

Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held at West Kidlington School on
Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7pm

Meeting commenced at 7pm

Councillors present: Cllr Carol Matheson, Cllr Clive Stayt, Cllr Suzanne McIvor, Cllr Nigel Simpson, , Cllr Nick Duval, Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins, Cllr Merlin Smith,

To receive apologies of absence from: Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Fiona Mawson,

Other attendees: The clerk, two members from Greenway group

24/388 Declarations of interest: Cllr Simpson declared interest in OUFC due to his role on CDC. Cllr McIvor declared interest in OUFC as she sits on the Friends of Stratfield Brake committee.

24/389 Public Participation: Two representatives from the Greenway group attended the meeting. The group are still looking for an alternative golf club site (as North Oxford golf club is planning to close for housing) and are looking at all options. Losing the golf course is a great loss for the area, not just for sport but also for wellbeing and social interactions. Golf at North Oxford currently ceases in October 2025, it was previously understood the club could continue to play on the site until a replacement course was ready. The decision for golf to cease on this date is because the landlord wishes to have vacant possession on the site. Cllr Simpson is speaking to CDC and trying to support looking at options. It was made clear from Greenway that golf club members have not been paid off to step aside (this is purely rumour). The clerk asked the group to share some written information that we can publish in the next parish newsletter so we can share the latest update with residents.

24/390 To confirm the minutes of the previous council meeting on 6th February 2024

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting on 6th February 2024

24/391 Update on progress and matters arising from the minutes held on 6th February 2024: Nothing that is not covered further in the agenda.

24/392 Reports

Cllr Nigel Simpson –OCC has set budget, 4.99% increase by County Council. CDC has set budget - £5 increase per Band D property.

Cllr Nigel Simpson: CDC / OCC are looking at the site adjacent to Hebborns site to see what is lawful. This is not in our parish but is for info as interest to us.

Cllr Nigel Simpson: CDC agreed to do a piece of work for the four parishes to look at S106 to ensure spent in the right areas. There will be an officer allocated to oversee the S106 money raised from the developments locally. This is welcome news, but the appointment has not been made yet. This includes spending for education, health and recreation in the area.

24/393 Financial Matters

(24/393.01) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments as detailed in the clerk's report (detailed below). Payments are made via online banking with Unity bank which is now in place.

Finance committee receive copies of the invoices to review ahead of the meeting. Statutory payments were already authorised and have been paid via standing order.

Statutory salaries, HMRC, pensions already approved and set up – All to be made via online banking. These are set up by the RFO to be clicked in the approvals list.

clerks' expenses March 2024	£53.30	Office, admin, home office allowance, phone line
West Kidlington Friends	£75.00	March venue hire
OCC rental playground	£228.00	playground rent increase
OALC	£272.44	annual membership
Vision ICT	£161.26	website hosting
Edward Feild school venue hire - APM May 24	£92.10	APM venue hire May 2024

£confidential relates to payroll figures – these figures are shared with councillors. They are approved annually.

24/394 Planning:

- a) Bus stop at the back of Beagles Close. The parish council are seeking clarification from the developer Barwood to see if the positioning can be moved so it is not right behind resident houses.
- b) Fix my street – we have a pending status for the park and ride zebra crossing which needs re-marking.
- c) To discuss the Oxford United stadium planning application 24/00539/F. Closing dates for comments are 22nd April 2024.

Application Ref: 24/00539/F has been received with Cherwell District Council (It is currently being validated and will be available for comments from members of the public early March)

Location: Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station, Oxford Road, Kidlington

Proposal: Erection of a stadium (Use Class F2) with flexible commercial and community facilities and uses including for conferences, exhibitions, education, and other events, club shop, public restaurant, bar, health and wellbeing facility/clinic, and gym (Use Class E/Sui Generis), hotel (Use Class C1), external concourse/fan-zone, car and cycle parking, access and highway works, utilities, public realm, landscaping and all associated and ancillary works and structures.

Discussion:

There are many questions over the bridge possibility, there is no further detail on that as the plan for the infrastructure / bridge.

The closure of the road for access / road diversion is a huge decision and a big issue for the Parish.

Councillors in this meeting: 2 in favour (subject to conditions – i.e. bridge would be mandatory requirement) / 5 against

Some of the councillors felt the stadium plan is good – it's the location that is the concern. There are clear advantages to the Oxford United Football Club.

Main concerns for the development: Access (lack of clarity for bridge, safety concerns, pavements etc), greenbelt, location is not ideal, height, traffic & parking (including enforcement) concerns, damaging to wildlife, noise, park & ride usage for stadium (as this reduces access to Oxford for residents). Overall Impact is wider than just the stadium in the triangle (bus services, public transport, anti-social behaviour). Utility concerns – there are pylons going across the site / substation are major works.

This parish council mindful of the response of parishioners (survey & feedback to the council) RESOLVED to object to the erection of the stadium in this particular location, for this application, with the detail that we have at this time.

The representatives in the parish council for recreation for will meet to write a fuller and detailed response. All councillors will approve this before publication online and before submitting to the planning authority as a full response.

24/395 Parish Matters

Swimming vouchers – we had an enquiry from a resident regarding whether the swimming vouchers are still available. The council would support this if the sports centre can offer it.

24/396 Items for information and next agenda only.

General note that audit will be in progress from early April.

Cllr Smith noted that sustainable energy / solar objection case was won in East Lindsey (Hatton solar farm).

Cllr Smith shared information that Wiltshire council votes in favour of meats and dairy, this is defying a council that banned meat and dairy at events. Parish Councillors generally supports that people have a balanced diet using local produce

and no food should be excluded. OCC currently only offer vegan at their meetings at County Hall.

24/397 Date of the next full council meeting – 7th May 2024 - 7pm Edward Feild School (main hall). The RFO will be asked to join as this will be the Annual Parish Meeting. There will be 6-6.30pm regular council meeting at the venue prior to the APM.

It is noted there is no April meeting.

Meeting ends 8.50pm