support for the Fullbrook Newsletter as an effective way of communication for all residents. Constructive views and opinions on the Newsletter will always be welcome and can be channelled back through www.fulbrookvillage.net.
- Parish archive now safely installed

2022 Forward planning.

The council will revisit our post-pandemic activity planning in autumn 2021 so as to be prepared for the new economic and social normal as it emerges

- Improvements to the children's playpark
- The Plant Sale to be revived
- Village clean-up to be revived with drive for more volunteers to encourage the social aspect of this event!

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all of the councillors who have been instrumental in managing the various aspects on behalf of the village, especially for keeping up their commitment and enthusiasm in these particularly challenging times. Volunteers are a precious commodity and the commitment from the small team has been exceptional. Thank you to all. We look forward to seeing as many residents as possible at the Annual Parish Zoom Meeting on Tuesday 4th May 2021.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM CLLR NICHOLAS FIELD-JOHNSON

OCC BUDGET 2021/22

On 9th February, OCC approved an annual balanced budget. New investments and high levels of protection for frontline services are the chief features of the budget that Oxfordshire County Council set for 2021/22 and beyond.

A 1.99 per cent rise in basic council tax will take place from April plus an extra one per cent which would be required to be spent on adult social care under national rules, making a total of 2.99%.

The capital programme shows that OCC is investing £1.4 billion into infrastructure across the county that will help with the planned growth to deliver much needed houses especially affordable homes so that residents can look forward to a safe and secure home to live in.

Over the coming decade OCC is investing:

£260 million in schools

£617 million in Major Infrastructure projects

£338 Million in Highways improvements

£70 million in property improvements

£9 million in vehicle and equipment replacements with a focus on our target of being Carbon neutral by 2030. It is an important target for the County Council that highlights our green credentials. OCC has already reduced its carbon emissions by 40% since 2009 as well as achieving recycling rates of almost 60% - the best of any County Council.

An extra £400,000 is proposed for highway maintenance focused on additional resource for vegetation and drainage clearance plus supporting the roll out of a trial currently being undertaken enabling parish councils to implement 20mph schemes in their villages.

SAVING OUR WINDRUSH - RIVER TESTING EQUIPMENT NOW IN PLACE.

I am pleased to report that Burford has now installed its own river testing equipment.

This is due to all those readers who have kindly donated to the Save The Windrush Campaign.

Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (“WASP”) will manage the sophisticated testing equipment based in the Burford area, and will be responsible for the continual assessment of the river. This equipment will allow the local community, via WASP, to trace the releases of sewage from storm drains and elsewhere into our river and provide a comprehensive picture of the scale of pollution from what is described as the routine dumping of untreated sewage in some areas. This will include measuring turbidity or murkiness of the river as well as the dissolved oxygen levels, temperature, PH, conductivity and oxidation reduction potential. These are recognised indicators of sewage pollution and as well as giving an overall running health-check, will most importantly measure changes and provide an early alert to pollution incidents to help to track them down to the source.

Thames Water continues to be criticised for its continual dumping of raw sewage into our rivers, especially for the long-term events which, when caused by groundwater infiltration (as many are) are not legally permitted. Now that we have professional testing equipment the

Windrush can be monitored and excess discharges identified, effectively ensuring that there is a great deterrent to pollution from any source in place.

Ensured HGV ban in Burford was approved.

After 15 years of stalemate and with the help of the Burford Town Council, one of my first tasks was to ensure that OCC approved and implemented the HGV ban which came into place in October 2020. It is on an initial 18 month trial period which hopefully will become permanent.

HGVs have caused significant damage to buildings and the Victorian underground pipes which meant that action had to be taken. It was also seriously damaging the tourist industry in Burford.

Speeding in our Villages – 20mph is plenty campaign.

Speeding remains a major problem in our villages and I will continue to back the 20mph speed limit in our villages and have provided funding for the 20mph signage in Burford and also supported the campaign and signage for Swinbrook.

Supported Burford School safe crossing over the A40.

I have continued to support and campaign for a safe crossing across the A40 in order to ensure that pupils from Burford School can cross the A40 safely. A new bridge would have been the preferred option but high costs led to the decision to implement a controlled crossing instead.

Active user and supporter of Fix My Street and to repair potholes.

OCC has drafted in more staff to carry out inspections and contractors Skanska are sending out more teams to carry our repairs. An additional Dragon-Patcher is now in action on the road network travelling round on an ‘inspect and fix’ basis on the rural network. There is also good news in the form of almost £1m in extra funding from the Department for Transport in recognition of damage done to the roads by bad weather. This money will be spent on road patching later this year as that will give longer lasting benefits and better value for money. Defects that make roads hazardous will be dealt with within 24 hours as usual. Remember, if a defect has paint markings around it then it has already been scheduled for repair and does not need a new report. In the past year, OCC’s own machine, along with the shared Dragon, has fixed over 21,000 potholes. It is expected that the new one, over the next twelve months, could fill up to 14,000 more.

Continue to support local charities through my Priority Fund.

I support and fund various projects in my Division:

Carterton: Supported local bus service and two Food banks to assist residents.

Brize Norton: Supported speed limit signage and the Humble Bumble café.

Burford: Raised funds for HGV signage and 20 mph signage

Swinbrook: Provided funds for 20mph signage and also two CCTV cameras

Asthall: Provided funds for village signage.

Taynton: Provided funds for village sign.

Signed

Chairman, Fulbrook Parish Council

Date: