

APPLETON WITH EATON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 26 Eaton Village, Eaton, Oxfordshire OX13 5PR

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**Appleton with Eaton Parish Council (AWE PC) Meeting
held in the Village Hall
Monday 13th December 2021, 7:15pm**

Allison Leigh – Parish Clerk

Minutes

Present: Chairman Liz Gilkes (LG), Vice Chairman Mary Carey (MC), Councillors John Adams (JA), Teresa Bennett (TB), Andy Salmon (AS), and Clerk, Allison Leigh (AL). County Councillor Juliette Ash (J. Ash) and District Councillor (J. Avery) were also present.

21/166: Apologies for Absence: Sue Sternberg (SS) and Stephen Day (SD)

21/167: Declarations of interest: None

21/168: Public questions and statements: No members of the public were present.

21/169: Reports from District and County Councillors

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

J. Ash sent 2 reports which are attached as Attachment 1.

The council discussed areas of the village which may be appropriate for OCC's 20s plenty scheme. The council noted the areas of S bend in the road just beyond the school and Oaksmere as areas which may be appropriate for a 20mph speed limit. The council asked AL to check with the shop and the school as to their thoughts. J. Ash noted that this would not be an enforceable speed limit, but rather may act as a means of slowing traffic. AL will also note this on the website when the new speed data is put on so residents are aware.

J. Ash also mentioned the possibility of transitional speed limits in other problem areas and the council would like to enquire as to a 40mph area leaving/entering the village between Oaksmere and the lane leading to Tubney Manor.

AL will contact OCC Highways regarding this.

The council addressed the issue of drainage and that the drains are not being properly cleaned which is causing issues. J. Ash will look into this.

It was noted that the 63 bus service will run until March 2022. The council is not sure what will occur beyond that date.

The issue of the state of the footpaths was discussed. AL noted that she has not had a response from the footpaths officer despite her many e-mail attempts since February 2021.

J. Ash will chase this and try and set up a Teams meeting with the appropriate parties to identify next steps.

The council discussed its top priorities and has given the following to J. Ash:

Connectivity – access to Thames Path, bus to Oxford

Highways issues – Road surfaces and potholes, Drains, and the lack of clearance and maintenance, Road sign maintenance and visibility

Footpaths – maintenance

Planning - balance between house building and growth that is appropriate and beneficial to the community and large-scale development that will harm the community and Appleton as a place to live.

Green agenda - looking after our local environment etc

J. Ash asked AL to send her the link for the Jubilee Meeting in January.

The council noted it has put in an appeal with regards to the DMMO regarding the addition of a footpath in the Parish of Appleton and Eaton, from Appleton Landing to Northmoor Lock.

Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC)

J. Avery sent a report which is attached as Attachment 2.

J. Avery asked if MC could re-send the e-mail with regards to the donations made to the Comet Bus.

21/170: Minutes of the last meetings: The minutes of the Parish Council Meetings of 8th November and 22nd November 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

21/171: Matters arising from the previous meetings and not appearing elsewhere on the agenda: None.

21/172: Clerk's report: There were no comments on the Clerk's Report

21/173: Climate Change:

- Oxfordshire Treescape Project: AL reported that she, Felicity Dick and Stephen Day had a virtual meeting with the Oxfordshire Treescape Project (OTP). OTP agreed to do a survey of the village and come back to us with it.

21/174: Footpaths: See agenda item 21/169.

21/175: Pond Maintenance: It was noted that AL had received some information on Cumnor’s pond maintenance. The council reported that the bullrushes and silt from the pond can be taken to the grounds of Ossefield for disposal. As this is the case, the council does not need AL to follow up on ownership. Once the disposal is done, the council would like to thank the volunteers who worked on this project.

21/176: War Memorial Repair: AL reputed she had received a quote from Abingdon Stone and Marble for the repair of the step at the War Memorial. The council believes that perhaps the placement of the steps needs re-thinking as they’ve been damaged before. The council asked AL to contact Abingdon Stone and Marble about a site visit. TB and MC are happy to attend as is AS, if available.

AL also noted she had received a quote for the cleaning of the memorial from Abingdon Stone and Marble, but this was not discussed. AL reported she has tried to obtain a quote from OG Stonemasonry, but has not had a reply.

21/177: Platinum Jubilee: The council asked AL to send a reminder e-mail about the January meeting early in the new year. The council would like to put a figure of £2000 in the budget for the Jubilee.

21/178: Community Governance Review by VoWHDC: The council asked to defer this to the January meeting.

21/179: Community emergency/resilience planning: The council discussed plans in case of emergency, such as snow. The council discussed the possibility of the Coronavirus Besselsleigh Appleton Eaton Support Group (CABES) also acting as a support group in an emergency situation. AL will contact Alison Jeffreys regarding this. AL will also ask Alison Jeffreys if AL can publish the CABES group on the website as there is a growing number of Covid cases.

AL will also ensure that the information on the form delineating emergency centres is correct.

21/180: Planning applications:

New applications

| <u>Application number</u> | <u>Address</u> | <u>Details</u> | <u>AWE PC Comments</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| P21/V3145/LB and P21/V3144/FUL | Oak Barn Eaton OX13 5PR | Extension to existing stable building to form new vehicle storage barn within curtilage of Grade 2 Listed oak barn | Appleton with Eaton Parish Council has no comments on these planning applications. |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| P21/V3179/HH | Manor Farm House 29 Eaton Road Appleton OX13 5JR | Proposed in-ground outdoor pool | Appleton with Eaton Parish Council has no comments on this planning application. |
| P21/V3342/LB and P21/V3341/HH | Pond Farm Netherton Road Appleton OX13 5JX | Remove breeze block low level boiler shed that was added a few years ago to hold the boiler. With the new regulations and Knox guidelines it is not advised to put boiler in this position as the plume emitted gets drawn back into the boiler and causes cut out. This added structure is therefore no longer needed and we wish to remove it, revealing the original walls of the house. | Appleton with Eaton Parish Council has no comments on these planning applications. |

Planning Decisions

| <u>Application number</u> | <u>Address</u> | <u>Details</u> | <u>Vale of White Horse District Council Response</u> |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| P21/V2630/HH | Pond Farm Netherton Road Appleton Abingdon OX13 5JX | Erection of a summer house & Proposed 9m X 4m swimming pool | Permission granted. |
| P21/V2716/FUL | Netherton Road Field (Between 38 Netherton Road and South La Netherton Road Appleton OX13 5JX | Removal of condition 6 (Closure of Existing Access) on planning application P21/V1117/FUL. Within one month of the completion of the new vehicular access, the existing vehicular access on Badswell Lane shall be permanently stopped up in accordance with a detailed scheme which shall first have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. | Permission granted. |

21/181: Finance:

- **Finance Report:**

Payments authorised

| <u>Payee</u> | <u>Item</u> | <u>Cheque number</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Playdale | Toddler equipment at Jubilee Park | Online payment | 3534.72 | 9/11/2021 |
| Lloyds | Ink, waders for pond and monthly fee | Direct Debit | 153.43 | 16/11/2021 |
| Open Spaces Society | Membership from 1/12/2021 | Online payments | 45.00 | 19/11/2021 |
| The Oxford Engraver Ltd | Engraving of plaque for new picnic table | Online payment | 78.00 | 24/11/2021 |
| Staff costs | Staff costs – December | Online payment | 573.91 | 31/12/2021 |
| Allison Leigh | Clerk expenses | Online payment | 26.00 | 13/12/2021 |
| Rick Hopgood | Payment for removal of equipment at jubilee park and repair of toilet at the Pavilion | Online payment | 420.00 | 13/12/2021 |
| Dark White Digital | Website hosting and WordPress updated December 2021 | Online payment | 30.00 | 13/12/2021 |
| Ady Podbery | Mowing of sportsfield 22/11/2021 | Online payment | 91.20 | 13/12/2021 |
| Appleton Community Shop | Paper and sundries for toddler group | Online payment | 15.68 | 13/12/2021 |

Receipts since the last meeting

| <u>From</u> | <u>Item</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Scouts | Hire of sportsfield | 240.00 | 25/11/2021 |

Bank Reconciliation

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Bank balance as of 30/11/2021 | 50,796.97 |
| Less Unpresented cheques | 0.00 |
| Plus unpresented receipts | 0.00 |
| Reconciled balance as of 30/11/2021 | 50,796.97 |

- **Budget for 2022/2023:** The council asked to defer this and the decision on the precept to the January meeting. AL asked if MC would be willing to have a chat about the budget prior to the meeting. AL will ask VoWHDC for an extension.
- **Donation to Baby and Toddler group:** The council resolved to assist the Baby and Toddler group in Appleton with the rental of the Village Hall and refreshments. It was noted this cost may be around £300.

- **Request for funds for footpath/ right of way maintenance by the church:** The council resolved to pay £850 towards the ground's maintenance of the hard path at the back of the south side of the church.
- **Confirm bank signatories:** The council confirmed the signatories as LG, MC, SD and SS.
- The council resolved to become members of Parish Online for mapping with a cost of £60 + VAT.
- AL reported she had a donation request from South and Vale Citizens advice, but the council noted that a donation had been made in July. AL will remind Citizens Advice of this.

21/182: Website and Advertiser: It was discussed that the Covid support contacts should be put back on the website once it is ensured they are current.

AS noted that he had a technical issue with recent speed data, which has now been sorted. He will send AL the current speed data for the website.

A press release with regards to the donating of the picnic table to the Appleton Community Shop is being worked on.

21/183: Publications and correspondence: The council reviewed the list of correspondence received since the last meeting.

21/184: Matters for report: None

21/185: Date of the next meeting: The date and location of the next Parish Council meeting were confirmed as the 10th January 2022 at 7:15pm in the Village Hall

21/186: Legal advice: The council noted it may need to obtain some legal advice and resolved to spend up to £2000, if needed.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm

County Councillor Juliette Ash REPORT- All parishes- Dec 2021

1. Time to put in an application for any roads that you think should have a 20mph rather than a 30 mph speed limit.

The previous administration proposed and trialled a 'twenty is plenty' speed limit opportunity for many Oxfordshire villages but particularly those in rural settings. Please contact me directly if there are any streets you would like to see moved to 20 mph and once agreed, it is now possible to apply online directly at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/traffic/requesting-20mph>

2. Covid-19 Winter planning: Vaccinations- BOOSTERS now available.

The offer of a COVID-19 booster vaccine has been extended to people aged 40 and over. [You can book your booster](#) on the NHS website. Walk-ins available at Kassam Stadium from 3pm to 7pm – except on OU match days. It has also been announced that a second dose of a vaccine will be offered to all young people aged 16 - 17, from 12 weeks after their first dose.

3. The new parking enforcement protocol planned by the previous administration has been welcomed.

Residents across Oxfordshire have welcomed changes to the way parking rules are enforced. On 1 November OCC took control of civil parking enforcement in the Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, and Vale of White Horse district council areas from the police. Residents can now report incidents of illegally parked vehicles by using the OCC [online form](#).

4. Surveys and call for evidence:

- (i) **The OCC budget is being reviewed at present. Residents can have their say via: letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk. Council tax increase of 4.99% proposed.**
- (ii) Oxfordshire are being asked by the NHS to give their views on whether current pharmaceutical services are meeting the needs of the population. Deadline 9th Jan '22. [respond to the initial draft](#)

5. Nominations open for Oxfordshire's Climate Action Heroes Awards

Individuals and community groups at the forefront of climate action in Oxfordshire are to be recognised by the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Imam Hussain. Please submit nominations using [an online form](#). DEADLINE 31 December 2021.

6. Support for victims of domestic abuse. How to access support:

- (i) Anyone in immediate danger should phone 999.
- (ii) Those in danger but unable to talk on the phone should dial 999 and press 55. Doing this will transfer the call to the police, who can assist callers without having to speak.
- (iii) Those who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing can register with emergency SMS by texting 'register' to 999.
- (iv) Oxfordshire domestic abuse services, provided by A2Dominion, offers free services to anybody experiencing domestic abuse (including 'honour-based abuse'), regardless of sexuality, ethnicity and immigration status. The [Oxfordshire domestic abuse helpline](#) is open and available. For help and support, call 0800 731 0055 (Mon - Fri 10am - 7pm), or email das@a2dominion.co.uk.
- (v) Alternatively, the [National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) is open 24 hours to offer support 0808 2000 247.
- (vi) Anybody worried about harming the ones they love can access support and help to manage their behaviours through the [Respect phoneline](#) on 0808 8024040.

7. Changes to Oxford's bus network

Unfortunately, the major review of Oxford's bus network, has been carried out and a reduction of services has been agreed. It has been promoted by a number of factors including lower than usual passenger numbers and a national shortage of driving staff.

This is disappointing as several of our villages highlighted that looking at recent passenger numbers to judge the viability of a service was an issue as it would be distorted by reduced numbers from the pandemic. I will be writing to the administration to point this out and will call for support for our rural services.

8. A420 Road safety action group

I have established an A420 Road safety action group. It comprises all four County Councillors and is aimed bringing tangible change and increased safety measures for drivers and residents that use the road. I will be calling for evidence from all Parishes and interested residents in due course. The group will be action and solution focused.

9. Unauthorised encampments update: South and Vale.

Nothing to report.

Cllr Juliette Ash

1/12/21

Sent 9/12/2021:

Yesterday evening the prime minister announced new COVID measures for England as part of Plan B. These measures are designed to help stem the spread of the virus – particularly in the wake of the new Omicron variant – protect capacity in the NHS, and save lives.

What are the new measures?

The changes are expected for six weeks (with a review after three) and include:

- From Friday 10 December, wearing a face covering will be mandatory in most public indoor places, including cinemas and theatres and places of worship. There will be exemptions in venues where it is not practical to wear one, such as when you are eating, drinking or exercising.
- From Monday 13 December, everyone who can work from home is asked to do so.
- From Wednesday 15 December, and subject to parliamentary approval, an NHS COVID-19 pass or proof of negative lateral flow test will be required for entry to nightclubs and large capacity venues. These include unseated indoor events with 500 or more attendees, unseated outdoor events with 4,000 or more attendees, and any event with 10,000 or more attendees.

It was also announced that, as Omicron spreads in our community, The Government intends to introduce daily tests for contacts of confirmed cases, instead of the ten-day self-isolation period.

You can find out more at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). Face covering regulations will be laid in parliament today, with the remaining regulations laid on 13 December. Parliament will debate the measures next week, with a vote expected to take place on 14 December.

How will the new measures affect OCC services?

From today, OCC will implement the new rule around face coverings in our public venues such as libraries. From Monday staff who can work from home will be urged to do so. We will continue to support those working in a frontline service and who need to be in the workplace physically, and we will review any new guidance from the government to ensure we maintain a safe environment for our staff and customers.

What is the situation in Oxfordshire?

The situation in Oxfordshire mirrors the national picture, with cases continuing to rise. Over the past 7 days, cases have risen by 20 per cent and are now at their highest ever level, at a rate of 666.7 per 100,000. This surpasses the rate recorded at the peak of the winter wave in early January 2021. In common with the rest of the country, the new Omicron variant is a factor in the transmission of the virus.

To help break the chain of transmission, our public health team is working closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and with Oxford University to carry out targeted testing.

To assist with this, OCC are deploying a mobile testing unit in central Oxford from today. The facility is located in Radcliffe Square and is open to members of the public and the University. It will be in place for four days until Sunday (12 December) and will operate on a walk-in basis from 10.30am to 6.30pm each day.

The facility will provide PCR testing for people who have no symptoms. People who do have symptoms should instead book an appointment at one of the [county's symptom testing facilities](#).

The time between vaccinations has also been reduced from 6 months down to 3 months from this Monday, the 13th Dec meaning most adults- over 18 year olds- can get a booster jab via online booking or at one of the drop in centres.

Current Financial Position & Measures Taken

1. **The Vale Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)**

1. The MTFP provides a forward budget model for the next five years; a projection of the revenue budget up to 31 March 2026. The projection includes budget pressures in later years and assumes that council approves all the budget proposals within this report. Officers have made no adjustments for the costs of contracts that will be re-let during this period and these could rise or fall depending on market conditions.

2. The MTFP identifies serious challenges for the council. On the basis of current assumptions and estimates, the council will draw heavily on reserves during the MTFP period to make up the shortfall between income and expenditure.

Use of reserves during the MTFP period to balance the revenue budget

| Financial year | Use of reserves £000 |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 2021/22 | 2,569 |
| 2022/23 | 3,174 |
| 2023/24 | 4,026 |
| 2024/25 | 4,409 |
| 2025/26 | 5,295 |
| Total | 19,473 |

3. As the MTFP shows, the ongoing draw down on reserves to balance the budget is not sustainable over the five-year period covered by the MTPF and clearly is a matter that must be addressed. Given current projections, the council can set a balanced budget for the next three years but the level of reserves is insufficient to enable officers to set a balanced budget in 2025/26.

The robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves

4. The budget was put together by qualified accountants and was then subject to challenge in detail by the interim head of finance. The budget for 2021/22 is considered to be both prudent and robust. However, given that in every year of the MTPF period revenue expenditure exceeds income the budget is not sustainable over the MTPF period. Evidently, the situation has been made worse by the pandemic especially in relation to key council income streams such as investment income and, of course, there is no guarantee that those income streams will recover to pre-pandemic levels.

Climate Emergency

A motion was passed by all District Councillors at the last full meeting held on 08 Dec 2021 giving the Leader of the Council authority to write to the government stressing the need for switching to the use of heat pumps. The Leader is to urge the government to set up a long-term national funding programme for retrofitting homes; more specifically a programme that involves deep retrofitting 2250 homes per year in the Vale and in all 1 million homes per year across the country.

Thames Water - Reservoir Plans

A motion was passed by all District Councillors at the full meeting held on 08 Dec 2021 rejecting Thames Water's re-submission of plans to build a very large reservoir on farmland and woodland to the south of Abingdon. The grounds for rejection are significant and are as follows:-

1. The environmental impact information provided by Thames Water under what is called the RAPID Gate 1 process was heavily redacted and hence proper scrutiny of its plans is impossible.
2. During construction the carbon cost would be high and there would, of course, also be significant outgassing of methane from drowned vegetation.
3. The statistics presented by Thames Water would clearly make it impossible for The Vale to reach its target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030.
4. Alternative water sources that can be used already exist, including the Severn-Thames transfer link. If that link were to be used, we would avoid a devastating environmental impact and very considerable local disruption that would affect all in the Vale and beyond.
- 5.

Road Safety

On 17 Dec 2021 I will be attending the FATAAC (Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee) Meeting.

PARISH AREAS COVERED BY THE FARINGDON AREA TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE County Division (Kingston & Cumnor)

Appleton & Eaton, Besselsleigh, Charney Bassett, Cumnor, Denchworth, East Hanney, Frilford, Fyfield & Tubney, Garford, Goosey, Hatford, Hinton Waldrist, Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor, Longworth, Lyford, Pusey, Shellingford, Stanford-in-the-Vale and West Hanney

County Division (Faringdon)

Coleshill, Buscot, Eaton Hastings, Faringdon, Lt. Coxwell, Gt. Coxwell, Littleworth, Buckland and Gainfield

County Division (Shrivenham)

Ashbury; Baulking; Bourton (Shrivenham); Childrey; Compton Beauchamp; East Challow:
North Parish Ward ; East Challow: South East Parish Ward ; Fernham; Kingston Lisle;
Letcombe Bassett; Letcombe Regis; Longcot; Shrivenham; Sparsholt; Uffington; Watchfield;
West Challow; Woolstone