

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

Attendees

Dr Graham Shelton	Outgoing Chair
Mrs Juliet Druce	Incoming Chair
Miss Stacey Reed	
Mr James Florey	
Mrs Lindsey Brangwin	
Mr Chris Isaac	Clerk

OCC Cllr Dan Levy, WODC Cllr Charlie Maynard, WODC Cllr Steve Cosier

4 members of the public

1. Election of the Chair & Vice Chair.

Stacey Reed proposed that Juliet Druce should be Chair, and James Florey seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and so Juliet Druce was elected as Chair for the coming year.

Stacey Reed proposed that James Florey should be Vice-Chair, and Lindsey Brangwin seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and so James Florey was elected as Vice-Chair for the coming year.

Juliet Druce thanked Graham for his service to the community as Chair of the Parish Council for the past year and then gave an acceptance speech, a copy of which is included at the end of these minutes. She added that since writing her notes the potholes in Moreton Lane had now been repaired.

2. Apologies for absence

There were no absences.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Public Participation.

Mike Ryan informed the meeting that for the past 2 years there had been no progress regarding Hansons gifting the field to Northmoor. There has been regular interaction between the solicitors over this time, and whilst Hansons had agreed to cover the legal costs of both sides, Mike was concerned that if Hansons became insolvent the solicitor may come to Northmoor for payment. The clerk requested a copy of all emails covering this matter.

Mike also added that there were many potholes along Standlake Road, but was particularly concerned about one near Pinnock's Farm as it was particularly deep. Dan Levy advised residents to report all potholes via Fix My Street.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 10 April 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated to all members, were agreed as a true record, and were signed by the chair.

6. **Timetable of meetings for the year.**

It was agreed that future Parish Council meetings would be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

7. **Appoint committees and representatives on outside bodies.**

a. Village Hall Committee

Julie Williams briefed the meeting on the requirement to have a councillor on the Village Hall Committee. Stacey Reed agreed to be the PC representative.

8. **Reports from Councillors and Clerk**

a. OCC Cllr Dan Levy gave his report in person, a copy of which is included at the end of these minutes. He added that he was still waiting for a date for the proposed repairs to the road alongside Red Lion Cottages.

b. WODC Cllr Charlie Maynard did not have a report to give, however he did want to praise Graham for doing such a fantastic job chairing the Parish Council, and added that Graham and Mike Ryan had formed a good team that would be a hard act to follow.

c. WODC Cllr Steve Cosier stated that as he was new into the role he had nothing to report, but he had spoken to Graham to get an update on Northmoor, and he would be catching up with Juliet as the incoming Chair and James Florey regarding farming in the area.

d. The clerk reported on the following points:

i. **Planning Applications**

The clerk had forwarded the councillors comments on the 2 Planning Applications as they had response deadlines of 2 and 8 May.

24/00806/OUT - two three bed detached self-build dwellings, garages and ancillary works Park Farm House Standlake Road Northmoor

There were no specific objections, but some councillors have reservations about further development in the vicinity of Park Farm, particularly as this is in a garden where it appears mature trees will need to be felled and so would wish these factors to be taken into account when considering this application.

24/00874/S73 – Meadow Barn 17 Park Farm Place Northmoor - Change of use from Holiday Let to Permanent Residence

The councillors were concerned about further development in the vicinity and believe that nothing has changed since the conditions were placed onto the original approval (17/02722/FUL) and therefore it should remain as holiday let and not as a permanent residence

ii. **ROSPA inspection**

The clerk had checked the insurance policy wording, which was not very clear, and so had called the insurers who stated that whilst it was not specifically stated that an annual ROSPA inspection was needed, it was a Health and Safety requirement, and they would expect the council to have proof of this before paying out on any claims. The clerk also noted that the policy did state that a visual check was required weekly and so a volunteer would be required to carry out these checks.

Post meeting note: Henry Spielberg volunteered to carry out the weekly checks.

iii. **Notice Boards**

Andrew Williams has looked at the boards and both need repairs. The Northmoor board only required welding near one hinge but was otherwise in a fair state of repair. The Bablock Hythe board needed far more work as it was wooden, and several pieces had started to decay. He added that with the help of another resident he should be able to repair them, which would mean that we did not to replace them at present.

iv. **Dog wase bin emptying**

The clerk was investigating why there had been a significant increase in the charges for dog waste bin emptying between financial years 22/23 (£46.30) and 23/24 (£1,044.58).

v. **Parish Online – Domain, Website and E-Mail**

The Parish Council website will be moving to a new provider to ensure compliance with accessibility and GDPR legislation. In order to start the process the councillors would need to decide what domain name and email address format they wanted to use, however this would be taken offline.

vi. **Internal Audit**

The Parish Council accounts should have an “Internal Audit” before the annual return is submitted (by 30 June). This will involve engaging an independent auditor which costs around £150. The clerk is still trying to find an Internal Auditor with spare capacity. A PC Meeting is required to sign the accounts off after the Internal Audit, which hopefully happens before the next scheduled meeting (4 June).

Lindsey Brangwin suggested talking to Becky Grant.

vii. **Standing Orders and Code of Conduct**

The council will need to produce Standing Orders and a Code of Conduct. There are templates available and they need to be completed in the near future.

9. **Matters Arising**

a. **Co-Option of the fifth councillor**

Stacey Reed proposed that Henry Spilberg should be Co-Opted as the fifth councillor, and Lindsey Brangwin seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and so Henry Spilberg was Co-Opted as the fifth councillor.

10. **Finance**

a. Juliet and Lindsey agreed to be bank signatories, and Graham agreed to remain as signatory until Barclays had processed the change. It was noted that this has previously taken several months to be completed.

b. The councillors unanimously agreed that the following invoices should be paid:

i. Scott Gillam Landscapes Mar & Apr Grass Cutting £435

ii. Clear Councils Insurance policy (due 1 Jun) £443.75

iii. Wix Website Renewal £57.60 (paid by Clerk).

11. **Planning Applications**

Whilst there were no applications considered at the meeting, there were 2 planning applications that required responses before this meeting. The details are in the clerk’s report above.

12. **Correspondence and any items to be raised for information.**

There was no correspondence or items raised for information this month.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 7:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:30pm.

Signed..... Date. 4 June 2024.

Chair Acceptance, Juliet Druce, 8 May 24

I'd like to thank Graham for his time in office, of 10 years I don't expect to be here in 10 years!

I think the main things we are concerned about in our extended village is flooding especially at Bablock Hythe.

Power cuts have caused quite a lot of problems recently and as so much is dependent on supply such as communication, lighting it really does put us back in the dark ages, pardon the pun.

I know Andrew Williams is on the case logging all our outages, but during cuts it is almost impossible to find out information without reliable Wi-Fi or 4g signal on how long the outage is likely to be.

We need also to take advantage of as many grants and funding opportunities as possible, flood defences and electricity generator grant being top of the list.

Potholes in and just outside the village are also major concerns and repairs just don't seem to happen, these potholes (especially on Moreton Lanes and Red Lion Cottages) are particularly dangerous when full of water.

As chair I would like to contact all villagers to enquire if there is anything they would like the PC to do for the village, I don't want to do a questionnaire as they suggest answers, I want honest requests such as, more Christmas lighting, flowers or tree planting, verges cut to aid visibility. I appreciate many requests could be outside of PC control, but it gives an idea of what villagers want.

I aim to be impartial and fair, I do speak my mind, I can be brief and blunt, but I am approachable, I may not reply to emails as an essay but with half a dozen words, we're all busy people I expect most will appreciate brevity.

County Council report, Dan Levy 8 May 24

Spring appears finally to have arrived, after what seems like non-stop rain.

Can I take the opportunity to thank everyone for voting in the district council elections on May 2, and welcome Steve Cosier as your new district councillor alongside Charlie Maynard. Lysette Nicholls was an excellent champion for residents in her 4-year term, and I am sure Steve will live up to her example.

Roads:

The dry weather means that much needed work can be done, and there will be a set of road closures and road works. I know that there are numerous areas where road surfaces need to be fixed, and there is a huge backlog. As you may recall, we estimate it would cost in excess of £40m per annum just to keep things from getting worse. We have received approx. £22m from central government, added an additional £5m in the recent County Council budget, and so there is still a large annual shortfall. Please keep reporting on FixmyStreet.

We are still waiting for confirmation of funding from government agency Homes England for the HIF2 scheme for the A40. Unfortunately, the previous administration assumed that this funding would automatically appear at the same time as funding for the "Science Corridor" which paid for the Park and Ride. It has not. No County Council taxpayers' money has been spent on the Park and Ride.

In order to complete the Park and Ride, and build the bus lanes, we need government to step up. It is clearly extremely annoying to have the P&R nearly complete but unusable, but the buck stops at Whitehall.

Strategic Active Travel Network:

OCC has approved its map for a 'Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN)'. The map anticipates key direct walking and cycle routes between settlements in Oxfordshire and towns/villages in neighbouring counties. Cabinet approved progressing to 'stage 2' – translating the straight-line network into on-the-ground alignments, design and costing. An example is ensuring that there is a useable, direct, safe route between Brize Norton and Witney, which is currently a scary prospect for people who would prefer to cycle.

Vision Zero:

Mission to eliminate road deaths: A package of measures aimed at eliminating deaths and serious injuries on Oxfordshire's roads by 2050 ('Vision Zero') have been approved. Each 2 year there are currently approximately 30 deaths and 245 serious injuries on Oxfordshire's roads. The programme has £4 million in funding for projects to be delivered by 2026.

Community transport grants 2024-25:

OCC is inviting parish/town councils to bid for community transport grants from a pot of £150,000. Applications from successful bidders in 2023- 2024 will not be considered to give opportunity for other areas to benefit also.

Oxford United Stadium:

'Heads of terms' and subsequent legal agreements have been agreed between Oxfordshire County Council and OUFC for the lease of land near Kidlington owned by OCC and proposed to

be the site of OUFC's new home. This was not a straightforward negotiation as we needed to ensure the club could never again face the sort of situation that it and other clubs have faced when the playing and ownership interests are separated. The club has made a number of valuable pledges to the community and these have been included in the contracts. The next step is for the football club to get planning permission from Cherwell District Council.

As ever, please contact me with any queries, issues, complaints or anything else.

dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk