

**Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Longcot Parish Council
held remotely by Zoom.
on Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 7pm**

Present

Andi Cunningham, Chairman, John Barneby, Amy Cooper, Alan Rich, DC Simon Howell, DC Elaine Ware, CC Yvonne Constance and Tina Brock, Clerk.

80/21 Apologies for Absence.

Nathan Boyd, (work commitment). This apology was received.

81/21 Report from Chairman.

This has been a busy year; we have lived with Covid now for over a year and have found new ways of working together. The Pandemic has brought new challenges that we in Longcot have worked well to problem solve and keep as safe as possible.

The Parish Council was part of the Longcot volunteer group that were on hand to deliver food and medication when asked and it worked very well. We have an amazing village where help was on hand very quickly to both old friends and new faces that did not have family in the area that could help.

Our wonderful mowing team kept the grass mowed and the village looking great, we had the verges cut to keep the vision safe for road and bike users, and this is all done by our volunteers who are paid nothing for their time.

We have a few very special households in Church Close that litter pick nearly every day and never stop keeping our village free from the litter that is generally thrown from cars. We are so grateful for everyone who picks up litter, it makes such a difference, and we thank them. LPC have teamed up with Uffington and Woolstone Councils and have completed our first joined up litter pick on April 19th, the piles of rubbish we collected were massive and depressing. We are going to do this twice a year and hope we can make a difference. The Vales Environmental Warden is an exceptional officer who helps us with fly tipping and will prosecute when possible.

We had very heavy rainfall in the autumn and sadly this led to some flooding of properties.

We have a history of flooding issues and have to work endlessly with both OCC and VWHDC to prevent and control this problem. We were lucky to get a grant from OCC to do some drain clearing and camera work so that we can monitor the area affected. We will continue to implement our flood programme that includes always requesting a drainage plan with any planning application as this is fundamental to the strategy to ensure that any changes to our village do not have a negative impact on existing properties. We work with the VWHDC drainage engineer who understands our heavy clay and drainage capability. Working with our NAG we have managed to get speeding in villages on the agenda with the Authorities. Our crossroads have at last been accepted as a problem with cars continuing to go in the ditch and accidents that have included cars, bicycles, and runners. OCC are in the process of reducing the speed limit around the crossroads due to our concerns. The Police are going to fund a SID and we can set up a Community Speedwatch group to try and highlight the problem of speeding.

We continue to work with the authorities to ensure that the emergency diversion routes do not come through the village if there is an accident on the A420. This is a complex process as often Wiltshire Police are first on scene and have limited access to Oxfordshire diversion routes. We have through the NAG continued to try and work with all the Authorities to get the best practices in place for our area.

We are always grateful to Gary Holcombe who looks after the allotments so well for the Parish Council, especially as we have had to deal with bird flu and all the DEFRA restrictions which he has ensured are in place. Our allotments are well kept and there is a great allotment community that we are very proud of. There is some room for anyone who would like an allotment, so just contact us if you are interested.

I am very proud of the work that the Parish Council does to keep our village safe. I always feel it's such a privilege to be the Chairman of our Council that cares deeply about our community. And a special thanks to our Clerk, Tina, who has been fantastic ensuring that throughout the pandemic we have maintained all our legal requirements and has not let Covid stop us doing our duty.

82/21 Report from County Councillor.

STRATEGY: deliver 'Good Growth' : social, environment; net gain for biodiversity; net zero carbon as well as economic

Oxfordshire is a growth area of increasing importance to UK economy. Currently one of only 3 net contributors to Gov Exchequer and predicted to double the GDP from the Ox/Cam ARC by 2050. Oxfordshire County Council has a leadership role in the EEH/ARC. The Oxon science- based economy is globally significant in bio sciences, motor engineering (esp. autonomous vehicles) and energy, especially renewables. County Council employs a team of researchers in Innovation Hub (iHib) who keep 600 companies and University researchers connected to develop cutting edge technologies.

Partnerships with other Councils.

Oxfordshire County Council works in successful partnerships in the EEH REGION with Bucks, Herts, Beds, Cambridgeshire in England's Economic Heartland where East West Railway is already under construction (Bicester to Bletchley) and EEH Transport Strategy now published aiming to be net zero by 2040 with increased BB connectivity and reduced car travel. In the county OCC has developed partnerships with Oxford City and all the District Councils in Growth Board to co-ordinate future strategy for housing and infrastructure planning. Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development is now approved by OCC and Growth Board and sets the basis to inform all future development, including the LTCP, OXInfrastructure Strategy and future Nature Recovery Network Strategy around defined 'good growth' for Oxfordshire: social, economic, and environmental .

Partnership with LEP.

OCC works also with the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) to reach private sector throughout the county. OXLEP is committing £2.2 billion investment into Oxon's innovation eco –system with new business accelerators/hubs in emerging technologies. Over 3,000 businesses are supported each year to grow, invest, innovate, creating new jobs, new products new services. LEP supports also significant infrastructure improvements (e.g. A40 widening scheme and P&R and Oxford City's flood scheme, as well as active travel cycle/walking schemes in Witney and Bicester)

Local Industrial Strategy is the main public statement of future Oxon plans, responding to Gov Industrial Strategy . We hear the EEH/OxCam Arc is one of 32 major programmes on the PMs desk for regular up-dates, so we know it has major political support.

Housing.

In 2012 when the new NPPF was introduced, economic development in Oxon was estimated to require up to 85,000 new jobs, which clearly required many new houses, not only for new arrivals but also to meet the need for Oxford City's keyworkers who are priced out of Oxford City's properties – now as expensive as London. The LEP reports that 50,000 new jobs have been created already, just 9 years after NPPF.

Oxfordshire's Growth Deal was successfully negotiated with Government, for £150 million over 5 years to deliver infrastructure improvements for 100,000 houses by 2031. In addition Government has agreed to new Housing Infrastructure Funds, HIF 1 north of Didcot through to new river crossing at Culham, for about 15,000 houses in Didcot Garden Town (£218 million) and HIF2 widening west bound A40 from Oxford City to Witney (£105 million) There will be major infrastructure development in the next 4 years, including a new Shrivensham roundabout on A420 at Highworth Road for direct access for new development (end May21).

OXFORDSHIRE SERVICES: 2020/21

OCC 's Covid response has been a model with growing awareness of the impact of inequality which has been focus of the new Director of Public Health since he joined OCC early in 2020.

OCC received about £72 million in Government funding to manage the pandemic and was able to supply 4,500 school children with free meals during the Easter holidays.

90% (and up to 95%) residents have been vaccinated and OCC's Public Health continues to encourage the uncertain along with managing the difficult test and trace connections.

Recovery.

Will require a new role for OCC to support Community Restart (£3million); its share of Levelling-up Fund (£4billion nationally) and Community Ownership .

Business Grants.

Restart – for non-essential retail and hospitality

Local Support Grant

Additional Restriction Grant: Oxon businesses have shared £520 million from Government

Closed Business Lockdown payments

Other Services with major public impact.

S106 Funds: £839 million secured from developers in 10 years: all but £150,000 spent or committed (Shrivenham roundabout funded by S.106 moneys).

Education: 93% children offered first choice school placements: attests to provision of school places: 7 new schools opened in 2020: 5 more in pipeline

Highways: over 40,000 road repairs (potholes!) repaired in past year : resurfacing programme of about £10 million p.a. continues

Household Waste Recycling: 7 sites remain open; OCC best recycling council for 7th year at 58.9% with target to achieve 70% by 2025.

Broadband: OCC completed roll-out superfast broadband to 98% premises and now embarked on programme for final 2% rural premises to ultrafast broadband.

Transformation: access to services moved to digital, with savings of £14.5 million achieved

Budget Management: OCC approved Council Tax increase of 2.99% plus 1% for ring - fenced Adult Social Care, lowest possible increase in time of greatest stress on household budgets

83/21 Report from District Councillors.

Introduction

The last year has been challenging for everyone in the UK and the whole world. COVID 19 has taken priority over everything indeed this also applies to the Vale of White Horse District Council. The Vale along with other Oxfordshire Councils have worked incredibly hard to provide support to all communities. The villages in our Ward set themselves up into various groups to ensure that those in need were looked after. This was particularly important when dealing with those residents who were shielded. Throughout the year the Vale has continued to communicate with Parish Councils and Community groups providing regular updates and advice. We are extremely proud of our local communities and the effort they have made to keep everyone safe.

Planning

Planning Issues have again been top of our agenda. Since our last report in 2019 Part 2 of the Local Plan has been adopted. This plan ensured that there were no more strategic development sites in the Western Vale up to 2031. Of course the previously approved developments have gone ahead including the 515 dwellings on the Cross Trees Park strategic site on Highworth Road Shrivenham.

Some 150+ planning applications were submitted to the Vale from Ward villages from April 2020 to March 2021 some of which have proved to be controversial.

Work is due to commence in late May on the construction of the new roundabout on the A420 which will provide access to Cross Trees Park and Shrivenham village only. The works are expected to last approximately 4 months.

At the March meeting of the Vale Council it was agreed to develop a joint local plan with South Oxfordshire District Council. This plan will be developed alongside the Oxfordshire 2050 strategic plan.

NEV - The New Eastern Villages of Swindon's expansion programme is progressing. It is anticipated that there will be around 8500 dwellings together with schools, shopping centres, medical services etc. Road improvements in and around the White Hart roundabout and Gablecross are currently under construction. The impact of the expansion cannot be underestimated. The disruption is estimated to continue for the next 14 years.

Recycling

The Vale again is in the top 10 UK local authorities for recycling. The collection rate was 63.3% for the year 2019/20 and the Vale shared equal 3rd place with the East Riding of Yorkshire. It is our residents that continue to be mindful of the importance of recycling and the need to help the environment.

Climate

The Vale declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Since then a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee has been established. This Committee has its own action plan and makes recommendations to Cabinet.

Civil parking enforcement

The project for parking enforcement has been ongoing throughout the year. The current status is that Oxfordshire County Council is awaiting delegated approval from central government to give them authority to implement parking enforcement in Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, and the Vale District Councils. West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxford City Council already operate parking enforcement. The new enforcement arrangements are expected to be operational by the end of this year and will be managed by the county council.

Corporate Plan

The Vale has a new Corporate Plan that covers the period 2020-2024. The Plan highlights how it will serve the communities and has 6 main themes:

- *Providing the homes that people need.
- *Tackling the Climate Emergency.
- *Building healthy communities.
- *Building stable finances.
- *Working in partnership.
- *Working in an open and inclusive way.

Policing

We work in partnership with Thames Valley Police via the Neighbourhood Action Group. Most villages in our Ward have representation on this group which meets quarterly. We have a strong neighbourhood police team based in Faringdon. You may not always see evidence of our local police, but you can be assured that the team are keeping a watching brief in all our villages.

Conclusion

We continue to represent our communities and work tirelessly to ensure that your voices are heard. We attend a variety of meetings at the Vale and with other Councils and organisations.

We work closely with Parish Councils and make representations on their behalf when needed.

Although we may not advertise what we do on a daily basis we are always available to provide assistance and advice to our residents.

We are passionate about our local community and will serve you all as best we can.

84/21 Questions from the Electorate. None in attendance.

Meeting of the Annual Meeting of Longcot Parish Council

85/21 Election of Chairman.

The retiring Chairman asked for nominations for the office of Chairman. Andi Cunningham was proposed by John Barneby and seconded by Alan Rich. There being no other nominations Andi Cunningham was duly elected to the office of Chairman.

86/21 Declaration of Interest.

A copy would be sent via email for the Chairman to sign and return to the Clerk.

87/21 Variance of business. None.

88/21 Declarations of interests. None.

89/21 Annual Review of Councillors Register of Member's Interests.

Councillors were reminded that, under the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillors were required to set out their interests under the appropriate headings and to make amendments when appropriate. Details are held on the Vale of the White Horse District Councils website and amendment forms were available from the Clerk.

90/21 Council Procedures, Policies and Information and Guidance Documents.

Council noted that the Clerk would review and report back to Council any amendments.

91/21 General Power of Competence.

Council meets the criteria for eligibility, the Clerk has passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration and all members were declared elected. Council RESOLVED that from 5 May 2021 until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 to adopt the General Power of Competence.

(Clerk's Note: The General Power of Competence (GPC) was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and took effect in February 2012. In simple terms, it gives Councils the power to do

anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. It applies to all principal Councils (District, County and Unitary Councils etc). It also applies to eligible Parish and Town Councils. It replaces the wellbeing powers in England that were provided under the Local Government Act 2000. An eligible council is one which has resolved to adopt the GPC, with at least two thirds of its members being declared elected and the Clerk must hold an appropriate qualification ie a Certificate in Local Council Administration, Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy, Certificate of Higher Education in Local Council Administration or the first level of the Foundation Degree in Community Engagement and Governance (University of Gloucestershire).

92/21 Standing Orders.

Council reviewed and approved the SO's.

93/21 Financial Regulations.

Council noted that the FR's were reviewed and approved at the Council meeting on Thursday 19 November 2020 minute 171/20.

94/21 Register of Assets.

Council confirmed that a review had been carried out and approved at a meeting held on Thursday 19 November 2020 minute 173/20.

95/21 Financial Risk Assessment 2020/21.

Council confirmed that the RA had been carried out and approved at a meeting held on Thursday 19 November 2020 minute 172/20.

96/21 Subscriptions.

Council reviewed and approved subscribing to the following: Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

COUNCIL

97/21 Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30 March 2021.

Council approved the minutes which would be signed when Council next meets in person.

98/21 Matters arising from the minutes. None.

99/21 Public Participation. None.

FINANCE

100/21 Payments of Accounts.

It was resolved to authorise the payments below:

Table 1 List of payments.

Spending Power	Payments now due:	Description	Total
EP107 LGA 1972 s140	Came & Co	Mower insurance	£265.22
DD Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Castle water	Allotment water	£3.00
EP108 LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014	T Brock	April salary	£201.05
EP109	Lightatouch	Internal auditor	£250.00

PLANNING

101/21 Submitted Planning Applications.

Council submitted the following observations in between meetings due to VWHDC time constraints. .

Table 2 List of submitted planning application responses. .

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P21/V0015/HH amended details	1 Kings Farm Cottages, Longcot, Oxon SN78 7TE <i>Proposed first floor rear extension, single-storey side extension to provide store/workshop and new pitched roof and cladding to existing flat roof porch (as amended by the Amphibian Strategy submitted 17/2/2021 and revised Drainage Strategy submitted 23/3/2021).</i> Support. Council wishes to thank the applicant for supplying the additional documents and thanks Leigh Travers for confirming that the drainage strategy meets the terms of the Longcot Flood Plan.

102/21 Withdrawn planning application(s). Noted.

Table 3 List of withdrawn planning applications.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P21/V0044/HH	3 Downlands, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TY <i>Erection of wooden gates 1.8 m high, new dropped kerb and gravel driveway (as amended by additional plans and information rec'd 16/03/2021).</i>

103/21 Permitted planning application(s). Noted.

Table 4 List of permitted planning applications.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P21/V0015/HH	1 Kings Farm Cottages, Mallins Lane, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TE <i>Proposed first floor rear extension, single-storey side extension to provide store/workshop and new pitched roof and cladding to existing flat roof porch (as amended by the Amphibian Strategy submitted 17/2/2021 and revised Drainage Strategy submitted 23/3/2021).</i>

HIGHWAYS

104/21 Update on any matters.

- i. Longcot Lock. Reports of rubble left over from the electrification of the railway. The Chairman to report to Network Rail and OCC.
- ii. Majors Road new speed limit. The scheme is currently with contractors for pricing. There is a problem with funding designated for the scheme from CC Constance's Councillor Priority Funds which had to be returned at the end of the last financial year. Mark Francis, Highways, OCC is waiting for the funds to be reallocated.

PLAY AREA

105/21 Update on any issues. None.

ALLOTMENTS

106/21 Update on any issues.

Gary Holcombe would be asked to collect the allotment rents.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

107/21 Update.

The Chairman reported that the police had been dealing with several antisocial behaviour incidents involving the play area at Shrivenham and Longcot pre-school equipment being vandalised.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Exclusion of Press and Public

To move the following resolution, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting and they are requested to withdraw.

108/21 Any Matters. None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

109/21 Next meeting of the Parish Council.

The Clerk explained to Council that legislation does not permit Council to meet remotely after Thursday 6 May 2021.

Council agreed to:

- i. Approve using the Scheme of Delegation to permit the Chairman and Clerk to use the delegated powers to pay suppliers, approve expenditure and respond to planning applications up to Monday 21 June 2021.
- ii. Approve an Extraordinary meeting to be held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 at 7pm in the Church Farm Barn, opposite the Church, Longcot to approve and sign section 1

and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 form. No halls were available to hire in the parish.

The next Council meeting to be advised.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed.....Date.....2021