

BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Bourton Parish Council Annual Assembly will be held on
Monday 4 June 2018
at 1930 hrs in the Village Hall

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of meeting held on 24 May 2017**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Chairman's Report**
- 5. Accounts for year ending 31 March 2017**
- 6. Update on Traffic Calming in Bourton**
- 7. Report from District and County Councillors**
- 8. Update from Neighbourhood Watch**
- 9. Any Other Business**

You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments after the meeting

Signed:

Dated:

**MINUTES OF THE BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD
MONDAY 4 JUNE 2018 AT 1930 HRS IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Cllr Nial Ledingham (Chairman), Cllr John Bean, Cllr Derek Austin, Cllr William Moore and Cllr David Swann. District Councillors Elaine Ware and Simon Howell and County Councillor Yvonne Constance were also in attendance along with 9 parishioners.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies had been received.

2 and 3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 MAY 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

Copies of the Minutes had been displayed on the noticeboard from July -September 2017 and the Clerk had copies available at the meeting. They had been approved and signed on 26 June 2017. There were no matters arising.

The Chairman agreed to take Item 7 first.

7. REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

A report from District Cllrs Elaine Ware and Simon Howell is attached as Appendix A. There was a discussion about the various development sites in Shrivenham that were going ahead and a new one for 85 dwellings put forward by Gladman as Phase 2 of the Townsend Road site. Elaine would send details through so that the Clerk could object to this. District Councillors were informed about the permitted development rights at Home Farm and Lowerfield Farm and offered to speak to the planners concerning both sites on behalf of the Parish Council. Simon and Elaine were thanked for attending and for all the hard work that they had undertaken on behalf of our communities over the last year.

A report from County Cllr Yvonne Constance is attached as Appendix B. There was a discussion about the state of the roads and Yvonne confirmed that, as Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, she had raised pot holes to the top of the Oxfordshire CC agenda. There was a discussion about closing the turning right at the Wharf for traffic travelling East on the A420 once the new roundabout at North Shrivenham was installed. The Clerk was also keen to see it closed for traffic turning left when heading West on the A420 as this seemed to be the only way to avoid the rat-running through the village once Swindon's Eastern development was under construction. Yvonne was thanked for attending and for her help and advice, particularly regarding the traffic calming measures in the village.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked David Swann for organising and maintaining a Parish Council website, funded by a grant, to enable all minutes, agendas and financial information to be on-line.

A litter pick took place in March/April by members (and friends) of the Parish Council in addition to the clean up organised by Oxfordshire County Council. Thanks to all who took part. Thanks were also recorded to Pinewood School and the Manager of Grange Farm for clearing the roads in the heavy snow.

Thames Valley Police had risk assessed a location on the Bishopstone Road for the speedwatch device to be used and, once it was back from repair and volunteers were free to attend, this would be organised.

The Parish Council was pleased to report that the new sign for Silver Street had been installed as had a larger doggie bin at the top of Pot Lid.

On planning, permission had been granted for a new teaching facility at Pinewood School, with the relocated tennis courts to be in the greenfield site adjacent to the car park but there was no intention to have floodlights and the area will be well softened with planting similar to that around the car parks.

The barn behind Horseshoe Cottage was currently being converted to a holiday let.

Permission had been granted for an extension at Greystone, Silver Street.

Permission had been granted for an agricultural building, poly tunnel and laying of track in The Orchard, rear of Hinton Marsh Cottages.

The Parish Council had been unsuccessful in obtaining permission for a Cleyfields resident to dig out two car parking spaces and Oxfordshire CC were not willing to fund any additional spaces. Permission was refused for a Certificate of Lawful Development concerning a separate dwelling at The Grange.

The Parish Council has made several attempts to lobby both Oxfordshire CC Highways/Rights of Way Officer and Network Rail to repair the surface of Steppingstone Lane and this was ongoing.

5. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year ending March 2017 and copies were circulated. The precept had increased only very slightly as a result of the grant from VWHDC being reduced from £113.00 to £85.00. End of year funds of £4335.85 were considered a healthy balance. There were no questions from the floor concerning the accounts.

6. UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING IN BOURTON

Thanks were given to David Swann for meeting with Lee Turner last year to get the white lines installed at the top of Silver Street, which have proved to be effective in allowing access for the dustbin men.

The Parish Council met with Philip Hoyland, Headmaster of Pinewood School, in November to discuss our serious concerns due to the volume and speed of traffic and the fact that HGVs were using the village roads unnecessarily. Also discussed was the concern about the effect of rat-running through the village once the Eastern development begins. Recently another car was damaged outside Church Row and the railings on the Church Row corner have been knocked over (this being the second incident in this location). The Chairman was very pleased to report that Philip Hoyland has secured a very generous grant of £15K from the school towards the costs of traffic calming in the village and he has agreed to encourage parents driving from the South to access the village via The Avenue. New signage will be put on the Bishopstone Road encouraging traffic for Pinewood School to turn right and there will be a new sign at that location indicating that the village is "Unsuitable for HGVs". The sign will not post "Swindon" via the village and the signpost on the B4000 will also not post "Swindon" through the village.

Thanks were given to the Clerk, John Bean and Derek Austin for meeting with Lee Turner in February to discuss installing temporary build-outs on the Bishopstone Road and along from Cleyfields for one week only. Feedback has suggested that the residents of Cleyfields would not welcome a build-out in that location but there were positive comments for a build-out on the Bishopstone Road. A build-out in this location will also serve to dissuade Pinewood traffic from driving up through the village from the South and parking in the village instead of the school car parks.

There are also proposals to have white lines outside Church Row (on both sides of the road) to dissuade parents from parking in that location and also a line around the corner to prevent vehicles parking too close to the bend. There was a request from parishioners to have a white line just past the disabled space at Speedwell Cottage to prevent parked cars blocking the lane to the village hall. It was reported that the kerbstone on the corner of Church Row as loose and the Clerk would report this.

Action: Clerk

8. UPDATE FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

John Bean reported that there had been two attempted break-ins and tools stolen from a vehicle, along with some domestic issues in Silver Street. The Chairman thanked John for his excellent stewardship of Neighbourhood Watch.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Simon French thanked the Parish Council for all of their hard work on behalf of the village and the Chairman offered his thanks to fellow Parish Councillors for giving up their time to help run the village over the last 12 months and also to the Clerk. He thanked Fred Jefferies for the work he did on behalf of the Parish Council keeping the village tidy and parishioners for attending the meeting.

Signed:

Date:

Appendix A

REPORT FROM VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (WATCHFIELD & SHRIVENHAM WARD) TO PARISH COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES 2018

Introduction

Another busy year to report on representing the 12 Parishes of the ward and covering a wide range of views of the Parishes that we serve.

Simon continued as Chair of Audit & Governance Committee and the Faringdon Area Grants Committee. Elaine continued as a Cabinet Member but with an expanded area of responsibility for Housing and Environment, including waste, licensing, community safety and technical services.

This report covers the main updates for the whole of the Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward that we represent.

Planning

Planning issues have again been top of the agenda and we continue to do our best in representing the views of residents across the 12 Parishes.

The Local Plan is now in place and has an 8.4-year land supply in this area.

Local Plan Part 2 was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination inspection on 23 February. David Reed has been nominated by the Planning Inspectorate to independently examine the Plan and will be heard at Abingdon & Witney College in Abingdon commencing on 3 July 2018. No strategic sites have been identified in the Western Vale.

NPPF – The revised National Planning Policy Framework has been published and is currently being consulted on. The consultation deadline was 10 May.

Appeals Five appeals in the Ward were registered to be considered by the Planning Inspectorate. Four of these have been dismissed, including the Gypsy and Traveller site on Compton Road, Shrivenham. The appeal for the Badbury Hill (Great Coxwell) site will be held on 30 May at Shrivenham Memorial Hall commencing at 10am.

Legal & General – Shrivenham residents were invited to attend a public exhibition held on Tuesday 20 February from 1500hrs to 1900hrs. The exhibition gave residents the opportunity to discuss the type and design of dwellings with representatives from the company. Initially L & G propose to build 240 homes on the Phase 1 allocated site which is located directly behind the Blue Cedar development to the east of Highworth Road. This Phase also includes land for a new primary school. A Reserved Matters application has been submitted with a target decision date of 12 July 2018. The Phase 2 Reserved Matters application for 265 dwellings is expected to be submitted before the end of this year. Concerns were expressed regarding access to the Phase 1 site during construction and L & G indicated that they may build a temporary access road from the A420. This is to be confirmed with the County Council.

Bovis – Townsend Road – Bovis has submitted a revised Reserved Matters application which addresses many issues that have been raised by the Parish Council and local residents. The consultation for the revised plan ended on 12 April. **Update: the application has been approved.**

Gladman – Townsend Road – Phase 2 – We wrote to Gladman explaining that the Vale has more than a five year land supply and that the site is not included in either Local Plan Part 1 or in the draft Local Plan Part 2 which clearly states that there will be no additional allocated sites in the western vale. Needless to say there has been no acknowledgement of receipt of our letter which was sent by both Email and post. **Update: Gladman has since submitted an Outline application**

Taylor Wimpey - Longcot Road – The Vale Enforcement Team and OCC Highways are dealing with numerous issues and breaches of planning conditions that have been raised by us, as well as the Parish Council and local residents.

The application for additional dwellings was considered by the Vale Planning Committee on Wednesday 7 March and permission granted. There will now be 63 dwellings rather than the 59 that were approved at appeal.

Land South of Steeds Farm Gt. Coxwell – An Outline application for a further 125 dwellings has been submitted to the Vale. This application is in addition to the 200 that are already being constructed on part of this strategic site. Concerns have been raised by both Gt. Coxwell Parish Council and Faringdon Town Council as well as local residents. The deadline for comments passed on 15 March and the decision target date is scheduled for 2 May 2018. This application will be considered by the full Planning Committee.

Growth Deal – The Chancellor announced funding of £215m over a five year period for the County in his November 2017 budget. All six Oxfordshire Councils have now approved the deal. The deal would also see the establishment of a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) for the County to improve a joined up approach to planning. The Vale has made it clear that the plan must not allocate housing sites and will put no pressure on the Vale before 2031. The Government formally signed off the Growth Deal early April. The next stage will be to create the Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) by 31 July 2018 for the County to improve a joined up approach to planning. Further consultation on this plan will follow in due course.

Swindon Eastern Villages - The impact of the start of the new “Eastern Villages” in Swindon are starting to take shape and will have a significant impact on our villages. A total of 8000 dwellings will be built in 8 villages and South Marston will expand. Currently 2 main developments are in the pipeline – Rowborough (2380) and Great Stall (1800). A new application is to be considered by SBC for 370 homes on the Redland Airfield Site.

Unitary Authority

A year ago, a proposal for a new Unitary Authority was submitted to Central Government. This was a combined three authority (Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council) proposal entitled “A new council for a Better Oxfordshire”. The Vale has written to Sajid Javid renewing the call for a Unitary Council. Unitary Councils have been in the news recently with both Dorset and Buckinghamshire receiving approval for reorganisation and Northamptonshire is expected to follow.

We are awaiting further information

Recycling

The Vale has slipped from No.2 to No.4 in the whole of the country for the % of recycling material. It is unfortunate that the Vale has been unable to maintain its level of performance. This has been primarily due to contamination of recycling material.

There has been an improvement since the introduction of NO Black Sacks.

Recent efforts have included a campaign to reduce the disposal of food in grey bins and to correctly use the food waste buckets.

Fly Tipping

The Vale has successfully prosecuted a number of individuals for fly-tipping. The latest was for dumping of waste in the same place on three different occasions and caught on camera. The offender was fined and made to pay costs and compensation which amounted to over £1500.

Public Realm Team

Included in the Vale’s budget is an allocation of £250,000 per annum over the next three years for delivering improvements throughout the district. The project is in its initial stages and more details will be published shortly.

Grants

The following dates have been confirmed for grant applications:

Capital and New Homes Bonus – Round one – 25 April-6 June Round two (budget permitting) 11

September-22 October

Festival Grants – 1 April-28 February 2019

The Grants Team are always pleased to offer advice and contact details are on the Vale website. In addition the team are holding advice sessions on 18 April in Uffington and 24 April in Letcombe Regis. For more information call 01235 422103. Booking is essential.

Appointment of New Chief Executive

Mark Stone was recently appointed as new Chief Executive after a period in the role as an interim measure.

(Breaking News) Appointment of New Leader of the Council

Matthew Barber has announced his intention to stand down as Leader of the Vale of White Horse Council. A new Leader will be appointed at the Annual Meeting on 16th May. Prior to this a new Conservative Group leader will be appointed on 8th May. **Update: The Group elected Cllr. Roger Cox**

Conclusion

Along with your local Parish Councillors we work tirelessly for our communities and deal with numerous issues that affect the area.

We attend a variety of meetings and make representation to various Vale Committees, Swindon Borough Council, the County Council and other organisations. We work hard to get our voice heard and our views listened to.

We continue to provide assistance and advice to residents when they have any problems or concerns. We may not advertise what we do on a daily basis but as locals we have our local community at heart and will serve you all as best we can.

Cllrs. Simon Howell and Elaine Ware
April/May 2018

Appendix B

District and County Councillor Report for Annual Meeting 2018 : notes on the current issues

Please make this short report available to your residents = at the meeting or in advance to inform as many as possible!

VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL :

- LEADER Matt Barber steps down by end of May to take up full-time position as Deputy Police Commissioner Thames Valley after 7 successful years as Leader VWHDC.

Matt Barber has been a very successful leader, who has steered the Vale through the pain of Local Plan Part 1 (LPP1) delivered over 7500 new houses so far, a new leisure centre, and set up LPP2; negotiated the Five Counties deal, the Growth Deal with County, the City and District Councils, and brought the Vale round to support for a Unitary Council in the future, whilst ensuring high standard services for all residents. We will miss his grasp of the strategy for the Vale and his ability to make it a forward-thinking Council and his careful control of the spend by the Council

- Local Plan Part 2 has been submitted for Examination in Public by Inspector during the summer. The Vale is required to deliver 2250 extra houses to meet Oxford City's unmet need. All are allocated in the Abingdon/Oxford 'fringe' (1200 on the Dalton barracks site) and the worst effect will be more congestion on our roads.
- Budget for 2018/19 required a 4.6% increase in Council Tax, which includes significant funds for 'deep clean' of the towns and villages to improve the state of our area.
- Vale District council has registered objection to Thames Water's renewed proposal for a reservoir at Steventon and called for a public enquiry.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- BUDGET for 2019/10 has been increased by 5.99% to include 3% ring-fenced increase for social care - children and adults.
- SOCIAL CARE : Care worker recruitment drive has already attracted more applicants in 5 months as in past 2 years. OCC currently has about 14,200 working in adult social care, but Oxfordshire's ageing population is growing at twice the national average.

- **POTHLES** : As Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport I have raised potholes to the top of the OCC agenda. Gov has provided £2.8 million extra for repairs making about £16 million for road repairs this year. But snow, and ice and salt have damaged our roads beyond expectations – reports to Fix My Street are now running between 7,000 to 8,000 per month, up from the average of 2,000 per month, so we have brought in 2 extra repair teams and an additional Dragon Patcher and aim to fix about 35,000 potholes this year. I hope you have noticed there are workmen repairing potholes in our area already. But we know it will need £150 million to resurface our roads, and I am open to all suggestions about where to find this money!

- **HGVs** : throughout the county are working with Trading Standards to police the scourge of HGVs ignoring weight restrictions on rural roads and bridges. Since Feb 2016 there have been 100 prosecutions (resulting in £55792 in fines) with 57 more cases under active investigation. In total 550 warning letters have been issued following reports from the public; 157 seen by patrolling Trading Standard officers and 460 vehicles recorded by the ABPR cameras at Newbridge.

- **GROWTH DEAL** : OCC initiated a deal with Gov for £215 million over 5 years for infrastructure, which includes £60 million for affordable housing, likely to be for key-worker housing close to Oxford to counter the problem that Oxford City housing is most expensive outside London. This is a ground-breaking deal for a stream of significant funds to provide roads to deliver 100,000 houses in the county by 2031. The deal required agreement from all four District Councils and the City, and will enable OCC to plan big infrastructure improvements (from the Ox.Infrastructure Schedule) and is a wholly new way to fund development in a county without a Unitary authority.

- **UNITARY COUNCIL** : the plan agreed by all councils last year for a Unitary authority is still on the desk of the SoS, and we watch developments in Northamptonshire with great interest. But meanwhile the gain for major infrastructure funding has been secured through the successful Growth Deal.

- **EAST WEST RAILWAY** : OCC has been a lead council in the consortium which has secured £1billion Gov funding (November 2017) to extend the East/West railway from Bicester to Bletchley (Milton Keynes). Following this model a new consortium will now be formed by the councils east of Bletchley to extend the railway to Bedford and Cambridge.

- OXFORD EXPRESSWAY : I chair an advisory group on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway which aims to 'open' England's economic heartland with a science .knowledge spine from Cambridge to Oxford with a new science university at Milton Keynes, as proposed by the National Infrastructure Commission. There are 3 possible 'corridors' to route this road through Oxfordshire, which makes us the most affected by this development. We cannot yet indicate a preferred corridor, as the technical assessments are not yet available. We have responded to Highways England that the Expressway must NOT use the section of A34 through central Oxfordshire, and must not seek to use A34 where it serves as a local road past Oxford City. It must also be developed separately from local planned enhancements like the Culham river crossing The VWHDC prefers a route south of Abingdon; SODC prefers a route north of Oxford and they have called for a public enquiry.

- THAMES WATER's RESERVOIR : OCC has called for more detail about TW's estimates of population growth in the county, aware that TW sees this as a regional facility without making clear what other possible sites have been assessed across the South East region. We have asked also how much of the water will be sold to other water companies, and called (again) for TW to speed up their programme of leakage reduction to 'delay the need for a reservoir as long as possible.

- ENVIRONMENT : OCC is planning first Zero Emission Zone in the world for centre of Oxford by 2020; is initiating many improvements for cyclists in and around Oxford City; and has consulted on how to increase recycling aware that nearly 60% of what still goes to waste generating plant is recyclable. We must do better with bottles . . .and all plastics!

Cllr Yvonne Constance