

Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held at West Kidlington School on Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 7pm.

Meeting commenced at 7pm

Councillors present: Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins (Vice Chair, chairing this meeting), Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Suzanne Mclvor, Cllr Nick Duval, Cllr Merlin Smith

To receive and accept apologies for absence from: Cllr Carol Matheson, Cllr Clive Stayt, Cllr Nigel Simpson

23/317 Declarations of Interest: Suzanne Mclvor declared interest in the Ox United stadium as is associated to Friends of Stratfield Brake.

23/318 Public participation: None

23/319 To confirm the minutes of the previous council meeting on 6th June 2023: The minutes of the meeting on 6th June 2023 were approved.

23/320 Update on progress of the minutes held on 6th June 2023.

Ady Podbery has been asked to cut back around signs on the main roads in the parish. The Water Eaton Lane sign still needs replacing – OCC has been chased and it has been requested via fix my street.

Youth Survey is written to share with young people in schools for views on proposed OUFC stadium, will discuss later this meeting.

23/321 Reports

Cllr Ian Middleton:

Trees that were removed last year on the Gosford Link Road have been replaced.

Bicester Road has been resurfaced.

We are still pursuing cycle path on the Bicester Road.

Local plan goes to consultation in 2040

Raised question at cabinet about licence for OUFC saying stadium licence runs out 2026 whereas it had an original option of extension to 2046. OUFC have received the termination notice. Cllr Middleton has asked for transparency on the reason for the termination. Cllr Middleton has raised concerns about how OUFC OCC survey has been carried out and how they may have been written. September OCC cabinet meeting will have further discussion on OUFC. There is no opportunity for members to comment on OUFC ahead of this and Cllr Middleton has raised this.

A44 work ongoing is behind schedule due to services located in the bridge. It is not confirmed when the work will finish.

OCC are looking to move premises from County Hall to Speedwell House. This will take some years to take effect (likely 2025/26). It is not clear what will happen to County Hall (possibly sold or let out).

Although not in GWEPC we have heard now that Glebe House is now surplus to

requirements and await further information on what will happen to that site.

Questions arising from the clerk's report:

Council are sending a Survey Monkey to youths via the schools in the parish. The questions are aimed at young people for their views. The council confirmed the questions to include in the meeting.

The survey will go out to Gosford Hill school and one or two primary schools this Friday 7th July 2023.

23/322 Financial Matters

Unity Bank – there is no update on the movement of banking. The RFO is working to progress this.

The RFO was unable to provide a detailed finance report because the RFO does not have the statements. Councillors with access to the bank are asked to send these as soon as possible.

The below payments were RESOLVED to be approved at this meeting.

Clerk Payroll	CONFIDENTIAL	102699	Payment for August - post dated
RFO payroll	CONFIDENTIAL	102700	Payment for August - post dated
Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund	CONFIDENTIAL	102514	Payment for August - post dated
HMRC PAYE	CONFIDENTIAL	102515	Payment for August - post dated
Clerk Payroll	CONFIDENTIAL	102516	Payment for September - post dated
RFO payroll	CONFIDENTIAL	102517	Payment for September - post dated
Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund	CONFIDENTIAL	102518	Payment for September - post dated
HMRC PAYE	CONFIDENTIAL	102519	Payment for September - post dated
Clerk expenses	£61.95	102520	Reimbursement for office expenses and home office allowance -June
West Kidlington Friends	£58.00	102521	July meeting room hire
Cherwell District Council	£126.98	102522	inv 20010277 - dog bins
Wicksteed - Bramley play area	£23,592.00	102523	inv 0000822029 Bramley Play Park
Cherwell District Council	£2,318.53	102524	inv 20011189 landscape recharges Jan-Mar 2023
Ady Podbery grounds	£286.80	102525	inv 4727 - play area grass cutting and bins
CIS - computing	£3,725.42	102526	inv 86662 - new email migration to Microsoft 365 - annual costs all included inv 17948 - Rialtas accounts access for RFO, back up etc. anti-virus and 3 months of 2023 email costs before transition
Microshade	£820.03	102527	

Payments related to PAYE are confidential, but all detail has been shared with councillors for approval.

23/323 Planning Applications

21/02817/F Hansons aggregates, The Grain Silo – temporary variation of operating hours. Council OBJECTS on the ground of noise pollution.

CONCERNS RE OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR PR6a - The council adds further objection to this application.

POINT 1: Below is an extract from the 'Biodiversity Improvement and Management Plan' for Water Eaton

4.13 Whilst the proposed development will result in an unavoidable reduction in the value of the land for ground nesting birds such as skylark, proposals will result in enhanced opportunities for the wider bird assemblage, having a positive overall impact and increased provision for a variety of birds, including priority species. Despite this anticipated displacement of ground nesting birds, there are principles which can be incorporated into the on-site landscape design and habitat management which will also increase the value of the Site for foraging skylark, including providing species-rich grassland and invertebrate breeding habitats.

This isn't just an 'unavoidable reduction in the value of the land for ground nesting birds'. It is complete removal of this land for use by Skylarks which are a red-list species i.e. endangered. It will affect other bird species as well.

The developers know that Skylarks are present on this site and I question whether their approach is justified. It is possible that they should be providing offsite mitigations e.g. specific farmland management.

POINT 2:

Page 31 of Development Brief, 6.3 Character and layout

Extract: "Long distance views to the Cherwell Valley and St Frideswide Farm along historic east-west routes are to be retained and new view corridors created within the street layout".

Looking at the Masterplan it isn't clear how these long distance views along historic east-west routes are being retained.

POINT 3: Community Allotments

Page 52 of Development Brief states:

*"A 0.64 hectare area is required for community allotments which are to be incorporated within the allocated developable area. A potential location is indicated on **Figure 21**. The design and character of the allotments are to be agreed with CDC".*

The Masterplan shows 8 small sites of 'allotments/community gardens/orchards'

The council queries what area will be allocated and is it the full amount?

Will it be a proper allotment site to provide for the increasing number of people especially those in flats with no gardens?

POINT 4: There are roosting bats in Pipal Barns

Planning states they are not planning to do anything for the skylarks. This will give an adverse impact to the red list species such as skylarks. There does not seem to be offsite compensation on farmland.

OUFC – the council had a query on leaflet issued in May 2023 as to what the green area is – it was concluded that it is part of the building.

There is no further development in discussion with OUFC but we continue to seek information as a council.

23/324 Parish Matters

Yellow line: We already agreed white H marks down one side, yellow lines down narrow bit all the way down, yellow lines down one side. The council agreed for this previously. The clerk will follow up with OCC.

The parish gave trees away in the past which went well. The clerk will ask Bunkers Hill about supplying trees for another give away (circa 100 trees). Discuss timing but likely November / December for planting season.

23/325 Items for Information or next Agenda only

None

23/326 Date of the next full council meeting: 5th September – 7pm – West Kidlington School
(No formal August meeting)

Noted: Suzanne McIvor cannot make Sept meeting