

**FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

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**MINUTES OF MEETING****Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

7.00pm

**Venue** The Parish Church of St James**Present:** Councillors Dr Peter Burns (Chairman) PB  
Mr Robert Warner RW  
Dr Filipa Hinton FH  
WODC Councillor Hugo Ashton

Parish Clerk Mrs Sarah Ebeling

Parishioners attending: 2 Parishioners.

**Apologies:**OCC Councillor Mr N Field-Johnson  
Mr Malcolm Taylor MT

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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 **Public Participation**

No public participation

2 **Declaration of Interests**

Nothing new to declare.

3 **Minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Minutes of the last meeting were signed by the Chairman.

4 **Vacancy**

There is now a vacancy for a new councillor.

**Clerk to advise in the newsletter.**

5 **Matters arising**

5.1) Trees by Orchard Row.

A member of the public present at the meeting opined that these trees are Horse Chestnuts which are prone to a disease that can cause branches to snap without warning. Could be a good idea to take half the weight off the top.

**Contact a tree surgeon to look into and advise.**

5.2) 20MPH speed limit

Peter has emailed Geoff who is the project manager for the 20 mph limit project and it looks promising that we can get this applied through Fulbrook.

**PB to email Nicholas Field-Johnson to ask if he will support our application.**

5.3) Speed Camera

No response from the company as of yet.

**Clerk to call and ask them to come out and look at the camera.**

5.4) Sweeping of the A361

The side of the road just past Orchard Row going down towards Burford is covered with leaves and mud. This has built up quite a lot and will need sweeping to clear.

**PB to report on 'Fix my street.'**

6 **Reports from County and District Councillors**

Hugo Ashton:

**Bridge**

Listed building consent has been applied for with regards to adding the Bollards to the bridge to act as a protection for pedestrians. Comments have been made with regards to large vehicles being able to safely cross the bridge once the bollards have been erected. It was asked if some kind of

rounded curbs could be used instead to help with the large vehicles being able to cross the bridge. This could however then cause problems for Pushchairs. The tarmac being redone on the pedestrian walk would also be beneficial in making it safer for pedestrians.

### **Fix My Street**

You can add someone to be a 'Super User' on fix my street – Hugo to send over the details on how to apply for this.

### **Planning**

Land East Of Barns Lane: Planning has been turned down again however there is expectations for this to be appealed. Geologists had confirmed that there were problems with the water mains which would be problematic with future building plans.

### **WODC Budget Meeting**

This is due to take place next week with council tax looking to go up by 2.9% and green waste bins to go up to £45 a year.

**Nicholas' report is attached to the end of the minutes.**

## **7 Amenities**

### 7.1) Plant Sale

It was discussed whether purchasing a card machine would be beneficial going forward for the yearly Plant Sales. 'Sum Up' can be purchased from around £30.

**MT to check if this can be linked up to the council bank account and to look into which device would be best.**

### 7.2) Coronation

It would be nice to be able to hold a village event for the Kings Coronation.

**Clerk to add something into the newsletter asking for volunteers to plan the event.**

## **8 Fundraising**

**PB to follow up on some fundraising routes.**

## **9 Planning**

Outline application with some matters reserved for the erection of 4no terraced cottages with associated parking and access way. - Land East Of 4 Meadow End Fulbrook Burford Oxfordshire

Sue & Richard Newport were both present for the meeting as the councillors had a few questions/requests.

Can a 10ft wire-type fence be placed on the boundary between the park and the new houses? This will stop balls etc from going over the fence and disturbing the residents.

Can a construction management plan be put in place to restrict times that the building work takes place. This is to make it safer when children are going to school and on the way home.

A good amount of signage needs to be up to make sure construction vehicles do not end up driving through Meadow End and to make sure all the children that live in the street can still play outside safely while the work is being carried out.

**Sue & Richard were both happy to look into all these comments/questions when finalizing the plans.**

Councillors response to the planning application

Councillors are in agreement that this modest project of four linked houses is the right project, in the right location at the right time. The reason for support is twofold. First, there is a need for less expensive housing in the village to attract newcomers (we are thinking of young families). Second, there is a need for smaller houses in the village that long-term, older residents who wish to continue living here can downsize to, thus releasing their larger houses to new owners who will have the wherewithal to maintain them and their grounds. The parish council has a responsibility to think about sustainability and we are very much hoping that sustainability will be built into these houses that goes beyond current planning criteria. We would like to see heat source pumps, solar panels (that can be built into the roof at construction stage), and smart technology that will keep energy costs down for the new owners. On a separate point, the plot is next to the village children's playground so we recommend a high wire mesh fence between the plots that will prevent the nuisance of balls landing in gardens. We wish the developers, who are residents of the village, the best of luck with this project.

**10 Speed Watch**

Currently with the camera down we are unable to collect any data from the camera at this time.

**PB to pick this back up once it is back up and running.**

**11 Play Park**

BW normally takes ownership of the monthly maintenance checks at the play park and he asked if any other councillors would be happy to share this out. Councillors all agreed they were happy to help with this.

Clerk has spoken to Sovereign Play and been given an updated quote for the rest of the upgrade plans. The councillors have agreed to do this in stages and to look at the next stage which should be moving the toddler swings back in order to add a new basket swing for the older children.

**Clerk to go back to Richard to discuss further.**

**12 Financial Statement**

13.1) Financial Statement for November/December agreed at the meeting.

**13 Climate Change**

No new updates

**14 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on the 23rd March 2023.

## REPORT TO FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL - FEBRUARY 2023 FROM CLLR NICHOLAS FIELD-JOHNSON

### GENERAL OCC REPORT

#### COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 23/24

OCC has received an unexpectedly generous Local Government Settlement which has resulted in the council having a surplus of £9m relative to the draft Budget that has been out for public consultation. Rather than use this surplus to cut Council Tax, the administration is looking for ways to spend the money. This approach is being contested by the Conservative Opposition. The Budget will be debated and voted upon by Full Council on 14 February.

#### OCC SPENDS £152K ON 20MPH SCHEME ADS – £10K IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE!

The LibDem/Green/Labour administration at OCC is spending £8m of Council Tax payers' money switching 85% of the county's 30mph speed limits to 20mph. This is little more than a cosmetic sign-changing exercise, and in most cases is not supported by the police, who are unlikely to enforce it. Nevertheless, many parish councils are giving the scheme a go while others are concerned that lots of money is being wasted.

While there is disagreement on the merits of the scheme, almost all Oxfordshire residents will be baffled why they are funding the administration's self-congratulatory advertising aimed at BUCKINGHAMSHIRE residents! This photograph was taken at Tesco, Broadfield, Aylesbury, BUCKS on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January. The 'out of Oxfordshire' element accounts for about £10,000 of the overall advertising budget of £152,000 for the campaign.



#### PLANS TO SPLIT OXFORD INTO FOUR SECTORS WIDELY ATTACKED

As previously reported, OCC plans to spend £6.5m on traffic filters that will split Oxford into four sectors: North, South, West and East. When the traffic filters are operating, for cars without a permit, movement within each sector is unrestricted, but direct movement between sectors is not possible and requires use of the ring road. Affected motorists will face much longer journey times and distances. The intention is to force a change in behaviour. The Conservative Opposition has grave concerns about the sectors proposal and condemns the misinformation that is being spread.

### **OXFORD LTNS REMOVED FOR REPAIR AS TAXPAYER BILL SOARS**

The Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) scheme continues to be highly controversial. In November 2022 OCC said it had spent £72,000 repairing vandalised plastic bollards. Many of the plastic bollards have now been removed at various locations in Oxford. OCC is temporarily replacing them with metal plates embedded in concrete. Officers said this is a safety measure while bollards are being repaired or replaced. OCC is now spending £100,000 to replace the plastic bollards with steel ones to prevent further damage.

### **OCC CABINET APPROVES CONTINUED STADIUM DISCUSSIONS WITH OXFORD UNITED**

OCC's cabinet has authorised its officers to start negotiations with Oxford United FC on outline legal and commercial terms relating to the club's proposal to lease land for the development of a new football stadium. Any final decision regarding the leasing of the land will be taken in public by a future cabinet meeting.

### **[OCC Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson, Burford & Windrush Valley](#)**

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## **REPORT TO FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 2022 FROM OCC CLLR NICHOLAS FIELD-JOHNSON**

### **GENERAL OCC REPORT**

#### **THAMES WATER AGAIN DUMPS RAW SEWAGE INTO OUR RIVERS.**

Thames Water's latest 48-hour sewage release amid a hosepipe ban has "nailed the myth" that dumping only occurs into rivers in high flow.

During the first heavy rain for months, the water company started releasing sewage from its Witney treatment works on Sunday afternoon with the discharges continuing on Monday. There was also an ongoing release from the Oxford sewage treatment works from Sunday afternoon into Monday.



Photograph from The Oxford Mail

WASP has also commented that: "Many rivers are still in very low and slow conditions and Thames Water is still applying for drought orders to take even more water from the aquifers, yet there is only one place that untreated sewage is going when the effects of 33 years of underinvestment mean that far too much rainwater still gets into the sewers and overwhelms inadequate sewage works - into our depleted rivers, and nationally our coastal waters as well."

One has to ask when will the National Government act to stop this damaging practice to our environment which makes our rivers unfit for generations to come.

### **OCC COALITION CONTINUES WAR ON MOTORISTS IN OXFORD**

A wide range of initiatives are either in place or being consulted upon. These include:

- ZEZ (Zero Emissions Zone): Non-electric cars are charged or fined if they enter the area
- LTNs (Low Traffic Neighbourhoods): Through traffic is blocked from certain areas
- Traffic Filters: The city is to be split into four sectors and cars without permits will be unable to travel directly from one sector to another

- Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs): Cars without permits are fined if they park in certain areas

- WPL (Workplace Parking Levy): Businesses are to be taxed if they provide parking spaces for employees

While understanding that traffic is a huge issue in Oxford, one has to wonder whether this is an overkill and there is concern about the amount of Council time and Council money being devoted to Oxford in comparison to towns and villages.

**OCC DECLINES THE GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT ZONES INVITE**

The OCC Coalition has written a formal letter to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up to explain why OCC has decided not to bid to be involved in Whitehall's investment zones initiative. One may well question this decision – why not accept Government money at a time of great need...??

**[OCC Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson, Burford & Windrush Valley](#)**

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