

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on 19th January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Church Room, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell

Present: Cllrs D. Fox(Chair), S. Robson, C. Collett, J. Debney, S. Jackson, H. Baines, S Booth and R. Neilsen.

In attendance: L. Dalby (Clerk) and County Cllr L. Atkins.

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllr A. McGivan.
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2015 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed with one amendment and signed by the Chairman.
3.	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. There were none.
4.	Public Participation There was none.
5.	Reports a) County Councillor's Report The County Council has submitted the draft Plan for Minerals and Waste to the inspector, completely unchanged from the version which was eventually agreed in March 2015, despite all the representations received following the consultation in September. All the representations which the Council received have been submitted with the Plan, so the Inspector will have all the information available to him. I am told that the hearings about the Plan are likely to be held in April, but will inform you all when I have confirmation of that. Immediately after the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 17 th December, OCC was given information about the Local Government financial settlement for 2016/17. The formula used to calculate the funding requirements of councils has been changed and, in the case of Oxfordshire County Council, there is an assumption that new housing across the county will be constructed faster than we believe will be the case, and a further assumption that demand for services will change at a slower pace than we had anticipated. The combined effect of these changes means that the County Council faces a further £20m cost pressure over the next few years, beyond the £50m previously reported, and that around half of that additional savings target will need to be found in 2016/17. Avoiding the need for cuts to essential services would require an increase in Council Tax of around 20% and it seems to me to be very unlikely indeed that such an increase would be approved in a public referendum which would be triggered by such a proposal. While OCC has made representations to the Government both directly in the consultation being carried out on the new funding formula and through local MPs, it seems very unlikely indeed that the formula will be changed to the extent which would change the situation materially. It is my view that unless there is a substantial change very serious cuts to services are inevitable now. b) District Councillors' Report Budget Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Medium Term Financial Plan and growth ideas are out to consultation for SODC. We would welcome any comments. Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The big news for the last month is the announcement that the two decisions granting the appeals by Taylor Wimpey and Cemex against our refusing planning permission at Chinnor are going to be challenged by the Council in the High Court. Our appeals will be heard in May

2016. We are taking this action as we do not believe that the Inspector who heard the original appeals has taken into account the impact of these developments on the community.

- Our strategy in the Local Plan has been to concentrate the bulk of development in the Didcot area to provide homes for the people who will be employed in the Industrial Parks and the two Science and Enterprise Parks announced just this month. This approach was endorsed by one of Her Majesty's Planning Inspectors in 2012 and it makes no sense to overturn this now as that will mean more traffic across the District's already overloaded road infrastructure bringing workers to the jobs. In a worst case scenario, these three initiatives could even fail because the new homes built away from Didcot do not attract the people who will work at the Industrial and Science and Enterprise Parks.
- We know that this is probably the first skirmish in a long, hard battle, but we will fight to defend our strategy, and we are also ramping up support for Parishes that are working on Neighbourhood Plans and encouraging those that either don't have a plan or haven't started on one yet to develop one. This is by far the best way for our communities to have a say in the way that they develop, both in terms of housing and in the provision of other amenities.
- Not everything 'planning' is a battle. At the November Planning Committee, Wheatley Parish Council, in concert with Taylor Wimpey and a local Residents' Association, presented an Application for a development of 51 homes, of which 75% are affordable or Social Housing, giving a 'win-win' result. This will probably be a model that will be seen more and more in the future, as the impact of Neighbourhood Planning grows.

Constitution Review

- A Panel of Councillors, including members of our Partner Council, Vale Of The White Horse, are presently working on up-dating our Constitutions. The objective here is to bring the two Councils' Constitutions up to date, to make them easier for everyone to understand and to streamline our processes where ever possible. Constitution Review (cont.)
- The Scope of this piece of work covers all of the District Council's activities, focusing on planning, environmental health, waste services, housing and benefits, leisure sports and art and local democracy, to name a few.

Policing

- As well as working to keep members of our public safe through our work on Environmental Health and maintaining hygiene standards at restaurants, pubs and 'take-away establishments' for example, we are also working to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour through our network of CCTV in the larger communities, and by working with our colleagues at the County Council and with Thames Valley Police.
- We are working with Police And Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld to get the best value for money possible whilst maintaining and improving standards. During his first term, Mr Stansfeld has moved Thames Valley Police from the bottom of the League to the top three according to HM Inspector Of Constabularies.

Waste And Recycling

- We are pleased to have again been recognised for our work in waste collection and recycling, topping the league table with our colleagues in the Vale. SODC is top, recycling 67.3 per cent, with the Vale just below in second place with 65.6 per cent. Our recently introduced service collecting textiles and small electrical items is going well, and all of these initiatives help towards greater efficiency, greater environmental protection and getting value for money for the tax payer.

The New Corporate Strategy And Value For Money

- We are also well on our way in developing the new Corporate Strategy, which, when it is introduced next year, will realign the way that we work as a corporate body, improving the way we do things, our efficiency and ultimately getting the best deal we can for our tax payers.

Simplifying Grant Procedures And More Money

- One of the things we are looking at is the way that Grants are handled, and we have already made changes to this process to make it easier to apply for Grants and obtain the funds to support community projects, and we are looking to increase the budget available, so individual communities can benefit from these real funding opportunities.

The Future

- Over the coming months we aim to give Parish Councillors a better view of what we are doing through this more informal newsletter, and show how we can all work together to support our communities

c) Clerk's Report

The PCSO has put up dog fouling signs near to the school reminder dog owners to pick up after their dogs. She has also submitted an article to the Villager on the same subject.

d) Planning Report

Ref	Description	PC Rec	Decision
P15/S3798/LB P15/S3797/HH	Ground floor extension to provide enlarged kitchen, dining, boot room and utility room. First floor alterations and extensions to provide bedroom suite. Alterations to existing carport / garden room to provide guest accommodation. The Orchards The Street Brightwell-cum-Sotwell	Object	Approved
P15/S3927/FUL	Enlarge existing garages design approved to accommodate garage and workshop to the rear. Ref current approved planning application P14/S2171/FUL for existing layout. Deacons House Church Lane Brightwell-cum-Sotwell	Object	
P15/S4073/HH	Demolition of modern single storey lean-to to front elevation and conservatory to side elevation; erection of side extension of one and half storeys (room in roof) and associated rear terrace. Internal and external alterations. Mackney Lodge Mackney Lane Brightwell-cum-Sotwell OX10 0SJ	NSV	
P15/S4145/HH	Two storey side extension. 46, Greenmere, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell	NSV	

Cllr Jackson joined the meeting.

e) Neighbourhood Plan Report

The Steering Group is looking at sites around the Village and are preparing for a Public Consultation meeting on March 10th.

f) January's Payments for approval

Payee and reason	£ detail	£ VAT	£ total
Stewart Village Hall – Neighbourhood Watch room hire	27.50		27.50
H. Baines – silicone for Telephone Box signs	16.86		16.86
SODC - Election	1274.58		1274.58
L. Dalby – Clerk's salary and expenses	511.18		511.18
Post Office Ltd - PAYE	72.80		72.80

6. **Matters for Discussion/Decision**

a) Grass Cutting Contract 2016

Three quotes were discussed and subject to confirming details it was resolved to accept the quote from John O'Conner.

b) Maintenance Quotes

Quotes for the tennis court path, tennis court fence, play area concrete pad, bike racks and erection of Notice board were discussed,

It was agreed that the tennis court path has now settled and is no longer in need of resurfacing though the small pot hole needs repairing.

It was agreed to accept the quote from OCC for the bike racks (£750), concrete pad (£50) and pot hole repair and to accept the quote from Agriculture and Estate Services Ltd for the Tennis Court fence (£598) and Notice Board (£75).

c) Donation Review

Two example s137 Policies were considered. Cllr Neilsen is to draft a proposed policy for the Council.

d) Site B

Nothing to report.

e) Well Springs Designation

It was agreed that as it is unlikely that permission would be granted for any development of the Well Springs Area there is no need to register the area as a Village Green.

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan could be used to designate Sites of Important Neighbourhood Conservation within the Parish.

f) Traffic Survey

The results of the OCC traffic survey would allow for a 20mph limit within the village with some exceptions.

The results and cost of applying for a 20mph zone were discussed. The 20mph zone was a recommendation of the Community Led Plan however concerns were raised that the community were unaware of the potential cost to the Parish Council.

A vote was taken and it was agreed (4 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention) to continue with the proposed scheme but out of caution to consult with residents through the Villager and the Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllrs Fox and Baines will meet with OCC and Thames Valley police to gather more information before a final decision is made.

g) Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk will find out the availability of the Village Hall for the Annual Parish Meeting.

h) Queen's Birthday Celebrations

The Queen's 90th Birthday is to be celebrated on the weekend of 11th/12th June and Parishes are being encouraged to organise events.

Cllr Jackson will speak to the Landlord of the Red Lion to find out if they have any plans before other groups are approached.

i) Future of the Post Office

Cllr Collett reported that the members of the shop are to be given the opportunity to vote on the issue of taking a Post office Local into the shop.

	<p>The Post office have agreed to give a larger amount of money for the alterations needed to the shop if the vote is positive.</p> <p>j) Training The training available from OALC for councillors was discussed.</p> <p>k) A – Z The Clerk has obtained a quote for the printing of the A-Z. The pages need to be checked for any updates and proofread before being submitted to the printer. Cllr Neilsen will distribute the pages for Councillors to check.</p> <p>l) Budget 2016/17 The budget was discussed and it was agreed to set the Precept at £29,411.</p>
7.	<p>Matters for report and inclusion on January's Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Cottrell has kindly donated chippings to spread along the muddy footpaths. The Clerk will send a thank you letter. - The footpath near to the rec has been moved and narrowed. The Clerk will report to OCC. - The Red Box Gallery signs have been installed in the Telephone Box. - The footpath from the Red Lion to the school needs to be cleared. The Clerk will report to SODC. - The coppicing at Kings Meadow needs to be repeated. - The Clerk reported that the office PC will no longer switch on. It was agreed the Clerk should replace it as a matter of urgency. - Complaints Procedure – to be redistributed and considered next month.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 16th February 2016 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.55pm.

Action List

Reference	Action	Who	Status
2015-10-03	Tennis Court Path	Clerk	Further quotes needed
2015-10-04	Kings Meadow – Concrete Pad	Clerk	Agreed
2015-10-05	Tennis Court Fence	Clerk	Agreed
2015-10-06	Bike Racks	Clerk	Agreed
2015-10-09	OCC Partnership Working	Clerk	Awaiting information
2015-10-11	Bank Signatures	RN/SR/SB	Ongoing
2015-10-12	Asset Register	Clerk	No progress
2015-10-13	File Weeding	Clerk/DF/CC	No progress
2015-10-14	Recreation field Rabbits	Clerk	Top soil delivered CC has spoken to Angus Dart about moving the composting grass
2015-10-15	Notice Boards	Clerk	New board to be erected.
2015-10-16	Paint Slide	Clerk	Bob has paint
2015-10-18	Playdale Platform	Clerk	Bob to complete
2015-10-19	Gate catches Kings Meadow	Clerk	Bob to complete
2015-11-01	Well Springs designation	Clerk	Complete
2015-11-02	Grass Cutting Quotes	Clerk	Agreed
2015-11-03	Village Water Courses	JD	
2015-11-06	A-Z	RN/ Clerk	
2015-12-06	Review Donations Procedure	RN	
2016-01-01	Traffic Survey	DF/HB	
2016-01-02	APM Date	Clerk	
2016-01-03	Queen's Birthday	SJ	
2016-01-04	Dave Cottrell Thank you letter	Clerk	
2016-01-05	Report Footpaths	Clerk	
2016-01-06	Coppicing	Clerk	
2016-01-07	New PC	Clerk	
2016-01-08	Complaints Procedure	Clerk	