

# Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting held at West Kidlington School on  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm

*Meeting commenced at 7pm*

**Councillors present:** Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Fiona Mawson (DC), Cllr Merlin Smith, Cllr Carol Matheson, Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins, Cllr Clive Stayt, Cllr Nick Duval, Cllr Suzanne McIvor

Others present: 4 members of public from Gosford and WE parish attended.

**23/01 To receive and accept apologies for absence:** Cllr Nigel Simpson

**23/02 Declarations of interest:** None

**23/03 Introduction of councillors:** The Chair introduced the councillors to the members of public. This was an election year and this confirms we have a full council at present.

**23/04 Chairman's Report:**

*Issues with Covid 19* have significantly reduced, our meetings are now held face to face.

The *precept* had a small raise this year, this was to enable us to keep funds to a working level. The council increase was 3.8% for the year 23/24. See finance report for more detail, further finance information is on our website.

There are still several *parking* issues for the parish, people are reminded to report to the non-emergency police number if there are issues.

*Housing* and planning is an ongoing discussion for the parish due to the number of housing developments planned within our area.

*Yellow lines* at Water Eaton Lane are still under discussion.

*OUFJ football stadium* is an ongoing discussion for the parish. This council is taking an active view on what the development is doing, we do not have sufficient information to plan. When we have further details from Oxford United, we will invite members of the public to a meeting which we will also invite Oxford United to. The stadium is not proposed to be in our parish, but it is noted it will affect our parish.

Reminder to residents to use *fixmystreet.com* for local issues (potholes, tree down etc.) this enables issues to go to the correct department for matters to be picked up and resolved.

The *merger* of KPC and GWEPC parish was rejected by CDC. We remain separate.

In 22/23 financial year for the *Queens jubilee* we provided commemorative coins for students at schools in the parish and a tree give away.

*5G mast* adjacent to Miller & Carter – we did object and were overruled by the District Council. This is part of national infrastructure. (It was requested by a member of public that we complain to our local MP as a follow up).

*Recreational areas* - we continue to inspect the play areas; we are replacing the Bramley Close play area before the summer 2023 school holidays.

*Kidlington Roundabout* – there are plans to alter the roundabout adjacent to Sainsburys, put forward by OCC – details are on OCC website. We do not have a date when any work will take place.

**23/05 To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved with no matters arising.  
Proposed Cllr Wilson-Higgins, Seconded Cllr Merlin Smith

**23/06 Matters arising from the minutes held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and Matters Arising.**

None

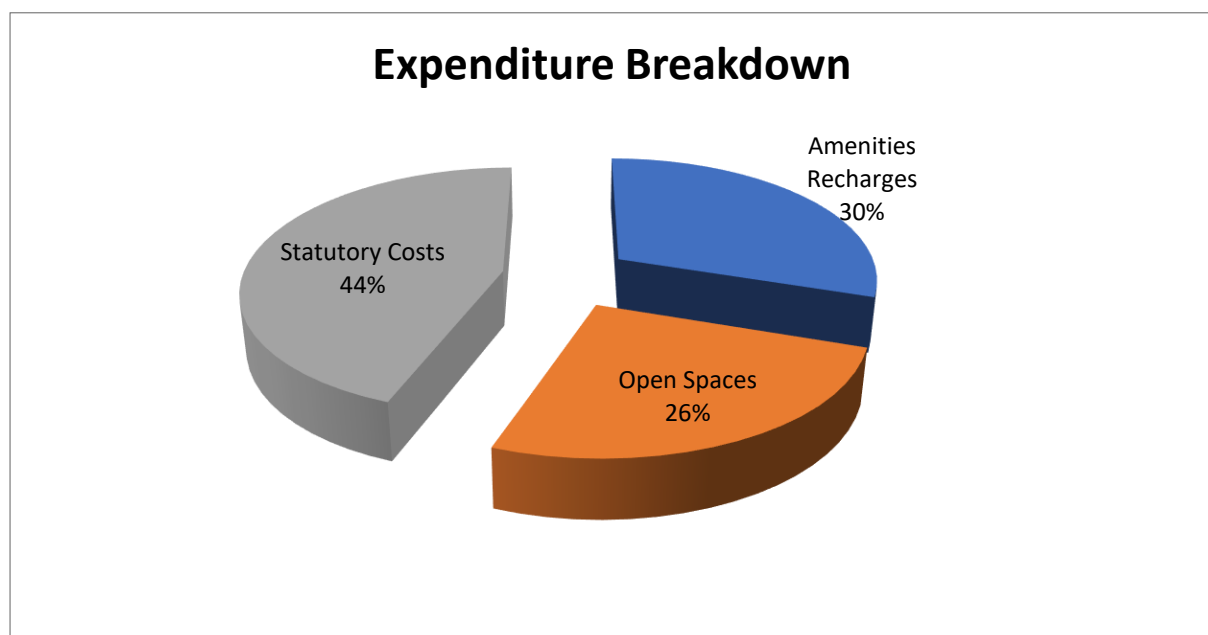
**23/07 Accounts for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 2023**

The preadjusted year close figure is an underspend of £1,304 in the revenue budget. Once the agreed and approved adjustments to the reserves were accounted for, these being the Sinking Fund for Stratfield Brake, Playground Enhancements and Legal Fees, the final closing balance was an overspend of £2,396.

Below is an outline of our expenditure lines for 2022-2023 with a levied precept of £68,441. Due to increase in statutory expenditures, the council had no choice but to increase the precept for 2022-23 by 3.8% to £71,179.



The closing bank balances of the council were £86,982.32 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The funds are represented by:

<b>FUNDS REPRESENTED BY: Barclay Bank Accounts</b>	<b>£</b>
Community Account	86,982.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86,982.32</b>
<b>RESERVES REPRESENTED BY:</b>	
General Reserve	18,113.62
EMR Playground Maintenance	12,500.00

EMR Stratfield Brake Sinking Fund	9,975.00
EMR Litter & Dog Bins	4,000.00
EMR Street Furniture	4,000.00
EMR Bramley Close 15yr maintenance	32,393.70
EMR Planning & Legal	6,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86,982.32</b>

### **23/08 Parish Report**

Covered in Chairman's report.

### **23/09 Planning Matters**

#### **Housing**

Hills Development has submitted planning request to Cherwell District Council for dwellings within the parish. As a council we have commented regarding the flats as they are out of keeping and we have concerns over heights.

The PR6a development outline planning has just been submitted by Savills to Cherwell DC and we expect to see that by end May as it is not showing on the CDC planning portal at the moment – members of public are encouraged to comment.

As a council we are keeping a close watch on all planning developments local to us.

#### **Oxford United Football Stadium**

The council understands that more details will come from OUFC over the next few weeks. When we have more details, we will hold a meeting to discuss the plans etc. We will invite members of the public and representatives from OUFC. We understand that there are pro and anti-stadium views.

It is noted that members of our parish received a Kidlington letter about a Kidlington Parish OUFC poll. Our council has noted that this has caused confusion. This poll is only to give Kidlington Parish councillors a view of how their parish feels about the stadium. KPC were obliged to hold this poll because of a motion at their APM. This parish maintains that it is too early to put this poll out as we do not have all the information required to do a meaningful poll at this time with our residents. It was not an option to join polls with Kidlington Parish Council.

A member of public noted the triangle does not seem large enough to meet the Oxford United requirements. Councillors responded that OUFC at this stage have not confirmed any detail but there is a lot of speculation. Once we have the detail we will know what they would like on the site.

A member of public commented to ask if the council can look to take ownership of the triangle and make it an extension of the Stratfield Brake nature reserve. The comment was noted but it is unlikely we could afford to purchase the land which is owned by Oxfordshire County Council.

### **23/10 Highway Matters**

Yellow lines at Water Eaton Lane are still under discussion.

**23/11 Resolutions / Questions: To consider any resolutions or questions (of which written notice has been given in advance)**

A member of public asked if we could confirm the owner of Lakeside (near Peartree) which has sold. This is not in our parish, and we do not know who owns it. Land registry will provide this information if residents wish to apply to them.

There is concern that instead of 600 houses, there is now 800 houses planned on one of the proposed developments in the parish (PR6a). Also noted that the gap between the parish and Oxford City is not wide enough. This has been noted. This particular developer has just submitted to Cherwell District Council outline plans. The council will review and residents are encouraged to comment via the CDC planning portal.

It was noted that the hedges are being cut away to make way for the developments / cycle ways. Council agree this is happening at some pace, comments have been taken back to developers regarding this and our DC representatives have voiced this.

Automatic travel counts at Bicester Road, Cromwell Way etc. Request for the data from a member of public. The OCC representative Cllr Middleton will see if he can obtain these. Carl (member of public) is requested to write to Cllr Ian Middleton to formally request.

Concern noted about HGV traffic seems to be diverted through the parish including HS2 lorries. This has been noted by OCC Cllr Ian Middleton to take back. It is noted this traffic is extremely close to some of the houses on the Bicester Road. There is a pollution monitor on the road. We believe there will be an updated pollution report before the end of summer.

Heavy lorries parking close to Hebborns on the verges alongside Bicester Road. These are 44 tonne lorries and are regularly parking there in the evening. The council will raise this to OCC Highways. This is not obstructing so it is not a police matter.

Concern regarding parking in the fields adjacent to Bramley Close. Cherwell District Council and Environmental Agency are involved and are looking into this. This land is not part of the parish but concern is noted and the council agrees it is a concern.

A resident has suggested that they may set up a flood warden system (official) to identify future risks. Not just to cover our parish. Cllr Stayt is interested to be involved / kept up to date. It is noted that there are already official flood wardens within our parish (Cllr Stayt and Cllr Smith). This is an automated system and councillors will be mobilised should action be required.

**23/12 Any other business:**

There was a request to have an update in the Kidlington News monthly – Cllr S Wilson-Higgins will do this.

*Meeting ends 20:00*