

## The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 7.30 p.m.  
At Shippon Church Hall

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

**In attendance:** Cllr. R. Webber, Mr David O'Hara, Mrs Vicki Talbot & Anna Clarke (Clerk)

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs M. Page, H. Ayub, N. Benchiba-Savenius, C. Webber

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

None

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

**No 88 Barrow Road** - No Planning Application has been submitted, however work is being carried out at this address, with a large shed already built on the other side of the hedge. The gates and fence are not in keeping with the rest of Barrow Road, which would usually be stipulated with a Planning app. The car parking space, which has been created, is a potential hazard and effectively creates another access to Barrow Rd, which should have Planning permission. The Vale currently consider this to be under Permitted Developed rights.

Cllr R Webber to ask Vale Enforcement to come and have a look at the work which has been carried out and refer to Highways re the Access, which has been created. RW

Cllr Churchouse to put a letter together for Planning, detailing the concerns raised and request a check list of permitted development rights. DC

**Chicaine, Barrow Road** – Things are not moving quickly with Dalton Barracks, so the prospect of a Chicaine may need to be revisited. This was also raised by a resident for the area around the school in Dry Sandford. The cost is approx. £20K per chicaine. The 20 mph limit introduction for Barrow Road is pencilled in for the second phase of the scheme. Raised tables offer another, likely cheaper option than chicaines.

To be put on next Meeting's Agenda. Cllr Webber to send all the options available for Traffic Calming. AC/RW

**Lodge Hill Slips** - these are seriously delayed and a lot of building has already been carried out. The original agreement was that no more than 80 houses could be built before the Lodge Hill slips were created, however, there appear to be way more. Cllr R Webber to obtain an update. RW

### 4. Attending Councillors & MoD

**Cllr Richard Webber (on behalf of Cllr C Webber)**

**Elections** – from the May elections onwards, it will be necessary to have photo ID in order to be able to vote. It will be possible to apply for free voter ID; the deadline is 25<sup>th</sup> April to apply for this.

Household Support Fund – Food and fuel vouchers. Details can be found on the Vale's Living website pages.

**Cllr R Webber**

**Broken bridge, Shippon**, due to a car accident - County have no record; the temporary traffic lights appear to have been set up by Highways England. There is no information about how long the traffic lights will be there. Cllr R Webber is awaiting a response and will let the PC know. RW

**HIF 1** is looking a bit uncertain. Section 1 could be done as a stand-alone project with the money available. Stages 2, 3, 4 & 5 are looking more unlikely as they are costly. There will likely be 3 days of hearings to ascertain its viability.

Lansdowne Road – no update. Cllr Page discussing with Mr & Mrs Gilbert. MP

**MoD**

**Jubilee Trees** – Mr O'Hara is waiting for the DOI to give the go ahead for the trees for Long Tow. 3 Regiment have gone and 7 Regiment are inbound in May.

A lot of modules, generators etc are currently being stored on the Airfield.

**Community Engagement Festival** – is being planned for July. It is proposed that there will be a fun fair, camping, live music and such like. Mr O'Hara to update when he knows more. DO'H

Mr O'Hara to follow up with the new Station Commander about some form of meeting with the PC. DO'H

**Bus Shelter** – is peeling. Mr O'Hara to follow up with the DIO for repair. DO'H

## The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

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

The minutes of the meeting were reviewed and agreed.

### 6. Matters arising from the Minutes

**Wild Meadows** – suggested locations – Recreation Ground (possibly a maze), Dry Sandford Primary School, The Manor Prep School, Churchyards Dry Sandford & Shippon, the Verge on the junction of Faringdon & Cholswell Roads & the verge on Faringdon Road outside Stowford House. Cllr Parkin to check with the Vale &/or Highways, if it is ok to plant on verges. CP

### 7. Jubilee Tree Planting

The trees have been ordered for all locations. It is hoped that it will be possible to get all 12 planted on the same day. The locations are:

7 at Sandleigh Road Rec Ground

2 for the Army at Long Tow to fill in the gaps

1 in Stowford House Garden

1 Shippon Church yard

1 for St Helen's Church, which will actually be planted in Dry Sandford Primary School due to capacity issues at the Church

The trees should be available by the end of the month.

### 8. Internal Audit

IAC are no longer able to carry out internal audits for the PC. The Clerk, in conjunction with the Chair, asked Deborah O'Brien, a Member of the Internal Audit Forum, to carry out the 2022/23 accounts. The cost will be approximately £140. The Clerk to complete and return the letter of engagement. AC

### 9. WaDS

A £600 grant, agreed at the previous meeting, will be paid to WaDS to contribute towards the cost of running the Warm Space. Before Christmas, the figures were 10 people on one day and 20 on another, making use of the Warm Space. Ongoing energy costs are increasing. Wootton PC has asked WaDS to provide monthly updates and an action plan going forwards. Cllrs Page & Churchouse will attend the WaDS AGM and they will subsequently meet with Ian Bristow to further discuss when there is more idea of the costs/plan involved. To go on the March Agenda. AC

### 10. Dalton Barracks SPD

No update

### 11. Matters raised by members of the Council

None raised

### 12. 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 December & January	£1,283.40	
Clerk Expenses	Expenses December & January	£104	
Friends of Shippon	Grant	£500	
WaDS Warm Space	Grant	£600	
Mobility Smart Online	SID Battery	£94.90	

PCC of Shippon were paid double in error at the December meeting, so no payment this meeting. The hourly rate has now increased to £12 per hour. The £4 outstanding will be added to the March invoice.

### b) Grant Requests

None

### 13. Recreation Ground

Discussed under the Sub Committee Meeting

## The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

### 14. Correspondence

#### **Oxfordshire County Council**

Matthew Barber Police & Crime Bulletin

**Tree Planting** - Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) Tree Service have now secured enough new trees and the budget, to plant one tree per parish in Oxfordshire. Our commitment is to carry out the tree planting during this winter season, '22/'23.

#### **OALC**

Training Schedule 2023

December Update

#### **Vale Communications**

Cllr Bethia Thomas is the new Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council. She was chosen by councillors during a vote at the Council meeting on 7 December. Cllr Neil Fawcett has become the new deputy leader of the council, following Cllr Thomas's election to leadership

#### **Action on the cost-of-living: Hundreds of low-income households to benefit from paying less council tax**

1,400 households in the Vale of White Horse will benefit from a more generous council tax support (CTS) scheme following action to help those most at risk during the cost-of-living crisis.

At their meeting on Wednesday 7 December, district councillors at the Vale voted to remove restrictions requiring households on CTS to make a contribution towards their annual council tax bill. **The changes will be introduced from April 2023 when the new tax year begins.**

visit [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ctrs](https://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ctrs). To find out about other cost of living support available, visit [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving](https://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving).

#### **Time to plan the right future for our districts**

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have agreed a revised timetable for the creation of their Joint Local Plan. Both authorities are working to create a Joint Local Plan, which will seek to deliver the councils' ambitions for zero-carbon, sustainable development and genuinely affordable homes in the districts up to the year 2041. The plan's timescale had previously been scheduled around the creation of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 – a county-wide plan being produced by all of Oxfordshire's planning authorities, which would have set housing numbers and decided the broad locations for larger-scale developments. The five Oxfordshire councils were unable to reach agreement on the approach to planning for future housing needs and so they all mutually agreed that it was best to end work on the county-wide plan. While continuing to cooperate the councils will tackle all these issues locally through their own Local Plans. The Cabinets at South and Vale have therefore both agreed to adjust the timetable for their Joint Local Plan work, to allow time to carry out local versions of the work that would have been carried out as part of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. The new timetable for the Joint Local Plan allows South and Vale to assess the need for housing at a local level. It also allows both councils to shape and develop even stronger policies on climate and ecological action that could lead the way nationally. The Councils will still be able to use much of the collaborative work produced as part of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, as well as the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision that sets a series of guiding principles for 'good growth'. The full LDS is available on the councils' website: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/local-plan-2041/>

#### **Council will tackle food poverty and promote sustainable local production**

Taking action on food poverty and making good food available for all will be at the heart of work by Vale of the White Horse District Council to help realise the vision of Oxfordshire's Food Strategy. The council will work with community, voluntary sector and business partners to develop a detailed local food action plan for the district to help achieve the objectives of the food strategy. The plan's aims will include reducing food poverty in communities following the impact of Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis, promoting local and sustainable food and decreasing food waste. Oxfordshire County Council has allocated £250,000 of funding to be divided between district and city councils to help create and deliver the local action plans. Vale will use the funding to work with its partners to create and deliver a local action plan in 2023. The Vale is working on a focused programme for its new Food and Farming Champion to help promote food production, distribution, and healthy eating across the district.

#### **Vale Cabinet approves changes to car park permits**

Car parking permit fees in the Vale of White Horse District are likely to increase slightly, following a decision at a recent Cabinet meeting to raise permit costs by ten per cent, in line with inflation levels. From April 2023, monthly permits to district council car parks will increase by £7 on average, with annual permits increasing £81 on average, to help support the delivery and maintenance of the car parks.

**Election Fees** – new election fees have been released for 2023

## The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

### Village Hall Grant Opportunity

In May 2022, Defra announced a £3 million Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund, (the Fund) to mark Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. The aim of the Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund is to support the modernisation and improvement of village halls, so that they are fit for purpose and can provide activities which seek to achieve one or more of the following outcomes for their communities:

- improved health and/or wellbeing and/or reduction in rural loneliness,
- positive impact on the local environment, contributes towards net zero,
- support for the local rural economy,
- promotion of community cohesion.

Grants are for **capital improvements only**, where projects aim to either upgrade, extend or improve facilities, or where capital items need to be purchased. They cannot be used for maintenance, repair or renewal work.

More information on the ACRE website here <https://acre.org.uk/platinum-jubilee-village-halls-fund/>

### Other

I-Next Website maintenance

**Thames Water Consultation** - Our draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 sets out the predicted water supply shortages and how we intend to provide a secure water supply for our growing population; protect against the growing risk of drought; and improve the environment over the next 50 years. Our plan sets out ambitious reductions in leakage, actions to reduce the amount of water we all use and investment in new infrastructure including a new river abstraction in west London, a new reservoir in Oxfordshire, and water transfers between regions and across the South East. We're consulting on our draft plan until 21 March 2023. You can read a summary of our draft plan, and the detailed technical reports, and have your say on our dedicated consultation website [www.thames-wrmp.co.uk](http://www.thames-wrmp.co.uk). A Forum will be held on Tuesday 31 January 2023 at the Novotel, London Paddington from 09:30 to ~ 14:30 to discuss our draft plan. At the Forum we'll provide an overview of the draft plan and hold sessions to discuss aspects of the draft plan in more detail.

Michael Barber Playgrounds

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

None

### 16. AOB

None

### 17. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at 7.30p.m. on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Shippon Church Hall.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.50 p.m

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

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