

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.30 p.m.
At Shippon Church Hall

Present: Cllrs. M. Page (in the Chair), C. Parkin, R. Bahu, D. Churchouse, M. Littleboy, N. Benchiba-Savenius

In attendance: Cllrs. C. Webber, R. Webber, Mr David O'Hara, Mr Martin Gilbert & 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

Mr Martin Gilbert, Lansdowne Road – there appears to have been a change of use of Bridleway land (as registered on County website) by residents, without any consultation with County. Cllr Page visited Mr Gilbert to review photos and documents, which appear to show that the land from each residence to the middle of the highway, belong to those residents. If that is so, then it could similarly be interpreted that the land abutting Mr Gilbert's land (The Paddock), would belong to him. Cllr Page to visit Mr & Mrs Gilbert again and forward the documentation to the relevant departments at OCC. The County Legal Team are still trying to establish if they believe it to be a bridleway. MP

The Parish Council intends to continue to pursue this issue in view of the higher principle concerning unauthorised development and destruction of trees.

4. Attending Councillors & MoD

Cllr Richard Webber

Military Champion – As Military Champion, Cllr R Webber hopes to meet with the new Commanding Officer at Dalton Barracks re issues such as Council support on the cost of living, support around domestic abuse etc.

20mph zones – The list to be included on the scheme is very long. Barrow Road is currently on the waiting list for SHW PC, however Oxford City gets priority, followed by the Market Towns and then villages, based on accident likelihood. Barrow Road will eventually get done, however it will be down the line. A resident of Dry Sandford contacted the PC re the need for a 20mph limit around Dry Sandford Primary School, as there is a blind bend. Cllr R Webber to follow this up with the OCC Education Dept. RW

Aldi Traffic – There is concern re the negative impact of traffic accessing and departing the new Aldi. Highways are satisfied that it has been through the Planning process and a traffic survey was carried out, however, Shippon was not included in that survey. They assert that it is in Aldi's interests to ensure that there are no traffic issues. Cllr Page raised the PC's concerns at the Planning stage. The PC will monitor and follow up with Cllr R Webber and Highways if the situation does not improve. ALL

Oxfordshire Mobility Model – it looks like this won't be available for developers until Autumn 2023 at the earliest, which may have a knock on effect for the DIO with the proposed Dalton Barracks development, as they have said that they cannot proceed without the mobility report. Cllr R Webber to see if he can obtain an update. RW

Cllr Catherine Webber

Leader - Cllr Bethia Thomas is the new Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, as chosen by councillors during a vote at the Council meeting on 7 December. Her election as Leader comes after Cllr Emily Smith chose to stand down having led the council since the local elections in 2019. Cllr Nigel Fawcett has become the new Deputy Leader.

Climate Action Fund – has been extended until 4th January 2023.

Christmas Waste – Information about Christmas bin collections etc can be found on the Vale website at <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/christmaswaste/>

Abbey House Christmas Closure - from 4pm on 23rd December to Tuesday 3rd January. **Emergency Numbers:**

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Homelessness – 01235 422420

Rough Sleeping – 0300 500 0914 Streetlink

CCTV – This has been working well throughout the Vale and SODC, resulting in 100 arrests.

Article 4 HMO's – Cllr Judy Roberts, Cabinet Member responsible for Development & Infrastructure, will be convening a meeting with Adrian Duffield to discuss transparency with HMO applications. For e.g. the PC stated no objection to a 4 bed house, which subsequently became an application to become an HMO, with no further permission needed. Using Article 4 requires a lot of evidence. Adrian Duffield, in his own revamped policy, had promised a new age of openness and communication between Parish Councils and Planning.

MoD

The 3rd Regiment RLC is leaving and will be replaced by the 7th Regiment.

Mr O'Hara to ask that signs from the Fireworks displays are removed by the Organisers as soon as the event has taken place. DO'H

Mr O'Hara to follow up with the new Station Commander on Cllr Page's letter. DO'H

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2022

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair with the following amendments:

Mr Martin Gilbert was in attendance. Item 4, Cllr Churchouse was to write to Annington Homes, not the DIO.

6. Heritage Lottery Jubilee Grant expenditure review

The original budget was for £17.4K. Lottery funding awarded was £10K. Spend to date £14,108. There is still spend to go out on wild flowers, (approx. £2,800) and trees. The trees will be planted; a circle of 7 at Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground, 2 on Long Tow, 1 at each Church and 1 at Stowford House (approx. £2,400 including planting). Cllr Parkin to look into possible options for wild meadows. CP
It was agreed that some CIL monies would be put towards the Playground Equipment at Sandleigh Road Rec Ground.

7. War Memorials

The names on the memorial at St Mary Magdalene Church have worn away. The Clerk to check the condition of the one at St Helen's Church in Dry Sandford. It was agreed that Cllr Page should further research the ownership and repair options. MP/AC

8. Dalton Barracks SPD

Nothing to update.

9. Matters arising from the Minutes

The Action record was reviewed and updated.

10. Matters raised by members of the Council

Solar Farm – the PC received an email by a concerned resident re planned solar farms for Cumnor and beyond. It was noted, however, is not within the Parish.

11. Finance and Administrative Matters

a) Accounts for payment (In Accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972)

Payee	Purpose	Total	VAT
Parish Clerk	Salary October & November	£1,283.40	
	Backdated salary	£2,368.34	
	Backdated uplift April 22 – September 22	£676	
Clerk Expenses	Expenses October & November	£104	
	Backdated Expenses	£186	
	Backdated Uplift Expenses – April to November	£48	
	Stamps	£7.60	
	Microsoft Annual Subs	£59.99	

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	Ink cartridge	£65.99	
British Legion	Remembrance Wreaths	£75	
Caroline Parkin	Condolence Book Queen Elizabeth	£120	
Mike Page	Zoom Subs	£158.29	
Ian Bristow	Website domain renewal	£247.89	
BGG	Grass Cutting	£126	£21
ST Grounds Maintenance	Bin Emptying September & October	£40	
PCC Of Shippon	Room Hire PC Meeting December	£20	
Toolstation	Litter Picking Kit	£35.59	
IT Solutions	Laptop / Installation	£672	£112
*MRH Services	SID Maintenance	£82	

* Added after the agenda was published

b) Grant Requests

Friends of Shippon – Cllrs Page, Parkin & Churchouse abstained. Cllrs Bahu, Littleboy & Benchiba-Savenius unanimously voted to award Friends of Shippon a £500 grant towards their running costs.

WaDS CC Community Cinema / Energy Bills - WaDS CC have submitted grant applications for a Community Cinema to run as part of the Warm Space initiative. It was agreed to look at the applications as a whole, rather than individually and any contribution would be towards the increasing energy bill to run all initiatives. It was agreed therefore that the PC would not provide funds specifically for the Cinema. With the current figures, if SHW PC paid 20% (based on DS residents), it would more than swallow up the PC's disposable income. Cllrs Page and Churchouse to get some more clarification on figures from Ian Bristow and follow up with Cllrs.

MP

12. Recreation Ground

The Clerk to follow up with MRH Services re repair and repainting of the rusty Exercise equipment. AC

13. Correspondence

Oxfordshire County Council

Funding available! Smokefree Community Fund - Organisations can receive up to £1000 in funding to create a smokefree space or hold a smokefree event. smokefreeoxon@oxfordshire.gov.uk to start

Matthew Barber Newsletter

Cost of Living Help

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/> Residents can find out the latest national and county advice and the organisations that can help, as well as information on key district and city support.

OALC

OALC have partnered with [Breakthrough Communications](#), who offer a wide range of communications and information governance training sessions designed for local council clerks, officers and councillors.

<https://breakthroughcomms.co.uk/calc-training-events/>

OALC October update

Vale Communications

New LED lighting at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre in Abingdon has given the centre a new lease of life and is saving energy at the same time.

Improving engagement with Town and Parish councils

Briefings - We'll continue to hold forums but in the form of briefings on new policies or projects that will affect your work or communities, so they'll be subject specific.

Bookable surgeries The sessions are once a month, and you can book a 15-minute appointment through the following link:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/TownandParishPlanningbookings@capitacouncilspartnership.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

Vale News

New waste collection routes for some started this week. Some of you might have new bin days. If that's you, you'll already have received a letter about it. If you haven't had a letter, this means that there are no changes for you, however you can check on our websites

here www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/collectionchanges

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Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change

We've released the results of our Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change, part of the process in making our Joint Local Plan.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/83c42d77f9104794a8cb49a815ff2352>

The Queen's Green Canopy

We're approaching tree-planting season, which means people and businesses are planting them across right South Oxfordshire and the Vale as part of The Queen's Green Canopy. If you're taking part, send us pictures of you doing so, or your planted trees communications@southandvale.gov.uk along with information about where it is planted to help us create a record of this amazing legacy to Her Majesty Following the wishes of the King, The Queen's Green canopy initiative has been extended to the end of March 2023 to give people more time to plant their trees. More information can be found at: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/greencanopy

Funding available for community climate projects

Communities have another chance to apply for funding from our Climate Action Fund! From Monday 17 October you can apply to support grass roots projects which help to tackle climate change and raise awareness of the climate emergency. If you have a climate project you'd like to get off the ground, or which could benefit from some additional funding, please visit whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants for more details, including how to apply.

May 2023 elections

We're looking for people to work at the May 2023 elections. It's a great chance for you to play an important part in local democracy.

Postal vote staff – Abingdon, Monday 24 April to Friday 5 May (various shifts available)

Polling station staff – locations across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse, Thursday 4 May (from 6am until finish – likely to be around 10.30pm)

To register your interest, simply email electionstaff@southandvale.gov.uk. Our Elections team will send all the information and ask you to confirm your availability for the various roles. Please note, we are unable to offer the roles to people that work for or are connected with a political party.

Land Trust keen for further sites as Botley development begins

The Oxfordshire Community Land Trust (OCLT) is keen to work with town and parish councils to find sites across our districts that could see the development of affordable housing. The non-for-profit organisation recently used funding from Vale of White Horse District Council and the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to help pay for the building of five one-bedroom and three two-bedroom flats in Crofts Court, Botley. The homes will be available to those on the Vale housing register to apply for. For more information on the OCLT, please visit their website - oclt.org.uk

Review of constituency boundaries The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has launched its final consultation on proposed new constituency boundaries as part of a review aimed at rebalancing the number of electors represented by each MP. Following feedback from the public, BCE has now published a revised map of constituency proposals - to see the map and to submit your feedback, visit the BCE's consultation website - bcereviews.org.uk. The closing date for comments is 5 December.

Bird flu (avian influenza) in birds: Housing order introduced

The government has introduced a [mandatory housing measure](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu) for all poultry and captive birds in England. More guidance on how to spot it and report Avian influenza is available on the <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Flu and Covid vaccinations We're encouraging anyone who is eligible for the flu and Covid-19 vaccinations to book theirs asap to help boost their immunity ahead of the winter. You can find out more about the Flu vaccine on the NHS website - nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine And more information on how to get a [Covid-19 booster here](#).

Colourful bench presented to the winner of Vale of White Horse District Council litter bug trails competition, Wootton St Peters School.

Council motion pledges support for businesses struggling with rising costs

Vale of White Horse councillors agreed to help support struggling local businesses and to urge government to do more for businesses affected by the cost of living crisis. The council will also request that renewable energy grants are fast-tracked to help businesses move over to using more sustainable energy, such as solar panels, to help them become less reliant on mainstream energy suppliers. The council will also look at ways in which it can bid for government money to further support local businesses to reduce their energy usage.

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Report highlights council's work towards tackling the climate emergency

Vale of White Horse District Council's work towards tackling climate change has been highlighted in a new quarterly report. As part of its commitment to openness and transparency, the Vale publishes a performance report showing the progress of its Climate Action Plan. For more information about Vale of White Horse District Council's work on tackling the climate emergency and to view the council's Climate Action Plan, visit whitehorsedc.gov.uk/climateaction

Council votes to oppose fracking in the area

Making a clear anti-fracking stand, Vale of White Horse District Council has voted to resist any exploration of fracking in the district. Whilst there is no direct threat that fracking will take place in the district as no viable deposits of shale gas have been identified in or around Vale of White Horse at this point in time, the council agreed to make clear its concerns about environmental damage and safety, and the need for local consent for any exploration of fracking in the area. Councillors unanimously supported a cross-party motion to oppose this controversial practice in the area after the Government said it would allow fracking in areas with local consent.

A new approach for community health and wellbeing

The strategy is a brand new approach to health and wellbeing developed by the two neighbouring councils to help their residents come together to take part in sport, health and recreational activities that improve their physical and mental wellbeing, while forging stronger social links within their local communities. The next steps are for the councils to investigate where there are currently gaps in what activities are already provided, and to develop partnerships across the two districts with key stakeholders that ultimately support residents to **Be Active, Be Healthy and Be Happy**.

Nearly £6.5 million awarded to help local businesses

More than 2,000 businesses have received a much-needed relief award totalling almost £6.5 million to help reduce their business rates thanks to South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils.

Action taken to help deliver affordable housing

A new housing delivery strategy and action plan to help bring more genuinely affordable homes to the Vale of White Horse has been approved by Cabinet Members. The new housing delivery strategy aims to meet current and future local housing needs and intends to bring more well-designed net zero carbon housing to help tackle climate change. The action plan also includes projects that could see a reduction of empty homes in the district and support for housing providers and residents apply for funding and grants to help retrofit their homes to maximise energy efficiency.

Free parking days being offered to help local businesses

Shoppers in the Vale of White Horse are being given a helping hand to buy local this Christmas. Starting on 26 November and running until 17 December, free car parking is being provided at various sites by the Vale of White Horse District Council, to encourage people to visit their independent shops for Christmas gifts to help support local businesses. Drivers will be able to park for free in local car parks on these following Saturdays:

- Abingdon 26 November, 3 and 10 December
- Faringdon 3, 10 and 17 December
- Wantage 3, 10 and 17 December

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/carparks

Waste Facility Tours 2023

As National Tree Week begins on Saturday, Vale of White Horse District Council is encouraging community groups and residents across the district to plant trees to help tackle the climate emergency. Through its partnerships, and its [policy for planting trees on council-owned land](#) the council aims to contribute to national tree planting campaigns including the government's target to increase tree planting to 30,000 hectares per year across the UK by 2025.

Other

Scribe Accounts

Kompan

Community First Oxfordshire has developed a range of Town Planning services. From support with planning applications and appeals to helping navigate Section 106 agreements and advice with Neighbourhood Planning, CFO offers a range of services to help your council get the most from the planning system.

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14. Cllrs reports and items for future agendas

None

15. AOB

16. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at 7.30p.m. on Monday 23rd January 2023 at Shippon Church Hall.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m

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

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