

**Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
14 December 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Centre**

Present: Cllr. Andrews Cllr. Bakewell Cllr. Brown Cllr. Buckingham Cllr. Cobb Cllr. Cuddy
Cllr. Feather Cllr. Gamble Cllr. Locklin Cllr. Powles Cllr. Jempson

In Attendance: District Councillor Diana Lugova and Anne Feather (Clerk)

320.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Johnston

321.23 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None

322.23 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS – None

323.23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 9 November 2023, including confidential notes of the meetings on 9 November and 12 October 2023 as a true record.

324.23 REPORT OF THE CLERK - New issues

- A** Clerk was copied in on the following email from a member of the NHS Health Team warning their team members of risk: *'Unsure if you have seen Kennington connected but the same bulldog keeps escaping from XX Kennington road, I'm aware its been firework over the last week, but there a big hole in there fence gate, and the owners unfortunately didn't know he had got out, myself and the locals last night where trying to get this frightened dog safely back to its owner it was running across the road with traffic coming either way, at the same time it was chasing all the cats entering the front gardens along Simpsons way, some of the locals felt intimidated trying to approach this dog to put it onto a lead. One of the locals realised where it lived and went to the owner to fetch the dog. I understand the dog's name is Simba, they didn't know it had got out. I don't want something happening to this dog, and at the same time with the public safety, I'm aware that the Bull dog Act will be in place next February 2024'*. It would seem that this dog is well known within the village.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Post on the website and Facebook advice (as per Vale of White Horse District Council's (VWHDC) website) when confronted by a out of control dog i.e. ring 101. Include this in February's issue of the Kennington Chronicle.

- B** Resident reported fallen leaves on the steps of the Village Hall, concerned that this could pose a slip hazard – Clerk reported to the Secretary of the Village Hall – secretary reported that she was going to clear them but upon arriving found that they had already been cleared. The councillors thanked Cllr. Locklin, who was the resident who cleared the leaves. Cllr. Brown reported that more have since fallen, which Cllr. Locklin volunteered to collect up.
- C** Roger Dennett confirmed that the LADDERTHON is now taking place on Saturday 4 May 2024
- D** Received Environment Agency's Public Notice regarding The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme compulsory purchase order application – land at Seacourt Nature Park; Oatlands Recreation Ground; Kendal Copse, Kennington Pools; Grandpont Nature Park and Dean's Ham Meadow; Hinksey Park and Botley Park Oxford
- E** Cllr. Russell reported that as a result of the removal of the waste bin at Edward Road Bus stop (on river side of road) contractor has left a bolt/screw sticking out which is causing a trip hazard. Was reported via Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) FixMyStreet (Ref: 5271841). OCC via FixMyStreet reported it is the responsibility of VWHDC. The Parks Department of VWHDC removed the following day.

325.23 It was agreed that the council would request a replacement litter bin at this location.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contract Waste Team requesting a replacement litter bin at this location.

- F Received following Facebook message from resident: ***'Interested in why the horse chestnut tree at the end of upper road has been chopped so severely and then the cuttings advertise on FB for people to help themselves. Was this tree not cut by a contractor through the parish council because normally tree surgeons chip the branches removed. Thanks.'*** Responded explaining that the council knew nothing of this suggesting the tree be the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council.

Continuing issues

- G Clerk and Cllr. Feather closed Forest Side Play Area by fencing off gap in fence, locking gate and attaching closure note on fence and gate. Cllr and Clerk took away all the broken fence from within the play area.
- H Reported broken road sign indicating location of Playfield Road playing field via FixMyStreet (No: 5210116)
- I Requested 80 Age UK Winter Wellbeing packs for village organisations and distributed also advertised the resources available on the Website and on Facebook.
- J Informed Oxfordshire South & Vale CAB of council's decision to approve £900 grant – reply received thanking council for its generous donation.
- K Requested Mick Herring to carry out the Quarterly Play Area Inspections for the three play areas in the village. Had sight of Mick Herring's Public Liability Insurance Certificate together with current DBS check. Invited him to report back to council at December's meeting. Also requested he replace the climbing wall and platform on the Climber slide at Forest Side as soon as can be arranged.
- L Responded to resident's interested in resurfacing Forest Side's BMX track, explaining that St John's College has indicated that it would not be in favour of this option – thanked him for his interest.
- M Emailed Sharaz Arif reminding him that the council is still awaiting proposals regarding the re-surfacing of the path to Playfield Road playing field from St Swithun's Road. (agenda item No 15)
- N Notification from EDF – council currently on fixed price contract, when this is due to end council has two options – choose new fixed price contract or do nothing (EDF will move account onto variable price tariff).

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Utility Aid, who helped the council with its gas and electricity contract in the past. (Cole Hankinson/Jenkinson)

- O Responded to Sandford resident regarding the issues raised surrounding Sandford Lane. Received reply thanking the council for discussing their concerns. ***'I am not sure I fully understand what you mean by extra lighting being "doubtful". May I ask who has responsibility for the lights on Sandford Lane? Is this a matter for the Highways Agency? I'm happy to petition the responsible authority directly. There seem to have been a few new LED lights fitted and in those areas, the difference is tremendous. However, there remain large unlit areas that continue to pose a huge risk to pedestrians and cyclists'***. Replied, explaining more fully giving them Cllr. Bob Johnston's name if they would like to take it further.
- P Received response from Thames Water regarding the water from the fence at the pumping station explaining that they ***'have ammonia tested the water at both locations where there was a build up of water and both tests came back as zero. If this was waste water there would be ammonia present. A dye test was also carried out from the wet well in the pumping station to confirm this flow wasn't coming from there – no dye filtered through. Thames Water is confident that the puddled areas are due to springs. TW has pinned a notice to this affect on the fence next to the path'***. Shared this information with resident who reported the recent issues. Informed local resident of TW's findings. They responded : ***'Thank you for the information, hasn't really solved anything but there are a lot of springs in the lane so I suppose that's what it is, but the water by the bridge is a lot more than there ever has been, not convinced the building on the field hasn't made thing a whole worse'***. Clerk forwarded TW's email to OCC and VWHDC stressing the state of the Public Right of Way path near dog poo bin. It has become very dangerous due to mud and water, which will get worse when frozen. Explained that water was running from just beyond the footpath on the south side of the lane. Received response from Gordon Kelman of OCC ***'I thought I'd respond to this email rather than Matt Timms as Leigh Travers and I have been dealing more directly with Redrow on the more pressing aspect of the current situation. Namely the waters coming out of the verge on the Redrow Development side and cascading onto footway and road and causing all the damage to the road surface. it's been a long time coming, Redrow have informed Leigh that work will start to add some drainage to tap the emanating waters into the current drainage***

system so that it no longer ends up on the road and damaging it. The start date we've been informed of is 11th December and the work should take 5 days to complete. Once that's completed, OCC can then attend to fill the worst of the potholes with some degree of satisfaction that they will hold much better without the water being there. I also have the damaged area in for further work in the next financial year to carry out resurfacing to further improve the affected surface. The scope of that will be full width resurfacing over the area shown in the image below. However, it may not be limited to just that area as more could possibly be done to maximise our time there. The other minor issue by the Pumping Station is somewhat frustrating, as due to its nature and appearance would appear to be a Thames Water issue, but we may be forced to carry out investigations as they are adamant it's not related to their pipes or their pumping station site. I disagree. However this will need to wait until the next financial year and whilst it's important to do the investigation, we are currently concentrating on the much more serious water problem on the other side of the road'. Clerk responded thanking them for information explaining that road users will be relieved when this is resolved. Explained too that the water oozing from TW pumping station is anything but minor and that councillors have concerned over residents falling, especially as the colder weather arrives, but that it is understood that the road is of higher importance at present. District Cllr. Diana Lugova forwarded email in response to Layla Moran's query about same leak (LM62235) from Philip Clark of Redrow: ***'I have been passed your message via our communications team and can confirm that following agreement with the relevant Highways and Drainage departments within OCC and South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse DC respectively, we have a team on site this week carrying out the required works. I trust that this provides the comfort you require and am happy to follow up with a further email once the works have been successfully completed, this will likely be early next week. If you do however need any further information in the meantime then please do use me as your point of contact going forward'***. Thanked Diana explaining that once drainage issue has been resolved by Redrow, requests to resolve the attenuation (balancing) pond and trash screen can be made.

- Q** Sandford Lane resident raised issue about location of 20mph sign: ***'great for 20mph in the lane what bothers me is that there is a sign at the beginning (which you don't notice because you are negotiating the turn) and the only other one is after the second bend, it needs another closer to the main road if possible.'*** Received further email after the road painted 20mph signs were completed: ***'the large 20 mph on all side road are fantastic, It SHOULD keep the speeds down – well done Kennington PC'***
- R** Responded to resident who has reported Upper Road being used as an unofficial car park and parking near to drives. Resident was requesting white lines marking access to drives be installed like at Edward Road.
- S** Responded to resident requesting the reasons behind Kennington's main road remaining 30mph and what traffic calming measures are planned. Responded to resident – received a response from a further resident on behalf of a number of residents living on Kennington Road posing additional questions. The council carried out a public consultation when OCC first proposed speed changes via online (Monkey survey) and paper surveys. This topic was also discussed at several parish council meetings. OCC also carried out their public consultation before the changes were adopted. Traffic flow research and evidence was gathered, with the council looking at the flow and speed. It was found that very few cars were speeding. It is residents perception of the speed vehicles travel. Council suggest residents contact OCC regarding road rage as this is a behaviour becoming more common due to the altering road systems within the county. Invite residents to join the anticipated Speed Awareness Group within the village.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to residents' email.

- T** Several concerned residents' email addresses forwarded to Cllr. Cuddy (with their approval) who is going to investigate the setting up of a Speed Awareness Group for the village, with willing residents involved.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include a request for residents' general interest in joining a village Speed Awareness Group in February's issue of the Kennington Chronicle. Also post on Facebook and on the website.

- U** Contacted VWHDC's waste team to request a waste bin be installed in the alley between St Swithun's and Simpsons Way. Informed the resident of the council's decision. Contacted local resident letting them know of the council's decision to request an additional waste bin in the alley. Awaiting response

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to Waste Team again asking if this additional litter bin is possible

- V Contacted Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) to ask if they had investigated the cleaning of plaques on the walls at both entrances to the Memorial field from The Avenue and the playing field at Playfield Road. Responded explaining that they will have a look at whether it's possible to clean them although they suspect it may not be. They asked if the council may have funds to contribute towards them being replaced? Requested replacement costs. OPT has been in contact with a specialist about the restoration of the three plaques – question for the council : ***What are the expectations in regard to the appearance of the plaques? To be cleaned and be made more stable or to be brought back to their original appearance?*** OPT's initial thoughts are to clean them and make them more stable, assuming this will be a lower cost. She is asking them to give an estimate. The council requests costings for both options.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to OPT explaining that the council would like costings for both options.

- W Wrote to owner at Bagley Wood Rd regarding trees overhanging Playfield Rd playing field. Responded and will be sorted.
- X Reported the several broken, cracked and flaking panels of asbestos on the edge of the alley leading to the railway bridge by the Tandem pub to Greene King. (Ref: GS2402969). The manager contacted the Clerk later same day asking exactly where the sheets were located. He felt they were not on the pub land but would investigate as he didn't want children in the garden put at risk. Cllr. Andrews reported that the asbestos was still there a few days ago. The fence itself is dangerous with the sharp spikes at the top.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Greene King to inform them that the asbestos is still in situ.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Report the danger of the Public Right of Way footpath fence to OCC via its FixMyStreet

- Y Booked Cllr. Brown onto the Neighbourhood Planning Presentation on 23 November.
- Z Contacted Steve Moncur to let him know that the installation of the sandpit at The Links play area has been put on hold until the future of the play area has been decided.
- AA Informed The Paddocks residents of council's decision to obtain quotes to cut back overhanging branches at the bottom of their gardens. Gone out for three quotes. Received one quote, second company is not keen to carry out the work, third company is meeting clerk soon. Cllr. Brown suggested that the area could become a community orchard, or nature reserve managed by the Wild about Kennington group.
- AB Requested Thames Water carry out maintenance works on the drains at 3 Forest Side, as they did back in 2020. Ref No. 0083/305659 – awaiting response.
- AC Made request for information via Oxfordshire County Council's website, under the Freedom of Information Act, for a report listing number of reports received on FixMyStreet over past 12 months. Wrote to Mr Jenkins expressing the Council's concern that reported issues on FixMyStreet are closed without action – also council has been made aware that reports 'drop off' the live system after one month if it has not been investigated within this period of time. Cllr. Cuddy is looking into super users for FixMyStreet. There has been a few superusers within the village but Cllr. Cuddy suggested that council ask if any resident would be interested in becoming a superuser via next month's Kennington Chronicle. Also post request on the website and Facebook.

326.23 It was agreed that council would attempt to find residents willing to be a FixMyStreet superuser.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include a request for any resident willing to become a FixMyStreet superuser in February's issue of the Kennington Chronicle. Also post on Facebook and on the website.

- AD Received email from Wild about Kennington: ***"I am writing with an update from Wild about Kennington regards our proposal for a wild meadow area on area of rough grass at North East corner of Forest Side Playing Field. As you may remember we had planned to prepare the area for meadow seed mix in Autumn 2023 (by now!) by arranging for cutting, removing cuttings, then scarifying. We hoped to cover costs with a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, which requires two quotes for work required. Unfortunately we have not managed to find two contractors available to quote for the job, to date, despite contacting several. BGG were not able to quote for scarifying. As a result of this delay in***

progress, we have missed our funding application window for this year. So our plan, with your approval, is to delay the preparation of the ground until Autumn 2024. In the meantime we will search for a local business to carry out the scarification in Autumn 2024 and renew our plan to apply for funds to TOE. In the meantime it would be ideal if the long grass was cut by March 2024. Please let us know if you would be able to do this, or if we should look at covering that cost/ arranging for this. Our apologies for the delay. We thank you all for your support to date. I will update you at each step and if any changes occur."

Responded explaining arrangements have been made to cut the grass sometime this month when it is drier or frosty so that vehicles do not damage the field. BGG has not cut this area due to weather conditions. Cllr. Cobb explained that the previous council had not agreed on a 3 to 4 year rolling agreement with the Wilding Group, as it did not want the new council to be bound by anything they may not want. It was left that the Wilding Group would put its proposals to the new council at the beginning of 2024. A proposal for next year will be made by the Wilding Group within the next few months.

AE Completed and returned 2022-23 Annual CIL declaration to Vale of White Horse District Council

AF Completed and returned Annual Waste Transfer Note to Grundon Waste Management (for wheelie bins)

AG Received notification from Grundon - daily rate of wheelie bins will increase by 2p from 1 January 2024

AH Requested a quote from Steve Moncur to replace broken roof tile at Forest Side pavilion

AI Clerk has contacted OCC to request speed/volume survey along St Swithun's Road.

327.23 It was agreed that the Clerk would find out when this is going to happen and then post on Facebook and on the Website, explaining that the results will be shared.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact the OCC to ask when the speed/volume survey could take place. Then post this fact on Facebook and on the website, explaining that the results will be shared.

328.23 It was agreed that the Clerk would request from OCC the data from its own speed/volume survey along St Swithun's Road which took place some 18 months ago. This would be good for comparisons.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact the OCC to ask if the council could share its data from the speed/volume survey carried out some 18 months ago along St Swithun's Road

AJ Works on Playfield Road pavilion wall has been completed with safety fence having been removed.

AK Requested Richard Upton give a quote for cutting back the branches on the tree at the Village Hall.

AL The council purchased a larger Christmas tree and new lights this year with Lynch Brother Homes erecting the tree and lights. Thanks to Lynch Brother Homes for erecting this year's Christmas Tree and lights. Posted photograph of the tree on both the website and Facebook, explaining that council purchased a bigger tree and new lights as well as thanking Lynch Brothers Homes for their assistance. Councillors thanked Cllr Feather for arranging the tree, lights and Lynch Brothers Homes.

AM Santa visited the village again this year (8 & 9 Dec). Councillors thanked Cllrs. Brown, Locklin and Powles for arranging the events and also those who helped out with the Carols around the Tree. The councillors also thanked Cllr. Powles' father-in-law, who drove the sleigh both evenings.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write a letter of thanks to Abingdon Lions

AN Received BGG's 2024-25 Grass Cutting Contracts:

There has been an increase in the prices as follows:

Contract A – Verge cutting = £400 (last yr. £395)

Contract B - Playfield Road playing field cut = £100 (last yr. £95)

Forest Side playing field cut = £80 (last yr. £77.50)

The Links play area cut = £30 No change

Contract C – Village maintenance = £595 (last yr. £585)

Contract D – Cemetery Maintenance = £120 (last yr. £110) Annual cut back of the hedge = £550 No change

Contract E – Weed spraying of kerbs = £350

Giving an overall increase in the budget of £1007 (if all cutting calculated is carried out – which due to weather conditions is exceedingly unlikely)

329.23 It was agreed that the would accept these price increases This was proposed by Cllr. Feather seconded by Cllr. Powles and unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Sign contract and forward to BGG

AO Radley resident concerned about Redrow's Balancing pond at The Lawns, contacted Cllr. Jempson who forwarded Radley parish Clerk copying in Kennington Parish Clerk: ***'Redrow balancing pond is in wrong location and also environmental hazard as traces of sewerage within. Thames Water preparing a report - Also being reported to Environment Agency as sewerage in balancing pond and therefore water table/course.'*** Both Clerks' plan to meet in the New Year, after the drainage and road works have been completed near the railway bridge in Sandford Lane.

AP Received a follow-up email from Sylvia Vetta regarding her suggestions made earlier during the year.

330.23 It was agreed that council would support the idea of making Bagley Wood more magical for children

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to Sylvia Vetta's email supporting her idea of a more magical Bagley Woods

331.23 It was agreed that the council would write to the OPT requesting it improve the area near the gate on the Thames Path beyond Rose Island, which is at present deep mud.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to the OPT requesting it improve the area near the gate along the Thames Path

Cllr. Gamble is happy to attend the Cats book launch at St Swithun's.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Let Sylvia Vetta know that Cllr. Gamble would be very happy to attend the Cats book launch

AQ Sent reminder to OCC requesting the gullies at the bottom of Bagley Wood Road be flushed and added onto the regular maintenance Programme – received response by return – contractor arranged to clean and jet gullies before Christmas. Response received by return with contractor arranged to jet out gullies promised before Christmas.

AR Received update from VWHDC regarding flooding in Kennington: ***'Flood prevention in Kennington: Following a variety of flood alleviation works in this area in recent years, we are currently reviewing our approach to flood management in Kennington. We are working with our partners, including Oxfordshire County Council and the EA, to review local data and consider the best options for the area. This includes investigating whether a temporary flood barrier is still appropriate. Flood barrier: Several measures, including dredging and removing obstacles from watercourses, as well as piling activities and sewer network improvements to improve flow conveyance have been undertaken locally and Kennington's temporary flood barrier was last deployed in 2014. Kennington's temporary flood barrier was last used in 2014. The barrier is now nearly 20 years old and is showing signs of its age. Since its purchase, the design and safety requirements of barriers has changed significantly, and the Environment Agency has also highlighted the potential safety risks associated with temporary flood barriers when they have water against them. In the past when the barrier has been deployed, the protection that it has provided on some occasions has been minimal but there has been significant disruption for locals in Kennington and all road users travelling to and from Oxford/the A34/ring road. In addition, bus services have needed to be rerouted and emergency service vehicles have been delayed. Therefore, we have taken the decision not to deploy the barrier in future. We understand this decision may cause concern amongst those at flood risk and it may also raise further questions, so our contact details are below'***. The email also reported that they will shortly be writing to a number of residents within, or close to, an area of risk of flooding. Email was acknowledged, as requested with Clerk raising concerns residents have, as despite numerous reports to OCC over the past year, water is still flowing down the slip road coming off the ring road, creating the large pond at the base of the slip road. The display of warning signs for the possibility of ice is not the solution. Also requested when maintenance dredging took place at the , together with details of plans for regular maintenance dredging. Councillors asked if the flooding at the underpass at Kennington Roundabout and the flooding at Sugworth Crescent be reported as areas of concern too, when next contacting the VWHDC.

332.23 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grant

A Oxfordshire Mind - dedicated to supporting people and promoting better mental health services within Oxfordshire for over 50 years. In the last 12 months Oxfordshire Mind has supported over 148 people in the council's postcode. Unfortunately, the demand for Mind's services is growing rapidly and they ask if the council could consider donating to Oxfordshire Mind this winter – this would allow them to extend their support to even more people in Kennington.

333.23 It was agreed that the council would give Oxfordshire Mind a grant. This was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously.

334.23 A proposal was made by Cllr. Buckingham to grant the sum of £500, which was seconded by Cllr. Gamble. A vote was taken and carried by 7 to 1 with 3 abstentions.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Oxfordshire Mind of council's decision and arrange payment.

Correspondence for discussion/action

B CPRE Request for renewal of annual subscription for 2024 of £36 + topping up of £30.

335.23 A proposal was made by Cllr. Powles to review annual subscription of £36, which was seconded by Cllr. Feather and **agreed by the majority** with 3 abstentions.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Renew CPRE annual subscription for £36

C Piggotts Flags & Branding rang asking if the council would like maintenance on its flagpoles. Last maintenance carried out in 2016.

336.23 It was agreed that council would go out for quotes to carry out maintenance on the two village flag poles

ACTION FOR CLERK – Get three quotes for carrying out maintenance on both village flag poles

D High Sheriff Awards – 2023/24 – requesting nominations

337.23 It was agreed that the council would nominate Colin Charlett for this award to honour his service both as a parish councillor for many years, but also for his dedication to Kennington for so many years. The councillors felt this should be recognised.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Put Colin Charlett's name forward as Kennington's nomination for the High Sheriff Awards

E South Hinksey Parish Council – proposing a community cycleway from the bottom of Betty Lane to the road outside the Oxford Garden Centre, allowing a connection on foot or by cycle from the parishes to the west of Oxford into the city, avoiding the Hinksey Hill Interchange. South Hinksey as looking for support for this scheme.

338.23 It was agreed that the council would support South Hinksey Parish Council in its proposed community cycleway.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send letter of support to South Hinksey Parish Council

F River Thames Society - Request for renewal of annual membership for 2024 of £15

339.23 A proposal was made by Cllr. Brown to renew the annual subscription of £15, which was seconded by Cllr. Powles and **agreed by all**.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Renew River Thames Society annual membership

G Community First Oxfordshire – 2024/25 membership renewal for £70

340.23 A proposal was made by Cllr. Buckingham to not renew this annual subscription, as the councillors did not know why they were members, which was seconded by Cllr. Powles. A counter proposal was made by Cllr. Brown to contact Community First Oxfordshire to find out what they get involved in, which was seconded by Cllr Feather and agreed to.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Clerk to ask what Community First Oxfordshire does

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

- H** Oxford Local Plan 2040 and Partial CIL Charging Schedule Review Consultations Open – Posted on the Website and Facebook
- I** Appeal to find wanted man – Oxford – Posted on the Website and Facebook
- J** Free parking days offered December to help shoppers and businesses – Posted on Website and Facebook
- K** Updates from OALC
- L** Star Count paused for 2024 and more news - CPRE
- M** South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District's Joint Local Plan
- N** Further support for new families who contributed to the UK's military operations in Afghanistan – Vale of White Horse District Council – Posted on the Website and Facebook.
- O** Thames Valley Police (TVP) - Appeal for witnesses following an incident of actual bodily harm (ABH) – Oxford. Posted on the Website and Facebook.
- P** TVP statistics show over 500,000 contacts from the public over 6 month period – Posted on Website and Facebook
- Q** Have your say on a new Primary Care Strategy
- R** Share your views on policing budget - posted on the Website and Facebook
- S** The latest news for your communities from Oxfordshire County Council
- T** Oxford Flood Alliance update December 2023
- U** Winter support for residents - Better Housing, Better Health – Posted on Website and Facebook
- V** Home Improvement Agency - Handyperson Scheme - Posted on Website and Facebook
- W** Email sent to OCC by resident (Council cc'd) Dispersal Problem - yellow line needed on both sides of The Avenue
- X** Best of Thames Valley celebrated at 2023 Community Policing Awards – posted on website and Facebook
- Y** Update on Oxfordshire Councils Charter – Oxfordshire County Council
- Z** Temporary Road Closure & No Right Turn Suspension – Stert Street, Abingdon 22 – 26 January 2024 – Will Post on Website and Facebook in the New Year.

Newsletters

- AA** CPRE November's Newsletter **AB** Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme newsletter November
- AC** Rural Bulletins **AD** Radley Parish Update – November **AE** Health Watch News

341.23 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 30 November 2023

Community Account	£500.00
Business Premium Account	£180,755.37
National Savings & Investment Account	£85,023.74
Cambridge & Counties 3 Year Fixed Rate Bond	£89,577.85
Total	£355,856.96

Income received in November	
DAC Beachcroft Claims Limited Recovered policy excess from the 3 rd party insurers. Incident on 17 February 2023 when milk float drove into Upper Road bus shelter	250.00
Summer Fun Day Receipts from this August's Summer Fun Day	499.55

Direct debits paid in November		Power to Act
EDF Energy Pavilion gas supply	14.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Virtual Landline (28 Oct – 28 Nov 23) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
Castle Water Water for Playfield Rd pavilion	10.77	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Direct debits to be paid in December		Power to Act
Information Commissioner's Office Annual Data Protection Fee (expires 9.11.2024)	35.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
Virtual Landline (28 Nov – 28 Dec 23) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
PWLB Village Hall loan repayment ref: PW463811	2,118.53	Local Government Act 1972
SSE Southern Electric – 1.10.2023 to 31.10.2023 Forest Side pavilion 26.94 Playfield Road pavilion 55.36 (+VAT) (paid 31.10.23)	86.42	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water Water for the War Memorial 1 Nov – 30 Nov 2023	6.10	War Memorial Act 1923
EDF Energy Pavilion gas supply	14.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2023/	Accounts to be paid in December		Power to Act
152	Mrs A E Feather Salary for November + pay rise (back pay 7 months) less tax, NI & pension contribution	1,572.55	Section 112 LGA 1972
153	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for November	610.95	Section 111 LGA 1972
154	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for November	722.22	Section 111 LGA 1972
155	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for November	£50.00	War Memorials Act 1923
156	Calber Facilities Management Ltd Covering Village Warden's 4 weekly cleaning of Playfield Rd pavilion in Oct & Nov 147.72 Emptying bins at both playing fields 2 weeks 197 Emptying bins at Forest Side 6 weeks 519.84 Emptying bins at village Hall 8 weeks 154.88 (+VAT)	1,400.58	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
157	BGG Garden & Tree Care Ltd. Forest Side playing field (6 October) 77.50 Links play area (6 October) 30.00 Plus VAT	128.00	(Misc Prov) Act 1976; Section 214 (6) LGA 1972
158	JRB Enterprise Ltd 20 x 800 cases dog gloves (dispenser Refill Waste bags)	595.20	Sections 5,6 Litter Act 1983
159	Mrs A E Feather November's extra mailbox space (Fasthosts) 2.40 Renewal of Microsoft 365 59.99 Trays & tablecloths for Carols around the tree 15.00 Photo frame 9.00	86.39	Section 111 LGA 1972
160	Grundon Waste Management Ltd Wheelie bins in November – Forest Side 58.60	130.78	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

	Playfield Rd – 45.18 + additional Aug rental 5.20 (+VAT)		
161	Oxfordshire South & Vale CAB Grant agreed at Nov meeting, min nos. 273.23 & 274.23	900.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
162	Kennington Chronicle Increase in printing costs (to 52 pages from usual 48) November 2023 (Remembrance Day material) £43.00 December 2023 (carol around the tree material) £43.00	86.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
163	Savills (on behalf of St John's College) Hire of Forest Side playing field 25.12.2023 to 24.3.2024	505.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
164	Eurooffice Ltd Ink cartridges and laminating pouches	103.44	Section 111 LGA 1972
165	M.R.H.Services To carry out service inspections of 3 play areas	145.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
166	D.E.Electrical Issues with the electrical supply at the War Memorial	60.00	War Memorials Act 1923
167	Bryans Lock Services Additional access key for pavilion at playfield Rd	30.24	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
168	Personnel Advice & Solutions Ltd Professional personnel advice	60.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
169	Mr A Cobb Chair's 14ly allowance (Q3)	160.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
170	Stanhope Wilkinson Associates 1 st stage – professional fees in connection with the Playfield Road pavilion Project	1,800.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
171	Profix Property Preservation Limited Repair to pavilion wall at Playfield Road	2,955.20	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

342.23 Reconciliation reports together with the trial balance, cash books and summary income and expenditure (against budget) and copy of annual budget reports were circulated to all Councillors for November.

343.23 The financial report was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Brown and voted unanimously.

344.23 BUDGET ESTIMATES AND PRECEPT FOR 2024-25

345.23 It was resolved to accept the budget estimates and precept for 2024-25. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Brown and voted unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Forward agreed precept of £117,110 to Vale of White Horse District Council

346.23 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14 November and draft minutes of meeting held on 5 December were noted.

347.23 MINUTES OF PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 15 November were noted.

348.23 PLAY AREAS – REPORT ON INSPECTIONS

Mick Herring addressed the council giving his advice on going forward with regard to both of the council's play areas, together with the Village Hall Management Committee's play area outside the Village Hall. It was reported that all areas were in poor condition and require money spent on them. Forest Side play area was flagged up as the worst. Mick Herring volunteered to meet councillors on site and would be there for ongoing advice. Cllr. Cobb thanked him for giving up his time to report to the councillors.

349.23 NECESSARY ACTIONS ON PLAY AREA

350.23 It was agreed that the council would create a working party to discuss the way forward, which would meet and report back at January's council meeting. The following councillors volunteered to be in the group: **Cllr. Cobb; Cllr. Andrews; Cllr. Brown; Cllr. Gamble; Cllr. Locklin and Cllr. Powles.**

351.23 REVIEW COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

352.23 It was resolved that the Complaint Procedure had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Gamble seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Upload updated document to website.

353.23 ADOPT NEW LONE WORKER; SICKNESS AND PAY AND CARERS POLICIES.

354.23 It was resolved that the Lone Worker; Sickness and Pay and Carers policies be adopted. This was proposed by Cllr. Andrews seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Upload documents to website.

355.23 OCC PROPOSAL FOR RE-SURFACING PATH TO PLAYFIELD RD PLAYING FIELD FROM ST SWITHUN'S RD

Clerk has not received any proposals from OCC with regards this footpath. Will await proposals before adding onto next month's agenda.

356.23 OPTIONS FOR PROPOSED PAVILION

357.23 After discussion it was agreed that the preferred option was to build a new pavilion. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Buckingham and agreed unanimously. The council thanked Cllr. Feather for all work done in the past and for continuing with this project.

358.23 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

398.23 Cllr. Brown – Village Hall Management Committee

There is now Wi-Fi within the entire building.

360.23 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

361.23 Cllr. Buckingham – Had a near miss the evening before involving a bicycle, when coming out of Simpsons Way onto The Avenue due to the overgrown trees on the right.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Report via FixMyStreet

362.23 Cllr. Jempson – Reported that the Thames Water Interactive map on its website does not work. Also report made regarding the churned up verge at the beginning of Sandford Lane reads '*investigations completed*' but nothing has been carried out.

363.23 Cllr. Locklin – Concerned that emails from councillor are not reaching the Clerk as recently had returned emails. Clerk requested all councillors to email her and she will monitor the inbox. If there is an issue will report it to OX365. Could be something due to the recent server transfer.

ACTION FOR COUNCILLORS – Email the Clerk to check if system is working correctly

ACTION FOR CLERK – Monitor inbox and report to OX.365 if there is an issue.

Secondly, there is a lot of litter at the north of the village, beyond the bridge, request to organise a litter pick in the New Year.

364.23 Cllr. Andrews – Sent box has disappeared.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Report to OX.365 with this issue.

365.23 Cllr. Feather – Saw a mother, with a pushchair, together with two children, having to go out onto the main road to walk around the scaffolding at the Church Hall. How long is this scaffolding going to be there and could a walkway be installed?

ACTION FOR CLLR. BUCKINGHAM – Report this to Rob Glenney at St Swithun’s Church

- 366.23 Cllr. Cuddy** – Spoke about increasing council engagement by LinkedIn for example, to reach different demographics. Will produce a proposal for a future council meeting. Also was interested in preparing historical information on the Website such as the history of the pavilion; Community First. Will produce a proposal detailing this for a future meeting. The establishment of protocols would need to be written. It was suggested that if new councillors needed support/advice a Buddy System could be introduced.
- 367.23 Cllr. Bakewell** – Would like to see a Village Clock sited somewhere prominent within the village.
- 368.23 Cllr. Brown** – Thanked everyone who contributed to the organisation and support to the Christmas events.
- 369.23 It was resolved that** the council suspend Standing Orders – this was proposed by Cllr. Cobb seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed.
- 370.23 Cllr. Powles** – Reported that the Christmas events went off very well and concurred with Cllr. Brown’s thanks to all. Suggestion to introduce a Village Recognition Award, for the council’s to recognise those who do so much for the village – this could be opened up to the residents too, with the Annual Parish Meeting being the event at which this Award would be presented.

371.23 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Diana Lugova and Bob Johnston

1. Vale is reviewing flood management approach and flood alleviation measures in Kennington and will be in contact with PC and local residents affected by flood. The work is getting done in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and the EA and includes investigating whether a temporary flood barrier is still appropriate.
2. Vale together with SODC are preparing to launch a second round of Joint Local Plan consultation early next year to develop their new Joint Local Plan to 2041. The consultation was built using latest technologies and made visual and interactive to encourage residents to participate. Will inform PC and share the link when it’s live.

372.23 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Johnston

1. The contract for the slips at Lodge Hill has now been let to Balfour Beatty. It is hoped for a spring start. It is fully funded.
2. The contract for the associated traffic calming has been let to the County's internal contractor for works such as the traffic calming in Kennington, on Bagley Wood Road and the crossing in St Swithun’s Road. It is fully funded and expectation is it will start in spring.
3. The County budget is now mostly in place, currently there is a shortfall of £9.1 million pounds, which is not unusual at this stage of the budget. It is hoped to close the gap by the time the budget is tabled in February.

Request was made for councillors’ reports be emailed to all parish councillors.

ACTION FOR CLERK – To forward District and County Councillor reports to all parish councillors before meetings

373.23 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Play Areas
War Memorial

374.23 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – None

The Chair wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meeting closed at 10:05pm

Signed Date