

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON 15th JANUARY 2024

Present: Mr Duncan Boulton (acting Chair)
Mr Les Gordon
Mr John Poole
Mrs Margaret Poole
Mr Ray Hudson

Ms Barbara Drysdale (Clerk)

Also present was: Cllr Georgina Heritage (SODC)

Apologies were received from: Cllr Caroline Hjorth (LPC) & Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (OCC)

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 11th December 2023 were accepted as being a true record of proceedings by councillors and signed accordingly by the acting Chair.

Item 3: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- UPW and the church warden were now in touch about arranging a working group to clear the Lewknor churchyard.
- bulbs on A40 in Postcombe: OCC would tell the team moving the gates about the bulbs and if they dug them up by mistake, they would replant them.
- a new salt bin had been installed in Beacon View.
- the process to rent the village shop was proceeding and hopefully would be completed in February.

Item 4: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SESSION

No requests had been received by the Clerk.

Item 5: THAMES VALLEY POLICE

There were no reports.

Item 6: DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

The meeting noted receipt on Cllr Heritage’s monthly report and Cllr van Mierlo’s email update. Cllr Heritage reported that Cllr van Mierlo had raised again with OCC officers the issue of the Hill Road steps. See Item 9d.

Item 7: FINANCE

a) The council received and noted a budgetary control report for the year to date from the RFO which showed balances as of 10th January 2024:

Treasurers Account: £2,549.97
Business Savings Account: £17,849.33

Chair:

Date:.....

Hall Account: £6,205.58

And noted that the RFO had transferred £2,000 from LPC's savings to Treasurers Account.

b) Approval was formally given for the payment of the following outstanding accounts:

i) Thames Valley Air Ambulance	Donation	£200.00	S.137 LGA 1972	LG/RH
ii) Watlington Hospital	Donation	£150.00	S.137 LGA 1972	
iii) PetWasteSolutions	Dog bin emptying	£92.95	S.111 LGA 1972	
iv) VisionICT	Domain renewal	£78.00	S.142 LGA 1972	

c) The council formally noted that the RFO had sent LPC's precept submission for £20,000 for 2024-25 to SODC.

d) The council approved payment next month of £1,266.48 +VAT for the repair of the village hall boiler. Clerk

e) The council approved the agreement with the internal auditor which was signed by the Vice Chair and finance councillor Duncan Boulton. The RFO told the meeting that she had completed the Internal Auditor's questionnaire which had been checked and approved by Cllr Boulton. Clerk

f) It was formally agreed that LPC would renew its membership of CPRE (to be paid in February). Clerk

g) The RFO told the meeting that she had negotiated a cut in the monthly tariff for the LPC work phone from £7 to £6.

Item 8: PLANNING

a) The council discussed the following new applications:

P23/S4282/FUL Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve Carpark, Sunken Way Walk, Lewknor
Provision of revised access arrangements to Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve carpark to improve public accessibility and reduce anti-social behaviour

The council agreed to support this application

Clerk

b) The council 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/S2490/LDE The Storeground, Aston Hill, near Aston Rowant Decision awaited
Mixed use of site for residential use workshops and storage

iii) P23/S3608/FUL Field Farm, Shirburn Road, near Lewknor Approved
Proposed steel portal framed agricultural cattle housing building

iv) P23/S3395/HH 2, Town Farm Close, Lewknor Approved
Erection of new fence and access gate to front of property, replacing front lounge window with patio doors, garage to become study with new access from entrance hall. Bi-folding doors installed to garage carried out under Permitted Development

v) P23/S3860/LDP 4, Church Lane, Lewknor Withdrawn
Construction of lean to timber shed with glazed roof to rear of house

vi) P23/S4010/HH Poplar Cottage, Box Tree Lane, Postcombe Decision awaited
Alteration/extension to existing outbuilding to form residential annexe

c) Local Plan consultation: The council discussed this consultation and formally agreed that each councillor would individually complete this survey. All

Item 9: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

a) Community SpeedWatch: Cllr John Poole said the Postcombe group had now been formally established and three members officially approved; more were to follow.

b) Installation of the new VAS: the Clerk said there was no update on timing as yet.

Chair:

Date:.....

c) B4009 pavements: it was noted that the bus companies had not replied to appeals for funding to create proper pavement between the bus stops; however, it was noted that OCC had carried out some remedial work on the pathways which were now wider and more accessible.

d) Hill Road Steps: the Clerk told the meeting that the overhanging trees were due to be cut back this week or next. Cllr Heritage relayed a message from Cllr van Mierlo that OCC officers said they had inspected the steps in November and considered them to be in reasonable condition. However, the parish council agreed that it was imperative to improve the steps and that the Clerk would liaise with Cllrs Heritage and van Mierlo and contact the new pathways officer at OCC to discuss the possibility of installing a handrail.

GH/FvM/
Clerk/

e) New signage in Beacon View: the Clerk told the meeting that OCC had agreed to erect a new Please Drive Carefully sign plus a new 30mph sign.

DB/Clerk

f) Hedges: it was noted that the one along the A40 in Postcombe had been cut back while the hedge overhanging Box Tree Lane still needed to be cut. The acting Chair said he had again emailed the landowner; it was agreed that if the hedge was not cut back soon, the issue would be referred to OCC.

g) FixMyStreet SuperUsers scheme: the council agreed to hold this over until February to discuss with Cllr van Mierlo.

Clerk

h) Cllr Hudson raised the issue of yet more flytipping in Nethercote Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the appropriate OCC officer to highlight this.

Item 10: BIODIVERSITY

The council discussed the role of LPC in addressing the issue of increasing biodiversity in the parish. It was noted that the newly adopted Neighbourhood Plan had a clause on the issue but that as LPC did not own any land, this was more an issue for landowners. However, the council agreed that it would closely consider biodiversity when considering relevant planning applications and whenever possible, it would encourage and promote biodiversity in the parish. It also highlighted that LPC was continuing its membership of CPRE.

Item 11: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was noted that SODC had formally approved and adopted Lewknor’s Neighbourhood Plan. The council also formally agreed that the NP steering group would remain in place so that it could regularly review the plan and implement any updates or changes needed.

Item 12: CIL

The Clerk told the meeting the LPC had just over £9,000 of CIL funds remaining, of which £1,501.63 needed to be spent by 25th Oct 2024. Cllr Hudson suggested that these funds could be used for a handrail on the Hill Road steps if OCC agreed to such an installation but would not fund it.

Item 13: OXFORDSHIRE COUNCILS CHARTER

The council agreed that each councillor (and clerk) would complete and submit their own responses to the consultation on the charter.

All

Item 14: ANNUAL LITTER PICK

It was agreed that the annual parish litter pick would take place on Saturday March 23rd. The Clerk was instructed to book the equipment (to be delivered to the Leathern Bottel and the home of Cllrs Poole) and that Cllr Margaret Poole and Cllr Ray Hudson would complete the

Clerk

Chair:

Date:.....

necessary forms from SODC. The Clerk would prepare a notice to be published in the next Grapevine and on the LPC website.

Item 15: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- A thank you letter from CAB for LPC's donation.
- SODC & VoWHDC have renewed their waste contract with Biffa.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chair:

Date:.....