

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD PARISH COUNCIL: MEETING MINUTES

Council members attended

The Full Council Meeting of Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council

on **Monday 7th August 2023 at 6.30pm**

at the Sports Pavilion, Stoke Row Road, Peppard Common.

Attendees: Cllr Berger, Cllr Rowland, Cllr Seaton, Cllr Freeman, Cllr Hall and Clerk (JA)

1. Apologies – Cllr Bartholomew (OCC) and Cllr Robb (SODC)
2. Declarations of interest – None
3. Minutes – The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12/6/23 were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.
4. Open Forum - No Members of the Public present.

5. Oxfordshire County Councillor's report – Cllr Bartholomew sent his monthly report
**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS JULY 2023 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW
GENERAL OCC REPORT**

LTN IMPACT REPORT LEADS TO GROWING CALLS FOR RESIGNATIONS

Leading OCC Cabinet members have faced calls to resign after a council report revealed modelling which showed Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) lead to ambulances experiencing delays when responding to "life threatening" calls. The council report analysed the impact of LTNs in East Oxford and Cowley on South Central Ambulance Service's response times and found the traffic measures cause delays of between 35 to 45 seconds to response times for life threatening, emergency, and urgent calls in East Oxford. County councillor and leader of the Conservative group at the county council, Eddie Reeves, has since called for Andrew Gant, cabinet member for highways management and Duncan Enright, Cabinet member for travel, to resign for not releasing the information in an "open and transparent manner".

THREE ROADS IN OXFORD TO BE MANAGED BY ANPR IN PLACE OF BOLLARDS

OCC has approved proposals to install automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras at three low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) closure points in Cowley, Oxford. The decision was made on Thursday 22 June by the Cabinet member for highways management at a delegated Cabinet member decision meeting. Motor vehicles without exemptions who drive through these points will be subject to a penalty charge notice.

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PETITION DELIVERED TO DOWNING ST CALLING FOR NO CONFIDENCE VOTE IN OCC

Community champion Amir Steve Ali delivered a petition to Downing Street which calls for a no confidence vote in OCC due to its role in pushing ahead with Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs), the Zero Emissions Zone (ZEZ) and traffic filters (the four-sector plan). The petition on Change.org had been signed by more than 3,600 people on June 19 and it claims that the council's traffic measures have caused more pollution and have led to emergency vehicles becoming stuck behind gridlocked traffic. The petition describes the council's traffic measures as a "big threat to members of public freedom and businesses". An Oxfordshire County Council spokesman said: "We are aware of the petition on Change.org. This is something for central government review subject to it meeting parliamentary petitions criteria."

DECARBONISING PENSION INVESTMENTS IN OXFORDSHIRE

Pension funds invested for local government workers at Oxfordshire councils and a large number of other local organisations have been re-shaped to align investment decisions with the administration's aim of creating a "greener, healthier and fairer county". At its meeting earlier in June, the Pension Fund Committee agreed to reduce its allocation to the UK market and in particular to the FTSE100 companies that have links to major oil, gas and mining companies. The committee also chose to end investments in emerging markets reflecting concerns about social and governance issues – specifically within China and Saudi Arabia.

HOME UPGRADE GRANT LAUNCH

OCC was recently awarded £6.417m of funding from the government's Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2). HUG2 follows on from the Sustainable Warmth funding that officially ended in March this year, and is a two-year scheme running across Oxfordshire (with the exception of Oxford City, which has its own scheme) until March 2025. HUG2 publicly launched in June and is aimed at low-income owner occupier or privately rented households living in off-gas homes rated EPC 'D' or below, to enable a range of energy efficiency improvements to be retrofitted free of charge e.g. cavity wall and loft insulation, heating upgrades and solar PV. More information about the funding and the eligibility criteria can be found on the OCC website.

OCC SEEKS GOVERNMENT PERMISSION TO ADOPT LANE RENTAL SCHEME

Utilities and other companies who close Oxfordshire's roads could be encouraged to minimise congestion and disruption when they carry out their work or face financial penalties of up to £2,500 a day. OCC will ask the government to allow it to introduce a lane rental scheme (LRS) which allows organisations working on the county's busiest roads at the busiest times to face extra charges. If approved, the LRS would encourage those working on the highway to prioritise off-peak hours and to complete the work as quickly as possible to reduce their costs. Surplus money raised by the council would be used to help manage and improve the highway network.

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POTHOLE INNOVATION TRIAL

After a winter that saw the number of potholes reported in Oxfordshire double compared to the same period last year and heavy criticism from the public, a trial has taken place aimed at improving the repair process. On Monday and Tuesday, 26 - 27 June, OCC and its highways contractor Milestone Infrastructure used the road between Steventon and East Hanney as a test site to trial seven different methods of filling in potholes or repairing minor defects requiring 'patching'. Some of these methods are already used in Oxfordshire – including the Milestone [dragon patcher](#) – while the others were new ones sourced by Milestone. The Hanney/Steventon Road was closed and a 1km stretch was divided into sections. Each section had a different type of pothole or patch repair carried out to get a direct comparison of the various methods. Last year, Milestone Infrastructure, a part of M Group Services, repaired 31,413 road defects. This was against a backdrop of perfect pothole-forming weather conditions – a prolonged freeze over winter followed by a protracted period of wet weather, which led to an unprecedented increase in the number of emergency pothole repairs. The trial will allow comparisons of the type of repair, equipment, material, and labour used, and the time taken. This would include an understanding of the potential results, longevity of repairs, waste generated, carbon impact, use of recycled content and productivity that may be achievable. The next stage will involve contractors returning for at least four more days of work and additional testing and analysis to enable a longer-term review of the methods.

MONEY-SAVING STREETLIGHTING PROJECT SET TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR

All of Oxfordshire's streetlights are scheduled to be converted to energy efficient LED units in the next 12 months, saving millions of pounds and thousands of tonnes of carbon. The programme commenced under the previous Conservative administration. A total of 86 per cent of lights have now been converted. When completed, the £38 million project is expected to lead to energy savings of millions of pounds over the next 20 years. The LED lights will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide being produced by 70 per cent. Before the conversion programme started, the county's streetlights accounted for around 7,596 tonnes of CO2 every year – representing nearly 35 per cent of the council's total emissions.

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Cllr Bartholomew passed on his apologies for the meeting and local issues were discussed:

- i. Pot-Holes – There are a concentrated number of Potholes on Colmore Lane, which is causing damage to vehicle tyres. Clerk to put them onto FMS for filling. Cllr Berger to forward photos.
 - ii. Cllr Freeman is going to request more white paint as a super-user and enquire about resurfacing.
 - iii. Flooding on Church Lane – There have been no updates from the residents so we believe the drains are draining the water away from the road and not through properties.
 - iv. Fix My Street items:
 - a. 22939927 CLOSED Issue passed to relevant team for consideration for future programmed works. We were previously waiting for gully cleansing and a repair to be completed
– Old Ref no's 22939927/ 2486229/ 2295389/ 2486207 B481 – Surface water from blocked drains. Awaiting a date for the gully cleansing programme. Cllr Bartholomew was chasing for a date.
Originally posted September 2019.
 - b. 22939928 CLOSED We will continue to monitor during routine inspections if it gets worse open a new report.
Old Ref no. 2295377 – FMS Closed. Clerk will reinstate once (a) is completed as it is a result of the road drains not being cleared.
A&B – Clerk has written to Cllr Bartholomew as the 2 FMS items above have remained on the agenda for almost 4 years.
 - c. Ref no. 2923868 – Plant is coming up through the tarmac. FMS Closed, the issue has been passed onto the relevant team for future programmed works. Is there a date of works being completed
C. Clerk to chase Cllr Bartholomew for confirmation of dates on the programmed work dates
 - d. Ref no. 22935802 - Loose Drain outside 17&19 Stoke Row Road. CLOSED
Appears Cover made safe.
 - e. Ref no 22939923 – Loose Drain cover outside Smartwood. CLOSED Couldn't find defect so no further action
D&E Cllr Freeman has confirmed these two items are still not fixed despite both being closed and no further action.
 - f. Ref no 4867459 Sign broken between village and Bolts Cross on B481
6. Update from Cllr Freeman on Superuser issues for Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council – Cllr Freeman is requesting more paint from OCC for potholes.

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7. South Oxfordshire District Councillor's report – Cllrs Robb and Norman send the SODC report:

District Councillor Update 4 July 2023

Cllr Jo Robb, Cllr James Norman

Waste Survey

The Council has launched a survey to find out what residents think about our waste and street cleaning services and this feedback will be used to identify where we need to make improvements.

Residents have until 10 July to respond: please do have your say and help spread the word through your parish networks.

<https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/WasteQuestionnaire2023/>

Feel free to contact the waste team if you have any questions or require the survey in a different format: waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk

Missed Bins

A reminder to residents to please report your missed bin collections! If you put your bin out before 6am on collection day and it has not been collected by 6pm, please report the missed collection online or by emailing admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk or calling 03000 610610.

Grants

A range of grant funding is available for community groups. Please take a look at our Grants page on the SODC website and do share this with your community groups.

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/grants/>

A new round of funding for the Councillor Community Grant scheme has launched. Jo and James, your ward councillors, each have £5000 to support local projects that directly benefit local residents. Please get in touch to find out more and do encourage your local community groups to attend our information and advice session, Monday 17 July 1-5pm. Please RSVP to grants@southandvale.gov.uk

Applications for Community Grants can be made online and close at midday on Friday 20 October so do get in touch!

The last round of funding which closed earlier this year, awarded £170,800 to help 100 projects across the district.

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Rural Prosperity Fund

South and Vale District Councils have secured more than £1.2m from the government's Rural England Prosperity Fund to help support the rural economy across our districts. The funds can be used for a huge range of projects including, for example, to set up community energy schemes, diversify farm businesses or establish rural business hubs. Any organisation with legal status can apply for funding when it opens in the Autumn. These can include: public sector, higher education, private sector, voluntary organisations and registered charities.

Before applications open, our Economic Development team wants to understand which organisations might apply and for what type of project. Please send your Expressions of Interest in the run up to the opening of the scheme. Contact

business.support@southandvale.gov.uk for more information or check the website:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/business-and-economy/advice-for-businesses/rural-england-prosperity-fund/>

Homes for Ukraine – Call for Landlords

Across Oxfordshire, many arrangements between hosts and Ukrainian nationals are coming to an end. Working with our neighbouring councils and the County Council, we are launching a campaign aimed at encouraging landlords to come forward and find out more information about housing Ukrainians who are looking for a home of their own.

Many Ukrainians in Oxfordshire will have settled in local communities and found work, so identifying a range of affordable properties across the county is very important to allow them to start rebuilding their future with more independence.

Please help to spread the word by sharing with your local networks. Landlords can contact the central housing team by emailing oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk or calling 07858687569 or 07849574859. For more information, visit our [South Oxfordshire Homes for Ukraine webpage](#).

Insulate Britain

Now is the time to think about insulation and retrofitting ahead of what some are warning will be another difficult winter in terms of fuel and energy bills.

The Council has put together a briefing on retrofitting homes and community buildings. You could save a fortune on heating the parish hall! <https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Retrofitting-%E2%80%93-support-for-residents-in-South-Oxfordshire-and-the-Vale-of-White-Horse-2.pdf>

Local community groups are invited to an online forum on improving energy efficiency in community buildings. Please do pop in virtually on **Tuesday 11 July, 6-7pm**. There will be speakers and practical information for groups and please do encourage your local groups to attend. Email climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk for more detail.

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Didcot: A new home for SODC

You may be aware that the plans for the new SODC offices at Didcot Gateway have been released. The offices will be situated on the derelict site at Didcot Gateway, a site owned by SODC, directly opposite the mainline train station. Up to half the building space will be for SODC's offices while the remainder will be flexible office space let to external organisations and a café open to the public. Outside will see the creation of new green public space linking the station to the town. This project is a key part of the regeneration of the centre of Didcot, a town that is due to take some 16,500 new houses in the coming years and which has been badly let down by the neglected area directly opposite the station.

Having our own office space will not only generate income for the council but also save the two councils around £1m a year in rent and utilities.

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23613749.didcot-plan-councils-new-hq-submitted-shortly/>

No local issues were discussed as there was no SODC Councillors and the following items are carried forward to the next meeting:

- a. Outstanding Planning Enforcements updates.
 - b. Litter bins – Clerk needs an update on the dog bins and extra bins requested for village post the bin survey. This has been on the agenda for 2 years and would like district councillors to add pressure to get action on this.
 - c. There was also a request by RPPC for ex Cllr Hillier to organise a meeting between RPPC Councillors and Planning/ Planning enforcement, is there a date yet?
 - d. Update on Greylands - awaiting independent surveyor report. Site visit is requested for all SODC Councillors prior to the Planning Committee meeting making a decision.
8. Parish Council Matters –
- a. Update on Speeding deterrents at Gallowstree Road. Clerk has secured £1000 from the Councillor Priority Fund for help with this project. Cllr Freeman is checking with both Kyrenia and NDDC regarding Top Common permissions. Clerk has requested an invoice from the company.
 - b. Carlings Orchard update – Green Gym are due to give Cllr Rowland some dates for the work to commence. There is a house along Dove Lane whose hedge needs cutting back as it is encroaching onto the footpath. Cllr Rowland to confirm address so Clerk can issue a letter.
 - c. Church Lane Flooding update – No updates
 - d. Any update from correspondence sent to Gigabit – No Correspondence however the land opposite the Pet Barn has been made good with grass seed
 - e. Unknown land update from Blandy and Blandy – No Update
 - f. Continual parking on grass outside of Carlings Orchard and reinstatement of the verges – Cllr Freeman is looking up options to provide a solution.

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- g. Update on severity of Colmore Lane flooding outside of Badbury Rings and any actions going forward carried from last meeting - is there a solution for the increased flooding with the Pond opposite Colmore House and pipe being full of mud and not allowing soak away. Clerk advised by phone from Parishioner. Cllr Berger has located the drain and will rod it to minimise further blockages/floods. Cllr Berger to send photos of potholes for Clerk to report on FMS.
 - h. Update on moving the pole PSRCC – It was agreed with PSRCC that the quote for moving the pole by SSE was too much and a compromise was for the nets to be moved. To summarise the nets will move 3m away from the Pavilion and there is no need for the Pole to be moved. The proposal needed 6 trees to be felled, these are a Sycamores and Hollies only. The Councillors visited the location and in relation to the memo submitted to RPPC by PSRCC in August 2023, requesting trees to be removed, RPPC approved the amendments proposed as required by Clause 4.15 (Alterations) in the lease between RPPC and PSRCC signed on 17th October 2018. The Landscaping and proposed new yew trees, gorse hedging should be planted as soon as possible to minimise any bare areas.
 - i. Angel steps and the footpath between Stoke Row Road and Shiplake Bottom need to be looked at as there has been a report of overgrown vegetation. Cllr Seaton is to view and report back.
9. Rotherfield Peppard Village Update:
- a. Update on accidents on Stoke Row/ Gallowstree Crossroads - No recent accidents
 - b. Wishing Stone Update – Cllr Freeman is discussing with Mr A Parr and NDCC.
10. Planning Update –
- a. Planning matters addressed in Planning meeting 24/7/23 updated to Full Council and proposal to accept. All points were accepted
11. Finance and Staffing –
- a. Cllr Berger/Clerk updated Councillors on Financial matters for 2023/24.
 - b. Approval of signatures on UTB for July and Aug 2023 were Cllr Rowland and Cllr Berger

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- c. All expenditure for July and August 2023 was approved
 - i. Clerk Salary (July) = Confidential retrospectively
 - ii. Village Cleaner (AP) July salary = Confidential retrospectively
 - iii. SODC Loan £327.31 July retrospectively
 - iv. Clerk – Nest Pension – Confidential July Retrospectively
 - v. 3 invoices Mr Kendrick Grass cutting contractor retrospectively
£132+£132+£840 = £1104
 - vi. Clerk Salary (Aug) = Confidential
 - vii. Village Cleaner (AP) Aug salary = Confidential
 - viii. SODC Loan £327.31 Aug
 - ix. Clerk – Nest Pension – Confidential Aug
 - x. Clerk allowance Qtr1 £221.21
 - xi. Autela Qtr1 £116.21
 - xii. Dog Bins 10325204 £200

12. Matters for future meeting:

CPRE Meeting on 5/9 via Zoom Cllr Berger to attend for RPPC

Historic England have requested more information regarding the forge. All Councillors are to provide information required for Clerk.

13. Correspondence: None

Meeting finished at 7:35pm.