

## The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30 p.m.  
At Shippon Church Hall

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

**In attendance:** Cllrs. C. Webber, R. Webber, Mr David O'Hara, Ms Monica Littleboy, Ms Nadia Roper & Anna Clarke (Clerk)

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. H. Ayub

### 2. Declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

### 3. Matters raised by members of the public

There was a unanimous vote for Nadia Roper and Monica Littleboy to be Co-opted to the Council.

### 4. Attending Councillors and MOD

#### Cllr Richard Webber

**Testing Kits** – there have been concerns expressed about the removal of free testing kits. Whilst some areas will still provide them until October, Oxfordshire's Director of Public Health, has said that this would be difficult to implement, however, it is an ongoing conversation.

**Ukraine** – local people have been desperate to help and show support to the Ukrainian people. Cllr Webber asked if the Army are able to send equipment to the Ukraine, however, this poses a risk of it falling into the wrong hands.

Refugees should not be put off applying for school places for September. No visa details are needed to apply.

The Institute of Marcham has a small group of English speaking Ukrainians, who would be prepared to act as translators. No Ukrainians have to date applied to come to this area. The organisation / information sources appear to be chaotic. The Parish Council is legally disbarred from sending money abroad but can give to local charities helping refugees.

The Army are looking at use of their empty houses, however, many are currently uninhabitable.

**Reservoir** – The Thames Consultation has now finished. The organised resistance to the reservoir has been very strong and it is hoped that the opposition may come to fruition.

#### Cllr Catherine Webber

**Tree Planting Policy** – now up and running. Everyone who has a garden is being encouraged to plant a tree. The PC has identified 2 areas for tree planting, the Recreation Ground and Long Tow.

**Climate Action Fund (CAF)** – is to encourage people to put forward their ideas through the Parish Council to apply for up to £5k for e.g a cycle parking, plants with educational signage etc. The scheme closes mid April.

**The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme** in England has now closed. However, if you were told by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate before 24 February you can still make a claim for the payment up until the 6 April. To claim this support you must submit your application within 42 days after your first day of self-isolation.

**ShopAppy.com** – website for medium to small local businesses to help with online retail.

**Business Grants** – [www.svbs.co.uk](http://www.svbs.co.uk)

**Jubilee** – [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jubilee](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jubilee)

**Electric Bin Lorry** – the first one is being used as a pilot by the Vale 28<sup>th</sup> March & 11<sup>th</sup> April in town, rural and urban areas. It is thought that the rural areas will pose the biggest issues due to charging accessibility.

**Planning Applications** – people are encouraged to use the general planning email address, rather than contacting individual Planning Officers. [planning@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:planning@southoxon.gov.uk)

### MOD

**Dog Walkers** – there have been some recent incidents of dogs not being kept under control on the Airfield. Dog Walkers are reminded that it is MOD land and although technically it is trespassing, dog walking is permitted as a gesture of goodwill, as long as dogs are kept out of the way, under control and

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dog mess is cleaned up. Letters will be going out to residents whose houses back onto the Airfield reminding them not to access the MOD land via their back gardens.

There have been complaints about large vehicles going through the village, however, these do not belong to the Army and are more likely from the David Wilson Homes development.

Mr O'Hara to follow up re the faulty street lamps on Tyne Road.

DO'H

**Fireworks** – Mr O'Hara will be meeting with the organisers of the proposed 4<sup>th</sup> June event with regards to potential licensing. He will raise concerns over the affect loud fireworks could have on any refugees in the area and also the ongoing concerns over the affect they have on the wellbeing of animals. Mr O'Hara to ask if it is possible for Shippon residents to have a free ticket to the event as a gesture of goodwill for the inconveniences that arise from having the displays in the village.

DO'H

All Airfield large events have carbon offset plans.

### 5. Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

### 6. Queen's Jubilee

#### Events:

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – beacon lighting on the Airfield. People will be able to meet beforehand at the Prince of Wales Pub, where Beacon Tarts will be served. Beacon Lighting at the Airfield will be at 21.45. If anyone needs help getting there, for example residents of Stowford House, the Army has offered to transport people. Beacon Tarts can also be dropped off to residents there at Stowford House.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Picnic in the Prince of Wales Pub Garden - best decorated house in the Parish, Picnic & children's drawing competition. The Army will provide gazebos/tents for a covered area. People can bring their own picnic or order one from the Pub or Thyme & Date. There will be a quiz hosted by Mr Neil Parkin and a Jubilee Jazz Band.

It is important that the event is inclusive to all, so costs will be offset for anyone who is struggling.

**4<sup>th</sup> June** there will be a Fireworks Event. The actual fireworks will only be for approximately 5 mins. There will be a big screen, a fun fair etc. There will be max 5000 tickets and should be little traffic actually going through the village. The organisers have assured that it will be well signposted and well arranged. Due to this event being on the Saturday, the village events will centre on the other days.

At the last meeting of the Jubilee Committee, the organisers of the 4<sup>th</sup> June Fireworks event were advertising overnight camping on the grass adjacent to Shippon Dispersal, however, this has not yet been decided. If permitted, campers will have to leave by 10.30am for other events taking place.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June** – Church Service at St Mary Magdelene, 10.30 – 12.30.

The Big Jubilee Lunch will be at Shippon Dispersal 1-5 p.m. This will be symbolic of all the different nationalities represented in the Army.

Cllr Churchouse has put in a bid to the Lottery Fund for £10k. The Lottery Fund want any funding to be used for a lasting legacy. Therefore, the plan is to plant a circle of 7 mature trees at Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground, a tree for each 10 yrs of the Queen's reign. Also 2 trees at Long Tow and 2 at Stowford House. In addition to this there will be wild flower meadows (verge of Faringdon Road) and play equipment at Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground. It will be a while before it is known if the application is successful.

Prince of Wales Pub – the Community Asset status runs out in April. The form now requires a plan for financing and running the Pub, which is not feasible, so it will not be renewed at the current time, although may be revisited when the DB development begins.

Army Playing Field – this was designated as Green Belt and there was a plan to try and get it designated to the Prince's Play Field Trust. Cllr Page to follow up with the DIO.

MP

### 7. Dalton Barracks SPD / CPRE

A letter from CPRE was circulated suggesting that the 4000 houses were squeezed into a smaller space, in order that more green land was left in the surrounding area. This is not something that the PC concurred with and the comments missed the deadline for submission.

### 8. Community Governance Review

No Update

### 9. CIL Money

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There is approximately £10,000 CIL money available to the PC from the Paddock Development. There was a unanimous vote for the PC to receive the monies, rather than it be held by the Vale.

### 10. Ukraine

This will remain as a standing Agenda item for the foreseeable future as it becomes clearer what the best ways are to help the people of the Ukraine. There is a Facebook Group for South Oxon Sponsors of Ukrainian Families. Information will be available on the website. <https://sthelenwithout-pc.co.uk/>  
Cllr Roper to follow up on a Community scheme for collecting spare school uniforms for Ukrainian Refugees. NR

### 11. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

### 12. Finance and Administrative Matters

#### a) Accounts for payment

Parish Clerk	Salary February & March and backdated payrise	£1039.60 £110.40	
Parish Clerk	Expenses February & March & Ink cartridge/paper	£88 £71.48	
WaDS CC	Jubilee Grant	£750	
PCC Of Shippon	Room Hire PC Meeting	£20	
Oxfordshire Citizens Advice	Grant	£250	
OALC	Annual Subs	£372.04	£62.01
Friends of Shippon	Grant	£500	
*Oxfordshire County Council	Archer Strips	£360	£60
*WeL Medical	Defibrillator	£954	£159
*Origin	Transport Consultation DB	£360	£60

\*Paid between meetings

#### b) Grant Requests

None

### 13). Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground

Cllr Littleboy will carry out monthly inspections from herein onwards.

### 14). Correspondence

#### Oxfordshire County Council

##### **Temporary Road Closure at East Hanney, Steventon Road**

A temporary Notice is being made to implement the temporary closure and will operate from 28 April 2022 up to and including 29 April 2022. This will operate between 22:00 and 06:00

##### **Matthew Barber Police & Crime Bulletin**

##### **Annual Emergency Planning Unit Town and Parish Survey 2022**

**Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)** For the last 3 years our teams at OxLEP have supported well over 2700 businesses with grants, leadership development, training, mentoring, coaching and advice. We hope that by sharing this Impact report we can raise the profile of the support available, so that more businesses can receive the best support possible to survive and thrive in 2022 and beyond. The Impact Report is also available to read online here:

<https://www.oxlepbusiness.co.uk/2020-21-impact-report>

#### OALC

OALC February Update

Clerk's Pay award

**NALC/SLCC Civility and Respect Project** - NALC and SLCC have formed a joint Civility and Respect project to try and address bullying in this sector of local government. The LGA model code has been endorsed by the Civility and Respect project team. You can find the code and the supporting guidance notes on the Civility and Respect page of the NALC website <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/civility-and-respect-project>

### Vale Communications

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The Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean will be running this year from Friday 25 March until Sunday 10 April. [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/litterpicking](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/litterpicking)

### **£50,000 fund to boost community climate action in the Vale**

Vale of White Horse District Council's new Climate Action Fund will offer a total of £50,000 to help local groups, with up to £5,000 on offer for individual projects. **For more information about the Climate Action Fund please see [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants)**

### **Supporting the People of Ukraine**

At cabinet meetings this week the leaders of both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils took time to reinforce the public statements they made last week in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. They said that "in standing with the people of Ukraine we, alongside our partner organisations, will help in any way we can, including resettlement, should we have the opportunity to support refugees." In addition to issuing the statements of solidarity on our websites and social media platforms, the Ukrainian flag has been raised at the councils' offices at Milton Park. The councils are working with its partner councils in the county to ensure joined up planning and to issue consistent communications to residents about how best to help. This includes suggestions for those wishing to make a donation or offer support such as to the [Disasters Emergencies Committee](#). DEC works with 15 charities including Oxfam, Christian Aid and Save the Children.

### **Information for South and Vale residents about the £150 'rebate' to help with energy bills**

Thousands of council taxpayers in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse will soon receive a £150 council tax 'rebate' to help with rising energy bills.

The government has announced that [most households in council tax bands A-D will be eligible for the rebate](#) however, contrary to some reports, **the 'rebate' will not be taken off people's council tax bills** when they are issued.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are putting arrangements in place to make a separate payment to households as soon as possible. Here's how the payments will be made:

- **If a household pays their council tax by direct debit** – they should be able to receive the £150 directly into their bank account. South and Vale are hoping to start making these payments by the end of April.
- **If a household is not on direct debit** – it will take longer to make these payments as the councils will need to write to them to confirm their bank details.

**To ensure the councils can carry out this work as quickly as possible, they are asking people not to contact them to chase the 'rebate' payment. [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/counciltax](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/counciltax) or call 0345 302 2313 (South) or 0345 302 2315 (Vale).**

### **A regeneration review for central Abingdon is underway**

The district council is working with an organisation that specialises in 'regeneration' to carry out a review of the town centre to identify realistic options for improving buildings, land and transport routes to help make central Abingdon a thriving place in the future. The review will include three properties the council owns in the town – the Charter area and car park, Abbey House, and the Upper Reaches Hotel – to see how they might need to change in the future to complement the wider work to enhance the town's vitality and environment.

**The Vale of White Horse District Council online Nature Recovery and Biodiversity Forum** will take place on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 pm. The aim is to inspire parishes and parish councils to initiate their own Nature Recovery projects. The Forum will last for approx. 90 mins and the programme will comprise a number of short presentations.

### **CPRE Oxfordshire Green Belt event: What's next for the Oxford Green Belt?**

A workshop to explore the current & future threats to the Oxford Green Belt and how we can best work together to protect this vital area. Tuesday 5 April 2022 2-4pm, Sandford Village Hall, Henley Road, Sandford-on-Thames, OX4 4YN

**The Harwellian Club** has recently reopened after receiving £47,571 from the Vale of White Horse District Council for a major refurbishment.

### **Vale car park changes – information for parish councils**

We recently announced some measures aimed making district council car parks in the Vale of White Horse more sustainable to manage. We can now confirm that we'll be introducing these changes on

#### **Monday 4 April.**

- Free parking will still be available but reduced to one hour a day\*
- New fees will apply for parking for up to two hours
- All other charges will go up by 40p
- New and renewed permits will be valid for the specific car park they are issued for and will not be transferable.

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\*except for Southampton Street car park in Faringdon, which will continue to offer two hours free parking a day. Faringdon's main supermarket is out of town so we hope that by offering two hours free in this town centre car park we will continue to encourage people to support local trade.

### **Sessions to help hair and beauty staff support victims of domestic abuse**

Free training is now available to help ensure hair and beauty staff know what to do if they suspect a client or colleague is at risk of or suffering from domestic abuse. The events, called 'Transformations – changing our response to domestic abuse', are now available for anyone working across Oxfordshire in hair and beauty, including nail bars, tattooists and ear-piercing establishments. For more information and to register visit – [southandvale.gov.uk/youcanhelp](https://southandvale.gov.uk/youcanhelp).

### **Vale's climate plan to cut council Co2 emissions**

Vale of White Horse District Council has taken its biggest step so far towards becoming carbon neutral within its own operations.

The Vale has adopted its new Climate Action Plan <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/02/Vale-Climate-Action-plan-2022-2024.pdf> which sets out the steps it will take to reduce its emissions as it aims to become carbon neutral by 2030. To ensure the council is open about the progress towards its targets, officers will carry out quarterly reviews and report to the Climate Emergency Advisory

### **15). Cllrs reports and items for future agendas**

#### **16). AOB**

Cllr Page to put together a Chair's letter for the WaDS Newsletter / distribution in Shippon Village.

#### **17) Date of next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at 7.30p.m. on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at Shippon Church Hall.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m

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

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