

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting & Annual General Meeting & Ordinary Parish Meeting held in St Giles Church on Wednesday 24th May 2023

Attendees	Cllr. James Nettleton (JN) Cllr. Graham Howlett (GH) Cllr. Mike Black (MB) Cllr. Peter Ablett (PA) Cllr. Duncan Howlett (DH) Nikki Howlett (NH) (Resident) Bianca Mays (BM) (Resident) Sophie Carmichael (SC) (Resident) part Eva Goble (EG) (Clerk)
Apologies	Cllr. Robin Bennett (OCC) Cllr. David Turner (SODC)

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
AGM AND APM		ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	
23/23	Introduction	The Chair (JN) opened the meeting at 19:30 and welcomed all present.	
24/23	Apologies	As above	
25/23	Declarations of Acceptance of Office	Declarations of acceptance of office all completed for five Councillors.	
26/23	Review of Standing Orders	Standing orders reviewed, agreed and adopted by all five councillors.	
27/23	2022 to 2023 Annual Reports	Report from Chair – James Nettleton (Appendix A) Received with thanks to JN with no comments. Financial Report from RFO – James Nettleton (Appendix B) Year end accounts approved by all. JN to submit to auditor, MB will put on notice board and Clerk will upload to website. Annual Report – Cllr Robin Bennett (Appendix C) Annual Report – Cllr David Turner (Appendix D)	JN MB Clerk
28/23	Open Forum & Village Matters	Nothing raised.	
29/23	Election of Officers	JN asked if anyone would like to stand as Chair but all were happy for JN to continue. PA proposed and GH seconded that JN be reappointed as Chair and RFO. JN thanked everyone for their continued support.	
30/23	Close	The AGM & APM meeting closed at 19:55	
ORDINARY PARISH MEETING commenced at 19:56			
31/23	Declations of	There were no declarations.	

	Interest		
32/23	Minutes of the Last Meeting	Minutes of the meeting held on 13 th April 2023 were agreed by the Councillors who had been present, approved and signed by the Chairman.	
33/23	Matters Arising (not on agenda)	Parochial Church Council. JN informed that the PCC had asked for financial help from the pc. PA asked if it is legal to spend council money on the church. It was agreed that all would consult with residents with a view to possibly raising funds by crowd funding as suggested by NH and JN would ask the Church Warden to prepare a short briefing explaining the financial situation and MB agreed to help the church warden to prepare a presentation to support the financial situation and possible threat to the future facing the church	All JN MB
34/23	Councillor & Parish Reports		
35a/23 DH/GH	Community Liaison/Notice Board	Notice board updated regularly.	
35b/23 DH/GH	Planning Applications	No applications received.	
35c/23 MB/JN	Event Co-ordination	A funeral will shortly be taking place for a parishioner and JN suggested recruiting volunteers to tidy up the churchyard in preparation. JN planning tennis tournament for September to raise funds for the church.	ALL JN
35d/23 MB/EG	Website Management	The website is updated regularly but would benefit from more articles of interest.	
35e/23 MB/GH/	New Highways/ Potholes	MB has written many emails to Highways which have gone unanswered, regarding the state of Holcombe Lane. This has now become unacceptable to residents of the lane who risk damage to their cars. NH will write a letter of complaint that will be forwarded to County Cllr Robin Bennett.	
35f/23 JN	Responsible Financial Officer	All agreed that these invoices should be approved for payment: Zurich insurance £237.17, Clerk's pay £578.72, Newington Parochial Church Council £400.00, Shaw Fencing £414.00, RBLI £18.47	
35g/23 DH	Footpaths	Nothing to discuss.	
36/23 AOB	<p>a) Defibrillator. SC informed that cost would be from £834 with a heated cabinet costing a further £100 to £200. The running cost for electricity would be approximately £5 per year. The funding would be mostly met by grants from both the County and District councillors. Location was discussed. It has been established that there is no power at the gate to the church but it would be possible to run a cable from the church. Another suitable site would be by the council notice board and post box which is fairly central to the village and has the added benefit of the lay-by for stopping at. MB to speak to Mick Jaunet regarding the electricity supply. Further update at next meeting.</p> <p>b) Allotment fencing. It was agreed that the lower quote for fencing repair from Phil Shaw fencing should be accepted for the work to be carried out.</p> <p>c) Tree maintenance. Work is still outstanding as Highways will not accept responsibility and claim the trees are privately owned. A private citizen cannot request a road closure in order for a contractor to be employed to</p>		MB

Appendix A – Report from Chair

Chairman's Report for 2022/23 Year:

James Nettleton

This year has seen our community come out of the Covid pandemic and start of the new normal. The year has seen the death of our Queen and Coronation of our new King which have been commiserated and celebrated in true Newington style with the planting of trees and raising of a flag pole.

Our Parish Clerk Eva Goble has proved a fantastic addition to the team and kept all the Councillors on the right tracks however sadly her time with us is coming to an end. The new Clerk is returning Newington resident Bianca Rush. We welcome Bianca back with open arms and look forward to her input.

There is little to update on the gravel extraction threat, no communication has reached us or PAGE 2020. We remain vigilant and anticipate an update in coming months which can be found in the Minutes of our PC meetings. The minutes are posted to our website and also on the village notice board.

The battle continues with SODC and Highways to fill in the various potholes. Mike Black, our pothole specialist, has worked tirelessly on resolving the problem and we are now starting to see the results of his hard work.

I hope you now all regular visitors to our website where we post village updates and local information can be found, you will find all the relevant parish council information on the site as well as up and coming events and contact details for all the councillors.

<http://www.newington.org.uk/>

We have a communication network for the villagers which consists of the following :-

Newington web site <http://www.newington.org.uk>

WhatsApp under Newington Village Groups (this is a secure network just for residents)

Facebook [newington oxfordshire facebook page](#)

I hope you have all noticed the planting of the 8 Crab Apple trees and the plaque by the Millennium stone. A big thank you goes to the Councillors for their efforts in organising the trees and their planting.

Newington Parish Council

Report by the Responsible Financial Officer for 2022/23

Revenue Budget

Newington Parish Council (NPC) precept has been reduced back down to £4,000. We are confident we can cover all our costs at the lower level and with a VAT refund expected in.

During 2022/23 NPC received income totalling £5,795 which includes the annual precept to cover day to day activities and responsibilities of the Council. NPC had a slight over spend mainly due to the extra cost of the flagpole and tree planting.

Community Support

During 2020/21 the Parish Council continued to support the local community with donations of £400 to the PCC who maintain the church which is used for the PC meetings. We do anticipate making a PAGE donation this coming year due to growing concerns about the gravel application being resurrected.

End of Year Position

As at 1st April 2023 the Parish Council carried forward a balance of £5,895.51 and £547.39 of savings which leaves the council in a healthy position and in line with best practise that recommends the Council should not hold reserves greater than double the annual precept when you exclude the one off SIL payments.

James Nettleton
Responsible Financial Officer
Newington Parish Council
May 2023

Newington Parish Council

Report by the Responsible Financial Officer for 2021/22

<u>Yr Ended March 2023 P&L</u>		<u>2022/ 23 Budget</u>	<u>2022/ 23 Actual</u>
Income			
	Precept	4,250.00	4,250.00
	Allotments	40.00	45.00
	Interest	0.25	
	SIL		
	Grants		1,500.00
	HMRC VAT reund		
		4,290.25	5,795.00
Expenses			
	Clerk	-2,350.00	-2,159.27
	HMRC/ Audit	-400.00	
	Insurance	-474.17	-237.17
	OALC		-150.00
	Audit	-120.00	
	Donations	-400.00	-400.00
	Website/ Other	-1,500.00	-516.50
	Grant spending	-400.00	
	Flag Pole/ trees		-2,879.50
		-5,644.17	-6,342.44
Net income and expenses		-1,353.92	-547.44
Check:			
	Cash B/F	6442.95	6,442.95
	Net movement		-547.44
	2021 creditors		-400.00
	2022 creditors		400.00
	Cash C/F		5,895.51
	Add Savings		547.39
			6,442.90

James Nettleton
Responsible Financial Officer
Newington Parish Council
May 2023

Appendix C – Report from County Councillor

2023 County Councillor Annual Report – Cllr Robin Bennett

Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council strategic plan 2022-2025

Since May 2021 Oxfordshire County Council has been run by the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, an alliance between the Lib Dem, Labour and Green parties, with a vision of working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county.

We want to make sure that everyone in Oxfordshire can take advantage of what the county has to offer. Our strategic plan 2022 – 2025 explains our nine cross-cutting priorities and commitments to achieve our vision and sets out our areas of focus.

Our nine priorities are:

1. Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work.
2. Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire.
3. Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents.
4. Support carers and the social care system.
5. Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network.
6. Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces.
7. Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.
8. Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy.
9. Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.

The plan lays out a clear course of action for how we will aim to achieve each priority and ways we will work with partners to create a more joined-up approach to delivering services.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/about-council/OCCStrategicPlan2022.pdf>

The Local Transport and Connectivity Plan was agreed in July 2022.

The LTCP outlines a clear vision to deliver a net-zero Oxfordshire transport and travel system that enables the county to thrive while protecting the environment and making Oxfordshire a better place to live for all residents. In order to track the delivery of the vision, the LTCP includes a set of headline targets, including to:

- reduce 1 in 4 car trips by 2030
- deliver a net-zero transport network by 2040
- and have zero, or as close as possible, road fatalities or life-changing injuries by 2050.

Some early parts of this work have included work on ‘**Corridor Plans**’ for the likes of the A4074, looking at how our communities can be better connected, with improved bus stops and ‘mobility hubs’, and **Area Strategies**, for example for towns such as Didcot and Abingdon, and of course the Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan mainly looking at Oxford was consulted on in September.

Furthermore, a freight / HGV strategy is being developed to address the problems caused by HGVs using our historic village streets and ancient bridges.

Other aspects of the LTCP have been the roll-out over the next 3 years of **20mph zones**, which have been requested by a great many communities to improve safety in our towns and villages, successful bids for **Active Travel funding** for walking, wheeling and cycling routes, and the development of plans for a **Strategic Active Travel Network** linking key locations across the whole county.

There's always a great deal going on at OCC, including the huge areas of Adult and Children's Social Care, which is the majority of the budget.

OCC's 2023/4 budget last month, also included funding for:

- community transport initiatives in both rural and urban areas
- extension of the current (very well used) discount ticket at park and rides
- expanding the supported transport team to work with young people and their families to develop active travel options for getting to school, and expanding School Streets to make it safer to do so
- investment into transport hubs including e-bike hire, car club promotion, and improvements to travel information
- flood resilience across Oxfordshire including practical projects with parish councils and proactive ditch clearance in areas prone to flooding
- £1m for local priority improvements to highways, cycle paths and pavements.
- funding for SEND educational and health care plan (ECHP) assessments
- investment in community hubs to support children and families.
- A Council Tax Support Scheme to help those most in need in Oxfordshire – ensuring that they do not have pay the full increase in council tax this year

The new CEO at the County Council, Dr Martin Reeves, has now started in his new post. Dr Reeves is very experienced at leading large council organisations. I look forward to getting to know him and making him aware of our local and rural issues. It's the first time the County Council has had a full-time Chief Executive in a number of years, and I'm confident he will improve the County Council's work in many areas.

Appendix D – Report from District Councillor

SODC Councillor's Annual Parish Councils and Annual Parish Meetings Report 18th April 2023

SODC Operational Issues. During the year SODC and The Vale of White Horse have left their offices in Milton Park which were very expensive to hire and re-located into Abbey House in Abingdon. This is only seen as a temporary measure as these offices are not big enough to accommodate both councils. They are also not big enough to have public meetings such as full council meetings. Both councils are currently exploring the possibility of a new Head Quarters on land which SODC owns near Didcot Railway Station. The site would be part of a regeneration programme of that part of Didcot and include a parkland area, community facilities and offices which could be let out to produce more much needed revenue for SODC. The Vale would pay a rent to SODC. No decision has yet been taken as we are still at the viability planning stage, but it has to stack up financially.

Government Financial Schemes. The Council has continued operating all the various schemes, particularly financial, that the Government has put in place to keep the economy functioning as best as it can post COVID. In my opinion the officers have been great in discharging all the duties of the Council as well as the extra duties given to them by National Government. The Government has agreed to fund the extra costs involved.

Ukrainian Refugees. Since the Government scheme began after the Russian invasion of the Ukraine in February 2022 our SODC officers have following a great public response supported 300 refugees who now live in South Oxfordshire.

My annual Councillors budget of £5000 towards community projects have been distributed as follows:

1. **£1126. Berrick Salome Parish Council. Towards the cost land scaping at entrance to the village hall.**
2. **£624. Brightwell Baldwin Parish Meeting. Towards the cost of a public defibulator.**
3. **£1000. Newington Church. Towards cost of window repairs.**
4. **£1500. Chalgrove Cricket Club. Towards the costs of a separate ladies changing room to satisfy cricket league requirements.**

Next Joint SODC & VoWH Local Plan. The public consultation on SODC's suggestions were well received with approximately 80% of people supportive. The responses are currently being analysed and a second consultation on final proposals will be conducted later this year.

Chalgrove Airfield. You will recall that Homes England withdrew their application for 3000 homes on the airfield following a damning report from the Civil Aviation Authority about the safety of their proposals. They said that they would submit another plan late 2021/early 2022 probably involving land which they had purchased to the North of the airfield. A few weeks ago, SODC Councillors had an on-line briefing by Homes England who said they are now hoping to submit a revised new plan later this year. I asked that given the damning report of the airfield regulators had they now solved the problem. They said not yet. I then asked have you consulted with the airfield regulator to which they said no! I then said given you are committed to not interfering with Martin Baker's operations why are you continuing to spend more public money when you do not have a solution? They did not respond to my question, but repeated that they would be submitting another application.

New planning application for 160 homes. This is on the Watlington side of Chalgrove and the 120 homes being still constructed by Miller Homes. You may recall that SODC turned down the Miller Homes application, but on appeal the Secretary of State gave it planning permission. We are still awaiting the Appeal Inspector's decision which we understand will be in late May. There is also another application for 150 homes on the North side of the B480 adjacent to the road leading to the industrial estate.

Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. SODC has now provided charging points in car parks in Wallingford and Henley in line with the Countywide strategy with more to come in SODC owned car parks in the future.

Leisure facilities. All the SODC re-furbished Leisure centres are now open and flourishing again following the closures instigated under previous COVID rules, but with precautions still operating.

Waste collection and re-cycling. Biffa still do a good job despite the problems involved in getting driving staff. SODC at 62.7 % is the second highest recycling Local Authority in the country. The Vale is 4th at on 61.9%. The National average is only 44.1%. This is a great result for our area and shows how the council and the public have taken seriously the need for recycling.

David Turner

South Oxfordshire District Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)

18th April 2023