

**Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Tuesday 17th April 2018 at Edward Feild School, Kidlington at 7pm**

In Attendance: Cllr M Billington (Chairman), Cllr S Wilson-Higgins, Cllr C Stayt (Vice Chairman),
Cllr C Matheson, Karen East (Clerk)

CDC – Cllr N Prestidge

23 members of the public attended

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr E Walton and Cllr M Smith

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Introduction of Councillors

Councillors were introduced by the Chairman.

**4. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2017 and
Matters Arising.**

The minutes of the APM on 23rd May 2017 were agreed and approved.

No Matters Arising

5. Accounts for the year end 31 March 2017

Copy of accounts circulated within Parish Report.

Precept was increased by 23%, much of this is due to the costs of challenging the unmet
housing planning issues.

Stratfield Brake – we now have set annual figures for the costs of Strafield Brake. For the next 5
years this facility will remain outsourced to Legacy Leisure.

Finance report is accepted and approved.

6. Parish Report

See Parish Report – circulated with agenda in advance of the meeting. There were no questions
relating to the Parish Report.

7. Police Report

Parking is a problem in the area. The clerk will advise Mr Makepeace (Member of Public) of the next Police Community meeting as he would like to attend this meeting. Parking issues have spread in to Kingsway Drive in addition to Cromwell Way, Hampden Drive and Oxford Road areas. The clerk does regularly report this to TVP and the Parish Council encourages residents to directly report parking obstructions and illegally parked cars to the Police non-emergency number.

TVP provided a police report:

POLICE REPORT

In June 2017, Thames Valley Police underwent a restructuring of frontline Policing. Each Local Policing Area (LPA) now comprises of-

- 1-Emergency Response Teams-attending 999 calls and more urgent incidents, dealing with initial enquiries.
- 2-Investigation hubs-made up of case investigators, PCs and Detectives, dealing with volume crime, taking ownership of investigations, dealing with prisoners and case files.
- 3-Neighbourhood teams-broken down into geographical teams consisting of a neighbourhood supervisor and community support officers, engaging with our areas, offering crime prevention and gathering intelligence and a problem solving team of officers looking at reducing demand and vulnerability.

We still have various departments-Roads Policing, Force CID, Armed Response, Dog and Mounted sections, Domestic Abuse and Child Abuse to name a few.

Kidlington Neighbourhood team has been joined with Woodstock and Eynsham Neighbourhood team and comprises 2 part time Sgts, a PC Neighbourhood Supervisor, 5 Police Community Support Officers and 4 PC Problem Solving Officers. At the end of this month, we have a new Community Support Officer starting. The team can be contacted via email –

KidlingtonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

The Cherwell and West Oxon Local Policing Area priorities are-

Dwelling Burglaries-the latter half of last year saw a significant increase in domestic burglaries throughout the LPA. Kidlington did not escape this trend and we too suffered a spike in burglary, particularly organised groups coming from out of our Force area. The main target for these offenders is jewellery. Whilst there has been a decline in the last couple of months, the geographical locality of our area means we are vulnerable due to the major road networks easily accessible from Kidlington.

Child Sexual Exploitation-the various high profile cases of organised groups of males taking advantage of young persons is something that has highlighted this worrying crime. The Neighbourhood Team has been involved for a number of years, working closely with Children's

Homes. A member of the team is a dedicated point of contact with each residential children's home and the team follows up reports of missing children where there is any suggestion of vulnerability. We work closely with the Multi Agency Support Hub-MASH, made up of Police, Social Services, NHS, Probation and Councils sharing information to safeguard using each organisations areas of expertise.

Domestic Abuse-all domestic incidents are thoroughly investigated and reviewed by the MASH team. These can be classified as either a crime, or a crime related incident, where no criminal offences have been committed. This is still an area of particular concern to Police and partner agencies as it often takes place behind closed doors.

County Drug lines and Child drug exploitation- County lines are operated by individuals or groups who use mobile phone 'lines' to extend their drug dealing business into new locations outside their home, usually urban areas often centred around good transport links.

A 'county line' enterprise almost always involves exploitation of vulnerable people. This can involve both children and adults who require safeguarding. We are aware of 'lines' operating in Banbury, Bicester and Witney and there are links to our area as well.

We need your help to address all of these areas and to work with us to safeguard our communities.

We are always looking for new members to join our Community Resilience Group-

This meeting is your opportunity to help shape the policing priorities for Kidlington in the upcoming months. We welcome anyone interested in making a positive contribution to making Kidlington a safer place to live and work.

Together we will look at what issues are impacting on the area and how both the Police and our partner agencies can problem solve together with the support of the local community.

Neighbourhood watch scheme - A show of hands showed unanimous interest in having this in Gosford and Water Eaton, Councillors will look in to this now.

8. Planning Matters including Oxford Unmet Housing Need

The Parish Report summarised planning.

The next stage of the Oxford Unmet Housing planning is that it will go to the inspectorate. It is a very expensive legal process to challenge the unmet housing, the PC would need to hire a barrister.

The Councillors requested views from the public attending with regards to hiring a barrister / mounting a legal challenge. Estimated cost in the region of 20k and the Parish would require donations from parishioners to fund the costs.

Q. Who are these houses destined for? A. 50% are supposed to be for affordable housing defined as housing built by Housing Associations and rented out at 80% of the market value. It should be noted that a 2 bedroom flat would be in the region of £800 a month to rent.

Q. If the North Oxford Golf Club and area opposite that is built on what is stopping Oxford City taking the Parish in to the boundaries? A. This is something we are aware of and we don't know in the long run, however the parish will resist any takeover from Oxford City.

Q. Why is Kidlington not interested in joining with Gosford to fight the legal challenge? A. (Cllr Neil Prestidge) Kidlington are arguing with different facts on their objection, which is the reason they gave as not pursuing a joint legal challenge.

Q. Why did Andrew Hornsby Smith speak at a previous Gosford and Water Eaton PC meeting? A. He was just there to provide an outline on the planning issues. He (as a candidate for CDC) wanted to speak at the meeting.

Q. In the Saturday Times it recently talked about a Greenbelt where housing was going to be built. This was escalated highly in to government, can we do the same. A. Yes, we can write to MPs as can parishioners to escalate our views.

Q. People in this area don't seem to want these houses, yet we seem to be in a situation where what we want is not being listened to. A. At the CDC housing meeting in February this parish council spoke as well as many other local councils. Most parish councils (including us) voted against the housing. We were shocked that the vote went against us. It was a small majority. As we have no money for the infrastructure we may not get as many houses but we will not know until after the inspectorate. Gosford and Water Eaton Parish is fighting hard against this. Although we are not against some housing the sheer number and the build on the greenbelt is something we do need to fight against.

Cllr Matheson, some councillors at the CDC meeting voted for housing in this parish and Kidlington as they did not want it in their area.

Q. Apart from the golf course areas which areas in Gosford and Water Eaton are affected. A. The golf course (650 houses), opposite the golf course (550), Water Eaton Lane and main Sainsburys Road (220) (approximate figures).

Cllr C Stayt attended the meeting at CDC and spoke for Gosford. Cllr C Stayt addressed the APM and explained that he was bitterly disappointed with the leader of the CDC Council. After 2 hours of arguments against the housing the leader of the Council stood up and recommended the vote of the housing went forward, essentially ignoring the views of Councils. It was left that the inspector will make the final decision.

Q. I read about Barry Woods comments in the paper, how can they build on the green belt when its illegal? A. We do not know and this is one of our challenges against the build.

Q. Without being controversial the village has grown, are we against all housing or some? People are having to move out, there is a need for some housing stock. I would rather see some houses built than have semi-detached houses converted in to flats which are unsightly. Some limited growth is required, affordable houses for local people are needed. A. Gosford and Water Eaton PC are totally opposed to the semi-detached houses and bungalows being converted in to flats, these

get approved at a higher level than us. We are not opposed to having any new housing in the Parish, it is the sheer amount of housing that is the problem and the destruction of the green space (e.g. golf course). Community land trust housing would be welcome as we would have more control of this.

Carl Smith (member of the public) – the reason the greenbelt is being considered is because the area is being classed as an exception to Oxford's housing need. The worry is that the residents of these new homes will not be local and will be local London commuters. House prices could be pushed up.

Cllr Clive Stayt – we would welcome some affordable housing in the area, we as a parish are worried about the area becoming a commuter belt. The sheer size of the build is the issue.

Q. I have lived in Kidlington for nearly 60 years will the village remain as a village? A. The parish has the same question, we do not know.

Q. I would like to know more about community land, how can the community buy it, can we get more information on this? A. The government apparently gives a lot of the money but it needs looking in to. Cllr Matheson is looking in to this and the parish will update when we have more information.

Q. Will the park and ride move? At the moment there are rumours of this but we have no firm information regarding this.

Q. In terms of a barrister and neighbours contributing to the cost? How do we keep control of the money? A. We do not know as yet but any barrister would need to have planning and greenbelt knowledge with property specialism. We need to seek the views of parishioners and if we can raise the funds required we will obtain costs and set a budget.

Comment from member of the public. There is a caveat with the County Council regarding the park and ride that if the park and ride changes usage the land should return to agricultural usage. A. The PC is aware of this and we will challenge any changes to the land should they occur.

The Parish Council asked Parishioners if there is succinct interest in us asking for donations for legal fees from the Parish. Unanimous vote from members of the public to try and raise legal funds to continue fighting the housing.

9. Highway Matters

Double yellow lines – week commencing 7th May, the yellow lines should be done.

On the Gosford Link Road – the Hebborns site has been reported to the enforcement officer. The churned up grass verge has also been reported. The enforcement officer for the area will come out.

Pot hole on the zebra crossing at Bicester Road have been reported and listed as actioned for work. People in the parish are encouraged to report the pot holes on fix my street.

Cllr Prestidge is trying to get a weight restriction on the Gosford Link road. This will also assist with the high level of air pollution at the junction of Miller & Carter.

10. Questions

No further questions received.

11. Any Other Business

Tara Prayag and Jackie Anstice recently resigned as Councillors. We would like to thank them both for their work on the Parish Council.

Gosford and Water Eaton PC logo, we are looking for a local volunteer to draw our logo for us. We have the logo but we need it redrawn so that we can use it on headed paper and on the website. The clerk will ask the school about the logo. Clive Walsh (Member of public) advised that Gosford Hill School is designing a new logo and perhaps the Council could approach them for assistance. The clerk will contact the school.

Meeting closes 8.20pm