

Clerks Report – March 2021

We continue to face issues surrounding Covid 19 and the lockdown of the vast majority of the UK. The council has continued to work as business as usual where it can. Parish Meetings are continuing to be held virtually due to social distancing measures.

Financial Report

Last month's payments were made by bank transfer. This month's payments will also be paid via bank transfer once approved. (Those with online banking access have been sent copies of the full invoices).

Details of payments this month are here – all will be paid bank transfer.

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|---|---------------|--------------|--|
| Cherwell District Council | £ 1,987.51 | 7015972 | landscape recharges oct to december 2020 |
| OALC | £ 284.31 | G00031/2021/ | membership 2021-22 |
| Clerk Payroll | £ 859.88 | | |
| RFO payroll | £ 160.08 | | |
| Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund | £ 308.06 | | |
| HMRC PAYE | £ 35.32 | | |

There will be an invoice for Cherwell Graphics to add for Newsletter printing.

Swimming vouchers – we have not been invoiced by Legacy Leisure for swimming vouchers for the last 18 months. The clerk has chased this up several times.

Planning – for discussion (emailed to Councillors ahead of meeting)

21/00445/F

Applicant's Name:

Mr and Mrs John and Linda Salter
Change of use from C4 HMO to sui
generis HMO

Proposal:

Location:

33 Hampden Drive, Kidlington, OX5
2LR

Parish(es):

Gosford And Water Eaton

Expected Decision Level:

Delegated

Cherwell Local Plan (Oxfords unmet housing)

Next working group meeting – tbc

Savill's the developers of PR6 think the CDWA court case will delay any building by at least a year. However, Merton College and David Peckford were questioned regarding site PR9 in Begbroke and they believe that they would still be going ahead with applications in the meantime as the council had a statutory duty to do so. Something to watch.

Developers can't share the updated plan because CD Council have it and control its disclosure as there is further consultation, the court case and an environmental study to follow.

Archaeology is starting on the fields in the next month or so.

Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040

Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 - Planning for Cherwell to 2040: Village services questionnaire February 2021

Cherwell District Council is currently producing a new district wide Local Plan – 'Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040'.

Further to the consultation on the Community Involvement Paper in July last year and the consultation workshops with Town and Parish Councils/Meetings in September 2020, we would like your help gathering information to complete a review of village services.

This is a fact-finding exercise of the villages in the district and any information provided will be helpful in formulating new planning policies for the rural areas as part of the Cherwell Local Plan Review. We would be grateful if you would complete this questionnaire and return it to the Planning Policy Team by **31 March 2021**. Please complete the questionnaire on behalf of each village represented within your Parish. (Circulated to councillors via email)

Cycle Path / Walking routes

The clerk has spoken with OCC and the Healthy Place scheme regarding a potential cycle path down the Bicester Road. We continue to wait for further updates. The clerk has pushed this again. The clerk attended a K5 workshop last week to keep up to date with the scheme.

The clerk met with the K5 team and proposed walking routes around Kidlington and taking in GWEPG were discussed. They all look very good. The clerk has invited them to speak to council at some point.

Newsletter

The newsletter has gone to print.

Highways

Yellow lines still not moved any further forward and are needed in Water Eaton Lane. The clerk has contacted Highways again just before Christmas. No further update. The clerk continues to chase and it has been noted (with photos) that parking has been an issue again recently. Cllr Billington also raised to Highways.

The **Bicester Road** is rightly the focus of attention by the district and county councils right now. With the likelihood of a huge increase in the local population as a result of Cherwell's review of the local plan it will form an even more important thoroughfare linking Kidlington, Gosford and Water Eaton to each other as well as the A34. The conversion of several of the houses on the road to apartment

complexes has also created additional on-street parking problems along with an increase in parking on the verges.

Councillors have met on site to urge better protection for the school by extending the zig zag lines as well as increased signage warning HGV drivers of the weight limits. Along with other councils in Cherwell, GWEPC also supports the 'twenty is plenty' campaign which could restrict the speed limit on this and other local road to 20MPH in the near future. Plans are currently being considered to add a cycle path to the south side of the road as well as separated parking bays on the north side.

Highways have started work on a new project to **improve the A34 north** and south of Oxford. We wanted to tell you about our work and the benefits it could create for local communities.

The project is exploring opportunities to improve journey times, reduce congestion and improve safety on the A34 between the M4 and M40.

As you will know, people and businesses in this area rely heavily on the A34 for their journeys. It is a key commuter route for people travelling around the towns and cities within this area. It is also used by businesses to send goods and services around the country and bring them to communities. However, congestion leads to unreliable journey times and affects safety. This in turn disrupts people's lives and their travel plans both for business and leisure.

Reducing congestion will give road users better and more reliable journeys.

Our work is at an early stage. Our current focus is understanding how the A34 and the local roads interact so that we can start to explore potential improvements that will make a real difference to people's lives.

We've recently met with the leaders of local authorities and MPs across the area to discuss our work. We're also working with relevant officers at the authorities to gather information about the area.

Stratfield Brake

Councillors emailed.

Cherwell DC are taking back the Stratfield Brake facility from Parkwood / Legacy Leisure. CDC are and were already aware that GWEPC does not want the facility and want them to take it back fully and financially.

The clerk has attended meetings with Rachel at KPC and CDC surrounding this.

What is clear is that **AT THE MOMENT** there is **no change to our contract and we are bound until the end of the term – another 2 years**. The contract allows the user to change. This means we still pay management, maintenance and sinking fund costs for the time being.

Part of the conversations Rachel and I are raising (jointly as KPC feel the same) is how do we get out of paying those fees sooner, if the council wishes to.

There is no change for now from a GWEPC perspective—business as usual.

The users will still be using the facility as they are for now. Each user will have conversations with CDC if they wish.