

Present

via Zoom:- Councillor E Mulvaney (Chairman)
Councillor A Stacey
Councillor Judi Stacpoole (Vice Chairman)
Councillor R Stacpoole

via telephone Councillor Mrs J Stevens

Mrs J E Pickett Clerk

OCC Councillor D Bartholomew (part meeting)

SODC Councillor J Robb (part meeting)

“ Councillor L M Hillier (part meeting)

Key: SODC South Oxfordshire District Council
OCC Oxfordshire County Council
HPC Highmoor Parish Council
RBC Reading Borough Council
FMS Fix My Street

047.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillor L Hillier unable to join the virtual meeting due to poor connection

048.21 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None received

049.21 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2021 be adopted and signed by the Chairman

050.21 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor D Bartholomew referred to his monthly reports :-

(a) General report (already circulated) – no queries raised

(b) OCC related matters:-

- (i) OCC has today considered the proposal by County Councillor S Gawrysiak for a weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes on HGV's travelling through Henley on Thames and the surrounding 5 mile radius and a decision was taken to move forward with relevant studies. Councillor Bartholomew abstained from voting on the proposal as there is no guarantee/proof of preventing deflected traffic travelling through surrounding rural villages

Councillor R Stacpoole noted that at a recent training session for Chairmen/ Vice Chairmen there was a report on the transport difficulties now being suffered by the village of Leafield as a direct result of the HGV weight restriction pilot scheme being trialled in Burford. Councillor Bartholomew advised that the County Councillor for the Leafield area had referred to these problems and voted against a similar Scheme for Henley on Thames

- (ii) All FMS reports have been noted and requested they be monitored – if no action within a month then (subject to being re-elected) will chase with County officers

Councillor R Stacpoole noted several FMS Reports relating to the Highmoor area some of which he has submitted himself eg loose manhole covers/ blocked drains – but virtually no reports from other rural villages. Councillor Bartholomew emphasised the need to submit any highway problems to the Oxfordshire FMS site in order to get them into the system

Chairman noted that work had resumed on the site of the former Dog & Ducjk Public house – delays due to waiting for completion of work by SSE

Councillors thanked Councillor Bartholomew for his report – he then left the meeting.

051.21 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

(a) SODC April 2021 Report (circulated earlier) Councillor referred as follows:-

- (i) South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Councils to develop a Joint Local Plan – cost savings/ common policies with a Joint Committee to oversee the process but individual Councils to make final decisions to preserve local accountability
- (ii) Local elections taking place on 6 May 2021 for Oxfordshire County Council/Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner – deadline to apply for postal votes is 5.00 pm 20 April 2021
- (iii) SODC is supporting local Litter Picks as from 29 March 2021
- (iv) Recent SODC resolutions include – to take action to reduce light pollution and the undergrounding of high voltage power lines//to work closely with Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure adequate provision of health facilities in our growing communities//support a pilot project for a Universal Basic Income in South Oxfordshire//establish the principle of community wealth- building within the Council//ensure that developers provide adequate leisure facilities//extend existing policies on diversity and inclusion to cover nerodiversity//support as much as possible retention of rural public houses as community assets

(b) SODC related matters - Councillor Robb addressed items as follows:-

- (i) enforcement action required is noted and will be pursued – very disappointing to see the delay in enforcement action against the owner of The Lamb at Satwell

Both Councillors J and R Stacpoole spoke to the issue of the relocation of The Lodge instead of removal at the site for Rosewood House - reported in August 2020

- (ii) SSEN`s felling of trees was pursued by District Council Officers – Councillor Stacey reported that the issue had yet to be resolved satisfactorily he has received no confirmation by email detailing the work proposed – he thanked Councillor Robb for her assistance
- (iii) concerns were expressed by all councillors at the current level of external lighting being used at a large property in the area where the owner has recently bought areas of adjacent land leading to a possible increase in external lighting.
Councillor Robb agreed this is a problem but there is no current legislation to enforce an acceptable level of such lighting for the avoidance of light pollution – security lighting for a driveway is allowed by way of permitted development but there are no policies included in the Local Plan.
- (iv) Councillor Robb referred to the planning permission now given for the development of the former Sue Ryder Hospice and surrounding area – the right of way access across the site east to west is to be preserved

Councillor thanked Councillor Robb for her report – she then left the meeting

052.21 HIGHMOOR RELATED MATTERS

Reports were received as follows:-

- (i) Tree felling/pruning by SSE alongside B481 – conversation with SSE indicates that the planned work was put on hold pending discussions with residents and agreement reached as to how and when work should proceed – there will however be a need to fell trees (Nettlebed Estates) where growth is now causing problems for cables – NOTE earlier comments by Councillor Stacey
- (ii) Confirmation now received from Royal Mail agreeing that their policy of numbers of postboxes per numbers of households in Highmoor is not being realised and a new postbox (ground installation) will be provided over the next few weeks NOTED
- (iii) Contact made with agents for the development at the Dog & Duck and lack of work is due to lengthy delay caused by lack of progress in the work required by SSE. All efforts will now be made to speed up the completion of the development NOTED
- (iv) Bus shelter now refurbished to good standard – do councillors wish to install a pegboard noticeboard? Or wait and see whether public start to re-use shelter for advertising?
RESOLVED – wait and see if public start to use shelter for advertising purposes and if so then consider installing a pegboard noticeboard
- (v) Henley Glass confirmed quotation of £150 for supply and installation of new pane of glass in telephone kiosk on The Common
RESOLVED – that the quotation be accepted and work progressed

No public present the meeting progressed

053.21 PLANNING

Planning applications:-

P21/S0986/HH – Little Paddock, Highmoor Cross RG9 5DR

Demolish derelict garage to side. Two storey with first floor within the roof space rear extension with a pitched roof to match existing. Conversion of existing loft space into habitable accommodation in conjunction with aforementioned rear extension and to include new 2 rooflights each side and 1 new dormer window to the front elevation. Single storey flat roof side extension to form utility room

RESOLVED – No objection

P21/S1635/HH – Rosewood House, Highmoor RG9 5DT – Erection of double garage

RESOLVED – No objection

Planning decisions:-

P15/S0198/FUL – Former Sue Ryder Hospice and offices, Joyce Grove, Nettlebed, Oxon RG9 5DF

Redevelop existing Grade II hospice and office buildings to provide 20 flats, retaining all the existing buildings and footprint but adding to the existing north extension a first floor staircase link internally to replace the fire escape structure (as clarified by site plans dated 20 May 2018)

SODC - Planning permission granted 1 April 2021

054.21 FINANCE

(a)	Mrs J E Pickett -	
	Salary - April	£232.23 (nett)
	Tax	58.14
	Salary (one-off bonus payment)	800.00 (nett)
	Tax	200.00
	Allce - April	20.84
	Zoom (13 March /14 April Feb)	14.39

RESOLVED – that expenditure as listed be approved

- (b) Barclays bank has advised that a new bank mandate is required – paperwork will be provided to Councillors E Mulvaney and J Stevens
- (c) Quotation received from Mr T Light for £475 for carrying out the internal audit for 2020/21

RESOLVED - that the quotation of £475 be accepted

- (d) Annual subscriptions received for:-

Chiltern Society - £30 pa (with an option to make a donation)

RESOLVED - that further detailed information be sought

Community First Oxfordshire - £35 pa

RESOLVED – that the organisation is not relevant to the work of Highmoor Parish Council and no subscription be paid

055.21 MEETINGS 2021 -22

Noted that central government is not going to pass primary legislation to allow continuation of formal virtual Council meetings beyond 6 May 2021 and that the outcome of a High Court case challenging this decision is awaited.

The Council agreed to consider options available and agree a way forward at the next meeting which is to be held on 5 May 2021

056.21 RECREATION GROUND

(a) Lease – a virtual meeting was held with Mrs J Acock of Mercers solicitors and the Chairman, Councillor E Mulvaney with the Clerk Mrs J E Pickett present) on 18 March 2021 – the meeting concluded with a firm promise from Mercers that a copy of the draft lease would be circulated to the Council on 22 March 2021 – to date no draft lease received

(b) Rubbish – the 3 Clubs have collected rubbish from the boundary area of the Ground and a skip has been organised for delivery this week. No asbestos pipes found but sheets of asbestos located – arrangements to be made for their collection and disposal

057.21 WEBSITE

Initial training session held on 4 March 2021 – currently on hold pending preparation of end of year accounts/agendas for Annual Council and Council meeting on 5 May 2021 as priorities

058.21 THE GLEBE

(a) Grasscutting – see Item 059.21 below

(b) Councillor R Stacpoole reported that the memorial bench was now at his property but after pressure washing the bench he is of the opinion that it is not in a good condition to locate for public use –

RESOLVED - that councillors inspect the bench and report back to the next meeting

(c) **RESOLVED** that Mr C Swann of The Old Vicarage be advised that the Council is seeking a TPO Order for the oak tree on the boundary of The Glebe and that priority work as advised by the tree surgeon would be taking place within the next 6/9 months

(d) electricity supply now terminated at the wooden housing to the rear of the electricity sub station – disposal of the concrete base and brick rubble now to be organised

059.21 GRASSCUTTING

Three quotations for grasscutting were sought but only 1 was received as follows:-

idVerde (Mr R Low) - £38 per cut The Glebe
£ 64 per cut The Common

assessing the difference in grasscutting costs paid recently ie
£70 per cut The Glebe
£60 per cut The Common

the Council agreed that the annual reduction was highly unlikely to be matched by other contractors plus there is currently a great deal of difficulty in obtaining quotations due to contractors having a major backlog of work

RESOLVED – that the quotation be accepted

Councillors considered the response from the Nettlebed & District Conservators supporting in principle a project for a wildflower area on The Common and agreed to ask Mr Low for a quotation for the work

060.21 BUS SHELTER (at junction of Holly Close and B481)

Oxfordshire County Council has completed the refurbishment of the bus shelter after discussion it was agreed to wait and see if the public started to use the walls of the shelter for advertising and if so would then consider the installation of a pegboard noticeboard

061.21 LITTER PICK 2021

Councillors agreed to participate in a Litter Pick and that the necessary forms ie Risk Assessment especially re Covid restrictions would be required – 6 packs of equipment would be sufficient. Request for stronger rubbish bags be made.

062.21 INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS

The following items of correspondence were noted:-

SODC – Communications Budget 2021/Business Grants/Covid rates Oxfordshire/
symptom free testing/new waste calendar/South & Vale top recyclers/help at
elections/census packs/community space and affordable housing Didcot
OCC – Highmoor Report – County Councillor David Bartholomew
PSE – what are you doing to achieve net zero carbon success
Webinar – 25 March 2021 Create streets
SODC – planning application P20/S4637/FUL The Lamb at Satwell – additional
information by way of viability report submitted by applicant
OALC – advice re meetings post 7 May 2021
PSE - £5m Council air pollution fund
SODC Communications – Update Covid 19
SODC Census letter
John Howell MP – March newsletter
CPRE – housebuilding on Green Belt in Local Plans
PSE Net Zero – online report of webinar
PSE – bus operators working with councils
NHS Frontline Day 5 July 2021
SODC - Litter Pick update
PSE - UK first traffic pollution charge outside London
CFO membership
PSE – Oxfordshire cuts emissions
TTRO – Rotherfield Greys/Satwell
Chilterns Conservation Board – Spring has sprung
PSE – Housing shortage
OCC – Oxford/Cambridge Expressway project cancelled
PSE – Oxford's Zero Emission Zone
P20/S4637/FUL The Lamb at Satwell – Letter from SODC Development &
Regeneration Department as consultee for application
Copy of email from Clerk and reply from Jo Robb re the ongoing situation
with Mr S Granaski
“Welcome Back” – government is urging principal councils to offer some funding
to parish/town councils to assist local area in recovery from Covid
**CPRE Oxfordshire –sustainable water campaign - RESOLVED the associated
survey be completed and submitted**
SSEN's Resilient Communities Fund 2021 (sent separately)
SODC Communications – re-opening of leisure services/pubs, restaurants and
cafes/garden waste/rubbish collection dates/elections 2021
OCC – County Councillor D Bartholomew April Report
SODC- Bioabundance CIC proceeding with legal challenge

The meeting closed at 20.20 pm