

**Appleton with Eaton Parish Council (AWE PC) Parish Council Meeting  
held in the Village Hall**

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 7:15pm**

**Minutes**

**Councillors present:** Stephen Day (Chairman), Sue Sternberg (SS), Valentina Brito-Marquez (VBM), and John Adams (JA) and Mary Carey (MC)

**In attendance:** Allison Leigh (Clerk), District Councillor Mark Coleman, County Councillor Juliette Ash (arrived at agenda item 24/124).

**24/114: Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Liz Gilkes (LG), Chris Mitty (CM)

**24/115: Declarations of interest:** None

**24/116: Public questions and statements:** No members of the public were present.

**23/117: Reports from District and County Councillors:**

**Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC)**

The District Councillor sent a report. See Attachment 1. It was noted that Botley West Solar Farm is being looked at by the Planning Inspectorate. If it is accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, the Council will communicate an update to the village informing resident how they can comment.

**Oxfordshire County Councillor (OCC)**

The County Councillor sent a report. See Attachment 2. The County Councillor arrived at minute reference 24/124. See below.

**24/118 Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

**24/119: Clerk's report:** The Council noted the Clerk's Report. The Clerk noted that OCC has replied to her queries on Ask re traffic changes with regards to crossing issues at Netherton Road. OCC has added this to their list of future projects to review. OCC did not address the concern about moving the 20mph signage at Oaksmere further back towards the A420.

The Clerk reported she is in contact with someone from South Oxfordshire District Council with regards to the water running off from the fields by Oaksmere. She will forward the most recent correspondence to the Council for review.

**24/120: Finance:**

**a. Finance Report:** Payments authorised

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Total</u>
01/11/2024 - 29/11/2024	Staff costs		1,618.80
31/10/2024	Bank fees	Unity Trust Bank	5.40
01/10/2024	Scribe accounts subscription	Starboard Systems	42.00
16/10/2024	Flowers	Sainsburys	11.50

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16/10/2024	Microsoft	Microsoft	1.99
16/10/2024	Council phone	Lebara	6.95
16/10/2024	Phone charger	Currys	24.99
16/10/2024	Google subscription	Google	1.59
16/10/2024	Mailchimp subscription	Mailchimp	11.92
16/10/2024	Lloyds fee	Lloyds	3.00
17/10/2024	Electricity at the sportsfield	EDF	71.32
11/11/2024	Mowing grass at sportsfield	Ady Podbery	112.80
11/11/2024	Website hosting and WordPress Updates	Dark White Digital	30.00
11/11/2024	Clerk expenses	Allison Leigh	26.00
			<b>1,968.26</b>

*Receipts since the  
last meeting*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Total</u>
September and October 2024	Hire of pavilion and sportsfield	Cubs	90.00
November and December 2024	Hire of pavilion and sportsfield	Cubs	90.00
September and October 2024	Hire of pavilion and sportsfield	Scouts	180.00
November and December 2024	Hire of pavilion and sportsfield	Scouts	180.00
2024 Season	Hire of pavilion and sportsfield	Appleton Cricket Club	850.00
			1,390.00

- b. Training Courses:** There were no new courses discussed. The Clerk has emailed CM about the Roles and Responsibilities course.
- c. Budget for 2025/26:** The Council considered the draft budget for 2025/2026 asked for this to be on the December agenda for further consideration. The Council asked the Clerk to review the sportsfield electricity costs and follow up with the Pavilion Working Group about any costs that may be incurred in 2025/2026 on the project.
- d. Clerk salary increase:** The Council noted the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/2025.

**24/121: Valuation of the sportsfield on the Asset Register:** The Council agreed to edit the Asset Register and put the cost in as £90,000.

**24/122: Planning:**

- a. Planning applications:** The Council considered the following planning application:

[P24/V2205/HH](#)

Oakleigh Millway Lane Appleton OX13 5LB

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Erection of side and rear extension to include the addition of a first floor loft room and bay window to front elevation, front infill extension and single storey rear extension

AWEPC has no comments on this planning application.

**b. Planning decisions:** To note the following planning decisions:

**[P24/V1719/S73](#)**

Former Hills Nurseries Netherton Road Appleton OX13 5QN

Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) on application P22/V1570/FUL - internal and external alterations to Plot 2; addition of air source heat pumps, subterranean floor and reduced glazing.(as amplified by noise assessment received 16 September 2024 and drainage statement received 01 October 2024).(Drainage statement received 17th October 2024)

(Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on application P16/V1986/FUL - to improve the design's ecological and social sustainability. Proposed conversion and redevelopment to provide 2 no. five bed dwellings with associated ancillary structure and provision of separate access arrangements.)  
(Noise assessment received 16th September 2024)  
(Drainage statement received 01st October 2024)

**24/123: Working Groups:**

- a. Friends of Jubilee Park:** The Clerk will look to attend the meeting of the Friends of Jubilee Park on the 13<sup>th</sup> November.
- b. Pavilion Working Group:** MC reported that the Pavilion Working Group had met with local user groups of the Pavilion to hear their usage as well as anything they would like to see in a refurbished Pavilion. The Pavilion Working Group reported that the next step would be to hold a village-wide consultation to gather residents' views. The Council resolved to have the Pavilion Working Group create a questionnaire.

It was noted that the Cricket Club would like to smarten up the Pavilion while the discussions of a refurbishment are ongoing. The Pavilion Working Group would like to apply for a grant for paint and anything else needed for this project. The Council resolved to have the Pavilion Working Group apply for the grant.

- c. Leisure and Recreation (L&R) Working Group:** There was no update.

**24/124: Policies:**

- a. Biodiversity Policy:** The Biodiversity Policy was reviewed and the Council resolved to adopt with edits. The Clerk will circulate the revision and, if needed, put it on the December agenda.
- b. Updated Financial Regulations:** The Council resolved to move this to the December agenda.

County Councillor Juliette Ash arrived at the meeting at this time. The Council mentioned the following issues:

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- Moving of the 20mph sign at Oaksmere
- Narrowness of Eaton Road by The Plough Inn based on an email from a resident
- Safety concern for pedestrians walking from Oaksmere to the A420

The County Councillor will look into these. The District Councillor also suggested contacting the Faringdon Travel Advisory Committee which the Clerk will do and cc Juliette Ash.

**24/125: Correspondence:**

In addition to the email received regarding Eaton Road by The Plough Inn, the Council received an email from a resident with regards to rubbish in the layby on Oaksmere by the old Hills Quarry. The Council noted this is in Tubney parish, so the Clerk will inform the resident to contact Fyfield and Tubney Parish Council.

**24/126: Website and Advertiser:** The Council would like the following articles in the next edition of the Advertiser:

Walking after dark/drivers being cautious  
Highways superusers

**24/127: Matters for report:** None

**24/128: Date of the next meeting:** The Council may look at an alternate date for the December meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

**24/129: Confidential item:** The Council resolved to exclude members of the public for agenda item 24/130 due to its confidential nature.

**24/130: Confidential Item: Internal Auditor quotes 2024/2025:** The Council considered the quotes received and resolved to proceed with Theresa Goss for the 2024/2025 audit.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm

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**Attachment 1**

**Vale District Council – Member for Thames Ward Report to the Appleton with Eaton Parish Council  
– 14 October 2024**

**Joint Local Plan**

The Regulation 19 consultation on the South and Vale’s Joint Local Plan went “live” on 1 October. This will remain open for 6 weeks, and will be collecting responses from statutory consultees, neighbouring councils, interested parties and local residents on their opinion as to whether it meets 4 criteria – being ‘positively prepared’, ‘justified’, ‘effective’, and ‘consistent with national policy’.

The Vale is encouraging as many responses as possible to be made using the online response site linked from <https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp/> - this will aid the team in collating responses ahead of submission in December. Submission in that timeframe will ensure the JLP is considered in the context of the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Were its publication to be delayed, the JLP would be assessed against a revised NPPF, which would require the plan to be reassessed for compliance. This would further delay the JLP’s publication and likely result in an increased cost to the Vale and an increase in speculative development applications that might not be supported by the infrastructure the JLP would ensure was in place.

**Extra garden waste weeks**

Residents who are subscribed to the Vale’s brown bin garden waste service can have extra garden waste collected on their normal collection day between 28 October and 8 November. Householders can put out a maximum of four additional sacks of garden waste, per brown bin subscription. The extra waste must go in standard sized (60L) black refuse style sacks and should only contain natural garden waste such as cut grass, plants, or branches. Garden waste may also be placed in small boxes/containers totalling no more than a standard bin. Please do not use rubble or builders’ waste bags as these will not be collected.

Yours,

Mark

Cllr Mark Coleman

Vale of White Horse District Council Deputy Leader

Lib Dem Member for Thames Ward

Member for Environmental Services and Waste

Armed Forces and Veterans Champion

Mobile 07483 224436

Email [mark.coleman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.coleman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**Attachment 2**

**County Councillor Juliette Ash REPORT- All parishes- Nov 2024**

**GENERAL OCC REPORT**

**RESIDENTS' SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS**

The results of the OCC "Residents' Satisfaction Survey" have just been published. It shows disappointment in rural areas, while residents the city of Oxford are more content.

Key points are:

- Overall satisfaction with council below Local Government Association average
- 32% believes the council provides value for money
- Oxford residents are far happier with the council than those in rural areas
- 57% of residents believe the council doesn't keep them well-informed
- 43% of residents are satisfied with council services (this is boosted by higher levels of satisfaction in Oxford)
- Maintenance of roads is rated by 68% of residents as the council's most important service, but does not feature in the list of council priorities (see below)
- Only 14% of residents are satisfied with the council's level of road maintenance
- Road maintenance is far more important to residents than anything else (apart from in the city of Oxford)
- The level of satisfaction with the local area as a place to live has declined from 84% in 2021 to 72% in 2024
- Residents were asked to give feedback on the council's nine priorities, but they were given no opportunity to say that the priorities were wrong e.g. road maintenance should be a priority
- OCC's no.1 priority is Climate Change, and in 2021 38% of residents agreed with this, but that has now fallen to 18%
- The clear message is residents want day-to-day practical matters (particularly roads) prioritised over ideological objectives – just 3% of the council's annual spend currently goes on 'Highway Maintenance'

As a reminder, OCC's nine priorities are:

1. Put the climate emergency at the heart of our work.
2. Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire.
3. Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents.
4. Support carers and the social care system.
5. Invest in inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport.
6. Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces.
7. Create opportunities for children and young people.
8. Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy.
9. Work with businesses/partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.

There is a perception in rural areas that the city of Oxford receives favourable treatment. Net satisfaction figures with respect to the way OCC runs things add weight to this:

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- Oxford 36%
- Cherwell 14%
- South Oxfordshire 14%
- Vale of White Horse 10%

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- West Oxfordshire 6%

### **FREE BIKE LIGHTS AND HI-VIZ JACKETS FOR OXFORD CYCLISTS**

A road safety event in Oxford city centre this month (November) will include the opportunity for cyclists to get free bike lights and hi-viz jackets to make them safer on the roads. OCC, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS), the University of Oxford and Thames Valley Police are teaming up to hold this 'Vision Zero' safety event.

### **PENSION FUND DIVESTS FROM TOBACCO, THERMAL COAL AND TAR SANDS**

Investments into companies that derive significant revenues from thermal coal, tar sands and tobacco production have been excluded from investments by the county's Pension Fund Committee, which is hosted by OCC with representatives from other organisations as members.

### **SHARING PEOPLE'S STORIES THROUGH ART IN A NEW EXHIBITION**

During October, visitors were able to vote for their favourite artwork at an annual exhibition showcasing the work of the county's residents, with a focus on the representation of people. This year, 69 submissions were received, with the 49 that shortlisted put on display in the Garden Gallery at the OCC-run Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock. The exhibition included prizes for artworks that most effectively depicted the theme of people.

### **RESIDENTS URGED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY**

Oxfordshire residents, landowners, businesses, farmers and other organisations are being offered the chance to help shape the priorities for recovering areas of nature and wildlife across the county. Last year, Oxfordshire County Council was named by the government as a responsible authority for driving nature recovery. The council is one of 48 authorities who have been funded by the government to work with local people and organisations to develop a local nature recovery strategy (LNRS). Comments are now being sought on Oxfordshire's draft LNRS as part of a consultation which runs until 26 November 2024. The document, maps and online survey are available at the Let's Talk Oxfordshire website.

### **OCC BUDGET PLANNING PROCESS**

Updates on OCC's budget planning for 2025/26 and beyond were presented to the cabinet on Tuesday 15 October, with new budget proposals to be published in late November and a final budget set in February 2025. At this stage calculations are being made on the basis of a 1.99 per cent council tax rise – the new government has not set out a policy on any council tax rise limits. Other key information also needs to be confirmed, including how the national living wage will operate from 1 April 2025.

### **IMPACT OF 30 OCTOBER NATIONAL BUDGET ON COUNCILS**

The whole range of implications of the Budget on OCC will not become clear until the Local Government Policy Statement in November and the Local Government Financial Settlement in



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, but the council will face a substantial rise in overheads if the increased minimum wage and higher Employer National Insurance costs are not funded by Central Government

Unauthorised encampment update

We are seeing a rise in individuals residing in tents, caravans, and converted vehicles across the county, often due to economic circumstances. While we can provide advice and support, we are not the primary authority on these matters unless they involve Gypsies and Travellers. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the landowner or managing party to address any encroachments on their property.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

If you are looking for funding for local charities or Parish Council initiatives, please email Cllr Ash with ideas and requests for review.

Priorities for funding include:

ROAD SAFETY

FAMILY ACTIVITIES & WELFARE EDUCATION

FOOTPATH SUPPORT (signage/support for footpath generation and maintenance) All best,

Cllr Juliette Ash 04/11/24

*Please refer directly to Cllr Ash for additional verbal reporting on your top 3 priorities by Parish.*

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