

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th December 2020 at 7.30 p.m. by Video Call

Present: Cllrs. M. Page (in the Chair), C. Parkin, V. Talbot, L. Church, R. Bahu, D. Churchouse

In attendance: Cllrs. C. Webber, R. Webber, Anna Clarke (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr David O'Hara

2. Declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

3. Matters raised by members of the public

None present

4. Attending Councillors and MOD

Cllr Catherine Webber

The project for office accommodation is going ahead for Didcot. The Vale will rent space from SODC and the buildings will be of a high 'green' specification.

All Parish Councillors have been asked to respond to the 'Strategic Vision of Oxfordshire', which closes on the 3rd January 2021.

Cllr C Webber will notify the Council when Sarah Green confirms when 'The Paddock' application is going before Planning Committee. This is likely to be in the New Year, owing to ecology reports.

Cllr Richard Webber

The County Council are voting on 9th December on a the motion to implement a 20mph limit Oxfordshire wide in residential areas. 'Unless there is compelling evidence for a higher limit, newly adopted residential roads, and adopted highway in commercial areas leading to residential roads, will have 20mph limits or zone.'

MoD

In Mr O'Hara's absence, Cllr Page noted that he received a complaint from the Army about overgrown vegetation on Cholswell Rd, forcing someone into the road and consequently hurting their ankle in a pot hole. Cllr Page cut back the vegetation but could not locate the pothole and has not yet had a response from the Army, as to its exact location. The Clerk to follow up with Aspire again for a quote to include this piece of road in the grass cutting contract. AC

Fireworks - The next fireworks event will be held on 19th & 20th December.

5. Highways Review

Cllrs Church & Bahu presented their findings from the Strategic Review. From the letters delivered in the Parish, there was a 6.5% response from the Parish and 13% for Shippon. Faringdon Road, Barrow Road & Elm Tree Walk residents had similar levels of concern.

Issues Raised

- School/private school traffic were a prominent issue raised.
- Speeding was a Parish Wide issue, whilst traffic and congestion were more prominent in Shippon.
- A large number of people were concerned about safety.
- Flooding at Sandford Brook was of concern.
- The impact on traffic as a result of future developments, housing, the proposed cow shed office development, Aldi and such like.
- The Army would like the Give Way sign at the junction of Cholswell Road (travelling from the direction of the Army Housing) and Long Tow replaced with a 'Stop' sign. The Army have indicated a willingness to contribute to the cost.
- There was found to be a 24% reduction in traffic when the private schools were off, which increased to 25% when all schools were closed. School traffic significantly contributed to peak time traffic.
- The highest recorded speed for entering Barrow Rd was 70Mph, however, the 85th percentile speed was 38.4mph. The issue of speeding affects the entrance to Barrow Rd, with congestion being more prominent further down.

Options Going Forward

Cllrs have set out solutions for each issue, ranging from low cost, simple options to more costly ones. One consideration is that too many signs/markings may elicit complaints.

- To make Elm Tree Walk 'No Entry' from Barrow Rd.
- Install a mobile VAS, which can be moved around the Parish.

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- Install a VAS which shows a car's speed; they are thought to be more effective than the VAS, which show speed limits (£2-3K).
- Install Smart signs, where the message can be altered according to need.
- Rumble strips, although they are known to elicit noise complaints from residents.
- Alter the location of the current VAS. It would cost approx. £400 for Westcotec to relocate it.
- Cllr Bahu has been speaking to PCSO Rich Osbourne about the Community Speedwatch Scheme. He also highlighted a project that he had been doing with Kennington Primary School, which could be offered to the Manor and Dry Sandford Schools respectively.
- The PC can draw on Transport Delivery Documents produced for the Neighbourhood Plan and the Community Engagement documents.
- Cllr Richard Webber has committed £2K towards traffic calming from the Councillor Priority Fund. There may be more available after May next year.
- The County website has info about traffic schemes, which can be drawn upon.
- With the NP now made, the CIL should be 25% from developments in the Parish for use towards the traffic calming measures.
- TRL Transport Research Lab offers lots of interesting ideas.
- The Road Safety Trust offers grants of up to £50k. The next round of grants is due for February 2021. The issues faced in this Parish are similar to those other rural parishes face, so SHW PC could act as a pioneer, possibly offering the opportunity to attract funding.
- The next Road Safety Week could be utilised in November 2021.
- Cllr R Webber suggested looking into School Travel Plans, which could be revived if they are not still in use.

Cllr R Webber expressed concern that the numbers of cars going through Shippon are relatively small compared to those passing through Marcham, who also have huge traffic issues, and this may make it harder to get traffic calming solutions implemented by Highways, however, this shouldn't prevent trying. Cllr Page to give Cllr Church the VAS data from pre covid period for the purposes of comparison. MP Cllr Page thanked Cllrs Bahu and Church on behalf of the PC, for all their hard work on the review. Their findings will be published on the website <https://sthelenwithout-pc.co.uk/highways/>

Next Steps

- It was agreed to arrange a special meeting to discuss the way forward.

6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th October 2020

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

7. Website

The website is now up and running. <https://sthelenwithout-pc.co.uk/>

The Parish Council would like to thank Ian Bristow for all his hard work in getting the site up and running.

It was agreed that the Clerk should have a sim only mobile phone. Cllr Bahu offered to donate a phone for this purpose.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Ongoing

9. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

10. Finance and Administrative Matters

a) Accounts for payment

Payee	Purpose	Total	VAT
Parish Clerk	Salary October & November	£1039.60	
Parish Clerk	Expenses October & November & Microsoft Annual Subs	£147.99	
Richard Bahu	Ink Cartridge, Wordpress Guide, Laminating Pouches	£31.05	
Signomatic	Noticeboard Sign	£33.98	
Sydenhams	Tape to Covid Secure Gym Equipment	£13.66	

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Vicki Talbot	Poppy Wreaths	£72	
Oxfordmeta Group	Website Development	£1000	
ST Grounds Maintenance	Bin emptying	£20	
Externiture	Bus Shelter	£4614.24	£769.04
Aspire	Grass Cutting October	£948	£158
*Wordpress	Website host	£204	
*Wootton PC	Website hosting	£77.38	

Nb. After the agenda was posted, the following payments were added:

*£204 Ian Bristow, website development (Wordpress)

*Wootton PC website hosting (old website)

b) Grants

It was unanimously agreed to give the Oxfordshire Children's Air Ambulance £100.

11). Matters raised by members of the Council

None

12). Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground

The Inspection roster for 2020/21 is below: Any requests for amendments should be sent to the Clerk.

2020/21			
December	Cllr Caroline Parkin	January	Cllr Mike Page
February	Cllr Vicki Talbot	March	Cllr Richard Bahu
April	Cllr David Churchouse	May	Cllr Lee Church

Cllr Page went through the correspondence and it was resolved that it be noted.

13). Correspondence

Oxfordshire County Council

Matthew Barber – Police & Crime Bulletin

Healthwatch Oxfordshire

TTRO (T8320) Temporary Road Closure, Botley/Cumnor A420 Westbound 16th to 18th December

CANCELLED

Smoothen roads across Oxfordshire after hard work in 2020

Dozens of neighbourhoods across Oxfordshire are enjoying smoother roads and pavements after this year's 'micro-surfacing' programme came to an end. Oxfordshire County Council contractors took advantage of the milder weather between spring and autumn to treat 26 sites with 'micro asphalt' – a cost-effective and convenient method which protects surfaces for around 10 years.

New speeding taskforce group aims to save lives

Residents will be given more of a say on how to stop drivers speeding in their neighbourhoods, thanks to a new organisation set up to tackle the problem in Oxfordshire. The speeding taskforce group is a joint initiative involving Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Thames Valley Police and the Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner. Announced to coincide with Road Safety Week, its aims include educating drivers about the dangers of breaking the speed limit and helping communities to tackle the issue.

Oxfordshire councils have called on the Government for better financial support - In a joint letter to Robert Jenrick MP - Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Oxfordshire council leaders laid out the urgency of securing additional financial help for the communities and businesses they support.

OALC

OALC Update

OALC Training Programme 2021

Vale Communications

Important update for businesses - The next revaluation of business rates in England and Wales is coming up in 2023. The Valuation Office Agency is writing to businesses to request rental information to support this work. Once ratepayers receive a letter they need to go online and submit their up-to-date details.

New dedicated COVID-19 support pages

The council recently launched a brand-new website with dedicated COVID-19 support pages.

Web links:

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<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/coronavirus-community-support/help-for-individuals/>

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/coronavirus-community-support/support-for-people-who-need-help/>

Access to food for all

We are working closely with the [Good Food Oxford network](#) and have produced a spreadsheet of updated free and heavily discounted food services in our districts. To stay updated on food services in Oxfordshire, head over to the Good Food Oxford [food map](#).

Our message of support to residents

- We continue to encourage residents affected by COVID-19 **with no other support available**, to contact the Community Hub. Our dedicated team will continue to work with all the amazing volunteer groups, charitable organisations and services to support residents in the best possible way. Call our Community Hub on 01235 422600 or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk.
- 8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday
- 8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays

Planning - Vale of the White Horse District Council has written to the Government objecting to many of its proposed reforms to the current planning system. The council sent a letter to Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 29 October detailing its concerns and objections to the proposals.

Councillors express dismay to Chancellor about lockdown business support

The Leaders of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have written a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to express their dismay that the national lockdown was announced without sufficient support for all businesses in place.

Press release – Didcot residents and groups invited to new garden town event

Local residents and community groups are invited to get involved with the Didcot Garden Town projects by joining a brand-new resident sounding board event on Monday 30 November. The virtual resident sounding board takes place online at 5.30pm on Monday 30 November and to receive a link to speak at the beginning or request to join and take part in the meeting, residents and groups can register via southoxon.gov.uk/didcot-garden-town. Deadline to register to attend is midnight on 26 November.

Businesses can now apply for lockdown support grants

If you're aware of any local businesses that have been severely financially affected by the latest national lockdown, including those that have been temporarily forced to close, please signpost them to the latest financial support available. There's new support grant funding worth up to £3,000 a month per business. Those needing help can apply for one of two grants available.

Local Restrictions Support Grant (for businesses required to close)

This scheme is for businesses which pay rates and have been forced to close due to the national lockdown. This grant is also available to businesses that have closed their main operations, but who are currently offering take-away or click and collect services. A maximum of £3,000 is available depending upon the individual business's rateable value.

More here southoxon.gov.uk/businessrates / whitehorsedc.gov.uk/businessrates

Additional Restrictions Grant

This scheme is for business **that aren't eligible for the Local Restrictions Support Grant**, including those that haven't been temporarily forced to close, but have been severely impacted by the current restrictions, and those that do not pay any business rates. This is a discretionary fund with £2,000 available to support individual businesses. Deadline for applications is 4 December.

More here svbs.co.uk/

We're sharing these messages on our social media sites, please feel free to share them too **New Covid compliance marshals to help support communities**

We've appointed two Covid Compliance Marshals who will very soon be out and about in South and Vale to help keep communities safe during the current lockdown and beyond.

These two new marshals will be out in the districts once they've had training. They will:

- encourage and support businesses to trade as safely as possible
- liaise with business owners, members of the public and others to answer enquiries, provide or signpost to further advice
- support the council's contact tracing responsibilities

Fraud awareness

This week is International Fraud Awareness week and Oxfordshire County Council is warning residents to be on their guard against criminals and scammers exploiting the pandemic. There are a number of tips residents can follow to avoid being scammed including asking for ID, taking time before making a decision and checking in with friends and family and avoiding clicking on links in emails. More information on [Oxfordshire County Council's website](#)

Other

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Arien Designs
Toolstation
Earth Anchors
Kompan Playgrounds & Outdoor Fitness
Turners Flooring
The Parish Noticeboard Company
Online Playgrounds
Pitch Maintenance Services
Futurform PPE & Sanitising Supplies
Utility Aid
Morti Sport & Play

14).Cllrs reports and items for future agendas

Proposed Aldi Development
Review of Standing Orders
Review of Financial Regulations

15).Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at 7.30p.m. on Monday 25th January 2021 by Video Call. Access details can be provided closer to the meeting by the Clerk via email: clerkshwpc@gmail.com or Tel: 01865 321555.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.00 p.m

Signed.....Date.....

Minutes & Agendas can be found on our website at: <https://sthelenwithout-pc.co.uk/>