

Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on
Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7pm at Edward Feild Primary School**

Meeting commenced at 7pm

Councillors present: Cllr Carol Matheson, Cllr Clive Stayt, Cllr Suzanne Mclvor, Cllr Nigel Simpson, Cllr Nick Duval, Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins, Cllr Fiona Mawson (DC)

To receive and accept apologies of absence from: Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Merlin Smith

Other attendees: The clerk and 9 members of the public.

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

Introduction of Councillors

Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins was elected as Chair. Proposed Cllr Stayt, Seconded Cllr Matheson.

Chairmans Report The Chairman circulated their report for people to read at the meeting. A copy of that report is here:

May 2024

Over the past year parish council has enjoyed a stable financial position and provided local services including maintenance of parish controlled green spaces and verges, ensuring local Fix My Street feedback is lodged with Oxford County Council, provision of dog waste bins, encouraging volunteers to clean-up rubbish along local roads and providing notice boards.

This year parish council meetings have been dominated by opportunities for the parish council to comment on planning applications to Cherwell District Council (CDC) and to consider how the parish might influence the spending of the associated "Section 106" funds that developers commit to spend on specific local projects such as sports and community facilities.

Play equipment installed in Bramley Close

Following several years of preparation, the parish council was at last able to spend the Section 106 funds for the Bramley Close development. This was earmarked for play equipment for the park and new equipment was installed in time for the summer holidays.

Four Parishes Meeting

To improve communication and co-ordination over the past year, Kidlington Parish Council have called meetings with Gosford & Water Eaton, Yarnton and Begbroke parish council chairmen, vice-chairmen, district councillors and CDC staff. The Four parishes group has met every other month to share parish responses to CDC on planning applications and to co-ordinate feedback and comments on Section 106 spending proposals. This group will become increasingly important in the coming years to ensure our parish community benefits from significant new housing development associated funds.

Housing Developments

The Cherwell District Council Local Plan has earmarked three significant developments in our parish referred to as PR6a (Bellway developers), PR6b (no appointed developers by the three land owners at this stage) and PR7a (Hill developers / Barwood developers). The parish council is in regular contact with the developers requesting updates. Councillors are monitoring CDC planning processes for each application.

Gosford Hill High School Redevelopment

We were delighted to support the planning application for the redevelopment of Gosford Hill High School which is currently in the CDC planning process and promises significant local educational improvements.

Oxford United Stadium Development (adjacent to our parish)

In November we conducted a survey of parishioners concerning the stadium and the majority of the responses objected to the development with particular concerns raised by parishioners around road access, pedestrian routes, parking and environmental impact. The council appointed a sub-committee to review the environmental plan and to draft our objection. This draft is being currently reviewed and is expected to be submitted this month. A planning application for a pedestrian bridge is also expected to be submitted by OUFC in the coming months.

Other Council Activities

Parish councillors have attended and reported on a variety of local meetings this year. These include: the Kidlington Airport Committee, the Kidlington Environmental Committee, Stratfield Brake Management Committee and Thames Valley Police community liaison meetings. We have submitted highlights of most council meeting to the Kidlington News to improve local communications. We have had some public participation in parish council meetings including feedback concerning housing developments plans.

Thank you

In addition to thanking all our volunteer parish councillors for their time and commitment over the past year, I would like to particularly thank Clive Stayt for his service to the parish council. He has served as Chairman for the past five years and is now assuming the role of Vice Chairman. Also I would like to thank our Clerk Karen East who has diligently served the parish council well over the course of the year keeping the website up to date, producing newsletters and managing all aspects of our meeting administration.

Suzanne Wilson-Higgins, Chairman

Thanks to the outgoing Chairman Cllr C Stayt for his tenure as Chairman and special thanks to all councillors for their volunteering across the year.

To confirm the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2023.

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting on 9th May 2023.

Proposed Cllr C Matheson, Seconded Cllr N Duval

Matters arising from the minutes held on 9th May 2023.

None

Accounts for year-end 31st March 2024

Council received the statement of the Parish Councils Accounts (full finance information available on the website and was circulated in the parish newsletter)

It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts to 31 March 2024. Proposed Councillors S McIvor, Seconded Cllr Simpson

Parish Matters

Cllr Simpson provided an update regarding Gosford Hill School – The school is being rebuilt. The school recently had an open day displaying the new plans. Completion is due Summer 2026. The school will be built in part by knocking and rebuilding in sections. The new build of the school will be on the existing footprint of the school. There are plans for Adult Education to be added back on the site, but the discussions are ongoing.

Planning Matters

Bellway Homes (PR6a – development by Oxford Parkway Stadium) have been invited to a meeting in Autumn in order for us to receive an update on their development. This is currently an open application. Residents are encouraged to respond to the planning application. (There are plans and internet access available in the library). Cllr Mawson added that councillors are meeting with CDC to discuss water, sewage and traffic issues. There are many issues being discussed and raised including a better public transport system, walking and cycling.

PR7a (adjacent to Water Eaton) – we are waiting for a response from Hills and Barwood regarding latest status of that development. The council would like to meet the developers to discuss those developments. Hills development may start as soon as September 2024.

Oxford United Football Club – proposed Stadium – member of public raised concern that the stadium proposed triangle location is not suitable and would need access on from Frieze Way. Council confirmed that according to the current plans there is access in and out of Frieze way. The resident also raised concern regarding a potential bridge – council confirmed no planning has been submitted for this. Members of public also raised concern regarding parking if the stadium went ahead. Council noted this, this is commented in the council objection. The council reiterates that the council has objected to this planning application. Members of public have been able to visit public consultations where plans are displayed.

Highway Matters

Cllr Middleton noted that there is ongoing work at Kidlington roundabout – there is a target for completion at end of June / July 2024 for Kidlington roundabout works.

A member of public raised traffic modelling regarding the proposal OUFC stadium. When this is done this will be placed for consultation on the CDC website but at the moment it is not published. The council has confirmed they will continue to object to the current traffic proposals (against road closures etc.).

Resolutions / Questions.

Oxford United Football Club – it was noted by a member of public that one of the councillors wrote (a now published) article in support of the stadium in a newsletter in councillor capacity, this was in fact a personal opinion. This has been referred to the monitoring officer for handling and councillors are discussing a communication policy. Council confirmed that the view of the stadium of the council is currently that of objection.

A member of public raised the issue of unlawful developments further up from Bramley Close. This area is not in our parish, but CDC is aware.

Member of public raised the issue that more people should be walking and cycling but very hard for us to ensure OUFC fans do not drive to the stadium. It is highly likely that people will end up parking in the estate. In the current plan submission, our parish would be in a 2-mile exclusion zone for parking. Council noted this and this is raised as part of the objection.

Member of public raised that bus transport is good in the village, but it can still mean a good 15 minutes' walk for a fit person so public transport is not easy for all residents.

Member of public raised concerns about lorry restrictions not being observed. Cllr Middleton confirmed that this has been raised to Highways and to our Member of Parliament. It is also noted that the excavation works at the back of Oxford Parkway is noisy. The parish council has objected to extended hours at the depot for the company who has lorries coming back and forth through the parish Cllr Simpson will take the issue of noise pollution back to OCC.

Member raised the issue of pollution at Miller & Carter traffic lights. The Air Quality device has recently been removed by OCC as pollution levels are deemed as being lowered now.

Any other business None

Meeting ends 7.50pm