

## Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held at West Kidlington Primary School  
on  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

*Meeting commenced at 7pm*

**Councillors present:** Cllr Clive Stayt, Cllr Merlin Smith, Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins (Chair), Cllr Suzanne McIvor, Cllr Nigel Simpson, Cllr Carol Matheson

**To receive and accept apologies of absence from:** Cllr Ian Middleton, the clerk

*Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins took the minutes for this meeting*

**Other attendees:** None

**24/471 Declarations of interest:** Cllr Smith farming within area of development potential. Cllr McIvor is part of Friends of Stratfield Brake. Cllr Simpson declares he is a season ticket holder for OUFC.

**24/472 Public Participation:** None

**24/473 To confirm the minutes of the previous council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024. Proposed Cllr C Stayt, Seconded Cllr Smith

**24/474 Update on progress and matters arising from the minutes held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024:** Nothing that is not covered further in the agenda.

**24/475 To receive reports from Parish, District and County Councillors.**

Cllr Wilson-Higgins: nothing to report

Cllr Simpson met with the lead Americ raised lack of structure. Americ is assembling his team. Section 106. Nigel reported no change to his leadership. 14 Feb CDC move to Bodicote House. Initial cost long term saving. County Hall Speedwell Street redevelopment of site – whole project ... 1960s building. Fewer offices for staff as they work from home. Not even living in Oxfordshire. Early stages. Budget season coming up now: expect maximum council tax increase expected. NI rise to be absorbed by council. OCC is the largest employer in the county. £750m budget for the county. Core focus given funding restriction. 20mph and vision 0 (no road deaths) both probably on hold. E-bikes increasing accidents. TVP not enforcing. Should have a license.

Cllr Stayt asked about potential for a Thames Valley Mayor. Emergency cabinet meeting took place. Unitary authority separates from Mayoral authority: who do we partner with? Need 2.5 million people: (Bucks and Berkshire maybe. No one wants to partner with Slough and Windsor. 10<sup>th</sup> of January is submission deadline. Tranche 1 cancels elections for county in May. Tranche 2 will be later.

County Hall city centre vs larger premises. What happens to parish Councils under the unitary authority. Parishes in OXFORD city centre WARDS... Bucks 160

councillors. 69 councillors in Oxfordshire 50 in each DISTRICT. Vale and South. 780k people in Oxfordshire – budgets would need to be revisited. TVP Bucks and Berks. Unitary: Oxfordshire OK but Mayoral needs 2.5m. Mercia was the old grouping. Expect updates from Cllr Simpson when he hears.

Cllr Simpson will be a Super User on Fix My Street Reference numbers. Super Users can bypass the queue on the system. Drains are blocked on Mill Street for example OCC Highways used to annually flush drains but now when reported. He reported on flooding plans and recent issues with Thames Water. Quick response teams from community: sandbags etc.

Cllr Matheson: No report.

Cllrs Smith reported: Yellow lines still no change on Water Eaton Lane – board signage of name hidden by foliage. Needs clearing back harder by OCC Highways.

Cllr Stayt reported: OALC message received. Local Government Standards survey. NALC will be responding, and we are invited to respond. Due 2 Feb 2025.

Cllr Wilson-Higgins: Stratfield Brake meeting today, she will circulate a summary report. Cllr Simpson felt Contribution from Section 106 needed. New facility vs refurbish. meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January with Users of Stratfield Brake. 2 x 3G pitches in one place are possibly proposed - Begbroke or Stratfield Brake.

#### **24/476 To ask questions regarding the clerk's report and summary**

No further questions or comments.

#### **24/477 Financial Matters**

(24/477.01) To approve financial payments: 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.

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.

For immediate payment:

West Kidlington venue January - £60

Clerk office expenses (Dec) - £53.15

Ady Podbery landscaping - £88.80

CDC - £966.18 Stratfield Brake management – December.

Insurance: £1,393.48 Zurich – annual renewal (*as they have new bank details there is a beneficiary amendment approval in Unity banking IN ADDITION to the payment approval – it is not a duplicate*).

£302.21 – CIS limited (our IT provider) – this payment will be taken by Direct Debit and is for our annual virus and hosting.

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

(24/477.02) To consider the budget for the next financial year 25/26 which commences 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for the next financial year as set out in the finance reports. The budget of £81,174 is agreed for 26/26.

(24/477.03) To discuss and consider the precept figure for 25/26 financial year which commences 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025: Councillors **RESOLVED** to set a precept of 6%. The precept figure is £81,174.

The RFO will submit the precept request to Cherwell District Council.

(24/477.04) To approve the finance report (detailing line by line budget and expenditure) provided by the RFO: The reports were shared to councillors for pre-reading ahead of the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the finance reports.

**24/478 Planning:** To consider all recent applications received from Cherwell District Council since the last meeting including any OUFC statements / updates for consideration.

(24/478.01) Application No.: 24/03357/F Applicant's Name: Mr. A. Jan Proposal: Part single, part two storey, side and rear extensions to dwelling Location: 32 Cromwell Way, Kidlington, OX5 2LL Parish(es): Gosford and Water Eaton  
This council has no objection or comment to this application.

Application No.: 24/03024/CLUE Applicant's Name: Mr & Mrs Lala Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Development for erection of garden building to provide gym Location: 7 Cromwell Way, Kidlington, OX5 2LW  
This council has no objection or comment to this application.

(24/478.02) To consider and confirm the response to **East West Rail** – Cllr Wilson-Higgins will draft and circulate via email suggested comments that may affect our section / within the parish. Cllr Wilson-Higgins will attend the presentation online on 9<sup>th</sup> January from EWR.

(24/478.03) To consider and confirm the response to the **OUFC planning application**.

Consultation end date is officially 8 Feb – the clerk will ask planning for an extension respond to mid-February due to the number of consultations the parish council has to respond to. It is not anticipated that this will be a problem.

Issues discussed by council in this meeting: There are still queries in the transport plan particularly the movement of pedestrians parking in Peartree walking under the A34, across Frieze Way to Stratfield Brake side then back again to OUFC. This seems unfeasible in practice. We question how fans can be restricted from parking at Parkway Park and ride / rail station. We have questions surrounding the proposed 2k CPZ restriction closures and diversions of traffic. Traffic delays 15 mins on Frieze

Way, impact on Sunderland Ave/A40 and A34 seem underestimated. Up to 30-minute delays = up to 2 hours more realistic. Gridlock could be anticipated.

Cllr McIvor will circulate a list of the page's councillors should focus on and will then draft a response for council comment and approval before the clerk submits following the next parish council meeting.

(24/478.04) **Cherwell Local Plan:** Moors development in Kidlington Parish came out; the council will discuss our feedback at our February meeting. Consider 5-year land supply and lifted restrictions. All councillors should read the plan prior to the February council meeting.

(24/478.05) **Health provision feedback to appropriate authority**

It should be noted that health care provision is beyond the scope of our parish council however we can share comments to our District and County councillors.

Councillors discussed that they might want to think about how we can input via our District and County councillors to pass input to the Integrated Care Board (ICB), OCC officers and NHS with concerns about new development and insufficient GP provision in our area.

It is not clear what is being fed into ICB by CDC or OCC. Councillors feel that a Community Hospital for Four Parishes would make sense or a diagnostic Centre for the area.

**24/479 Items for information and next agenda only.**

**Bench** – a resident has asked if council can place a bench in Bramley Close. Much of this land belongs to Sanctuary Housing and we would need to seek permission to install. In principle we have funds to do so. The clerk will reach out to Sanctuary in the first instance.

**Four parishes meeting** is 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 6pm online. Cllr Stayt will attend.

Cllr Stayt raised query raised about **Gosford Hill High School**. Summer 2026 should be complete. Cllr Simpson to investigate and report on progress concerning the site. There may be Section 106 money available for the “new school” building. Pitches and flood lights were discussed by KPC. Council would like clarification on lighting on to Cromwell Way as this could impact residents.

**24/480 Date of the next full council meeting** – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – 8pm West Kidlington Primary School.

*Meeting ends 8.15pm*