

**Meeting of the of Longcot Parish Council  
held remotely by Zoom  
on Thursday 17 September 2020 at 7pm**

**Present**

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

**115/20 Apologies for Absence.**

None.

**116/20 Variance of Order of Business.**

None.

**117/20 Declaration of Interest.**

Minute 129/20 i Alan Rich is a neighbour.

**118/20 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 16 July 2020.**

Council resolved to approve the minutes which were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman when Council next meets in person.

**119/20 Matters arising from the minutes.**

None.

**120/20 Public Participation.**

None.

**REPORTS**

**121/20 Report from County Councillor. CC Yvonne Constance sent an email report prior to meeting.**

OCC's latest report was emailed to you, with important up-date on COVID monitoring to show how carefully the County is monitoring and managing the recent spike in cases in East Oxford. You may have seen that Oxford City was in Government sights for a major lockdown, but the Public Health Team were able to trace and shut down the spike and the city was reprieved.

**Transport.** A420 has a new pedestrian island at Tubney. OCC installed after the fatal accident last Xmas and it has been installed where it will assist bus passengers who currently have to ride the bus to next crossing point and catch the bus back again. This emphasises also our stand that A420 is essentially a 'local road' with buses stopping to pick up and put down passengers and pedestrians crossing as it runs through a number of villages. This will be important as corridor studies are done soon to assess the use Swindon aims to make.

**Active Travel Tranche 1:** delivered a set of cycle racks to Shrivenham High Street, which are intended to encourage at least some bus passengers to cycle to catch the S6 and not park on the High Street. OCC had very little choice about this spend and less time to consider the best locations

**Active Travel Tranche 2:** £2.38 million was 'allocated' to OCC and we bid very boldly with a tight proposal for almost twice that amount for schemes in Oxford City, Witney and Bicester. We await DfT decision on how much we are awarded. The bid criteria were even tighter (to provide alternative to public transport) so the bid had to focus on Oxford city, but we are seeking funds from OXLEP to deliver as many schemes outside Oxford City as funding allows.

**Temporary bus gates** in central Oxford had 7,200 responses in two weeks and OCC had to contract out analysis which has now been received and is being assessed. OCC Cabinet will decide whether to proceed on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Shrivenham dropped kerbs. I have tried to track down any progress on this scheme, but Matt Archer has been on paternity leave and he was finding the funding to do all he could . .

**Consultations.** England's Economic Heartland Transport Strategy is out for consultation until 6<sup>th</sup> October. This is a high level regional proposal focusing on carbon reduction, digital connectivity and how to persuade people out of their cars! Most important, the region will undertake road corridor studies and A420/A34 will be in the first batch, because we have to work out how Swindon will manage the traffic it intends for A420 (will Honda site become another distribution centre?) and Swindon Borough Council have just approved outline permission for 1,550 houses on the eastern apron with a 1,000 car P&R. OCC plans to set up a steering group with SBC to be sure they recognise the A420 as the local road it is.

**OCC Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP)** will go out on consultation in Jan/Feb 2021 which is another chance to stress our vision for A420, planning a series of small P&Rs to become transport hubs for people to park cars or cycles and catch the bus.

**Government White Paper** on a new planning regime. OCC will respond with many concerns, not least central designation of sites for development or protection (and possible total loss of local autonomy and abolition of S106/CIL for a charge to be set centrally (by algorithm??)). I will be sure you see OCC's response after Cabinet has agreed it on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Government promises a paper on Devolution in the autumn which will be opportunity for re-think of (possible) unitary proposals?

**122/20 Report from District Councillor. DC Ware circulated a report prior to the meeting:**

All Parish Councils have received regular updates from the Vale and these will continue for the foreseeable future. You will be aware that the majority of Vale staff are still working from home and may not respond to requests straight away. Wherever possible please communicate with the Vale by Email rather than telephone.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.** The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday 7 September. The agenda includes Power Purchase Agreement and England's Economic Heartland, Transport Strategy Consultation. Details of this agenda and minutes of previous meetings may be found on the Vale website [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/committees](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/committees).

**Civil Parking Enforcement.** As reported previously the County Council are leading on this project. A report is to be presented to the Vale Scrutiny Committee in November.

**Car Parking.** The Vale Cabinet has reviewed the current car parking charges and have agreed to retain the 2 hours free parking in order to assist local shops and businesses. However, the Cabinet wish to increase the hourly charges and a report will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee in October.

**Corporate Plan.** The public consultation has ended and the final draft will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee in September. At the same meeting an Emergency Budget will also be considered. Like all local authorities Covid19 has had a significant impact on the Vale's finances.

**Yellow Letter.** The annual yellow letter will be dropping through letterboxes. Please remind residents to complete and return if any changes have been made.

**Consultation.** The Vale would welcome comments from the public on the Keeping Active survey. Details are on the Vale website and will close on 8 September.

**Cabinet Changes.** The Leader of the Vale has made changes to her Cabinet. The changes will take effect from 1 September and are as follows:

Cllr Emily Smith, Leader, Cllr Debby Hallett Deputy Leader and Corporate Services and Transformation, Cllr Andy Crawford Finance and Corporate Assets, Cllr Neil Fawcett Strategic Partnerships and Place, Cllr Helen Pighills Healthy Communities, Cllr Judy Roberts Development and Infrastructure, Cllr Bethia Thomas Community Engagement and Cllr Catherine Webber Climate Emergency and Environment.

**Planning.** A number of planning applications have recently been submitted from many of our Parishes. The large developments in Shrivenham are ongoing and will take many years to complete. The speculative application in Shrivenham mentioned previously has caused a great deal of concern and both Shrivenham and Bourton Parish Councils have objected.

**Consultation.** The Government is consulting on the review of the Planning System. The consultation is in three parts and covers Changes to the Current Planning System, Transparency and Competition and Planning for the Future. All three documents are integral to the way in which future planning will be determined throughout the country. It will affect us all and residents, Town and Parish Councils and organisations are encouraged to respond. Details are on both the [www.Gov.uk](http://www.Gov.uk) and Vale websites.

**Swindon Borough Council New Eastern Villages.** Swindon Borough Council unanimously agreed the application for Great Stall East on Tuesday 25 August. This application is outline and a detailed plan will be submitted in due course. The plan is for 1,550 dwellings, 2 schools including a 3,000 pupil secondary school, shops and a park & ride. There will be a new access junction onto the A420. It is anticipated that the development will take around 14 years to complete.

There is funding still available for voluntary and community groups who are helping people who are struggling to afford food and other essential provisions as a result of Covid-19. The swimming pool at Faringdon Leisure Centre is now open.

**123/20 Update from Chairman.**

None.

**COUNCIL**

**124/20 Consultations.**

Council discussed the following consultations but agreed that members did not feel qualified to respond:

- i. Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government - Planning for the Future - White Paper August 2020 closes 29 October 2020. Sets out how government would like to reform the planning system.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>
- ii. Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government - Transparency and Competition. A call for evidence on data on land control. Closes 30 October 2020. A call for evidence and views on a proposal to provide better transparency and competition between developers. It aims to provide better information publicly to assist new developers into the sector and to improve the data on land control.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/transparency-and-competition-a-call-for-evidence-on-data-on-land-control>
- iii. Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government - Changes to the current planning system. Closes 1 October 2020. Consultation on changes to planning policy and regulations. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system>

**125/20 Lease.**

The lease of land at The Dash, Kings Lane, Longcot between Council and Faringdon Academy of Schools has been exchanged. The hard copy has been retained by Bevirs Law Solicitors, Wootton Bassett.

**FINANCE**

**126/20 Payments of Accounts.**

It was resolved to authorise the payments below:

*Table 1 List of receipts and payments.*

Spending Power	Payment Received	Payments now due:	Total
LGA 1982 s150	VWHDC	2 <sup>nd</sup> half of precept	£3,800.00
Spending Power	Payment Received	Payments now due:	Total
DD Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Castle Water	July allotment water	3.00
DD Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Castle Water	August allotment water	3.00
EP80 LGA 1972 s112Contract/Pensions Act 2014	T Brock	July salary	£200.85
EP81 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	MRH Services	Service inspection of play park equipment	£36.50
EP82 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Playsafety Ltd	RoSPA annual inspection of play park equipment	£90.60
EP83 LGA 1972 s112Contract/Pensions Act 2014	T Brock	August salary	£201.05
EP84 Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	The Silver & Land Settlement	Berners Allsopp rent for the allotments	£10.00

**127/20 Expenditure.**

Council resolved to approve commissioning Lightatouch to carry out the internal audit 2020/21 at a cost of £250 + VAT.

**128/20 Update on Other Current Matters.**

Council resolved to approve setting up a Zoom account for remote meetings.

## PLANNING

### 129/20 Submitted Planning Applications.

Council resolved to submit the following observations.

Table 2 List of planning applications.

Ref	Planning Application number	Address & Proposal
i	P20/V1935/HH + amendment	<p>1 A Wakes Place, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TQ <i>Erection of single-storey store and car port.</i></p> <p><b>Response</b> The proposed single-storey store and car port is a long way from the house and outside the gates as shown in the photo. Council request that a restriction be applied that the building is not to be used for residential purposes or sold separately from the main house. Council would bring to your attention that the driveway is shared so adequate turning room for other users of this space is required.</p>
ii	P20/V1935/HH	<p>Henleaze Farm, Fernham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7PR <i>Refurbishment and extension works: refurbishment of meet the animals barn, extension to Henleaze Barn - ground floor tea room and 1<sup>st</sup> floor commercial office accommodation Extension to Abe Gow Barn - ground floor commercial/light manufacturing (3D printing &amp; laser cutting) storage and 1<sup>st</sup> floor commercial office with garden terrace.</i></p> <p><b>Response</b> Council was very frustrated at the inadequate detail of the plans provided and would request that a drainage plan be submitted prior to consideration of approval. It has been established with Leigh Travers, Drainage Engineer, VWHDC that Longcot is a village that floods and requires a drainage plan with every application submitted. This area did create enormous amounts of water in the 2007 floods and with the new extra proposed roof area, will have to be carefully managed so as not to put the neighbouring property at risk. The new toilets will have to have adequate discharge capability. Is the system proposed capable of taking the amount required? The change to Commercial Use refers to light industry (cake decorating). Council would request that any change of occupancy/future use should be of similar noise and impact as the cake decorating, to ensure that the commercial facility does not cause any detrimental aspect to the agricultural and rural aspects of the property and area. Council would request that all buildings are in keeping with the rural scene, to ensure that they are pleasant to look at within such a pretty rural area with views over the White Horse hill and open fields.</p>

### 130/20 Change of Use.

Council noted Planning Application P20/V2130/N4B Church Farm, Fernham Road, Longcot, Oxon Sn7 7TG, change of use and associated building operations to convert existing agricultural building to a single dwelling house.

### 131/20 Update on Other Current Matters.

None.

## HIGHWAYS

### 132/20 Update on Current Matters.

None.

**PLAY AREA**

**133/20 RoSPA Annual Inspection.**

Council noted the annual inspection of The Dash play park, Kings Lane which highlighted low risks which are being monitored by MRH Services who carries out quarterly inspections.

**134/20 Update on Other Current Matters.**

None.

**ALLOTMENTS**

**135/20 Update on Current Matters.**

None.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP**

**136/20 Oral Update.**

The Chairman reported policing had become extremely difficult during the pandemic.

**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.**

**137/20 Any Matters.**

None.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**138/20 Next meeting of the Parish Council.**

Wednesday 4 November 2020 at 7pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed.....Date.....2020