

Sonning Common Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 21 January 2019 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mrs Lewis (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Mr Kedge; Mr Rawlins; Mr Rinta-Suksi and Mr Stoves. Also: Mr Collings (Parish Clerk), Mrs Varnes (Deputy Parish Clerk) and Mr Axel Fithen (Henley Standard).

- 19/119 Apologies for absence - Mrs Godfrey and Mr Howe. Declarations of interests – none.
- 19/120 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders - none.
- 19/121 Police Matters – it was reported that there has been no update from TVP.
- 19/122 Minutes of previous meetings:
- 122.01 Finance Committee held on 9 January 2019 - presented and approved.
 - 122.02 Planning Committee held on 17 December 2018 and 7 January 2019 - presented and approved.
 - 122.03 Parish Council meeting held on 17 December 2018 - presented and approved.
- 19/123 County Councillor’s Report – attached as Appendix A.
- 19/124 District Councillor’s Report – sent by email only. It was noted that Cllr Harrison has actually opposed the SCPC views about the Local Plan and has taken no action regarding 33/35 Peppard Road.
- 19/125 Parish Clerk’s Report – noted.
- 19/126 Memorial Hall Field Working Party (MHFWP). The meeting was advised that at long last the legal transfer has been completed and thanks were expressed to all concerned.
- 19/127 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP). Still awaiting progress to find a designer.
- 19/128 Environment Working Party – Mr Stoves advised that work has been done to ensure that our woodland trees are safe and that there will soon be a planting plan for 2019..
- 19/129 Neighbourhood Plan Revision Mr Fort described plans for the open day on 2 February at which volunteers for carrying out site surveys will be sought.
- 19/130 It was resolved to approve a grant as recommended by the Finance Committee of up to £10.5K to equip one of three new clinical rooms in the Health Centre.
- 19/131 Budget and Precept – it was resolved to set the Parish Precept for 2019/2020 at £138,511 as recommended by the Finance Committee.
- 19/133 Proposals for a fund-raising event in June and a litter pick day in March were outlined and endorsed. The June event is likely to be delayed until September.
- 19/134 Managing the SC Magazine page – it was resolved that the Chair of the Parish Council should direct the compilation in future.
- 19/135 Matters for future agendas - none.

Meeting closed at 20.50. Next meeting is on Monday 18 February 2019 at 20.00.

Chairman:

Dated:

Appendix A

REPORT TO SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL JAN 2019 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW GENERAL OCC REPORT BUDGET PROPOSALS

Tough decisions taken since 2010 have created a route to financial stability at OCC as the council plans to set its 2019/20 budget at a time when all councils face financial challenges. The main budget proposals are:

- Investment of almost £6m by 2023 to increase care packages to meet assessed needs for adults with learning and physical disabilities. (Adult Social Care)
- An increase of £5.8m is proposed to be added to the budget in 2022/23 in adult social care to meet projected increased need as a result of the aging population. The council's existing planning up to 2021/22 already includes provision for budget increases of £5.0m in 2019/20 and 2020/21 and £5.6m in 2021/22. (Adult Social Care)
- Invest £3.2m up to 2023 (£800,000 per year) to support the increasing number of children qualifying for school transport – in particular children with special educational needs. (Children, Education and Families)
- Invest £17m to support the predicted increasing numbers of children in care, including more permanent care staff (Children, Education and Families)

With regard to Council Tax, the council's plan – agreed at the last budget in February 2018 – to raise Council Tax by 2.99 per cent in 2019/20 and 1.99 per cent in the years thereafter remains the same in the new budget proposals. However, funding for local government beyond 2020 is currently uncertain, with councils waiting for funding decisions from central government which will not be known until late 2019.

DELIVERING AN OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGY FOR OXFORDSHIRE

Living longer and living better is the drive behind a new Older People's Strategy for Oxfordshire.

The strategy sets out how OCC and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group will deliver a positive future for the county's older population. It was developed following feedback over a three-month period. Residents, health and charity organisations, professionals, businesses, the public sector and community groups were engaged in the strategy development so it could be grounded in what people tell us matters most to them. The strategy's vision and priorities were specifically co-produced with a wide range of people whose work and lives it affects. The strategy will be used to inform the planning, commissioning and delivery of services across Oxfordshire and will be monitored by the Better Care Fund Joint Management Group reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board. To read the strategy and have your say online visit here <https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/OPLLLB/consultationHome> or request a paper copy of the strategy by calling 01865 334638. The closing date for comments is Feb 1, 2019.

DAYTIME SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY GRANT AWARDS

Twenty-nine organisations have been recommended to receive grants from the county council's adult social care Sustainability Fund. The fund was established last year as part of measures designed to enable the ongoing delivery of daytime support services in Oxfordshire. A grant pot of £250,000 was approved for 2019/20 and community and voluntary organisations were invited to apply for the fund between September 12 and November 2. To allocate the funding to as many organisations as possible, a panel of county councillors and people representing daytime services recommended that a maximum level of 70 per cent of the amount awarded in 2018/19 should be made where applicable. Among those services recommended for funding are Day Break Oxford (£50,000), Age UK (£27,500), October Club (£14,000) and Aspire (£12,500). Applications totalling £244,847 went before Cabinet on December 18.

SEND SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY GAINS APPROVAL

Plans to create significant new provision for Oxfordshire children with special educational needs (SEND) have been agreed by councillors, with a £15m investment set to create 300 new places which will involve a major rebuild for Northfield School in Oxford. The county council has conducted a wide-ranging review of its special educational needs provision in light of the large increases in the numbers of children with such needs entering the educational system in recent years and the forecast for continued increases in the future. The rebuild of Northfield School would be accompanied by a new school at Bloxham Grove in North Oxfordshire (due to open in 2020) and at Valley Park, Didcot (target date 2023) as part of a free school application process. At a national level, the Department for Education will be rolling out a new assessment approach for pupils with complex disabilities, from 2020. DfE has said "The statutory assessment will replace P scales 1 to 4 and will be based on the '7 aspects of engagement', an assessment approach that focuses on pupils abilities in specific areas like awareness, curiosity and anticipation". A guidance and training package will be developed and delivered to schools, local authorities, Ofsted and parents prior to programme roll out.

£10 MILLION PROGRAMME DELIVERING ROAD REPAIRS GETS £7M BOOST

Journeys on Oxfordshire's roads have already been significantly improved in recent months thanks to an extra £10million being spent by OCC this year on repairing and improving road surfaces. Government announced in November that OCC would get £7.4 in additional funding to top-up this activity. A range of different methods of road repair and sealing are used to extend the life of county roads and reduce the likelihood of potholes forming which include resurfacing, patching, Dragon-patching and surface dressing.

OCC WELCOMES GOVERNMENT'S WASTE STRATEGY

OCC has welcomed the government's new Waste and Resources Strategy for England, describing it as "ambitious", with the potential to "transform the way that waste is viewed and managed." Key points within the strategy include:

- Introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers to improve the amount recycled when out and about (known as 'on the go' recycling)
- Improved and extended redistribution of surplus food from businesses, and mandatory food waste collections from businesses and households.
- A national recycling target of 65 percent by 2035 (current national recycling rate is 45 percent)

OCC BEST PERFORMING COUNTY COUNCIL IN ENGLAND FOR ITS RECYCLING RATES

Oxfordshire has been named the best performing county council waste disposal authority in England for its recycling rates during 2017/18. The success reflects OCC's commitment to work with districts to protect the environment. Figures published on Tuesday 11 December by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) show that Oxfordshire is the highest performing disposal authority, ahead of Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire.

Oxfordshire is 'top of the pops' in two categories:

- The highest proportion of waste which is reused, recycled and composted (57.2%)
- The lowest amount of general waste (non-recyclable waste) produced per household (430kg).

All Oxfordshire Councils recycled over 50% in 2017/18, (the national recycling rate is 45%). The county has seven Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) that provide recycling facilities for a wide range of items, from batteries to clothes, fridges to plastic garden furniture. They accept over 350 different waste streams, recycling around 60% of the waste accepted.

For further information about Oxfordshire County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres, visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SONNING COMMON

SONNING COMMON ROAD/BLOUNTS COURT ROAD

The section from Devil's Hill to the Coppid Hall crossroads was substantially patched during the first week of the year. Further good news is that it has been recommended for surface dressing in the next financial year. I am continuing to press for substantial repairs to the stretch between the B481 and Devil's Hill.

POND END ROAD SETTS

I understand the PC is still awaiting an estimate for this work which I would be pleased to match-fund using my Councillor Priority Fund up to the limits discussed.

VILLAGE HIGHWAYS PROPOSALS

The clerk has been in direct contact with Paul Fermer, Assistant Director for Infrastructure Operations, in relation to this matter.

Please advise if I can be of assistance.

OCC TOWN & PARISH LIAISON EVENT

This was held at Sonning Common Village Hall, Thursday 17th January 2019, 2pm – 5pm. I would like to thank the Chairman and Cllr Rawlins for attending. Participants deemed the event very useful and it was agreed similar events would be held in the future.