

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON 15th MAY 2023

The meeting was attended by:

The Lewknor Parish Councillors:

- Mrs Caroline Hjorth
- Mr Duncan Boulton
- Mr Les Gordon
- Mrs Margaret Poole
- Mr John Poole
- Mr Ray Hudson

Ms Barbara Drysdale (LPC Clerk)

Also present were:

- Mr Peter Gardner (NP committee chair)
- Cllr Georgina Heritage (SODC)
- Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (OCC)
- Two residents

Item 1: INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Mrs Hjorth opened the meeting. She thanked all those present for attending and welcomed the newly elected District Councillor, Georgina Heritage.

Item 2: ANNUAL REPORT ON PARISH ACTIVITIES 2022/23

As usual it's been a busy year and many of the same items and problems keep cropping up including speeding, litter, and overgrown vegetation. We always seem to be trying to maintain just about everything in the Parish and it always seem to take a very large amount of time!

We said goodbye to two councillors this last year Murray Graham and Karl Rolfe but gave a big welcome to John Poole and Ray Hudson who have taken up their positions with great enthusiasm which is most welcome. And in the last two weeks we have also said goodbye to District Councillor, Caroline Newton, who stepped down at the May Election and welcome our new DC Georgina Heritage.

Our Clerk has created a handbook for new councillors which sets out their roles and responsibilities and explains the how the parish council works.

Planning applications have been numerous, seemingly more than many other years; and it would seem that the number of residents creating larger homes for themselves is a sign that more residents wish to stay in the Parish.

The Summix proposals for the new town called Harrington resurrected themselves and have created a lot of discussion and opposition within South Oxfordshire. Duncan Boulton and I attended a presentation at the Doubletree Oxford Belfry by JTP architects. It was noted that there were a huge number present who were linked with the project rather than local residents.

Following their short presentation to LPC last February, Solar 2 were made to produce an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before which LPC held an emergency meeting in the extreme heat last summer to put together their comments. Thank you to all the residents who turned up with their thoughts and comments. As yet, there has been no formal application.

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The parish council – with the help of Oxfordshire County Council – planted a tree in Postcombe last summer on the corner of Salt Lane to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee (along with a plaque). Thank you to Margaret Poole and Gillian Boulton for watering it so well, it’s thriving in spite of last summer’s drought.

Like so many other councils in the UK, our September meeting was cancelled due to the death of HM The Queen. We were able to quickly create a space in St Margaret’s for reflection and signing the book of condolence. The book will be kept by the parish council as part of the parish’s history.

We had some good ideas for Postcombe residents on ways to improve the parish. Using both CIL money and a grant from South Oxfordshire District council, the parish council bought a marquee and lights for social events, a “Tommy” statue for Postcombe and a new bench which is now installed on the grass area at the end of Box Tree Lane.

The parish council also bought two new benches for the playground using some of its CIL funds plus another grant from South Oxfordshire District Council. And using money from Oxfordshire County Council’s CIL budget, we got new village gates installed around the parish, Vehicle Activated Speed signs in South Weston and Postcombe and new flower tubs at the entrance to Lewknor village. Thank you Emma Mears who is maintaining these for the parish.

Lewknor PC organised the annual litter pick at the beginning of March and a huge number of bags of rubbish was collected in both villages. Many thanks to all the residents who gave their time.

I’d finally just like to say a big thank you to our Clerk, Barbara, who has (as she always does) kept us up to date with everything she understands is important to the functioning of Lewknor PC.

Items 3: DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

By Cllr Caroline Newton (who stood down at the recent election)

This is my final report Annual Report: having been SODC Councillor for Haseley Brook for almost 6 years I stood down at the most recent election. It has been a privilege to have represented the communities in this ward. I have tried to do so to the best of my ability, and hope you feel I have done so well and fairly.

Planning

Apart from individual casework issues, the strategic matters with which I have most been involved have related to planning.

Harrington

In the last year the most consequential one has been the proposed new town of Harrington, at J7 of the M40 near Great Haseley. I have been (and remain) completely opposed to the concept of a town of 6,500 houses being built in that location - beautiful, open countryside far from jobs and sustainable transport hubs.

Solar Farms

Another issue that has been particularly pertinent in this ward (especially along the M40 corridor from Milton Common to Lewknor) has been the proliferation of proposals for solar farms. Two (Harlesford and Cornwell) have been approved and are going through the more detailed planning process before construction starts. These, together with proposals for solar farms at Milton Common and Lewkor represent over 330 hectares of open agricultural land. I have worked with local communities to try to prevent such a massing of solar farms in a small area of valued landscape and productive farm land. I think most of us accept the need for solar power to contribute to our energy mix, and wouldn’t argue against the installation of some dispersed solar farms on agricultural land across South Oxfordshire. But like many residents, I would much rather see solar on roofs, and am concerned about the impact of the

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scale of this industrial development. I successfully made the case at SODC Full Council this spring for policies to address this - but I am worried that the new council will ignore the resolution: none of the Lib Dem candidates supported the motion, arguing, in fact, that it is unnecessary to have any limit.

Residents in affected parishes will need to continue to make the case for the protection of their countryside.

Chalgrove

In March, Homes England (HE) confirmed that they are still determined to push ahead with the development of Chalgrove Airfield (which was allocated as a strategic development site in the current Local Plan). In light of opposition from the Civil Aviation Authority (and unflagging resistance from the residents of Chalgrove village), HE seem to have gone back to the drawing board and were able to give very little indication of their strategy, mitigation etc etc. HE said they would be bringing forward new plans in due course - though gave no indication of timescale.

Local Plan

Work continues on the Joint Local Plan 2041 - the strategic spatial development plan that will determine how South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse grow over the next 18 years (including where - and how much - land should be allocated to new housing and businesses etc). It is due to be adopted by the end of 2025. The scale of the aspiration for new housebuilding will be announced later this summer. I am hopeful that it will not be so large that Harrington becomes a possibility, but will be following with close interest.

Planning Enforcement

SODC's failure to strongly enforce planning rules has remained a real frustration for many residents. SODC announced a new triage system for enforcement in 2020 which was explicit that the council would ignore relatively minor breaches. Opposition councillors argued this would be a green light to people tempted to break the rules, and so it has seemed to prove. Without a properly resourced Enforcement Team this will continue to be a problem for residents who want to see planning applications and condition fairly enforced.

Infrastructure levies

I know many of us are concerned that public services (GPs etc) are not keeping pace with population growth. It is SODC's job to ensure that developers meet planning conditions imposed during the planning process, and - with OCC - that the money levied from development is spent on the right infrastructure in the right places at the right time to the benefit of existing and new residents.

Housing

SODC has described the pressure on our housing services as a 'perfect storm' - with cost of living combining with a contraction in the private rental market, and the arrival of refugees from the Ukraine war to increase the competition for homes.

We are all aware of the large number of new homes being built in this area. But the most recent figures suggested there are currently 1283 households on our register, far outstripping the homes available.

The most recent survey indicated there were 3 rough sleepers in South Oxfordshire, with 17 households in emergency accommodation at the end of March. Of those 4 were Ukrainian households who could no longer be accommodated by their local hosts. To date, the SODC housing team have supported 139 Ukrainian families at risk of homelessness.

In the meantime, discussions have begun with Oxford City Council about how residents on their housing register can apply for homes here in SODC, adding greater strain to our housing stock.

Waste

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Recent Government figures indicate that South Oxfordshire had - again - one of the highest recycling rates in the country. Our recycling system, devised a decade ago, which allows us to put all our recycling waste in one green bin continues to be very successful. But the main reason we do so well in the league tables is because of the amount of garden waste we put in our brown bins. The ratings are calculated on weight of refuse, and we are big gardeners here in South Oxfordshire!

The Environment Act 2021 which seeks to protect and enhance our environment, includes policies around waste and recycling. It may well have implications for how our rubbish services work. SODC will be letting residents know what these might be in due course.

Climate Change

SODC declared a climate emergency in 2019 and an ecological emergency 2021. The council has set targets to be carbon neutral within its own operations by 2025; and for us to be a carbon neutral district by 2030. I was keen to support SODC’s own net-zero aspirations, but remain sceptical about the council’s capacity to set - and more importantly deliver - a target for the whole district.

With funding from central government, SODC has worked with other Oxfordshire councils on a strategy for creating a network of charging points for electric vehicles. This has included charging points in council car parks. I have been concerned that the focus of these strategies is the city of Oxford and the large towns in the county. It is essential that villages also receive EV charging capacity: they are often vibrant spots in our tourist economy and, just as in towns, many village-dwellers do not have access to their own charging points.

Item 4: COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

By Cllr Freddie van Mierlo, Chalgrove and Watlington Division

Now 2-years into its first 4-year term, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the progress made by the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance administration since taking control from the Conservatives. Its vision is laid out in the 9 priorities adopted, that includes ‘putting climate at the heart of everything we do’. The IPCC’s ‘final warning’ to humanity in March this year, puts back into focus the importance of following through on this commitment – even in the face of rising opposition from conspiracy theorists, climate change deniers, and those who would wish to see a much-diminished role for the county council. The County Council is responsible for delivering a range of services to residents of Oxfordshire, including adult social care, children’s services – including for children with special educational needs and disabilities, and of course, maintaining Oxfordshire’s highways and transport infrastructure, and a range of other services, including libraries, fire and rescue, and coroners’ services. Adult social care is largest responsibility of OCC in terms of spend. Demand is growing due to our ageing population and an increase in complexity of needs. In Oxfordshire, we are seeking to manage this demand with a pioneering ‘Oxfordshire Way’, that aims to keep people active and independent for as long as possible in their homes and communities. As part of this, OCC has been promoting a scheme to empower small scale care businesses in the community to thrive. Support is provided to ‘micro-enterprises’ to navigate the paperwork and start out as a commercial enterprise. An all-age unpaid carers strategy review is also ongoing to better support this vital group in our communities. Children’s services remain a challenge, particularly in the area of SEND.

Children’s services remain a challenge, particularly in the area of SEND. The service receives this year an inflation busting boost to its budget of 12.3% (£18.8m), which will provide much needed funds to improve the assessment of EHCPs in particular. The county was also successful in bidding for £5.2m to fund new residential homes for children with autism and children with adverse childhood experiences. In transport and highways, the county is leading the way, alongside the Welsh government, by moving to 20mph as the speed limit for

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villages and towns. The newly adopted Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP5) is a radical change from the previous plan, and places an emphasis on active travel, public transport and reducing car journeys. Its ambitious targets to reduce car journey's by 25% by 2030 and 33% by 2040 will shape infrastructure decisions going forward, and be a powerful tool when developers seek massive car-centric developments (e.g., Chalgrove Airfield, Harrington). The freight strategy (which sits as part of LTCP5) is being developed further with inputs sought from communities on area weight restrictions and problem areas for HGVs. The strategy seeks to move non-local freight onto the strategic road network (M40, etc.), rather than use inappropriate local roads. Additional investment is being made in taking on stubborn highways flooding issues that will see more projects brought forward in 2023 and 2024 to take on problem areas.

As ever, I continue to advocate for projects and issues important to local communities and individual residents. Issues have ranged from road agreements, active travel, trees, road markings, flooding, children's services, and much more! In Watlington, key areas of focus have been representing the views of the community to the County on the Watlington Relief Road. I've also been delighted to see the progress made to bring the unoccupied property at 33 High Street back to life. The work done by Watlington Welcome and the parish council is testament to the power of local communities and unlocking their potential. Work continues in the background to cement the handover of the Charlotte Coxe Trust (owner of 33 High Street) to the parish council. I have also been delighted to support a wide range of projects through the Councillor Priority Fund. The fund was renewed in February's budget on the same basis as previously (£15,000 over 2 years), with new applications opening in April 2023. Given the impact of inflation, and a lastminute rush that is delaying approval of applications, I again will favour projects that can be delivered early and start providing benefit to the community this year. Housing developments also remain a concern for residents. While strictly speaking a district matter, the major road developments associated with Chalgrove airfield development, and the potential Harrington development bring in County level concerns. I continue to oppose both of these schemes, which would have a deleterious impact on the local environment and climate due to their remote and rural locations. Finally, with Oxfordshire's growing population, the electoral commission has determined a review of current county council division boundaries is required. The election commission has agreed with a recommendation from council that the number of councillors be increased from 63 to 69, which would keep the number of electors per councillors roughly the same as they are now up to 2029. The increase in councillors will likely see the Watlington and Chalgrove division broken up into two separate divisions - with Chalgrove and Watlington being the major population centers in each of the new divisions. For me, this will be bitter-sweet, since I very much enjoy serving all the communities of the current county division, but it's wide geographic spread does make it extremely challenging, which will be somewhat alleviated by new boundaries.

Item 5: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT

By Peter Gardner, Chair, Lewknor NP group

The Lewknor Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group has submitted its draft neighbourhood plan to South Oxfordshire District Council ("SODC") who, as part of the process laid down in the regulations, are running a consultation on the draft plan, referred to as a regulation 16 consultation, which runs from 19 April to 7 June. Once the consultation period is finished SODC will collate all the comments and send the plan plus comments received to an external examiner for consideration. Examiners will usually require some changes to a plan, once these are dealt with to the examiner's satisfaction SODC will arrange a referendum of voters in the parish on the plan. If the plan is approved at the referendum SODC will bring the plan

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into force. Although the timetable is now largely outside of our control, we hope the plan will come into force later this year. The Neighbourhood Plan Group has four members: Peter Gardner, Duncan Boulton, Kayti Foster and Peter Freeman.

Item 6: MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

The residents raised concerns about the possible planning application for a large solar farm in the parish; the various companies trying to install broadband in the parish and the legal issues around their requests to use private land; the cost of energy for those residents off-grid; and grasscutting arrangements in Manor Close.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON 15th MAY 2023

Present: Mrs Caroline Hjorth
Mr Duncan Boulton
Mr Les Gordon
Mrs Margaret Poole
Mr John Poole
Mr Ray Hudson

Ms Barbara Drysdale (Clerk)

Also present were: Cllr Georgina Heritage (SODC), Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (OCC) and Edward Whorwood (OCC Tree Officer)

Item 1: CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Duncan Boulton proposed Caroline Hjorth to be Chair; Ray Hudson seconded and the meeting formally voted to approve her appointment. Cllr Hjorth signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair.

Les Gordon proposed Duncan Boulton to be Vice Chair; Margaret Poole seconded and the meeting formally voted to approve his appointment. Cllr Boulton signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice Chair.

All councillors signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

All were countersigned by the Clerk.

Item 2: MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllrs Margaret Poole and John Poole declared an interest in Item 11a.

Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 17th April 2023 were accepted as being a true record of proceedings by councillors and signed accordingly by the Chair.

Item 4: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (INFORMATION ONLY)

No updates except those covered under other items.

Item 5: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SESSION

No requests had been received by the Clerk.

Item 6: THAMES VALLEY POLICE

There were no reports.

The Clerk said there had still been no response to her email to the PCSO for information about the crash on the B4009. It was agreed she would contact the Chief Constable's office about the lack of communication.

Clerk

Item 7: DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The meeting welcomed new District Councillor, Georgina Heritage who said she would begin her monthly reports next month.

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The council noted Cllr van Mierlo's May report. He said he would chase the current situation with the legal status concerning the land gap at Manor Close and that he had no updates on the possible work to improve the safety at the M40 motorway junctions on the B4009.

Item 8: REVIEW OF COUNCIL PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTATION

- a) The following documents were reviewed:
- i) Review of Clerk's Contract. It was revised last month so no amendments necessary.
 - ii) Review of Code of Conduct. No amendments were considered necessary (on LPC website).
 - iii) Review of Individual Declarations of Interest. The Clerk told all members that following the recent elections, they were required to resubmit their Declarations of Interest. (link on LPC website to SODC website).
 - iv) Review of Financial Regulations. Councillors approved the simplified wording in Clause 6. And a formal resolution for LPC to continue with online banking and the Direct Debits for the Clerk's work phone and ICO fee was proposed by Cllr Boulton, seconded by Cllr John Poole and passed unanimously.
 - v) Review of Banking Arrangements. The current banking arrangements were considered to be satisfactory (in Risk Assessment).
 - vi) Review of Budgeting Arrangements. LPC's budgetary procedures were considered to be satisfactory and all members confirmed that they had a personal copy of the Outturn for the 2022/23 budget and the budget for the current year as adopted in December 2022 (on website).
 - vii) Review of Property and Insurance. The meeting discussed amendments to the Property Register: it was agreed that the Clerk would take 10 years of Minutes to the Oxfordshire Records Office and, if available, pay for copies of 1904 certified copy of the Enclosure Award of 1819 including a Map dated 1815 and Definitive Map and Statement Of Public Rights Of Way up to a cost of £18. See also xviii. Councillors further agreed that the current insurance policy provided adequate cover and acknowledged receipt of the annual insurance documents.
 - viii) Review of Risk Assessment. Councillors approved annual revision.
 - ix) Review of Financial Procedures. It was agreed that LPC's financial procedures, as reflected in the Risk Assessment and the minutes of meetings were adequate and appropriate.
 - x) Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit. Members approved the annual revision and agreed this represented an adequate approach for LPC and that it would, therefore, be appropriate to minute that the effectiveness of the current arrangements had been reviewed and been found satisfactory, given that the Internal Auditor had inspected and approved LPC's finances for 2022/23. It was agreed that the Internal Auditor's report would be held over until LPC's July meeting for a full discussion due to time constraints this evening and that the finance councillor would be away in June.
 - xi) Confirmation of Chair's Allowance. The decision of 16 June 2008 to provide for a Chair's Allowance of up to £100 per annum under the terms of LGA 72, S.15(5) was re-endorsed for 2022/23.
 - xii) Review of Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act. No changes were considered necessary.(on website)
 - xiii) Review of provisions under the Data Protection Act:
 - Information and Date Protection Policy
 - Privacy Notice
 - Data Protection Consent Form
 - Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy
 - Data Protection breach reporting policy (all on website)

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- xiv) Review of Play Policy. No amendments were considered necessary (on website).
- xv) Review of Safeguarding Policy. No amendments were considered necessary (on website).
- xvi) Review of Equal Opportunities Policy. No amendments were considered necessary (on website).
- xvii) Review of Standing Orders for Clerk’s salary & PAYE. The council formally noted the changes approved last month and made this month to reflect the Clerk’s increased hours.
- xviii) Disposal of LPC records. It was agreed that the Clerk would take another 10 years of Minutes to be deposited in the Oxfordshire Records Office (so Minutes from 1894-2017 would be stored there). Various books are held by the Clerk or Chair, plus some other LPC documents are stored in a locked cabinet in the village hall.
- xvix) Duplicate Archive. To cover the possibility of a catastrophic loss of the original materials, the Clerk has copies of all important correspondence/documentation raised by LPC for at least the past six years on separate CDs/USB sticks and/or in a password-protected DropBox in the cloud and/or in files, plus an external hard-drive.
- xx) Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies. The Chair agreed to continue to represent LPC on the LPRG&H committee; the whole council thanked her for her service.
- xxi) Update of contact details. Members confirmed their details were up-to-date (on website).
- xxii) Review of assignment of specialist topics. Councillors agreed no changes were necessary to the changes approved in January 2023.
- xxiii) Review the terms of reference for the staffing committee. No changes were considered necessary.
- xxiv) Review the Dispute & Grievance Policy. No amendments were considered necessary (on website).
- xxv) Review Dignity in the Workplace (Bullying) policy. No amendments were considered necessary (on website).
- xxvi) Disciplinary Policy. No amendments were considered necessary (on website)
- xxvii) Health & Safety policy. No amendments were considered necessary (on website).
- xxviii) Standing Orders. Slight amendments, as recommended by NALC, were approved (on website).
- xxix) Review of LPC’s Emergency Mandate. No amendments were considered necessary.
- xxx) Review of Volunteer Policy. No amendments were considered necessary (on website)
- xxxi) Review of Transparency Policy. No amendments were considered necessary (on website)
- c) Councillors confirmed that inspections of LPC property around the parish were being carried out regularly.

Item 9: END OF YEAR FINANCES 2022-23

- a) The council received and approved the Annual Governance Statement (Annual Return Section 1) which was signed by the Clerk/RFO and the Chair.
- b) The council received and approved the Accounting Statements (Annual Return Section 2) for 2022/23 which was signed by the Chair and the Clerk/RFO.
- c) The meeting noted that the RFO would now submit LPC’s documents for External Audit and display the Notice of Public Rights from 6th June to 17th July 2023.

Clerk

Item 10: FINANCE

- a) Councillors received and noted a budgetary control report for year to date from the RFO which showed balances as of 10th May 2023:
 - Treasurers Account: £4,814.19
 - Business Savings Account: £19,209.44
 - Hall Account: £9,817.18

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b) The council approved payment of the following outstanding accounts:

(to be authorised by Cllrs Gordon and Hudson)			
i) Community First	Insurance	£258.15	S.111 LGA 1972
ii) Jane Olds	Internal Audit	£200.00	S.111 LGA 1972
iii) Grapevine	Annual allowance	£500.00	S.232 LGA 1972
iv) PetWasteSolutions	Dog bin emptying	£92.95	S.111 LGA 1972
v) Cllr M Poole	Coronation items	£59.63	S.111 LGA 1972
vi) Mrs Jean Senior	Coronation items	£153.17	S.111 LGA 1972
vii) B Drysdale	Petty cash uplift	£75.00	S.112(2) LGA 1972
viii) HomeStart	Donation	£50.00	S.137 LGA 1972
ix) CLB	Bench installation	£144.00	CIL

(as agreed at LPC's March meeting; item 7b)

c) LPRG&H's annual allowance: the RFO told the meeting that she had transferred the annual allowance of £3,500 from LPC's savings account to its LPRG&H account.

d) The council noted receipt of LPC's annual grasscutting grant of £1,111 from OCC.

e) The meeting approved £170 +VAT for replacing the sand in the village hall sandpit.

Item 11: PLANNING

a) The council considered the following new application:

P23/S1518/HH Chiltern Croft Lower Road Postcombe
Single storey extension

And decided on the following response: If you are minded to approve this, given that the road is a very narrow lane with no pavements, Lewknor PC requests that a detailed traffic management plan is put in place during construction, particularly on refuse collection day, to ensure the road is not blocked.

b) The meeting 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) P23/S0174/FUL National Land Access Centre Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve, Aston Hill 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. Granted
- iii) P23/S0203/SCO Land bordering M40 near Lewknor
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 Response published
- iv) P23/S0457/DIS Highfield, Lower Road, Postcombe Fully discharged
Discharge of condition 4 (Plan of Car Parking Provision (specified number of spaces)) on application reference number P22/S3243/FUL (Change of use to create a secure dog field on part of the extensive garden/open area of the applicant's house and a 2m high fence around the field.)
- v) P23/S0047/HH Chiltern View, Lower Road, Postcombe Decision awaited
Three storey rear extensions and reconfigure internally
- vi) P23/S1108/DIS Moorcourt Barn, Weston Road, near Lewknor
Discharge of conditions 3(Reptile Mitigation Strategy) & 4(Landscaping & Drainage) on application P20/S0909/FUL (1. Demolition of existing green barn, closure of access to footpath track. 2. Erection of 1 dwelling with new access, garage, outbuilding, and associated works. 3. Provision of additional parking/car storage area to adjoining

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commercial unit (at The Barn/Str8six.))

Decision awaited

Item 12: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

a) The meeting discussed the issue of charging points for electric cars in rural areas. It was agreed that in spite of possible OCC funding, given the criteria required for any site, there was no location in Lewknor parish suitable for installing a charging station.

Item 13: TREE MAINTENANCE

Tree officer, Edward Whorwood, told the parish council that OCC would be carrying out general maintenance as well as felling around 300 Ash diseased trees in the parish. The work would start in about three weeks' time and be carried out over the following month. He would provide a map and more detail of the location but it was mainly in Sadlers Wood between Nethercote and along Salt Lane. An assessment of nesting had been carried out; but if any nesting birds were found in a tree, it would not be felled until after the birds had flown the nest.

A programme of planting new trees (whips) would be put in place for the planting season of October to March.

Item 14: GRASSCUTTING

The council agreed that it would like to observe No Mow May on the verges in the parish – as long as long grass did not become a safety hazard. The Clerk was instructed to contact grasscutting contractor BGG to request they begin other cuts from 1st June.

Clerk

However, given safety issues, LPC asked Cllr van Mierlo to request OCC cut the grass verges at the motorway junctions asap as the grass was already very long.

FvM

Item 15: SODC GRANT/CIL

The council noted the completion of the grant project with the bench installed on the grass area at the junction of Box Tree Lane and Lower Road in Postcombe.

Item 16: EMERGENCY PLAN

The Clerk told the meeting that she had received approval from church wardens and the Church of England diocese for the use of the two churches in an emergency. The council formally approved the Emergency Plan which the Clerk would forward to OCC for information.

Clerk

Item 17: PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS

The council agreed to pay the annual allowances to St Lawrence's and St Margaret's churches next month. The upkeep of the Lewknor churchyard was discussed and it was agreed Cllrs Gordon and Hudson would look into the cost of either hiring or buying a topper. The Clerk would check if such a purchase could be made with CIL money. Given the urgency of the issue, it was agreed this cost could be approved and paid at LPC's June meeting.

Clerk

Item 18: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- Westmill Solar Farm conference 9th June 1030-1600: Cllr John Poole might attend.
- Smokefree playground grant: councillors to consider whether to pursue.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Chair:

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