



MINUTES
of the
SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on
Thursday 25 November 2021
In Sunningwell Village Hall

Present:

Councillors

Colin Weyer (Chairman), Paul Wooldridge, Mike Wykes, Oliver Isaacs, Paul Darby, and James Greenman.

In attendance:

Brian Rixon – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
District Councillor Emily Smith
Seven members of the public (for part of the meeting)

142/21

Questions and comments from visiting councillors and members of the public

Prior to the meeting the Council received five emails expressing concern about persistent, excessive, and dangerous speeding along Foxcombe Road and Fox Lane in Boars Hill. Few parishioners were able to attend the meeting.

Sam, and his four sons, did come to the meeting and Sam said he was concerned about the risk to pedestrians but also that, when driving to and from home in Boars Hill, he has been tailgated by other drivers “encouraging” him to go faster. Sam’s son addressed the council and pointed out the scary requirement for school pupils to cross the road when using the school bus. Emily Smith commented that discussions on traffic calming often compared urbanisation and safety. She added that reviews showed 85% of drivers obey the traffic rules.

On a related issue, it was noted that traffic monitoring, with sensor lines across the carriageways, was taking place around the Lodge Hill area. Concern was expressed that the current closure of the road from White Cross into Abingdon could adversely affect any statistics and the clerk was asked to write to OCC Highways to make that point and also ask what the survey objectives are.

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District Councillor Emily Smith reported that the Civil Parking system is now live and that the County Council has contracted the company Conduit to enforce the system.

The Dalton Barracks Consultation is now live. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 could influence numbers and the level of development.

Cllr Paul Wooldridge asked Emily about the improved method for the parish council to be more involved in planning and able to talk to planning officers. Emily Smith said the pilot scheme organised by Emily Hammerton was a success and will be rolled out further in a surgery type format.

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County Councillor Bob Johnston sent his apologies for the meeting and enclosed a report that was read out by the chairman. In summary, it referred to:

1. An invitation from Jordan Rayner from Oxfordshire Highways to a briefing on the latest plans for Lodge Hill.
2. The period of grace is now over in respect of civil parking enforcement. Motorists who contravene the parking regulations will be fined instead of receiving a warning notice.
3. Work is now well underway to produce the County budget. In due course the Parish will be consulted on the same when it is more fully formed. What seems fairly certain is that the Council Tax will rise by the maximum of 5%. This is to increase the budgets for children's and adult social services.

143/21	Apologies for absence County Councillor Bob Johnston.
144/21	Declarations of members' interests in respect of any item. None.
145/21	To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 28 October 2021. The minutes were approved and signed.
146/21	Firework Event The event was well attended and donations of £719.28 were gratefully received. The fireworks display and the refreshments cost £1,442.52. It was agreed that another firework and bonfire event should be arranged for Saturday 5 th November 2022 and the clerk was asked to book Storm Fireworks again. The existing duration for the firework display was considered appropriate but it was acknowledged that the current cost is likely to increase slightly. No other village green events are planned but the council expressed its willingness to offer support to any person or group wishing to arrange a summer fete, or similar community gathering, on the village green.
147/21	Christmas lights in churchyard The lights will be turned on at 6 p.m. on Friday 3 rd December and there will be a few carols sung and readings by the vicar Rob Glenny and a parish councillor.
148/21	Commemorative bench on village green A request has been received from SPADE and the family of Bob Warne for a permanent memorial in the form of a bench to be installed on the village green to commemorate Bob's huge contribution to the Parish. The Parish Council unanimously approved the idea subject to receiving, and approving, a clear proposal on the design of the bench(es) and the suggested location on the green. Any bench should be properly secured and supported on a base similar to other benches already in situ. Whilst fully supporting the proposal Cllr Paul Woodridge recommended that the Council has a clearer policy on who may have a bench and whether there is a maximum number that the green could accommodate. Cllr Mike Wykes pointed out the rather poor state of some of the existing village green benches (weathered surfaces, moss growing on seats) and suggested they be prepared and painted with a suitable eternal wood preserver. This is addressed in minute 154/21 below.
149/21	Car accident on village hall car park The Council received a request from the owner of the house adjacent to the village hall car park following an unfortunate accident with a car crashing through their boundary fence. The request suggested something more substantial, such as a barrier, should be installed between the car park and the fence. Following a discussion, the council did not approve the request.
150/21	Village hall carpark – disabled access to hall Comments have been received questioning the adequacy of access to the village hall for disabled visitors. The Chairman reported that two disabled parking bays are in the process of being marked out on the concrete area immediately outside the front door of the hall. Further discussion led to an agreement that a tarmac link would be installed between the current central tarmac drive and the concrete area referred to above. Cllr Mike Wykes offered to get more information and talk it through with Cllr Colin Weyer. Action: Cllrs Mike Wykes and Colin Weyer. It was also suggested that a cycle rack for up to 6 bicycles should be installed and Cllr James Greenman offered to identify and cost the options. Action: Cllr James Greenman The clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall chairman to confirm the plans and ask if the hall itself is compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. Action: Clerk

151/21 Sunningwell pond de-silting project

Cllr Paul Wooldridge has obtained a second quotation for desilting the pond. Chiswell Contractors have quoted £3,250 plus VAT. A second quotation for an initial wildlife survey has also been received at £739 plus VAT. Allowing a contingency amount of £250, the council unanimously approved an overall budget of £5,086 including VAT. Action: Cllr Paul Wooldridge

152/21 Bayworth Defibrillator

The clerk had confirmed with Community Heartbeat Trust that a third defibrillator is required for the parish. The formal questionnaire and order form has now been received and will be processed by the clerk. Action: Clerk

153/21 Bayworth parking area

Cllr Paul Darby suggested that he should contact Oxfordshire County Council to ask for an update following the October 2020 discussion held on site with Tim Wilde of OCC by Cllrs Paul Wooldridge, Colin Weyer and Paul Darby to consider improvements to the parking area by Bayworth Triangle. The Council agreed and the clerk was asked to forward Tim Wilde's contact details to Cllr Paul Darby. Action: Clerk

154/21 Traffic calming

20 MPH Zones. Following agreement at the September council meeting, Cllr Colin Weyer has made a formal application for 20 mph zones to be installed in Bayworth and Sunningwell.

White gates. James Greenman is seeking competitive quotations for repainting the white gates at the entrances to the villages, when the weather is appropriate. The council agreed to expand this project to include cleaning and staining the village green benches referred to under minute 148/21.

Boars Hill. Cllr Colin Weyer reminded the council that five years ago the suggested mini roundabouts and chicanes on the main road through Boars Hill were not possible in a 40 mph zone. The council went on to propose and pay for a speed reduction to 30 mph and relevant signing along a significant part of the road.

A discussion on further traffic calming led to proposals that two pairs of interactive speed indicator displays, with data recording and analysis, should be installed at a total cost of £8,000 to £10,000. Cllr Paul Wooldridge expressed his strong view against the proposal on the grounds that it was another step towards urbanisation and, in his view, would not solve the speeding problem.

The proposal was put to a vote with the following result:

For: Cllrs Weyer, Greenman, Isaacs and Darby.

Against: Cllr Wooldridge.

Abstaining: Cllr Mike Wykes.

The proposal was carried and Cllr Colin Weyer will progress the matter. Action: Cllr Colin Weyer

Cllr Colin Weyer was asked to seek further information and costing on chicanes and, as a part of that research, will speak to East Hanney Parish Council.

155/21 Councillor email addresses

The progress on using the new email accounts was discussed and showed that Cllrs Colin Weyer, Paul Wooldridge and Mike Wykes are now using their accounts for all parish council communications. The email addresses are in the format firstname.surname@sunningwell-pc.gov.uk which many people will consider having more relevance, validity, and authority because it is a more secure .gov domain.

It was agreed the clerk should reissue the set up and activation details that he originally circulated on 4th October. Action: Cllrs Oliver Isaacs, James Greenman and Paul Darby.

156/21 Vale of White Horse parish boundary review

The council has been advised by Vale of White Horse District Council’s Democratic department that a Community Governance Review will be undertaken in 2022, with any changes implemented for the 2023 elections. Changes can alter boundaries, council names, electoral arrangements and so on.

Cllr James Greenman is keen to unite all of Boars Hill in one parish as the current arrangement has it divided between the parishes of Sunningwell and Wootton. He suggested the Boars Hill Association might like to seek parishioners’ views. Based on the outcome, the parish council could then consider putting a proposal to the Democratic department.

157/21 Budget and precept for 2022/23

In advance of the meeting, the clerk provided councillors with details of the current year budget, the actual expenditure to the end of October and the estimated expenditure for the full financial year. There was also a summary of reserves, bank balances and the current situation regarding S106 funding.

Considering the earlier agenda items on traffic calming expenditure and the costs of projects, such as the third defibrillator and the desilting of the pond, the council discussed the proposed precept for the financial year from 1st April 2023. It was unanimously agreed that the precept should be set at £25,000 which is a reduction on the £33,000 set for the current year.

The budget for the year from 1st April 2023 will be subject to further discussion.

158/21 Vacancy for parish councillor

The council expressed concern that a councillor has not been co-opted following the retirement of Elizabeth Bennett. Cllr Colin Weyer explained that he has discussed the role with possible candidates, but no conclusion has been reached. The recent vexatious attitude of a few parishioners has deterred some from becoming a councillor. The rest of the council did not suggest any candidates.

159/21 Planning applications

The council offered no further comment on the amendment to planning application P21/V2129/FUL which proposed a reduction in the volume of the replacement dwelling at Woodlands in Foxcombe Road.

160/21 Financial Report

The receipt of donations totalling £719.28 at the firework event were noted, and the following payments were authorised:

Clerk	Salary, Office Expenditure.	638.53
HMRC	PAYE	122.60
Ian Hutt	October topping of the village green	252.00
M White	October fine cut	168.00
MRH Services	Playground inspection	58.50
Sage Payroll	November	8.40
Bayworth Residents’ Association	Grant towards insurance cost	157.00
Mark McCracken	Strimming in October	135.00

161/21 The next Parish Council Meetings will be on **Thursday 27 January 2022 in Sunningwell Village Hall**

The Chairman closed the November meeting at 10:10 p.m.

MEETING DATES FOR 2022

Parish Council meetings are now being held in Sunningwell Village Hall on a Thursday evening on the following dates:

<i>27th January</i>	<i>24th February</i>	<i>31st March</i>	<i>28th April</i>
<i>26th May</i>	<i>30th June</i>	<i>28th July</i>	<i>No meeting in August</i>
<i>29th September</i>	<i>27th October</i>	<i>24th November</i>	<i>No meeting in December</i>