

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

Present: Mrs Caroline Hjorth (Chair)  
Mr Les Gordon  
Mrs Margaret Poole  
Mr John Poole  
Mr Ray Hudson

Ms Barbara Drysdale (Clerk)

Also present were: Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC), Freddie van Mierlo (OCC) and two residents

Apologies were received from: Cllr Duncan Boulton (LPC)

**Item 1: MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None were received.

**Item 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were accepted as being a true record of proceedings by councillors and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**Item 3: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (INFORMATION ONLY)**

The Clerk told the meeting that she had reported the poor state of the A40 pavement to OCC; no response yet.

**Item 4: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SESSION**

No requests had been received by the Clerk.

**Item 5: THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

The meeting noted the usual TVP emails.

The Clerk was instructed to ask the police for details of the accident on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February by the bus stop on the B4009 near the M40 junction.

Clerk

**Item 6: DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr van Mierlo said OCC was holding its budget meeting tomorrow, items include:

A large rise in the amount allocated for adult social care and children's special needs; increased funding for combating and preventing flooding on roads and £800k for the fire service for a new truck. Council tax would rise by 5%.

He told the meeting that a public consultation on the Watlington Relief road would open next week and continue until 20<sup>th</sup> March.

See also Items 9 a&b

Cllr Newton told the meeting of SODC's budget discussions; £5 would be added to the average Band D council tax bill. A new grant scheme for food banks and drop in centres was being set up. And that she was putting down a motion at SODC's March meeting voicing concern about the deluge of solar farm applications.

Chair: .....

Date:.....

**Item 7: FINANCE**

- a) Councillors received and noted a budgetary control report for year to date from the RFO which showed balances as of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023:  
 Treasurers Account: £1,763.52  
 Business Savings Account: £18,667.26  
 Hall Account: £6,317.18
- i) CommunityHeartbeat      Defib battery      £318.00      S.234 Public Health Act 1936  
 ii) PetWasteSolutions      Dog bin emptying      £92.95      S.111 LGA 1972
- c) The Clerk told the meeting that LPC's grant application to the SODC Councillor's fund had been successful. Cllr Newton was thanked. The meeting agreed that an anchor kit for the bench should also be bought and this would be paid for out of CIL funds. The Clerk was given permission to order the items as soon as the funds arrived from SODC. Clerk
- d) Councillors agreed to renew LPC's membership of the Friends of the Ridgeway. Clerk
- e) The meeting agreed that LPC should renew its membership of Community First Oxfordshire. Clerk
- f) The meeting noted that new pads were required for the village hall defibrillator. Chair/Clerk

**Item 8: PLANNING**

- a) The meeting considered the following new applications:
- i) P22/S4649/HH Capriol, Lower Road, Postcombe  
 Single storey side extension and garage conversion, changes to elevation materials and window/door type Clerk  
 The council agreed to support this application with a note that obscure glass must be used in the side window.
- ii) P23/S0047/HH Chiltern View, Lower Road, Postcombe  
 Three storey rear extensions and reconfigure internally Clerk  
 The council agreed to a response that if Planning was minded to approve this application, a detailed traffic management schedule was needed because of the single track lane.  
 LPC also agreed to ask Planning to note that these two applications were for dwellings opposite each other on a single track road and therefore consideration was needed to the timing of the two developments due to traffic issues, especially on bin collection days.
- iii) P23/S0174/FUL National Land Access Centre Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve, Aston Hill Clerk  
 Retrospective change of use of land from agricultural to mixed agricultural use and for the demonstration of BS5709:2018 in practice being the use, maintenance and installation of gaps, gates and styles and to undertake training courses for countryside manager to increase access to the countryside for all, with associated operational development.  
 The council agreed to support this application.
- iv) P23/S0203/SCO Land bordering M40 near Lewknor Clerk  
 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion for a proposed solar PV array with an export capacity of approximately 49.9 MW covering an area of 83 ha, with an indicative maximum panel height of 3.2 m.  
 The meeting agreed to submit the response compiled by Cllr John Poole, following discussions with other councillors and input from the Neighbourhood Plan committee.
- b) Councillors noted the status of the following applications:
- i) P22/S2744/HH & P22/S2745/LB Poplar Farm, Box Tree Lane, Postcombe      Decision awaited  
 Proposed single storey rear extension, and internal/fenestration alterations to the existing house.
- ii) P22/S4318/DPO The Blue Cross Little Close, Lower Icknield Way near Lewknor  
 Discharge of legal obligations relating to S.106 Agreement (in the Schedule) dated 7th May 2004 between SODC and The Blue Cross      Modified

Chair: .....

Date:.....

- iii) P22/S4485/HH Vernon Cottage, 2 Weston Road, Lewknor  
Single storey rear extension Approved
- iv) P22/S4594/FUL Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve Car park, Sunken Way Walk,  
Lewknor Decision awaited  
Provision of revised access arrangements to Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve carpark to improve public accessibility and reduce anti-social behaviour
- v) P23/S0048/T28 Lewknor Postcode area  
Proposed installation of 8 (Eight) 11 metre wooden poles to be installed with 9.3 metres above ground Partial approval  
The meeting noted that following the issue being highlighted in the media, SSEN had contacted LPC to say they were willing to discuss allowing other companies to use their existing poles. All parties had been made aware of this development.
- c) It was noted that the following appeal had been decided:  
P22/S1308/HH Anntara House, 8 Shirburn Road, Lewknor Allowed  
Erection of front porch and extension/alterations to roof structure of carport/garage  
Conversion of roof space into a home office/gym and an external staircase.
- d) NPPF: those present discussed the ongoing review of this policy document and noted the comments from Cllr Boulton and notes from SLCC. It was formally agreed that a submission would be drawn up when Cllr Boulton returned from holiday and would be agreed via email before the closing date of 2<sup>nd</sup> March. DB/All

**Item 9: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

- a) Cllr van Mierlo told the meeting that he had told of plans by National Highways to improve the M40/B4009 junction at a cost of £1.2m; NH was asking OCC to contribute half. There was concern raised that LPC was not being consulted to give local knowledge. Cllr van Mierlo said he would give LPC a summary of the proposals so that LPC could provide its suggested improvements to help with safety.
- b) It was confirmed that OCC had approved the implementation of a 20mph speed limit in parts of the parish.
- c) The state of the A40 bus shelter was discussed and it was agreed that councillors would carry out repairs to the roof. MG/JP/RH

**Item 10: CIL**

The meeting noted that the new Village Only sign for Postcombe had been installed; the new gates were still awaited.

**Item 11: CORONATION**

Councillors considered two suppliers for Coronation mugs and two sample mugs. It was agreed that 120 mugs would be ordered in April.

The meeting agreed that following this purchase there would enough money left in the Coronation budget for bunting etc for the street parties planned for Lewknor and Postcombe. Chair/MP

**Item 12: PARISH SPRING CLEAN**

The Clerk confirmed that notices had been displayed and equipment ordered for the parish spring clean on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March in both Lewknor and Postcombe. All

**Item 13: BLEDLow RECYCLING CENTRE**

Chair: .....

Date:.....

Councillors noted that the Bledlow tip had re-opened but that Oxfordshire residents were being charged to use it. It was agreed the Clerk would contact both OCC and Buckinghamshire CC to voice LPC's concern that such charges would not help reduce flytipping.

Clerk

**Item 14: OCC TREE PLANTING**

Councillors agreed that the proposed location for OCC to plant a new tree (on the grass verge by the Lewknor noticeboard) was not suitable; the Clerk was instructed to speak to SOHA and OCC in the hope the tree could be planted on the crescent green on Weston Road instead.

Clerk

**Item 15: RAF BRIZE NORTON**

The meeting noted the email from the RAF base about its planned airspace changes and that Cllr Boulton had replied.

**Item 16: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- thanks from TV Air Ambulance and Watlington Hospital Charitable Trust for LPC's donations.
- the annual OCC Emergency Planning survey: to be completed by April

Chair/MP/  
Clerk

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm**

**Chair:** .....

**Date:**.....