

Present:- Councillor Ms E M Mulvaney (Chairman)
Councillor R Stacpoole (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Mrs C Clarke
Councillor Mrs J Stacpoole
Councillor Mrs J Stevens

Mrs J E Pickett - Clerk

County Councillor D Bartholomew – part meeting
District Councillor Ms L M Hillier – part meeting

Key: SODC South Oxfordshire District Council
OCC Oxfordshire County Council
HPC Highmoor Parish Council
FMS Fix My Street
TVP Thames Valley Police
OALC Oxfordshire Association Local Councils

The meeting commenced at 7.20 pm after the conclusion of the Annual Parish meeting.

028.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Mrs J Robb

029.22 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None received

030.22 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2022
be adopted and signed by the Chairman

031.22 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Council received reports (copies available upon request) from County
Councillor D Bartholomew

(a) General report including:-

- amended proposal passed by OCC Full Council realising the introduction of a vegan diet for councillors attending 6/7 Full Council meetings a year and on general public at civic events – Officers entirely exempt plus a graduated approach starting with one day a week applied to all schools
- International Trans Day of Visibility celebrated by OCC on 31 March 2022
- partnership agreement with Cherwell District Council being discontinued
- a 4 year community risk management plan (CRMP) has been launched by OCC's Fire & Rescue Service

- a number of initiatives announced for Oxford city include electric buses/e-cargo bikes/zero emission city grants/Folly Bridge repairs/Kennington improvement programme – OCC now appears to be focusing on Oxford City and reducing attention to rural areas
Councillor J Stacpool commented that rural bus services should be amongst issues prioritised for rural areas both for public service and environmental issues
 - Oxford City Football Club land issues
 - Women`s 2022 Tour Cycling race will end in Oxford in June 2022
 - campaign SCRAP launched dedicated to reducing fly-tipping
 - administration for OCC announced priorities for 2022/25 regrettably the list of 9 key priorities does not include highway matters
- (b) Highmoor report –
- FMS Reports all in hand - NOTED
 - senior TVP officer now in contact with local volunteer for humane dispatch of injured deer on roads
 - third Reading Bridge looking rather unlikely – will monitor
- (c) OCC related highway matters were noted as follows:-
- (i) **9 December 2020** – HPC sent queries to County Councillor S Gawrysiak on his proposal for weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes on HGV`s travelling through Henley on Thames plus 5 mile radius attendance – replies awaited
 - (ii) FMS enquiries – report received and it was noted that the new reports had been actioned
 - (iii) Members discussed potential ideas/schemes for reducing the speed of vehicles through the village and listed as follows:-
 - 20 mph scheme
 - signage for 20mph replacing existing 30mph
 - vehicle assist signs/`happy face` signs
 - seek improvements for pedestrian safety
 - signage to denote nursery school in the village
 - possible alteration of narrow layout on B481 at the bend at the entrance to the former public house Dog & Duck
 - pinchpoints at village entrance

Noted that this item had been included for discussion at the Annual Parish held earlier in the evening but no new suggestions were received from electors - next step is to gather information as to feasibility and criteria required

Councillors thanked County Councillor D Bartholomew for his reports and welcomed District Councillor Ms L M Hillier who joined the meeting

032.22 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- (a) District Councillor Ms L M Hillier gave the following report (copy available on request) on behalf of the South Oxfordshire District Council:-
- Household Support Fund – the government has announced a further £500m to support households struggling to afford essentials – guidance as to how this will be distributed is awaited
 - Community governance review – the District Council is currently carrying out a review of parish boundary areas/ward areas as well as electoral arrangements. The review is carried out every 4 years to give parish councils the opportunity to request changes which could benefit their local area – consultation closes at mid-day 29 April 2022. Proposed changes include:-
 - Henley on Thames & Bix//Cuddesdon & Denton
Sonning Common//Thames & Great Haseley//
Wallingford & Brightwell-cum-Satwell//Didcot

- Henley Conservation Area – the District Council is seeking the views of parish councils on the proposed changes to the Henley Conservation area – consultation closes 11.59 pm 25 May 2022
 - SODC office accommodation – the District Council will vacate the current accommodation at Milton Park in the summer and go to interim accommodation at Abbey House in Abingdon
 - Training – District councillors to have further training for planning due to changes in legislation and regulation – the next sessions will focus on building control, ecology/conservation and forestry
 - Parking – new fee charges and times have now been introduced across the district council car parks
 - Waste – crews will be trialling (for 4 weeks) an electronic waste truck for the first time to assess whether this would be a viable option
- (b) Councillor Ms L Hillier advised that it was not possible to give an update on the enforcement issues raised by HPC under item b (i), (ii) and (iii) and sent to Councillor Mrs J Robb ie
- Allocated enforcements references:-
- (i) Ref SE21/102 – The Woodman, Highmoor – change of use of land from agricultural to mixed use – submitted to August 2020 SODC reply November 2021 - SODC yet to appoint an officer
 - Ref S/21/276 – Upway, Highmoor – erection of chainlink fence submitted to SODCAugust 2021 – SODC reply December 2021 it has not yet been possible to visit the site
 - (ii) Seeking comments: –
 - creation of a new and separate vehicular access with gated access in front of the residential developments at the site of the former public house Dog & Duck and leading to the adjacent site known as The Paddock
 - Satwell House erection of large shelter/shed structure plus installation of new vehicular access onto the B481
 - (iii)Concerns expressed:-
 - dumping of large area of `spoil` from the residential development on the site of former public house Dog & Duck onto the adjacent area know as The Paddock
 - large areas of soil forming an embankment at the residential development taking place at Swan Wood, Highmoor

Councillors also referred to item (iv) noting with disappointment the SODC response received 30 March 2022 to HPC`s request for enforcement action (2021) re property The Old Place, Witheridge Hill, due to the removal of hedging and replacing with closeboard wooden fencing over 1m in height and adjacent to a busy highway with no adequate/safe pedestrian footpath – the view taken by SODC is that there is a definite breach of planning control but as there is no perceived harm being caused by the development the level of harm score using SODC`s current triaging system and national planning law means that no further action will be taken

Councillor Hillier advised the considerable difficulties being experienced in obtaining responses from District Council officers and confirmed that SODC meetings were hybrid ie part virtual (officers working from home) and councillors attending physically.

Concerns were expressed at the very noticeable reduction in level of service now being provided by SODC administration and agreed information be sought as to what action is being taken for improvement

Councillors thanked Councillor Ms Hillier for attending and she then left the meeting

No public present therefore no question time and the meeting continued

033.22 HIGHMOOR PARISH COUNCIL

(a) To consider issues relevant to Council's assets:-

(i) Recreation Ground:-

Lease completed – Clubs to be invoiced for rent NOTED
Awaiting information from Lunnon family re memorial seat –
Suggestion made that existing steel posts near maintenance
shed could be used for supports for a seat – will pass on to
the family

Anti dog fouling notices erected – thank you to Chairman

(ii) The Glebe – awaiting grasscutting quotations
Councillors **RESOLVED**

that confirmation be recorded of the appointment of
Mr Z Janota to clean the elephone kiosk sited on The
Common at a cost of £110 pa

(b) To consider response of the Commons Conservators for The Common
and pond at Highmoor:

The Common – following HPC's agreement to the creation of an
embankment at The Common (facing Post Office Cottages) in
order to deter car parking councillors agreed to be responsible for
the re-siting of existing wooden posts (provided by HPC)

Pond (near site of former Dog & Duck site) – records show that
a the Chilterns Society gave a grant of £400 towards clearing of
the pond (1994) – it may be possible to seek grant assistance
again could HPC clarify problems being caused at the moment?
Councillors confirmed that the lack of regular maintenance of
the pond is creating blockages in drainage system which in turn
is leading to flooding on the B481 during bad weather – agreed
this information be forwarded to the Conservators.

034.22 PLANNING

(i) Planning applications since 2 March 2022:-

P22/S0332/FUL 2 Stonehouse Cottages, Highmoor Cross

Two storey side extension demolition of existing garage and erection of
a new two storey house and associated parking) to vary the external
appearance

Amendment by way of Variation of Condition 2 of the permission given

HPC Objection

(ii) Planning decisions SODC:-

P22/S0275 HH – Rosewood House, Highmoor RG9 5DT

Single storey side and rear extension

SODC– permission granted

P22/S0532/HH – Longwood, Witheridge Hill, Highmoor

Single storey side extension with single storey double garage extension to the
left of the principle elevation

SODC permission granted

P21/S3549/HH - The Old Place, Witheridge Hill, Highmoor

Demolition of existing extension to detached cottage and new replacement extension. Demolition of existing detached garage and car port and new detached garage

SODC – permission granted

Information noted

(iii) Tree Preservation Order Ref: 22S08

Councillors received details of the Tree Preservation Order for trees on the boundaries of property at The Old Place, Witheridge Hill RG9 5PJ

RESOLVED – no comments be made

035.22 CLIMATE EMERGENCY 2030 – WORKING GROUP

Councillors reinforced the decision for HPC to work with `Greener Henley` to create a programme for the planting of trees in two locations the first to be in a corner of the Recreation Ground (location plus details to be advised to 3 leaseholders (Cricket Clubs) the second at The Glebe where if possible be planted to hide the dilapidated adjacent sheds. Whilst this will be an environmental programme it will also mark the celebration of H M the Queen`s Platinum Jubilee Year.

036.22 NALC (National Association of Local Councils)

Councillors considered issues for submission to the NALC seeking its support at Government level for implementation including:-

- allowing use of virtual and/or hybrid Council meetings when practicable
- consider the disproportionately high costs for the smaller parish councils in respect of administration eg many legal requirements for a larger authority are also applied to smaller parish councils but in the case of the latter the implementation of high levels of different levels of administration carried out by relevant qualified professionals by larger councils and their staff at the smaller parish council level are carried out by usually a sole employee
- the many smaller parish councils throughout the country feel that they do not have the ability to project concerns with one voice to central government – maybe a designated Minister for smaller parish councils would help in this major concern

037.22 ANNUAL INSPECTION – COUNCIL`s ASSETS

Councillors **RESOLVED**

that the Chairman/Vice Chairman, Councillors Mulvaney and R Stacpoole carry out this years`s annual inspection and report back to Council

038.22 FINANCE

a) **RESOLVED** – that the following expenditure be approved

Mrs J E Pickett - March 2022	
Salary + allce	£ 252.01
Tax for 1 year (12 x £58.06)	696.80
Expenses for 13 mths Mar `21 to Mar `22 (inc telephone/stationery/ ink/postage)	283.20
Mrs J E Pickett – April 2022	
Salary	232.23
Tax	58.06
Allowance	20.84
Hire of Rotherfield Greys Village Hall (13 April 2022)	18.00
OALC – annual subscription	150.00
CAB – Oxon South/Vale – grant	100.00

(b) Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2022 was received

(c) **RESOLVED**

that the annual subscription of £30 be paid to the Chilterns Society

039.22 INFORMATION/PUBLICATIONS received since 13 April 2022

A list of information/publications (copy available upon request) was received and NOTED.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm