

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Parish Council Sub Committees Meeting held on Monday 5th August 2019 at Dry Sandford Primary School

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

In attendance: Cllrs Richard & Catherine Webber, Mr David O'Hara, Anna Clarke (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

3. Matters raised by members of the public

None

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2019

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

5. Highways & Amenities Committee (Cllrs Bahu & Parkin)

a) School Signs – the PC now has the signs. Highways Sub Committee to discuss where the signs should go and contact Mr O'Hara re Army assistance with installing them. **HSC/DO'H**

Cllr Page to re position Green Belt Banners if dislodged. **MP**

b) Traffic Calming Measures – Mark Francis is looking at various measures. Cllr Bahu to follow up with Mark Prestwood re speed surveys and Mark Francis re an estimate cost / timeline for installing a chicaine in Barrow Road. **RB**

c) Vale of White Horse Deep Clean December – Church Road, Barrow Road (particularly footpath), Wootton Rd (left turn from Long Tow)/ All to report any further areas identified. Closing date tbc.

d) Overgrown Vegetation – Cllr Bahu has delivered letters to some residents of Faringdon Road re overgrown vegetation. Some have been resolved, others not. It was agreed that the procedure will now be as follows:

1. A personal visit and if nothing actioned within 14 days:

2. A letter asking for the vegetation to be cut within 28 days.

Cllr Bahu to forward details of overgrown tree belonging to the Army. **RB**

e) Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground - The bench has now been repaired. The WW1 Memorial tree will need to be planted late Sept/early Oct.

6. Development & Planning Sub Committee (Cllrs Talbot, Painting & Churchouse)

200 Houses, Land North West of Dunmore Road Abingdon Oxfordshire – Cllr Talbot asked Cllr Catherine Webber to call this application in. The decision has been put back to the end of September. Lansdowne Road - dormer will look straight into neighbours's window, which is causing the Committee some concerns.

73 houses – all to revisit to see if opinion has changed, in light of the 200 houses, and let Cllr Churchouse know if want any changes made to the response. **ALL**

Cllr Page thanked the Planning Sub Committee for their high standard of responses.

a) Decision Notices

Ref:	P19/V1061/HH
Date	22 nd May 2019
Description	Rear and side extension. Loft conversion. Renovation works.
Address	97 Lashford Lane Dry Sandford Abingdon Oxfordshire OX13 6EB
St Helen Without PC's comments	No objections
Decision	Planning Permission on 2nd August 2019

Ref:	P18/V1287/DIS
Date	21 st May 2018
Description	Discharge of conditions 6 (community use agreement), 8 (management and maintenance) & 14 (travel Plan) of Planning Permission P16/V1088/FUL "Hybrid application comprising a detailed application for a sports hall, AstroTurf pitch and

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	pavilion, relocated netball and tennis courts, new canopy to lower school building, car park extension to rear and rearranged access, car park and drop off at front of school; and an outline application for erection of a swimming pool, two classroom buildings and extension to dining room (all matters reserved except access)." (18 July - Amended plans received and amended travel plan received 06 November 2018)
Address	The Manor Preparatory School Faringdon Road Shippon ABINGDON OX13 6LN
St Helen Without PC's comments	
Decision	Fully Discharged on 12th July 2019

Ref:	P19/V0976/FUL
Date	21 st May 2019
Description	Erection of single storey dwelling.
Address	The Paddock Church Lane Dry Sandford OX13 6JP
St Helen Without PC's comments	OBJECTION - St Helen Without Parish Council believe that as the site of the proposed new three bedroomed dwelling lies in open countryside within the Green Belt and in all probability outside the built up area of the village, it could not be considered as infill within the Green Belt and therefore strongly object to this application.
Decision	Withdrawn prior to determination on 22nd July 2019

Ref:	P19/V1261/LDP
Date	5 th June 2019
Description	Siting 1400 litre green LPG tank
Address	Fenlands Cothill Road Dry Sandford Abingdon OX13 6JW
St Helen Without PC's comments	For info only
Decision	Withdrawn

c) Ongoing applications

a) Ref:	P18/V2180/FUL
Date	18 th September 2018
Description	Development of up to 73 residential dwellings and associated works including design, access, landscaping and open space.
Address	Land to the West of Wootton Road Abingdon
St Helen Without PC's comments	<p>St Helen Without have no objection to this planning application but would like the following comments to be taken into account by the Vale of White Horse when making their decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concern that there are insufficient car parking spaces allocated to accommodate any visitors therefore cars might well end up blocking access for emergency vehicles, waste disposal lorries etc. 2. Further increased level of traffic exiting on to the already very busy public roads with particular emphasis on ensuring the safety of bicycle users and pedestrians. 3. The very close proximity of the flats to the A34 with resultant noise and air pollution concerns. Efforts to be made to soundproof these buildings where possible. 4. Has any allowance been made for the possible widening of the A34. 5. Relocation of a substantial part of the communal landscaping into the centre of the development as its current very close proximity to the A34 where the air pollution and noise levels might well render it unsafe to children and damaging to the residents health. Also measures to be taken to prevent any pedestrian access on to the very busy major road. 6. Reassurance that sufficient drainage will be incorporated in to the development as the area is known to have flooded. 7. Would prefer the number of homes to be reduced by say 10% with the resultant improvement in the amount of open space in and around the development and thereby enabling increased landscaping.
Decision	Due 30 th September 2019

Ref:	P19/V0169/RM
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Date	29 th January 2019
Description	Reserved Matters application following Outline Approval P17/V1336/O for residential development for 200 dwellings, together with associated access, landscaping and public open space, infrastructure (utilities) and biodiversities enhancements.
Address	Land North West of Dunmore Road Abingdon Oxfordshire
St Helen Without PC's comments	<p>The Parish of St Helen Without wish to Object to Planning Application P19/V0169/RM</p> <p>St Helens Without Parish Council have reviewed the plans and supporting documents for this Reserved Matters planning application and must express our concerns about the revised proposals now before the Vale. Specific areas of concern are listed below but we are also disappointed in the way the applicants have presented this development to you. The overview paper is written as though there has been considerable work undertaken to the design and development of the site in a sympathetic and colloquial way but when you read the paper it soon becomes clear that this is not the case. What we see is a pre-prepared set of planning statements that have been cut and pasted, then collated to fit this particular development and a local heading put at the top. This then allows the developer to use a range of standard designed houses which can be incorporated onto any site wherever they build regardless of local factors.</p> <p>Page 13 of the paper refers to typical building materials used around Abingdon and some pictures to underscore the examples yet none of the houses now proposed have anything like the same type of features i.e. stone or rendered walls save the red/brown brick. We visited the Developer's site at Grove near Wantage which is currently nearing completion, only to find the houses there are of a similar construction to the ones proposed for the 200 here. It is clear that local character has not been taken into consideration at all when drawing up these plans despite the wording at Page 13. This is but one example of many generic statements the developers make throughout this document and thereby the developers can build what they want rather than what is best for the families they hope to attract or the development of Abingdon.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insufficient footpaths around the development for pedestrian safety. This has improved since the previous plan but is still incomplete and you can not walk safely across the site on a footpath. It would also seem that in places the footpath and the cycleway combine which is not ideal. 2. Cycle lanes have improved but in places still appear incomplete and stop randomly. 3. There are only 33 designated parking spaces for visitors (up from 22 on previous plan but still less than the 38 first proposed) to the 200 houses. Once again, they are all still located on the perimeter of the built-up area of the development. There needs to be more spaces and some dedicated to each block of houses. Unless the number of spaces improves there will be parking on the roads, which could well block roads, be dangerous and potentially lead to chaos and friction between residents. 4. Clarification is required that the roads as planned are wide enough (the widest being 5.5m and the narrowest 4.8m) to allow safe passage of two cars passing and also overtaking any cars parked on the road (see 3 above). Access and maneuverability of goods vehicles and emergency vehicles must also be considered.

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5. In view of the possible 73 unit housing development on the opposite side of Wootton Road, we would ask that the question of installing traffic lights at the exit of the development be revisited despite the proposed layout having been agreed when outline planning permission was granted.
6. The MUGA which helps promote a community spirit to be sited more centrally i.e. adjacent to the North West corner of the recreation ground and closer the central village green to provide equal access for all residents, rather than in a furthest corner. The current location next to the ring road and its impact on air quality together with its close proximity to the swale we suggest would present a danger to young children. It's present position is somewhat isolated from the majority of the new homes and also vulnerable to use by people not living on the development.
7. Assurance is sought that all tree and shrub planting plans as submitted are fulfilled.
8. LPP1 states that the site layout must be mindful of future expansion of the A34 and should not preclude this. Developers must provide appropriate setbacks from all physical barriers along the boundaries of the site for this purpose. It would not seem the plans now submitted have taken this directive into account.
9. Environmental Health is a highly important and sensitive part of the planning process. We have reservations over the air quality because of the volume of traffic on the A34, B4017, Copenhagen Drive, and Dunmore Road. We believe that no air quality survey has been conducted in the locality or presented to support this application.
10. Since the last application the Developers have had a noise assessment report updated and provided to support building on this site. Having read this report we are concerned with its findings and some of the assumptions that are made.
 - a) Although the report is dated 25 April 2019 it relies on readings taken in June 2014 and June/July 2015. Readings were taken from 3 points on the site but for only 3 hours in the afternoon between 14.55 and 17.52 and one hour in the morning between 08.36 and 09.36. Readings at night were an hour from each point ranging in time from 23.03 to 00.43.
 - b) Therefore, all of this report and its conclusions are based on 10 hours of recordings in mid-summer. These readings are justified at para 4.2 because, since the readings, "there have been no significant developments in the immediate vicinity" and "neither have there been found any factors which would alter traffic on the surrounding network by more than a few percent". Try telling that to people who live locally! Interestingly the report is written by a company based in Brighton which, 4 and 5 years ago, spent a few hours here taking sound readings but conclude that the survey remains fit for purpose. We strongly disagree.
 - c) The decibel (dB) levels recorded see table 4.3: summary of noise monitoring results is far higher than is acceptable. The Vale were concerned with noise levels between 60-70dB (para 2,18) yet readings were recorded at above 80dB both at day and night peaking during the morning rush hour at 87dB.
 - d) The site is immediately adjacent to and East of the A34; also, at this point the site is below the level of the A34 so it will be greatly affected by constant traffic noise from that road. Sound waves travelling through the air are longitudinal waves with compressions and rarefactions. Sound travels up or down evenly from the source, in this case the A34, however it is a proven scientific fact that typically the noise will be worse for areas below the source.
 - e) Nowhere in the report is there any mention of the prevailing wind or temperature both of which will impact on noise levels. The prevailing wind

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	<p>is West to South West so that will magnify the traffic noise to a severe and arguably unacceptable level as it washes over the site.</p> <p>f) Nowhere in the report is there mention of the effects of temperature on sound waves. Sound waves move faster in warm air and slower in cold air. So, if the air at the surface is cooler than higher up (which is normal) then the top of the sound wave will be moving faster than the bottom; the wave will tilt and refract back towards the ground. In this case sound would leave the A34, go up into the air then be bent back down to the surface towards the cooler air. This means the noise would be louder and you could here the traffic noise from further away. If the dB recordings in this report had been done in cooler temperatures, they would have been higher than those presented in this report.</p> <p>g) We would urge the Vale planning department to be 100% satisfied that all necessary steps have been taken to protect the health and wellbeing of residents before they allow building to commence.</p> <p>11. The Parish Council would have hoped and expected in a development of up to 200 houses that a small number of single storey properties should have been included to provide homes for those who have difficulty now and in the future in using stairs etc.</p> <p>12. The proposed housing layout is condensed within the centre of the site with only one area of green space included amongst the planned 200 properties. All other open green space is on the perimeter. Therefore, the PC would like to see the number of proposed houses reduced to enable the inclusion of continuous footpaths throughout the whole site thereby allowing safe pedestrian passage by residents without the need of having to walk in the road. Wider roads throughout the site together with more visitor parking allocation and additional open green spaces incorporated within the built-up area of the development. In addition, by reducing the number of proposed houses, some of the planned homes currently with very small gardens would be able to benefit from an increase in their outdoor space. We are also mindful that there is a proposal for 73 properties on an adjacent site and in LPP1 the VWHDC stated that about 200 dwellings should be built across both sites; this reinforces our view that the number of homes on this site should be reduced.</p>
Decision	30 th April 2019 (no decision yet issued)

Ref:	P19/V1124/FUL
Date	31 st May 2019
Description	Demolition on dwelling and erection of one and half storey building to provide 2 x 2 bed flats and 2 x 1 bed flats with forecourt parking.
Address	79 Besselsleigh Road
St Helen Without PC's comments	No objections
Decision	26 th July 2019 (no decision issued)

Ref:	P19/V1819/DIS
Date	1 st August 2019
Description	Discharge of condition 4 (vehicular access) on planning application P19/V0793/HH Part ground floor and complete first floor extension to existing single storey dwelling. Demolition of existing garage.
Address	31 Lashford Lane
St Helen Without PC's comments	
Decision	12 th September 2019

Ref:	P19/V1626/HH
Date	22 nd July 2019
Description	Proposed single storey extension to rear of property. Remodelling of roof space and internal alterations.
Address	5 Lansdowne Road Dry Sandford Abingdon Oxfordshire OX13 6EA
St Helen Without PC's comments	St Helen without has No Objection to this application, however feel that the proposed two dormer windows will have a detrimental impact on the privacy enjoyed of the neighbouring properties. Therefore would request that they be

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	replaced with velux type roof lights or failing that that both dormer windows are glazed with obscured glass
Decision	12 th September 2019

7).Cllrs reports and items for future agendas

None

8).Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Sub Committees will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 16th September 2019 at Shippon Church Hall.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.45.p.m.

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

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