

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th January 2016 at 7.30pm
At Shippon Church Hall

Present: Cllrs. G. Fitzgerald (in the Chair), M. Page, C. Parkin, K. Houlden, M. Gilbert, V. Talbot, Cllr B Rogers, C Webber

In attendance: Mr Derek Kelso (MOD), Anna Clarke (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr R. Webber, Cllr M Russell, Cllr C Priestley

2. Declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Parkin declared an interest with regards to the proposed Manor Preparatory School expansion plans, as her house is in close proximity to the proposed extensions.

Cllr Talbot declared an interest with regards to the issue of the windows on the listed building, 62 Barrow Road as she is a neighbour.

3. Matters raised by

a) members of the public

Nothing raised.

b) Attending Councillors and MOD

Cllr Catherine Webber

Oxfordshire Adult Mental Health Services – On 1st October 2016, a new contract, (between Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust on behalf of the Oxford Mental Health Partnership (OMHP) began, which will deliver a fresh way of commissioning and providing some of the adult mental health services in Oxfordshire. The new approach means that the patient has one care plan across the whole partnership. An event is being held on Tuesday 23rd February in Oxford which will showcase the services that the partnership will be delivering. If people are interested in finding out more or attending the event, contact Julia Stackhouse on 01865 334638 or by email to cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net

Corporate Services - Steve Bishop, (Strategic Director, SODC), has recommended contracts with Capita and Vinci to take on Corporate Services. South & Vale will be considering the report on 28th January.

Budget

There will be a briefing for Vale Councillors on the budget on February 1st at 6.30p.m.

Neighbourhood Plans - An extra Planning Committee is taking place on January 27th to look at an issue which has arisen with Drayton. They have produced a neighbourhood plan, which has been approved but now a developer is trying get an application pushed through for the building of 30 houses, which would be at odds with the plan. It was originally thrown out by the Inspector but is now going through the Planning Committee as a standard application. A number of parishes have now completed their neighbourhood plans and Wantage and Sutton Courtenay are starting theirs. The outcome of the 27th will therefore be of future interest for other areas, to see how strongly Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan stands or whether planning permission will be given to the development and override the plan.

There will be Flood Relief Channel drop in event at Abbey House between 2.30 and 7.00p.m. on 27th January 2016.

Cllr Parkin questioned if there was a vehicle weight restriction on the road through the centre of Marcham, as it is currently precarious for cars when heavy goods vehicles use it. Cllr Webster stated that options that had been considered were traffic lights in each direction, as had been used at Shillingford Bridge or a bypass.

Grants - The next round opens on 14th March 2016. Childrey Fest, Live at the Park and Abingdon Operatic Society have all submitted applications.

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Cllr Catherine Webber on behalf of Cllr Richard Webber

County Budget

County were working to the original requirement of making £50 million in savings, however, they have now been told to increase this to £70 million. It has been extremely difficult to set a budget in the current climate of austerity, with the obvious shortage of funds and manpower. The budget needs to be balanced by February or there will potentially be 'dire consequences'. It has been necessary to try and come up with imaginative ways of making money. Ideas under consideration to help alleviate some pressure are:

- Creation of a unified authority. All councils, (County and District), would need to be disbanded and join together. The administration would have to go back to square one and elect councillors.
- The sale or renting out of County Hall, which is a very valuable property amongst others owned by County also under review.
- Bringing all people in major contracts with County around the table offering them the opportunity to come up with an improved offer or County will look to other providers. This has proved to be successful when tried by other councils.
- To encourage district councils to take on some social care responsibilities as they have more money from e.g. new homes bonuses. Cllr Taylor asked if there were currently many planning applications going in? Cllr Webber stated that there were currently 6.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd November 2015

An amendment was made to point 7 of the minutes, (Enforcement), to reflect that the response from the council with regards to 'it being ok if it didn't impede on others' related to the car seller and not also to the windows on 62 Barrow Road.

The minutes also stated under 6a) accounts for payment, that Shippon church Hall had been paid £16 for room rental, however, it should have read £10 for Dry Sandford Primary School for room rental.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Highways matters; Road Safety; Barrow Road and Cholswell Road

Cllr Russell received an email from Geoff Barrell at County Highways stating that 106 money from Stowford House, previously believed to be coming to the Parish Council, would actually be going directly to Highways. It was agreed that we need further clarification on whether we will receive this money towards the cost of the system as it was ordered on that basis.

It was agreed at the last meeting that the PC would insure the system from the outset. Cllr C Webber to ask Cllr R Webber to check whether SHWPC is getting this money and whether it is possible for the PC to insure the system.

CW/RW

b) Transport including No 4 Bus

Cllr Fitzgerald attended another meeting with Wootton about the service. There are no updated figures on usage as yet, however, previous figures showed a rise of 25% in Wootton/Henwood. Oxford Bus Company have now stated that they will be cutting the service on a Saturday to hourly. They will be introducing a new product for the under 18s which will represent a 25% discount on the adult fare. This will not be offered on the key but will be available on their new mobile ticketing app from the end of January. Cllr Fitzgerald will be meeting with Wootton PC again in March to look at more ways of promoting the service and also to work with the HIVE at the MOD to promote it as usage from Dalton Barracks is still low.

OCC are asking councils to discuss the future of services in their area with representatives of the bus companies. The No 43 comes through Wootton once a week on a Thursday. Cllr Rogers to follow up with Eileen and Ian Bristow about usage of the service. It was agreed that it would be too much of an undertaking for the PC to provide an ongoing subsidy. BR

c) Hitchcose Cothill, Footpath Closures

The land owner has agreed the creation of a public footpath. This is now being taken forward by Marcham PC.

d) Vortal

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Cllr Fitzgerald/AC to communicate to David Heron that the Parish Council feel it would be appropriate to wait for the production of the local plan and something more tangible from Vortal, such as the official application, before it will be possible to give informed feedback. GF/AC

e) Abingdon Town Council Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk to send dates being suggested by Radley for the meeting between ATC, Radley, Sunningwell and SHWPC. AC

f) 2016/17 Budget/Precept

A finance sub committee meeting was held on 12th January. The meeting found that there was no current evidence on which to base an increase in the Precept, so it was agreed that it would remain at £16,900.

g) Overhanging Vegetation

Cllr Taylor to ask 68 Barrow Road to cut back the overhanging vegetation from their property. Cllr Russell to speak to Andrew Duncan. Cllr Parkin to Parkin to follow up re the remaining properties.

h) Parking on Pavements

Parking on Rookery Road is being monitored.

i) Adult Exercise Equipment

Cllr Houlden provided a second quote as requested, but was then asked for up to date bank statements which have now been submitted with the completed application for the next round of decisions due in March.

j) Enforcement

The Clerk to send a letter to the Enforcement Dept to resurrect the issue of the car seller on Barrow Road causing an obstruction on the pavement with their cars. A letter also to be sent with regards to the replacement of the plastic windows at 62 Barrow Road, a Grade II listed property. AC

k) Transparency Code

Parish Councils are now required to publish more information on their websites, such as accounts and audited statements. Ian Bristow has kindly offered to upload them to the website. There is a grant available for setting up a website if necessary. The Clerk to send information to Ian Bristow. AC

6. Finance and Administrative Matters

a) Accounts for payment

Payee	Purpose	Total	VAT
Shippon Church Hall	Room rental	£16	
Parish Clerk	Salary December	£332.44	
Parish Clerk	Expenses December	£44	

a) Grants

South & Vale Carers sent thanks to the Parish Council for the recent grant which they received.

7. Matters raised by members of the Council

Jubilee Bench – It was agreed that the jubilee bench could be used to replace the bench at Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground. Cllr Parkin to follow up with Cllr Russell. CP

Cllr Gilbert – the sign at the top of Green Lane, (no through road), was knocked down approximately a year ago has still not been put back up. The Clerk to follow up. AC

The leaves on Church Lane are getting dangerous as they are very slippery and need clearing. Cllr Taylor to follow up when she speaks to Biffa about another matter. VT

Planning

Manor School - It was agreed that, as the Parish Council had not been given sufficient opportunity to comment on the EIA, we would need more information on the proposed 10 year plan and a chance to provide input on the impact on the village. The Clerk to request a hard copy and extension for the PC to provide comment on the Environmental Impact Assessment. AC

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

8. Planning

a) Decision Notices

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions

b) Applications dealt with between meetings

Ref:	P15/V2489/FUL
Date	30th October 2015
Description	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling
Address	80 Barrow Road, Shippon
St Helen Without PC's Comments	The Parish Council of St Helen Without has no objection to this replacement dwelling for one property on the site which is in line with the house next door. However, the Parish Council would like to be consulted on the choice of bricks/materials for the building to ensure they are in keeping with surrounding properties. This property is situated in the older part of the Village and should therefore be sympathetic with all the properties on Barrow Road.
Decision	Planning permission 18 th December 2015

Ref:	P15/V2283/PDH
Date	
Description	Proposed single storey rear extension
Address	168 Cothill Road, Dry Sandford, OX13 6JW
St Helen Without PC's comments	Prior Notification. Copy of application held for neighbours to access. Only neighbouring properties can comment on plans.
Decision	PDH agreed 5 th November 2015

9. Ref:	P15/V2968/HH
Date	22 nd December 2015
Description	Alterations and erection of orangery and raising height of gable to enlarge existing bedroom.
Address	Manor Farm House, 84 Church Lane, Dry Sandford, Abingdon, OX13 6JP
St Helen Without PC's comments	No objections
Decision	Due 15 th February 2016

Ref:	P15/V3050/HH
Date	5 th January 2016
Description	Single storey rear extension
Address	10, The Field, Dry Sandford, Abingdon, OX13 6ED
St Helen Without PC's comments	No objections
Decision	Due 18 th February 2016

Ref:	P15/V2973/SCR
Date	14 th December 2015
Description	EIA.Screening Opinion for a hybrid application, for buildings in connection with the existing education use of the site. Detailed element: New astroturf, netball court, overflow car parking, sports hall with classrooms and new canopy of lower school building. Outline element: Pupils dining extension, 2 new classrooms, maintenance department, swimming pool and car park extension.
Address	Manor Preparatory School, Faringdon Road, Shippon
St Helen Without PC's comments	Parish Council not consulted and would like to appeal.
Decision	11 th January 2016 –deemed to be of no impact

Ref:	P16/V0097/PDH
Date	14 th January 2016

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Description	Proposed single storey rear extension
Address	Rushwood, Cothill Road, Dry Sandford, OX13 6JW
St Helen Without PC's comments	Prior Notification. Copy of application held for neighbours to access. Only neighbouring properties can comment on plans.
Decision	Due 25 th February 2016

10. Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground

Sandleigh Road inspection – Cllr Rogers commented that all was ok apart from the bench needing to be replaced. Cllr Fitzgerald to carry out the January inspection. GF

The Inspection roster for 2016/17 is below: Any requests for amendments should be sent to the Clerk.

All

2016			
January 2016	Cllr Geoff Fitzgerald	July	Cllr Madeleine Russell
February	Cllr Michael Page	August	Cllr Caroline Parkin
March	Cllr Martin Gilbert	September	Cllr Brenda Rogers
April	Cllr Vicki Talbot	October	Cllr Geoff Fitzgerald
May	Cllr Ken Houlden	November	Cllr Michael Page
June	Cllr Carole Priestley	December	Cllr Martin Gilbert
2017			
January 2017	Cllr Vicki Talbot	April	Cllr Madeleine Russell
February	Cllr Ken Houlden	May	Cllr Caroline Parkin
March	Cllr Carole Priestley	June	Cllr Brenda Rogers

11. Other

Cllr Fitzgerald went through the correspondence and it was resolved to note it and his comments.

a) Cllrs reports and items for future agendas

Nothing raised

b) Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 7th March 2016 at Dry Sandford Primary School.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48p.m.

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