

**Minutes of the Northmoor Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 10 January 2024 at 8:00pm in the Village Hall**

Attendees

Parish Councillors

Dr Graham Shelton Chair
Mrs Carrie Berry
Mr Neil Reeves
Miss Stacey Reed
Mrs Juliet Druce
Mr Chris Isaac Clerk

County/District Councillors

OCC Cllr Dan Levy, WODC Cllr Charlie Maynard.

Members of the public

Mrs J Williams, Mrs S Woolford, Mrs J Jones.

1. Apologies for absence

WODC Cllr Lysette Nicholls

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 13 December 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated to all members, were agreed as a true record, and were signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising.

a. Declarations of Acceptance

The Declarations of Acceptance have been completed by Cllrs Juliet Druce and Stacey Reed and sent to Sharon Ellison at WODC.

b. Road repairs outside of Red Lion Cottages

A temporary repair to the large pothole was completed on 5th Jan. Dean Mitchell at OCC has asked to be informed if this starts to break up. He also stated that they will be closing the road and doing a full repair over the Easter break, but will come out between then to touch up as and when needed.

c. Coronation Community Orchards application

The complexity of the application process, along with the uncertainty of the ownership and potential objection from Historic England regarding planting in the land proposed to become the "Kings Copse", the councillors agreed that the application should be put on hold, and revisited once the status was fully understood.

5. Reports from Councillors and Clerk

- a. OCC Cllr Dan Levy gave his report to the meeting. The main points were that other than the flooding, nothing much had happened due to it being the Christmas period. The budget needs to be signed off by 20 Feb 24. The CC had been very busy with the flooding and there would be a full debrief once the water has gone down. West Oxfordshire had fared better than the other areas due to their previous preparations for such events.
- b. WODC Cllr C Maynard gave his report to the meeting, a copy of which is included at the end of the minutes.
- c. Neil Reeves informed the meeting of that he had reported pot holes and fly tipping in Moreton Lane, and that the fly tipping had already been cleared. There has been a noticeable increase in the amount of dog mess that has not been picked up, or in some cases picked up, bagged and then thrown over the hedge. He asked if we can get some "Please clean up after your dog" signs. Charlie Maynard suggested contacting Bill Oddy (bill.oddy@westoxon.gov.uk). *(Post meeting note Clerk has emailed Bill)*
- d. Graham Shelton asked if Bill Oddy would also know about flood signs for Bablock Hythe, Moreton Lane and West End. Dan Levy said that it was controlled by the County Council not District Council and he would investigate.
- e. The subject of the annual litter pick was discussed and it was agreed that it should take place on Sat 2 Mar 24, with the following week (Sat 9 Mar 24) as a fall back in case of inclement weather.
- f. Neil also asked what was happening with the wood from the felled ash tree in the Village Hall car park. Julie Williams informed the meeting that it had been cut and split into logs which would be sold at a discounted price to villagers to recoup some of the cost of the felling. The pile of chippings would need to be left to settle for a month before being given to people for mulch, before the space could be used for extra parking. Juliet Druce suggested that marked parking bays could result in more efficient parking.
- g. This led to a discussion about parking, particularly outside of Red Lion Cottages and on the road by the church on market days and church services. It was agreed that parking in the village needs to be addressed.
- h. The Clerk reported that he was making progress updating the Parish Council content on the Northmoor website, and was looking for a volunteer to administer the Village related content. The intention had been to update the website fully before going public, but as it was taking longer than hoped it was agreed that it would be publicised, but noting it was work in progress. Carrie Berry suggested the clerk speak to Henry Spielberg and Sue Harrison as they had volunteered to be involved in improving village communications.
- i. The clerk also notified the meeting that he had received a Temporary Road Closure notice regarding a Road Closure and "No Waiting" restriction on the A415 between Standlake and Newbridge, from 8pm on Tue 19 Mar to 6am Wed 20 Mar, and that it had been published on the village website.
- j. The action to write to Cottsway regarding parking in Griffiths Close is still outstanding as the clerk needs to engage with the residents first and ensure the details are accurate. He also noted that he has yet to receive any further clarification regarding the potential bridge closure on Standlake Road.

6. Issues

a. Flooding

Graham Shelton acknowledged that the whole community had been affected by the recent floods, but it was particularly bad for those at Bablock Hythe, who have had to endure several feet of running water which was contaminated with raw sewage.

WODC had previously stated that they would not be able to help individuals, and that residents must rely on help from the community. As all residents are over 45 years old and many are elderly and vulnerable, self-help is particularly difficult. This is further compounded by the fact that there is no street lighting, so residents are having to leave their lights on all night to help others find their way around the park.

There were further discussions regarding the potential to apply to the EA for re-grading of the flood zone, and the effect that could have on the residents' insurance premiums.

Charlie Maynard requested the residents draw up a list of all the major issues that could be used as levers by WODC during the park licence renewal in 2024. He also stated that Greenwood Parks, Thames Water, OCC, WODC and the EA were needed to resolve the issues.

It was agreed that as it was such a complex subject that a separate meeting was needed. *Stacey Reed to organise a meeting between the residents and Charlie Maynard to discuss the options further.*

7. Finance

a. Precept.

The Precept Form was submitted to WODC with the 9% rise as agreed at the last meeting.

b. Village Hall hire charges 2023

The councillors agreed that the £305 Village Hall hire charges for 2023 could be paid. The amounts consisted of £195 for Parish Council meetings and £110 for Village Survey related meetings. The Village Survey costs will be paid from the restricted funds held for that purpose.

c. Charity Donations

The only requests that had been received this year were from Oxfordshire Mind who had helped over 146 people in the area and Cleanslate who provide services to male and female victims of physical, sexual, emotional and mental abuse and want to expand their services to support mothers and daughters with counselling sessions.

There is £250 earmarked in the budget and the councillors agreed to donate £50 to each of the following charities:

Mind Oxfordshire
Cleanslate
Thames Valley Air Ambulance
Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire

8. Planning Applications.

There were no Planning Applications received this month.

9. Correspondence and Any Other Business

a. Denise Blackwell email to Graham Sheldon ref the brook.

Denise spoke with Robert Courts regarding the lack of Environment Agency maintenance of the brook. As the brook is classed as a main river the EA need to approve any work in brook or on the banks, regardless of ownership so the first stop must be through them.

b. Letter from Robert Courts

The Clerk has received a letter from Robert Courts requesting PCs get in touch with his office regarding any difficulties with Thames Water.

Stacey Reed agreed to write to Robert regarding the discharge of sewage at Bablock Hythe

c. Scott Gillam Road Marking

Scott is hoping to attend a course soon, after which he will be able to start marking potholes in parish's roads.

Post meeting note Scott has attended the course but is only allowed to mark potholes within the 30mph limits of the village. He can report anything outside of the limits using his privileged login for Fix My Street but does not know if that will add any weight to the report.

d. Oxfordshire Councils Charter Event – 6:00pm Tue 6 Feb 24 Council Offices, Witney
The clerk will be attending on behalf of the PC

e. Christmas Power Cut

Carrie Berry has been approached by a parishioner regarding the possibility of compensation from SSEN after the power cut on Christmas Day. As the power cut was less than 12 hours, and there hasn't been a total of four 4 hour long power cuts through the year) there would not be any compensation available.

It was also noted that the inaccurate updates throughout the day had worsened the impact and a more realistic timescale should be published to avoid the false hope.

The clerk will write to SSEN highlighting the distress and financial loss experienced by many parishioners due to the power cut and the lack of accurate updates

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 February 2024 at 8:00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:25 pm.

Signed..... Date. 14 February 2024.

District Councillor update for Northmoor – Charlie Maynard - 10 Jan 2024

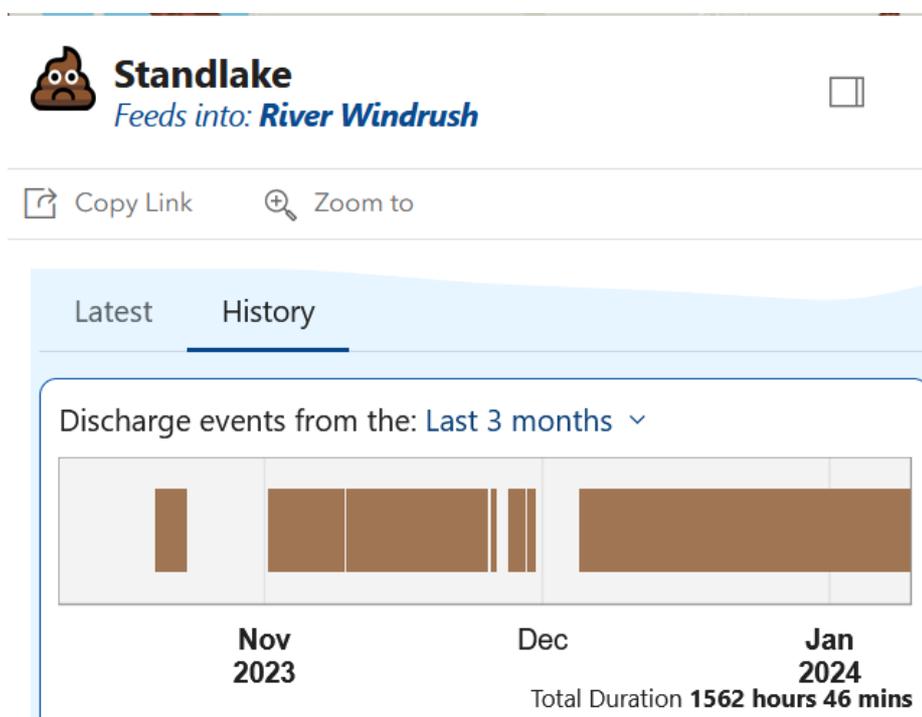
1. Flooding

The water is still very high. I was down at Thameside on Saturday, I made it through the floods in the way in and made it back out again, minus very bits of my car's undercarriage. I was shocked how severe the situation was, with over a foot and a half of water in some parts of the site. I was impressed by how much the community was pulling together to help one another. This link has lots of useful tips, including where to pick up sandbags from -

<https://westoxon.gov.uk/environment/flooding/what-to-do-during-a-flood/>.

2. Sewage / Thames Water

Northmoor's sewage is pumped to Standlake's Sewage Treatment Works ("STW"). As of this evening, Standlake's STW has dumped sewage non-stop for more than a month. Below is a summary of its performance for the last three months. One small breakthrough is that we have persuaded Thames Water to give us access to their flow and depth meter data in this STW's catchment area. This will allow us to assess directly where infiltration is worst and what segments are the highest priority to fix.



3. Taking on the Planning role at WODC

I've accepted the Planning & Sustainable Development Executive role at WODC. Various people have asked why I would want such a poisoned chalice. I'm taking it on because I'm in politics to get stuff done and this is an opportunity to do that. Opportunities include maximising the probability of keeping the district inside its five year housing land supply and therefore away from rapacious developers; helping steer a Local Plan which genuinely serves West Oxfordshire's residents and environment; working towards a better transport solution for our area; and grappling with thorny issues such as the Botley West solar proposal. I've got a list of issues seven pages long and getting longer. Lots to do.

4. Bridge at Bablock Hythe

As part of the Local Plan consultation's request for ideas last year, I proposed a pedestrian and bike bridge at Bablock Hythe. I understand that the results of the consultation will be published in February.