

**Present**

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

Mrs J E Pickett Clerk

OCC Councillor D Bartholomew (part meeting)  
SODC Councillor J Robb (part meeting)

**Key:** SODC South Oxfordshire District Council  
OCC Oxfordshire County Council  
HPC Highmoor Parish Council  
RBC Reading Borough Council

**014.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Stevens and SODC Councillor L Hillier

**015.21 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

None received

**016.21 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2021 be adopted and signed by the Chairman

**017.21 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

County Councillor D Bartholomew referred to his monthly reports:-

**General OCC report** (already circulated) – provides information on OCC forthcoming Budget 2021/22 proposals including – long term funding for Oxfordshire Youth £1m and £500K additional accelerator fund to assist with impacts of the pandemic/ £4m for Adult Care/continued funding for the Better Care Fund joining up health services NHS and local care services to assist with care in the community/possible £750K to support assessed care needs/£500K to the joint partnership helping single homeless people/£50K into drugs and alcohol rehabilitation programmes/£400K extra into highways maintenance (including a trial of 20 mph Traffic orders for villages/£300K support community initiatives towards improving people's health and wellbeing/extra £330K into childrens services/£100K invested to provide assistance to those affected by digital exclusion/£61K for domestic violence issues and £150K for apprenticeships.

Possible savings may be funded by improved monitoring of highway works to ensure completion on time/review of winter services/review systems for adults with care support needs/projected numbers of new homes being built have not materialised therefore savings in waste management services and more school transport/review of care for children requiring foster care (locally) and possible small 2/3 bed residential homes/savings on tender for insurance cover/improved systems of working for staff eg on travel and printing costs and blend two property teams County and Cherwell District for more efficient working – anticipate 2.99% increase in Band D Council

- Tax as opposed to the allowed 4.99%
- Q** request Highmoor be included in a possible 20 mph traffic scheme?
- A** the idea of this scheme is to remove some high legal costs for parish councils wanting such a scheme eg currently circa £2K – by implementing blanket traffic orders,  
Note of caution – in some villages where such schemes have been introduced developers have successfully used this speed limit to apply for the building of new homes – plus the parish council should be sure of a majority of support from electors.  
As and when information is provided will forward - NOTED

**Highmoor report –**

HGV's weight restriction – Cllr Bartholomew provided contact details for the consultation process for the Burford scheme for a weight restriction for HGV's (finishes this month) as well as newspaper reports from the Oxford Mail showing whils the scheme is welcomed by the residents of Burford surrounding villages are unhappy due to the increased level of diverted traffic

Third Reading Bridge – the wording introduced by RBC - that a third bridge is a preferred option as part of the Joint Statement has resulted in SODC withdrawing support for the Joint Statement but OCC has confirmed that it will remain supportive of the Statement provided that all options are on the table for consideration

- Q** advertising hoarding on land at Bolts Cross advertising a water park in Bicester (not yet built) which looks unsightly
- A** if can provide a photograph will pursue either for breach of misuse of Highways or breach of planning whichever is appropriate

A vote of thanks was proposed for the unfailing support given to the council by County Councillor D Bartholomew by way of his excellent, concise, detailed and consistent reports each month -unanimously endorsed.

County Councillor D Bartholomew thanked councillors and then left the meeting

**018.21 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- (a) OCC response awaited re ownership of verges opposite former Dog & Duck public house.
- (b) Proposed weight restriction for HGV's – no further information received

**019.21 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

District Councillor J Robb spoke to the District Councillors`Report for February 2021 (circulated prior to the meeting) –

apologies for the delays being experienced in some staffing areas due to the redeployment of staff for Covid related issues

new telephone number for the Community Hub 01235/422600

garden waste collections remain suspended due to Covid related staff issues within Biffa – Christmas trees may be disposed of at the County Council's waste tip

local community interest group Bioabundance has sought leave to conduct a Judicial Review of the District Council's decision to adopt the Local Plan 2035 at its December meeting – grounds given are excessive housing numbers creating worsening climate changes/ incoherent calculation of housing numbers/councillors when considering the information prior to voting unlawfully took account of threatened consequences of government intervention and the vote was dictated by the MHCLG. Applicants currently awaiting decision of High Court. If a Judicial Review application is allowed the District Council will respond to the claim

Councillor Robb explained the poor options left to the SODC by way of were the District Council to choose not to adopt the plan prior to 31 December 2020 then OCC had agreed to adopt the Plan take the District Council's powers and implement the Plan/ or the Minister for Housing and Local Government would remove the Plan from the District Council and arrange for implementation – the successful vote on the proposed Plan was 19 – 18. Some aspects of the Plan are good eg DES10 (low carbon sustainable housing) and inclusion of electricity charging points within new developments

Budget 2021/22 to be determined on 11 February 2021 and due to uncertainty of income levels due to Covid restrictions may need to be re-considered mid-year – projecting an increase of £5 per Band D Council taxpayer.

Anticipate elections will proceed in May 2021 and options being looked at to minimise possible Covid infections include counts being done using more but smaller venues instead of large scale halls etc. People are being encouraged to apply for a postal vote.

The Enforcement Team has now employed 3 more staff in order to deal with the backlog of work as well as sharpen the approach to enforcement action

confirm request made for the planning application P2-/S4637/FUL, The Lamb at Satwell to be called-in and considered by Committee

- Q** confirm that the increase will be £5 per Band D taxpayer in south Oxfordshire?
- A** yes and referred to the anomalies within the Council Tax Bands which have not been re-appraised for many years
- Q** query whether Oakley Wood is accepting Christmas trees for disposal?
- A** yes the site is open – confirmation also made that the tip is accepting garden waste
- Q** concerned about the recent purchase, by the current owner of Satwell House, of Cherry Tree House and Stonehouse Farm - the external areas of Satwell House are currently excessively lit up and how can this be prevented within these two recent property purchases all located within an AONB ?
- A** in a new build planning application a plan must be submitted for any external lighting but in the case of permitted development this is not required – will check and come back with planning advice

- Q** is the concept of the `village envelope` still in being ie building within the village is infill but outside the “envelope” is designated as open countryside? In future years would not like to see current open land between Witheridge Hill and Highmoor Cross built on – separate identities must be preserved
- A** in the new District and previous District Plans the integrity of villages is recognised to prevent “sprawl” and Highmoor has an extremely high level of protection within the AONB
- Q** is it possible to provide information of what relevant planning protection exists for village status and prevention of “sprawl” within the Local Plan 2035?
- A** yes will come back with the information
- Q** query the planning officer’s decision to approve the application P20/S4146/FUL - land adjacent to 1 Post Office Cottages, Highmoor Cross, RG9 5DS - New detached residential property – allowing the applicant to pursue piecemeal applications years apart resulting in the applicant being able to build the exact size of property which was refused originally plus allowing an industrial type external flue instead of a chimney
- A** the case officer responded that the principle of development had been established and the current plan is different but not sufficient to warrant a refusal which could not be defended in a court of appeal.

Councillors thanked District Councillor J Robb who then left the meeting

**No public present the agenda was progressed**

#### **020.21 PLANNING MATTERS**

- (a) Planning applications:- P20/S4637/FUL – The Lamb, Satwell, Rotherfield Greys, Henley on Thames  
Conversion of the existing public house to a dwelling; erection of 2 detached 3 bed dwellings with associated hard and soft landscaping  
**RESOLVED – Objection**
- (b) Planning decisions  
P20/S4146/FUL – Land adjacent to 1 Post Office Cottages, Highmoor Cross  
New residential detached property  
**HPC – objection**  
**SODC – permission granted**

#### **021.21 FINANCE**

- (a) Expenditure:-

Mrs J E Pickett -	
Salary February 2021	£ 166.77
HMRC	27.31
Allce	20.84
Zoom (Jan)	14.39
Higgs Printing Group (Highmoor Volunteer Group – leaflets)	84.00

**RESOLVED** that expenditure of £ 413.31 be agreed

(b) Budget 2021/22

Councillors reported the final decisions taken in respect of Precept 2021/22 = £8462.34 and that a copy of the Council's Budget for 2021/22 is available on request **NOTED**

- (c) Barclays Bank has admitted a further error in administering the Council's bank mandate and credited the sum of £100 as compensation. A request has been made of the Bank to clarify in detail exactly what is now required in order to complete the mandate.

**022.21 RECREATION GROUND**

Councillors discussed points relevant to the Recreation Ground and **RESOLVED**

- that lease negotiations be processed with Mercers  
councillors responses to initial queries raised with  
a plan showing proposed car parking area be  
submitted
- that the dog bin adjacent to the Recreation Ground  
be relocated – thanks recorded to Councillor A Stacey  
agreeing to relocate the bin
- rubbish collection from periphery of the Recreation  
Ground be suggested to the 3 Cricket Clubs seeking  
their volunteers and Council to pay for a skip – but  
priority be given to identifying location of asbestos  
pipes in order to seek expert advice/cost for removal

**023.21 WEBSITE**

Initial work has started with 2Commune by way of assessing requirements –  
councillors discussed topics and agreed an informal Zoom meeting be held  
Councillor A Stacey requested a 7.30 pm start - **RESOLVED**

- that councillors study the list of suggested website contents  
and submit ideas by Wednesday 10 February 2021 followed  
by an informal Zoom meeting at 7.30pm on Friday  
12 February 2021
- the Clerk to prepare a draft of possible content
- query with 2Commune as to whether website allows numbers of  
visits to be recorded and will it be Google friendly?

**024.21 THE GLEBE**

Councillors discussed issues related to The Glebe and **RESOLVED**

- SSE be asked to make safe the area of the electricity  
sub-station
- that the memorial bench be removed and moss removed  
to assess whether renovation is feasible if so a cost be  
sought
- residents of The Glebe be advised that the bench is to be  
removed for assessment

- an alternative location be considered for the bench eg The Common (Conservators agreement required)/Memorial Hall car park (agreement of Trustees required) – neither location in the Council’s ownership
- tree surgeon advises that the tree survey will be available for the meeting on 3 March 2021 – meanwhile after an initial inspection notes that the oak tree is of quality - agreed that a request be made of the SODC to assess for a TPO

**025.21 NOTICEBOARD**

Councillor R Stacpoole gave a report on refurbishing the Council’s noticeboard:-

- quotation received of £200 for the refurbishment of the noticeboard by Brian Hope (Craftsman)
- map pins to be used for placing notices on the board

**RESOLVED** – that the quotation of £200 + VAT be accepted and the work carried out as per specification provided

**026.21 INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS**

The following information/publications circulated to councillors:-

- CPRE - January 2021 update
- SODC - Communications 14 January 2021(2) – Covid restrictions/winter support scheme
- CPRE - Star Count
- SODC - Jo Robb, SODC councillor – re-wilding
- OALC - NALC survey (3 questions)
- Climate Action – January 2021 update
- SODC - Communications(Sect 106/Covid restrictions/grant scheme)
- OCC - Notice road closure 18 February 2021 adjacent “Chimney Corner”, Satwell
- SODC -Communications Didcot Town Advisory Board
- Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub – January 2021 update
- SODC – Planning application P20/S4146/FUL – Land adjacent to 1 Post Office Cottages (comments from case officer)
- SODC – Planning decision Notice re P20/4146/FUL – permission granted
- OALC – Military Covenant Armed Forces – Trust Fund
- Chiltern Conservation Board – webinar series
- SODC Communications – Covid vaccinations and rates//Business and Community Grants
- OALC Newsletter January 2021
- SODC – Notice of Hedgerow removal Fawley House Farm \*
- OALC – new Chairman sought for Trust for Oxfordshire Environme

**NOTED** – all acknowledged as received

**RESOLVED** – that there be no objection to the removal of hedgerow at Fawley House Farm

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm