

HINTON WALDRIST PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Allison Leigh, 26 Eaton, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 5PR

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Minutes of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 20th July 2021

Present: Councillors Peter Evans (PE), Debbie Cordery (DC), Stephanie Stott (SS) and Judith Willis (JW)

Also Present: Mrs Allison Leigh (Clerk) (AL)

21/22: Apologies for absence: Mr Hugh Hamill (Chair) (HH), Mrs Alison Geary (Vice Chair) (AG), County Councillor Juliette Ash (JA), District Councillor Jerry Avery (J. Avery).

HH had asked PE if he would chair the meeting. The councillors present agreed to this and PE acted as chair of this meeting.

21/23: Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations on agenda items. PE and DC declared an interest in the allotments in case they were discussed.

21/24: Public questions and statements: No members of the public were present.

21/25: Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes were agreed with one change in wording. AL will update these for PE to sign.

21/26: Reports from County and District Councillors:

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

No report was received.

AL reported that JA would like the parish council to identify its 3 top priorities for OCC. The council asked that this be put on the September agenda for discussion.

Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC)

J. Avery sent the following report:

Sent

Strategic Issues

- 1. It is evidently very clear that in a by-election in Chesham & Amersham, Buckinghamshire - which has been a rock-solid Conservative seat for decades - Lib Dem Sarah Green overturned a 16,000 majority to become the area's new MP with an 8,000-vote majority. One of the key issues in the campaign was the government's proposed planning reforms contained in the White Paper which, were they to become law, would erode local democracy significantly by preventing local people from having a real say with respect to planning applications affecting their areas. Inevitably, so far*

as Thames Ward is concerned, we are just a small piece in the Oxford - Cambridge ARC plan which, if carried through, would mean creating a swathe of development across 5 counties - Berks, Oxon, Bucks, Northants and Cambs - and see the building of some 1 million homes by 2050. Of course, as your District Councillor I will keep a very close eye on all future large-scale planning applications submitted and do my best to defend the interests of Thames Ward.

2. Local Issues

I have been invited by Bethia Thomas who is the newly-elected County Councillor for part of Thames Ward, to sit on a committee that is seeking to significantly improve road safety in our part of the Vale as well as elsewhere. I have accepted her invitation to serve and I am keen to see progress with respect to addressing all aspects of road safety affecting our area. If such progress can be made in Oxford (e.g. the reduction of the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph on Cumnor Hill) I cannot see why we cannot do likewise. There are just too many cases of bad driving on the network of minor roads in Thames Ward and this has to be stopped to the extent possible.

- 3. Originally at the start of the pandemic I was given to £2000 to assist PCs in providing support to vulnerable people. I have now handed over the remaining £250 of that sum and it has gone to support the Comet bus service.*

Further to my last and at risk of repeating myself, I do wish to emphasise that the Council has expressed serious concern wrt the contents of the government White Paper in relation to planning. The grounds for concern are summarised below:-

This Council is concerned that the proposals in the White Paper:

- Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them.*
- Includes proposals for automatic rights to build in 'growth' areas, and increased permitted development rights, risking unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.*
- Includes a zoning approach that contains insufficient detail to reassure local planning authorities that the proposals are workable.*
- Removes section 106 payments for infrastructure and replace it with a national levy.*
- Does not adequately explain the important role planning has to play in addressing climate change or how planning will play its part in delivering net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.*
- Fails to give confidence that existing biodiversity areas including SSSIs and our historic environment will have adequate protection in the new system.*
- Contains no comments on the future or importance of strategic planning in the White Paper. The Vale of White Horse together with the other 5 Oxfordshire authorities has already invested significant resources in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 which is not yet at the examination stage. Strategic planning will also be required for plans for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.*
- Promotes the use of the standard method to establish housing requirements that will place pressure on our District to deliver significantly more homes in the future than is the case at present. This could have serious*

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consequences for the rural environment that attracts residents here in the first place.

- *Whilst the duty to cooperate as a concept could be improved, it should not be removed without an appropriate alternative in place.*
- *Does not recognise that the current system has been successful in enabling affordable housing to be provided on site as part of new housing developments. Any reforms should not encourage the development of gated communities.*

The council asked AL to see if J. Avery could note that the council agrees with all of J. Avery's objections to the White Paper mentioned above. The PC would also like to know if there is a forum where they could object at this stage.

21/27: Report from Police Constable Officer: No report has been received. AL will contact TVP as to why the council is no longer receiving reports.

21/28: Matters arising and not appearing elsewhere on the agenda: The following matters were raised:

- AL asked if the council could clarify what was discussed regarding Standing Orders at the May meeting. The council reported it resolved not to have Standing Orders, but to give regard to OALC's model Standing Orders, if needed.
- The Declaration of Acceptance form has not been signed by AG as of yet. AL will add this to the September agenda.
- DC reported that the bridlepath known as "Lightening Path" was overgrown with brambles and grass and is nearly impassable. JW and SS will work to sort this issue.

21/29: Parish Councillor Vacancy: SS reported that she and HH had met with 2 candidates. They felt that both candidates were very strong, but that Justin Davenport brought more ideas and researched knowledge to the discussion which the council felt was important. T

The council resolved to offer the role to Justin Davenport and, if he accepts, he would be co-opted at the next meeting.

The council would like the other candidate to come forward again should another vacancy arise.

AL will speak to HH about who will inform both candidates of the council's decision.

21/30: Annual Parish Emergency Planning Survey – OCC: The council resolved to use the same information as previously done – naming the Village Hall as a reception centre in case of emergency. PE asked if AL would add the defibrillator as a facility within the Hall.

21/31: Planning:

Planning applications

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>HWPC Comments</u>
P21/V1268/DIS	Land North of Duxford (part of Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve Duxford)	Discharge of condition 6 (Tree Protection Measures) on planning application P20/V3225/FUL (Construction of Shifford Weir Fish Bypass, comprising excavation of a new approx 450m long naturalised fish bypass channel, including one culvert under existing flood embankment, wooden handrails to edge of culvert, use of excavated materials to improve BBOWT access for future management of the reserve, together with temporary construction accesses and temporary construction compound on land near public highway in Duxford, and reinstatement of land following completion of the construction works)	The council resolved that there is no need to comment.

Planning Amendments

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>HWPC Comments</u>
P21/V1136/HH	The Old Rectory Hinton Waldrist	The amendment is for: As amplified by tree report received 7 July 2021.	The council resolved that there is no need to comment.

21/32: Financial report:

- Reconciled balance as of 30th June 2021: £8,344.49

Cheques authorised:

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cheque number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
Hinton Waldrist Village Hall	Room hire	643	20.00	18/5/2021
Debbie Cordery	Replacement bench	644	349.99	28/5/2021
HMRC	Refund for payment made in error by HMRC	645	306.12	4/6/2021
H. Hamill	Bolts and brackets for bench	646	22.24	4/6/2021
Allison Leigh	Expenses	649	47.94	4/6/2021
Allison Leigh	Salary – June 2021	647	112.20	30/6/21

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Allison Leigh	Salary –July 2021	648	111.20	31/7/21
Allison Leigh	Expenses – June and July	650	52.00	20/7/2021
Hinton Waldrist Village Hall	Room hire	651	20.00	20/7/2021
Allison Leigh	USB Flash drive for back up	652	14.00	20/7/2021

JW enquired about online banking. AL reported that Lloyds does not offer a service whereby AL could raise payments without being a signatory. She reported that Unity Bank offer this service and that she has had a very positive experience with them with her other councils. However, there is a £6/month charge. AL will speak to OALC about this as OALC have been consulting with Unity on smaller parish councils and the issue of cost.

AL will also keep a record of the HW Village Hall payments and make one payment at the end of the year so as to avoid multiple cheques.

Audit:

- **Certify the council can confirm itself as exempt and sign the Certificate of Exemption:** The council confirmed its resolution to certify itself as exempt.
- **Review Internal Audit Report 2021 2022:** The council reviewed the internal audit report.
- **Review and sign Annual Governance Statement 2020 2021:** AL read out the Annual Governance Statement. The council agreed all of the responses and signed the Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021.
- **Review and sign Accounting Statements for 2020 2021:** The council reviewed and signed the Accounting Statement for 2020/2021.
- **Review Annual Return with variances for the 2020 2021 audit:** The council reviewed and agreed the Annual return with variances for the 2020/2021 audit.

The council discussed the purchase a gift with the value of £50 for the internal auditory gift in lieu of payment. PE asked if this is allowable and AL stated that the council does not have its own Standing Orders and it is not covered in the Financial Controls. The council resolved to proceed.

The council agreed the following dates for the Notice of Public Rights for the 2020 2021 audit:

- Date of announcement: 21st July 2021
- Date of commencement: 22nd July 2021
- Ending of period: 1st September 2021

AL reported that the date the audit was due was the 30th June 2021. As the

documents hadn't been formally reviewed at the May meeting, AL informed the external auditor that the documents would be ready after the July meeting. The auditors noted this on the file. AL is hopeful there won't be a charge, but there is a possibility.

21/33: Publications and correspondence: AL will create a correspondence list for the September meeting.

SS noted the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils June Newsletter referencing Oxfordshire Green Week from the 18th – 26th September. The council discussed some green ideas and would like to continue discussions about green initiatives in the village at the next meeting.

21/34: Matters for report: It was noted that the Big Lunch will be the 26th September 2021 and that this will be on the September agenda.

21/35: Date of the next meeting: PE asked AL to circulate several dates as options for the September meeting to the council

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.