

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016 at 7.30pm
Dry Sandford Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. G. Fitzgerald (in the Chair), M. Gilbert, B. Rogers, C. Priestley

In attendance: Mr Derek Kelso (MOD), Anna Clarke (Clerk), C. Webber, R. Webber

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs M Russell, M. Page, C. Parkin, K. Houlden, V. Talbot

2. Declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None given

3. Matters raised by

a) members of the public

Noise levels at the airfield motorsport event.

Wendy Rossiter, a member of the public, attended the meeting to express her concern about the motorsport event which took place on the airfield on Sunday 28th February, which she felt created unacceptable, constant levels of noise, even when indoors, from approximately 10.30a.m. to 5p.m. Cllrs present who had also witnessed the noise, commented that it was way and above the normal level of noise created from other motorsport events on the airfield. Cllr Fitzgerald had also received a number of complaints from residents. Cllr Gilbert raised concerns that there appeared to be digging and hard surfacing taking place that suggested similar events may become a regular feature. Mr Kelso assured that this was not the case.

Mr Kelso confirmed that the MoD take complaints very seriously and had invited the Environmental Health team to attend the upcoming repeat event on 13th March to assess the noise levels. Current data available from the event on 28th shows that the noise levels achieved were lower than the permissible 110 dB(A). Mr. Kelso pointed out that wind variation on the day may have an impact, however, Cllr Gilbert stated that, whatever the wind variation on any given day, there would be an area of the Parish affected.

Cllr Rogers asked if it was possible for the Parish Council to be made aware of all the upcoming events over the year in order to deal with any potential issues in advance. Mrs Rossiter commented that an agreement had been made between the MoD (Station Commander Colonel Smith) and the Vale approximately 15 years ago, which limited the number of yearly events at the airfield to no more than 14. Mr Kelso is currently in the process of looking at all agreements for motorsport events on the airfield. Mr Kelso commented that these events produce revenue used for barracks improvements, charities and community events.

Mr Kelso put it to the Parish Council a number of times that should they want the event cancelled he could do so. Cllr Priestley questioned whether there were procedures that would need to be followed to cancel the forthcoming event. Following discussion, Cllr Fitzgerald proposed that the Parish Council would like to register a complaint about the extraordinarily high and continuous noise levels from the event on 28th February and would like to request a cancellation of the forthcoming event on 13th March due to the likely high noise impact on Parish residents. Cllr Rogers seconded the proposal and there was a unanimous vote for cancellation. Mr Kelso said that he would take this to the Station Commander.

b) Attending Councillors

Cllr Richard Webber

A large scale budget meeting was held at County to try and deal with the particularly big funding hit that the county has had to take as a result of central Government cuts. £30 million is needed in order to save e.g. bus subsidies, children's centres etc. and the Lib Dem's strongly believe that the only way these can be saved is to create a unitary authority. Labour presented their budget modifications to the meeting and the Lib Dem's argued for a serious commitment to looking at a unitary authority. The budget was

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passed (carried 59-3). However, the Districts have now proposed a reverse take over of County Councils which would produce multiple authorities. An email was sent out from Mathew Barber suggesting that 4 unitary authorities could be set up quickly but Cllr R Webber asserted that this may be misleading as it would not be as straightforward as that and wouldn't save much money and that a single unitary authority would result in the most savings. The County Council's properties alone are worth about £1 billion. As a single Unitary much of this property would be surplus to requirements and could be leased out to raise income to save services. Cllr Webber referred to another benefit of unification with the greenbelt, for e.g. being considered as a whole for Oxfordshire rather than being nibbled at by each authority for their own gains. If Oxfordshire were to become a unitary authority, it would be one of the largest, if not the largest in the Country.

Cllr R Webber stated that overall, the interests of the people come before any authority but if nothing changes, we will be in the same position come next February and will again be having to be looking for more cuts, only worse. Cllr C Webber stated that the District Councils are talking about consultation but that she believes that the public should make the decision and that it should go to referendum.

Cllr Catherine Webber

The North East Area Grants are being decided on 14th March. The SHWPC one for Adult Exercise Equipment for the play area is scoring well so far, so it looks like there will be positive outcome.

Local Plan

It was reluctantly passed by the Inspector with a huge number of conditions which will need to be met as consultations that should have been carried out were not.

Cllrs Catherine and Richard Webber announced that they would be taking a 2 month sabbatical.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th January 2016

The minutes were agreed.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

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

Cllr Priestley, on behalf of Cllr Russell updated the meeting on the current situation with VAS. The VAS was ordered and upgraded to solar on the premise that the Parish Council would be receiving some Section 106 money but this is now in question. Cllr Richard Webber stated that, if the money is not spent in 10 years, then technically the developer can claim it back. The original agreement was that the maintenance cost to County Highways would be £700 per annum but this has now been raised to £7,000. The County have a lot of the VA systems and realised that they couldn't afford the maintenance costs needed long term unless they significantly raised the rate.

b) Transport including No 4 Bus

Oxford Bus Company have now announced a change to the timetable with the service on a Saturday reverted again to hourly. Cllr Fitzgerald will be attending another meeting with regards to the service on 8th March.

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 but is currently delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

d) Vortal

Cllr Fitzgerald 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

e) Abingdon Town Council Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk waiting to hear of an update from Nigel Warner and the date of the meeting being arranged between the relevant Parishes and ATC. AC

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f) Overhanging Vegetation

Cllr Russell spoke to Andrew Duncan about overhanging vegetation from his property and Mr Duncan said that he would remove the branch which caused damage to the Binning's tractor.

g) Parking on Pavements

Cllr Russell to update.

MR

h) Adult Exercise Equipment

The decision for the grant request will be made on 14th March. It has so far got positive feedback.

i) Enforcement

The Clerk contacted the enforcement Team with regards to the replacement of the plastic windows at 62 Barrow Road, a Grade II listed property. The owners of the property had been let down by a carpenter but are now awaiting a newly enlisted carpenter to carry out the work. The Enforcement Team have told them that it has been going on for too long and they are at the point of taking action if this is not swiftly resolved.

The Clerk also contacted the Enforcement Team with regards to the issues arising from the car seller on Barrow Road. At the time of the meeting, no update had been given, other than they were carrying out a site visit.

j) Transparency Code

Parish Councils are now required to publish more information on their websites, such as accounts and audited statements. A grant application was submitted to cover the costs of a computer and printer/scanner. The decision will be made on 7th March and if successful, the PC will have 3 months during which to upload the necessary documents to satisfy the requirements of the Transparency Code.

k) Oxfordshire Together

The Clerk awaiting further information on Dry Sandford, Gozzards Ford and Cothill with regards to grass cutting.

l) Councillors Code of Conduct

The Clerk emailed a new document which outlines guidelines on Cllr bias in meetings. To be discussed when all Cllrs present.

6. Finance and Administrative Matters

a) Accounts for payment

b) Payee	Purpose	Total	VAT
OPFA	Membership renewal	£40	
OALC	Annual subscription	£328.82	£54.80
Dry Sandford Primary School	Room rental	£10	
Parish Clerk	Salary January	£332.44	
Parish Clerk	Salary February	£332.44	
Parish Clerk	Expenses January	£44	
Parish Clerk	Expenses February	£44	
CFO	Membership Renewal	£70	

a) Grants

7. Matters raised by members of the Council

Jubilee Bench – Cllr Priestley, on behalf of Cllr Russell requested that the bench remain where it is in the Church garden, however, it was agreed at the last meeting that the bench should be used to replace the broken bench at Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground.

The sign at the top of Green Lane (no through road) - OCC Traffic Advice and Design have stated that they will visit the site and carry out the necessary maintenance in the new financial year.

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Flooding at Cothill – Steven Grigson does not believe the works that have been carried out to be satisfactory. Cllr Fitzgerald to follow up with the engineer. GF

Cllr Gilbert raised the issue of the drains in Church Lane.

St Helen Without Graveyard - Cllr Fitzgerald had an informal approach from St Helen PCC. They would like him to attend their next meeting to discuss the possibility of the PC finding them more land for burials. Cllr Fitzgerald has researched the matter and discovered that, if the graveyard is full and closed, then the PC has an obligation for its upkeep but doesn't, however, have any obligation to find land.

Planning

Manor School – Cllrs Fitzgerald and Russell met with the Head at Manor School to discuss the 10 year plan and effect on the residents of Shippon. The Head argued the point of sustainability from the perspective that the school needs to be competitive with its peers in terms of facilities or they will not be able to keep staff/jobs and take up will suffer. They assured that the land to be used was not that which backed on to housing, however, it is greenbelt land. Cllrs Fitzgerald and Russell reiterated that the Parish Council maintains a stance of not supporting build on greenbelt.

Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan

At the last meeting, Cllr Webber mentioned that there would be an extra Planning Committee taking place on January 27th to look at a developer's application for 30 houses in Drayton, which, if accepted, would overturn Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan. This in turn would be of interest to other Parishes who have completed or are putting together plans. Cllr Priestley requested an update. The Clerk to follow up on the outcome of this application. AC

8. Planning

a) Decision Notices

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions

b) Applications dealt with between meetings

Ref:	P15/V2968/HH
Date	21 st 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	Permission granted 10 th February 2016

Ref:	P15/V3050/HH
Date	24 th December 2015
Description	Single storey rear extension
Address	10, The Field, Dry Sandford, Abingdon, OX13 6ED
St Helen Without PC's comments	No objections
Decision	Permission granted 23 rd February 2016

a) Applications dealt with between meetings

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

Ref:	P16/V0128/HH
Date	2 nd February 2016

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Description	Single storey rear extension, the creation of a front gable end (from a hipped roof) to create first floor bedroom and front canopy
Address	5 Landsdowne Road, Dry Sandford, Abingdon, OX13 6EA
St Helen Without PC's comments	No objections
Decision	Due 29.3.16

Ref:	P16/V0282/FUL
Date	8 th February 2016
Description	Proposed revised scheme for 2x detached houses
Address	Land fronting Elm Tree Walk, Shippon, OX13 6JF
St Helen Without PC's comments	<p>The Parish Council of St Helen Without has no overall objection to these modified plans for the 2 houses, however they require the following points to be implemented.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The increase in size of the footprint of the garage block for plot , plus the second storey would enable this to become a separate dwelling in the future. Therefore any approval for this must ensure this garage block is tied to the use of the house only. 2. The Parish Council stated very clearly that any approval on this site should not result in any widening of this section of Elm Tree Walk as it provides a natural speed restriction for work and school traffic, particularly during the rush hour. The present road measurements have been documented and this will be monitored closely by the Parish Council in addition to the grass verges and stone walls which are to be maintained in their present positions. 3. The Vale of the White Horse District Council should also be aware of a Covenant agreed on this land in 1964 to the properties in White House Close for the water and sewage supplies. They run across this plot and the house owners have access to this land for the maintenance of these supplies. The builder will be responsible for any problems that may occur due to this construction.
Decision	Due 4.4.16

Ref:	P16/V0416/FUL
Date	2 nd March 2016
Description	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two dwellings, closing of existing two vehicular accesses and opening of new access and all associated works.
Address	80 Barrow Road, Shippon, Abingdon, OX13 6JQ
St Helen Without PC's comments	Due 22 nd March 2016
Decision	Due 14.4.16

Ref:	P16/V0505/FUL
Date	25 th February 2016
Description	Change of use from Nursery (D1) to Residential (C3)
Address	68 Cothill Road, Cothill, Abingdon, OX13 6QQ
St Helen Without PC's comments	Due 24 th March 2016
Decision	Due 21 st April 2016

9. Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground

Sandleigh Road inspection – Cllr Page was not in attendance to update.

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

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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

10. 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 18th April 2016 at Shippon Church Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 p.m.

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