

Minutes of the Meeting of East Hendred Parish Council, Thursday 4th March 21 at 7.30pm by Video Conference

Present: John Sharp (Chair), Charles Pappenheim, Roger Turnbull, Catherine Shortis, Selby Stocks, Stephen Webb, Julie Roberts, Dominic Hardisty

Clerk/Finance Officer: Julia Evans

County Councillor: Cllr Mike Fox-Davies

District Councillor: Cllr Janet Shelley

PCSO:

Members of the Public: Mark Beddow, David Johnston OBE MP

105/21	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None	Action:
106/21	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllrs Turnbull and Webb for agenda item 14d.	
107/21	<p>Q&A SESSION WITH DAVID JOHNSTON MP</p> <p>Three questions were raised.</p> <p>a) Sewage problems and the lack of communication from Thames Water. The problems have been in White Road where the sewers were shallow and sensitive to blockages. The new developments had made the matter worse and nothing had been done to improve the system for many years. The Parish Council had been trying to get Thames Water to attend a meeting without success. There had also been 4 or 5 leaks in the last year because the pipes in the local network were very old. It was felt that Thames Water were not responding because the situation was not dangerous. It was felt that leaks should be fixed before a new reservoir was built. Mr Johnston replied that he had written to Thames Water and expected a meeting to be forthcoming. He had also spoken to GARD and had met with Thames Water to discuss the reservoir. He raised the issue of leaks. He noted that his constituency was the 19th highest for blockages etc. He stated that Thames Water had committed to reduce leaks by 50% in the next 5 years. Mr Beddow stated that he understood that the commitment to reduce leaks by 50% was by 2050, not 2026.</p> <p>b) The lack of renewable energy being incorporated into new houses. Mr Johnston noted that this was a shame. However, although Government encouraged solar panels they were not mandatory. Planning reforms would ensure that all new homes would be carbon net zero with a 75% reduction in emissions. There was a scheme under development in Southmoor which was proving very effective. He was trying to progress this matter and was co-sponsoring the Local Electricity Bill which would enable the sale of energy to the local community by smaller providers. He was in favour of making house building more environmentally friendly. Mr Beddow questioned the use of grey water recycling. Mr Johnston noted that Thames Water and developers were not keen on the system. Cllr Stocks noted that the system was not new; it had been around for 50 years, but he accepted that the development cost was about 10-15% more. Mr Johnston agreed to look into the matter.</p> <p>c) The A417. It was noted that this was a major issue locally. The road was very busy at peak times; OCC Highways have stated that it was at full capacity. The growth at Harwell campus was exacerbating the situation. Mr Johnston asked whether the matter had been discussed with Cllr Yvonne Constance. Cllr Fox-Davies confirmed that it had; it was a known issue. It was also pointed out that the A417 was sued as a relief</p>	

2020/21

	<p>road for the A34. David Johnston asked what the ideal solution would be. Cllr Turnbull requested a masterplan for Harwell Campus which was to include provision for the increase in traffic. He also raised the issue of the problems with the new cycleway. His comments were supported by Cllr Fox-Davies who stated that a study was underway to look at relieving traffic to Harwell Campus via a new link road. Cllr Turnbull pointed out that the Parish Council would object to a new link road due to the impact on the AONB. Cllr Sharp pointed out the lack of progress on improvements to Featherbed Lane. Mr Johnston agreed to discuss with matter with Cllr Constance and Harwell Campus. He noted that the A34/A420 link was being investigated and agreed to ask for a similar study to be conducted for the A417.</p> <p>Mr Johnston thanked the Parish Council for their work, especially during the COVID pandemic.</p> <p>Mr Johnston was thanked for attending.</p>	
108/21	<p>OPEN FORUM</p> <p>Mr Beddow raised the matter of the leak in White Road. He reported that the hole had been filled in but water was still flowing.</p>	
109/21	<p>REPORT FROM MR BEDDOW ON THE THAMES WATER WRSE ON 12TH FEBRUARY</p> <p>Mr Beddow reported that Thames Water was producing a best value plan which aimed to reduce leaks by 50% by 2050. The company was currently losing 694 mega litres per day, which was above predicted values. Targets for leak reduction were not currently being met. Thames Water's losses were the highest of all the water authorities. Mr Beddow also reported that consideration was being given to a Severn-Thames water transfer, which might remove the need for a new reservoir.</p> <p>Mr Beddow was thanked for attending.</p>	
110/21	<p>UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GROUP</p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p>	
111/21	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF 4th FEBRUARY 2021</p> <p>The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 4th February 2021 were reviewed and approved. Proposed Cllr Pappenheim, Seconded Cllr Stocks. RESOLVED.</p>	
	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7th JANUARY 2021 NOT OTHERWISE COVERED ON THE AGENDA:</p>	
112/21	<p>Emergency Plan</p> <p>The plan was complete and had been posted on the Hendred.org website.</p>	CLOSED
113/21	<p>Update on the SID installation at Rowstock.</p> <p>It was reported that OCC would assist in the funding of the SID and poles for £2.5k. The SID would become the property of East Hendred Parish Council and would not be shared with Harwell PC. Harwell PC will obtain a SID for use in Harwell parish. £1.5k had been approved at the February meeting for a shared device. It was confirmed that funds were available to cover the additional cost of our own device. Cllr Pappenheim was concerned about the maintenance and moving of the device. It was noted that OCC required a decision urgently. It was agreed to accept the OCC proposal. Proposed Cllr Stocks, Seconded Cllr Roberts. Clerk to inform OCC Highways.</p>	Clerk
114/21	<p>Traffic Advisory Group Meeting</p> <p>No progress.</p>	MF-D
115/21	<p>Salt Bin For St Mary's</p> <p>No progress despite chasing. It was agreed to close the matter for the time being.</p>	CLOSED
116/21	<p>Signs In The Village</p> <p>Natalie Coates had resigned from the Parish Council as she had left the village.</p>	CLOSED

2020/21

	It was agreed to close this matter.	
117/21	Parking in Chapel Square. No progress,	MF-D
118/21	COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER'S REPORT: PCSO Kirby sent a written report which had been circulated. In it he reported that there had been no crimes reported for East Hendred. There had been reports of Courier fraud in the Wantage and Wallingford areas and the police had been working with the banks to counter this.	
119/21	COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Fox-Davies had sent a written report which was circulated ahead of the meeting. At the meeting he reported: a) That COVID cases were dropping across the County. b) Testing was available at The Beacon. c) The consultation on Local Transport and Connectivity Plan 5 was out. d) There were plans to make Oxfordshire net carbon zero by 2050. e) There was information available on flooding and the Oxford-Cambridge arc in his written report. f) Census day was 21 st March and letters were being delivered. Cllr Fox-Davies was thanked for attending.	
120/21	DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Shelley reported: a) The Climate Emergency Committee Meeting was to be held on 19 th April. b) The Vale and SODC had raised funds for Great Crested Newt habitats. c) A new partnership had been developed to assist in the District's aim to become carbon neutral. d) The suspension of the Garden Waste collection service had caused concerns but had now resumed. Biffa expected to meeting their contractual obligation of 20 collections per annum. e) The Scrutiny Committee was to discuss the development of a Vale/SODC joint local plan. f) The Council tax for 2021/22 was set at the full council meeting on 10 th February. g) The Vale's recycling rates were the highest in the country. Cllr Webb asked for clarification and it was noted that the figure related to what was collected rather than what was actually recycled. Cllr Webb asked whether there were any plans to enable lower carbon homes to be built immediately. Cllr Shelley hoped so, but builders could not be forced to build them without legislation. Building regulations were being reviewed and Cllr Shelley hoped that the Vale would soon have policies which would insist on lower carbon housebuilding. Cllr Stocks noted that there was no industry standard to measure this and suggested that a benchmark was required against which all development could be assessed. Cllr Shelley was thanked for attending.	
	FINANCE	
121/21	Approval of March Payments: The payments totalling £2422.94 were approved. Proposed Cllr Turnbull, Seconded Cllr Stocks. RESOLVED. Cllr Shortis to approve the payments on the bank.	CS
122/21	Earmarked Reserves Proposal The proposal to transfer a maximum of £10650 to EMR at the year end was approved. Proposed Cllr Webb, Seconded Cllr Pappenheim. RESOLVED.	
123/21	2021/22 Budget allocations The proposed budget allocation for expenditure in 2021/22 had been circulated and was approved. Proposed Cllr Turnbull, Seconded Cllr Stocks. RESOLVED.	
124/21	Review of Risk Assessment.	

	<p>a) The document had been circulated. A number of changes were recommended: a) Change lengthman to lengthmen (plural)</p> <p>b) Include a Risk Assessment for contractors</p> <p>c) Include a Risk Assessment for the SID</p> <p>Clerk to update and circulate for approval in April. It was also noted that a Business Continuity policy was required.</p> <p>Cllr Pappenheim suggested that Personal Accident cover was required for the SID. Clerk to investigate.</p> <p>Cllr Sharp noted that a Sports Club working group needed to be established. At the moment Cllr Stocks would be the only member.</p>	Clerk
125/21	Request for a grant from St Amand's School. Further information had been requested but not yet received. Carried forward.	C/F
126/21	Request for a donation from the Wantage Independent Advice Centre Last year £300 was donated. They had helped more people during 2020. It was agreed to increase the donation to £400 this year. Proposed Cllr Pappenheim, Seconded Cllr Webb. RESOLVED.	
127/21	Warning notice for Lydebank Brook at Snells Woodland A complaint had been received about children playing in this area, which was dangerous. It was estimated at a warning notice would cost approx £100. Cllr Roberts agreed to contact the Head Teachers at each school to ask them to include a note in their newsletters. There was a discussion on the nature of the sign. Cllr Shortis to look into a pictorial sign. Funding of up to £100 was approved. Proposed Cllr Shortis, Seconded Cllr Roberts. RESOLVED.	JR/CS
128/21	Water Jetting to clear the field drain at Snells. The cost was estimated at £250. The expenditure was approved. Proposed Cllr Pappenheim, Seconded Cllr Roberts. RESOLVED.	CP
129/21	Bank Accounts for reserves Carried Forward to April.	C/F
	PLANNING ITEMS	
130/21	P20/V3176/HH – Wyatts, Orchard Lane. Adaptation of bungalow to provide a two storey dwelling via remodelling first floor extension and single storey rear extension (Amended plans rec 23 Feb 2021 including revised description of proposal). It was noted that the property was in a conservation area and next door to a listed building. It was noted that the main change to the plans was the reduction to a single entrance. It was agreed not to submit any comment until the Conservation Officer had responded.	
131/21	P20/V3076/HH & P20/V3079/LB – Vine House, Orchard Lane. As amended by plans including tree protection details submitted on the 22nd February 2021. The Parish Council had no objections.	
132/21	P21/V0133/HH – 8 Coulings Close. Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans - change rear single storey pitched roof to a flat roof; internal reconfigurations and enlargement of side window to new bedroom) on planning application P19/V1016/HH Erection of new two storey rear extension and associated internal reconfigurations. The Parish Council had no objections.	
133/21	P20/V1667/O - Fermi Gate, Harwell Campus. Outline application with all matters reserved for the redevelopment of part of Harwell Science and Innovation Campus known as Fermi Gate to provide employment floorspace (Use classes B1 and B2) for offices, laboratories and light industrial uses, temporary accommodation (Use class C1), supporting parking and ancillary uses (Class A1/A3) and landscaping and open space. Amended Plans received. Cllr Turnbull had prepared a response. He noted that the travel plan assumed no increase in employees in the next 20 years. There was an assumption of only a 5% reduction in the use of cars. Cllr Turnbull felt that traffic levels should be managed. It was noted that the landscape architect had submitted objections. Cllr Turnbull's proposal was to remove the Parish Council's holding objection	

	and ask for a series of planning conditions. It was agreed to submit the proposed response.	
134/21	P20/V0389/RM – Greensands, Reading Road. Reserved Matters following outline planning permission P15/V2328/O - details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale. New plans had been received from the architects. The Parish Council had submitted comments on the reserved matters application. There was still an objection from OCC Highways. There was no update available from the case officer.	
135/21	P20/V2382/FUL and P20/V2383/LB. The Plough Inn, Orchard Lane. Proposed restoration of the Plough Inn to its former state as a residential dwelling with the erection of a new garage and additional enabling works. Conversion of the Oak Room into a residential property. Creation of a new club house for the bowls club with social space for the local community on the site of the existing changing rooms, and introduction of a new pedestrian gate. Creation of community co-working offices and associated art rooms with associated works. The application had been withdrawn. New plans were awaited.	
136/21	Consultation on Chilton Neighbourhood Plan The consultation was open until on 7 th April. Cllr Turnbull to review.	RT
137/21	VWHDC – Call for sites for Local Plan 2041. Nothing to report.	
138/21	Village sewage problems. Covered in minute reference 107/21 above.	
137/21	OCC AND VALE POLICY ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY Nothing to report.	
138/21	ROWSTOCK The Speed Indicator Device for Rowstock was covered in minute reference 113/21 above, No other matters to report.	
139/21	COMMUNITY ART PROJECT No progress.	CS
140/21	HENDRED ESTATE ITEMS Nothing to report.	
	WORKING GROUPS/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS AND UPDATES	
141/21	Sports Club: Nothing to report.	
142/21	Allotments. BAAA had arranged for a large delivery of organic matter. Another enquiry for a plot had been received; there were now 5 people on the waiting list. There was no grant application planned for the time being.	CS
143/21	Bulletin/Website/Facebook: The Bulletin had been printed and was ready for distribution.	
144/21	Courtesy Lighting: The broken light that was outstanding had been fixed but another one had gone. This was to be fixed in the next few days.	CP
145/21	Playgrounds: a) Playground inspection for March. A visual inspection had produced no issues. The report was to be completed. Cllr Shortis offered to assist Cllr Stocks at the weekend. b) Proposals for Mill Lane – No progress.	CS/SS CS
146/21	Transport: Consultation on LTCP5. Open until 29 th March. Cllr Turnbull agreed to review and draft a response. Cllr Webb pointed out that it was likely that any funding would be spent on urban areas while rural areas did not get the resources they should. He suggested that this was included in the response.	RT
147/21	Rights of Way: A letter had been sent regarding issues with the new cycleway. Cllr Turnbull noted that the new surface to be laid was to be the same as the old one. Cllr Turnbull to liaise with Cllr Fox-Davies on this matter. Cllr Stocks suggested getting the press involved. Cllr Shortis requested consideration be given to the installation of new bins in the area due to the large number of dog walkers using the route. It was pointed out that the Vale are not permitting the installation of new bins at the moment, and that there was a similar problem on The Ridgeway. Cllr Shortis suggested a	RT CS

	volunteer group at some stage.	
148/21	Snells Path/Nature Reserve: One repair to the walkway was outstanding; a rotting beam under the planks.	CP
149/21	Harwell Stakeholder Group: Cllr Sharp reported that an on-line Stakeholder meeting was planned for 11 th March which he planned to attend. He noted that there was a discrepancy between OCC and Harwell Campus over the emergency plan. There were three properties in East Hendred that would be affected by this.	JVS
150/21	Harwell Campus: It was noted that Angus Horner had not left, A new meeting was due. Cllr Sharp to raise this.	JVS
151/21	Snells Hall Update: The hall was still closed.	
152/21	Lengthman/Litter Picker: The new contracts of employment were ready. Nothing further to report.	Clerk
153/21	GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE: a) The Oxfordshire protocol for the death of a Senior Public Figure. It was agreed that in if such an event should occur a book of condolence would be set up. The venue for the book to be decided. Cllr Roberts also suggested putting something online. b) Plans for the return to face to face meetings. Carried forward. c) Date and format of the Annual Parish Meeting. It was suggested that this should be held at the end of the May meeting, scheduled for 6 th May. The meeting would start half an hour earlier at 7pm. Some standard items would be removed from the agenda for that meeting only. d) Application for a street trading license for In Fine Spirits. The Parish Council had no objections.	C/F
154/21	ANY OTHER BUSINESS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY): None	
155/21	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 1 st April 2021 at 7.30pm by Video conference.	

The meeting closed at 21.38