

Culham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held in the School on
Monday 12th November 2007 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr G Bartley
Mr A Steele
Dr T Price
Mr J Thomas

Apologies: 0

Public: 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Councillors were given the opportunity to declare an interest in any of the items on the agenda. No declarations were made.

3. PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was attended by representatives from Thames Water: Eleanor Taylor (UTMRD Communications Executive), Yvette de Garis (Head of Environment Strategy) and Becky Johnson (observing). The presentation concerned the Upper Thames Major Resource Development (UTMRD) project, which proposes the new water reservoir near Abingdon. The presentation covered:

- the new statutory requirement for a Water Resources Management Plan
- what it might mean for the proposed reservoir
- some interim findings from the latest round of consultation
- the possible future of the local panel

In summary:

Stage 1 consultation began in the autumn of 2006 and set out the results of studies into the need for water and the best way of supplying it in the future for Swindon, Oxfordshire and London.

These studies concluded that a large reservoir near Abingdon was likely to be part of a programme of supply and demand measures to secure supply in the longer term.

Thames Water is also proposing to continue a programme of replacing London's oldest and leakiest pipes and to fit water meters to homes on change of occupancy.

Stage 2, launched in January 2007, asked for ideas on how the reservoir might look, and what recreational facilities might be available.

Exhibitions were held in January 2007 and consultation closed on 3 March 2007.

Further information and a copy of the presentation can be found on the Thames Water website at

http://www.thameswater.co.uk/UK/region/en_gb/content/Section_Homepages/Multi_Download_000783.jsp?SECT=Multi_Download_000783.

The meeting raised the following concerns:

The cost of the project is obviously escalating in light of changes to requirements and the Thames Water team was asked if the cost to date was known. Thames Water does not have a figure.

If leakage could be fixed, was there still a need for a reservoir? Thames Water

considers that both fixing leaks and the new reservoir are necessary measures. Government pressure to building more houses in the South East is exacerbating the problem.

4. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor – Mr Howell reported back to the parish councillors on several issues, including

- Oxfordshire County Council's position on the reservoir is that the case is far from proven.
- AbITS – Abingdon Integrated Transport Scheme. The VOWH District Council should be able to help with questions regarding the increased traffic at Culham. A village petition might be considered. Mr Howell suggested that the Transport Planning team at Oxfordshire County Council could help with inquiries about the progress of the scheme and provided some contacts. **The Clerk to contact OCC team to invite to a parish council meeting.**

District Councillor – Mrs Tomlinson reported back to the parish councillors on several issues, including

- The Audit Commission has awarded South Oxfordshire District Council the highest ranking of four stars in its recent assessment. SODC is the first of the five district councils in Oxfordshire to achieve this.
- Waste collection – new arrangements for collections for food waste are being discussed. The operation will be run in collaboration with Vale of White Horse District Council.
- Bus passes – from April 2008 all people over 60 years of age will receive a free bus pass for travel within SODC boundaries (this does not allow Culham villagers to return from Abingdon).
- The SODC budget is coming up for review: the plan is to keep any increase set at or below inflation.
- Didcot Arts Centre is slightly behind schedule.
- Thames Water – Mrs Tomlinson has not yet had a reply from the planning department about the sign by the junction of A415 and Tollgate Road. **Mrs Tomlinson to progress.**
- AbITS - Mrs Tomlinson asked for further clarification about the action regarding finance from the last month's meeting. Councillor Steele explained that he understood that money was to be made available to village schemes under AbITS. Councillor Howell clarified that this was actually for Didcot, and suggested that OCC Transport Planning team could provide further details. **Mrs Tomlinson to investigate further with OCC.**
- Reminded the meeting that the Annual General Meeting of the Oxford Green Belt Network will take place at Marsh Baldon village hall on Monday 19th

November 2007 at 7.30pm.

Mr Thomas raised the following concerns with both councillors on behalf of bus passengers:

- New bus timetables – Culham villagers cannot get to Oxford on one bus ticket as separate tickets are now needed for routes 32 and 33.
- Bus passes – SODC bus passes are no longer accepted in Abingdon.
- Taxis used to accept bus tokens in payment for journeys but will not accept bus passes.
- The increasing use of low level floor buses rather than double-decker buses reduces the capacity for carrying passengers.

5. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 8th October 2007

The minutes from the above meeting were amended and approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. ACTIONS UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

ACTIONS UPDATE

Action	Update
Tollgate Road hedge – The Clerk had contacted BCB to trim the hedge again from the Waggon & Horses but work had not yet been done. The Clerk to contact BCB again.	Completed. BCB has finished this work.
Overgrown vegetation on the old bridge. The Clerk to contact the County Council again.	Completed. OCC replied that the team had been waiting for the nesting season to end, and work was scheduled to start there in November.
Thames Water sign opposite Waggon & Horses junction - The Clerk had contacted Mrs Tomlinson to check whether such signage is legal on the fence.	See District Councillor's update in 4. above. No reply received to date. Mrs Tomlinson to progress further.
Playground Fencing – No offers of donations have been received from local companies for the fencing. The Clerk had contacted BCB to quote to take the fencing down and to make good again, but had received no reply so far. The Clerk to contact BCB again.	Quote has been received from BCB for £120. The meeting agreed that the work could go ahead. Angle posts would be scrapped but the gates kept and stored in the shed. The Clerk and Chairman to arrange for BCB to complete work.
Burial Ground Rules Review - Revised guidelines were presented by the Chairman and agreed. The Chairman to include an update on	Burial Ground Rules Review - Has been published in the Mouthpiece village newsletter. Noticeboard and website not yet

<p>the new guidelines in the village newsletter and the village noticeboard and website. Full guidelines will be issued to any inquirers concerning a burial plot.</p>	<p>done; on further discussion it was agreed that the guidelines did not need to be displayed on the noticeboards but would be a useful reference on the website. Chairman to provide copy of guidelines to webmaster.</p>
<p>Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy (AbITS) – Mr Steele had distributed a proposed letter for the Chairman to send to Abingdon Town Council and Abingdon Chamber of Commerce. The Clerk to finalise correspondence for Chairman to send. Mrs Tomlinson to investigate issue of funding for the scheme (outstanding from September).</p>	<p>Correspondence from Chairman sent by mail on 16 October. No reply received as yet from either Abingdon Town Council or Abingdon Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Mr Steele to draft further correspondence for the clerk to chase for reply.</p> <p>See District Councillor’s update in 4. above.</p>
<p>Oxfordshire Association for the Blind – request for donation *The Clerk to request further information regarding this organisation’s work within Culham village and surrounds.</p>	<p>Reply distributed to councillors for consideration.</p> <p>A donation of £50 was agreed at the meeting.</p> <p>Clerk to post.</p>
<p>Some villagers had asked what was the current situation with regard to the future of the The Lion pub - Clerk to write to agents for details</p>	<p>Letter sent on 21 October to Admiral Taverns. No reply to date.</p> <p>Clerk phoned agents, Fleurets, on 5th November and was assured Fleurets was only marketing it as a public house.</p> <p>Concern was raised that the state of the building and no lights on could encourage vandalism. The Clerk to write to Admiral Taverns to highlight the council’s concerns.</p>
<p>The councillors agreed that funds could now be spent on the playground. The Chairman to prepare a revised schedule of work and costs for the next meeting.</p>	<p>A sponsorship donation of £550 had been gratefully received from UKAEA, to be used for a butterfly seesaw. The clerk to write to UKAEA to thank them for their donation.</p> <p>Mr Thomas suggested further sponsorship may be obtained by writing to WRG at Sutton Courtenay. The Chairman to contact with request.</p> <p>The Chairman presented the</p>

playground plan and cost estimate of £15,000. The council agreed this expenditure (see 9. below).

MATTERS ARISING

Archiving of Parish Documents

The Chairman has spoken with Oxfordshire Records Office who will accept parish documents as either a) a Deposit, where ORO will curate the documents and the parish council remains owner and can request to withdraw them, or b) as a Gift to ORO, and ORO then owns the documents. Option (a) was agreed - that the parish council should remain owners of the documents.

The Chairman to sort documents with Mr Steele before making arrangements with ORO.

Oxfordshire Green Belt Network AGM. The meeting decided that as Mr Steele attends the 13 parishes group and feedback from OGBN will come through that group, the parish council will continue to contribute to OGBN through that group.

Village Logo. The meeting discussed whether there was a requirement for a logo, but was not convinced of any need for a separate logo to the illustrations already on the front page of the village newsletter, The Mouthpiece. It was agreed that the first page of the mouthpiece with diary of events would also be posted to the village noticeboard.

A415 Pathway from Burycroft junction to Abingdon.

The recent JSSG and CLLC meetings had raised the planned upgrading of the A415 footpath from the Burycroft junction with the A415 to a cyclepath, with dual use for cyclists and pedestrians. Concerns were raised at this meeting about the width of the path and signage being inadequate for this purpose.

Mr Steele to draft letter to Oxfordshire County Council Highways department to express the council's concerns and request an update on the plans for upgrading the pathway. Mr Steele to draft item for the village newsletter to highlight the issue for cyclists and pedestrians.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Item No	Summary (* = action required)
1	OCC Consultation on Factors that should inform Bus Subsidy Decisions - invite to consultation meetings 12 November * Circulated.
2	Oxfordshire Association for the Blind: reply to request for further detail of work in Culham Parish * Council to decide donation (on agenda)
3	OCC Changes to Subsidised Bus Services from December 2007 – Circulated
4	SODC Planning Services: Community Facilities and Services Survey * Council to respond by 7th November – Circulated.
5	SODC Standards Committee Minutes of meeting 18 September 2007 – Circulated.
6	SODC Review of Concessionary Travel Scheme * Council to respond if possible by 15 October. Circulated.
7	SODC Notice of SODC Council Review of Licensing Policy. Policy can

	be viewed at www.southoxon.gov.uk on the licensing section. *Views on the proposed policy by 12th November 2007 – circulated.
8	SODC Review of Concessionary Travel Scheme *Responses back to SODC (by 17 Oct) – circulated.
9	OCC Oxford Inspires Autumn/Winter 2007 programme *poster for parish noticeboard (Done).
10	SODC Forest and Countryside Service: *request for names for Tree Warden role by 31 October. Circulated.
11	24/10 South and Vale Carers Centre *Invite to AGM on 6 th November and request for donations. Done – donation made June 2007.
12	SMP (Playgrounds) Ltd: flier for new range and free seminar
13	Didcot Community Forum: next meeting 20 November 6.30 – 8.30 at Didcot Town Football Club.
14	SODC Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils: Winter General Meeting Monday 26 November 2007, Kidlington 7.30pm
15	Oxfordshire ClimateXchange: flier for parishes and towns.
16	Thames Travel: press release re bus route 32 *Post to village noticeboard and newsletter. Done.
17	South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership: New publications for distribution to clerk and Parish Councillors
18	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council: news bulletin.
19	Standards Board for England: Re Adoption of Code of Conduct for Councillors Done.
20	OCC: Parish Transport Representatives Meeting: Tuesday 20 th November 2007 *confirm attendance by 9 November
21	Northmoor Trust: posters for forthcoming events for village noticeboard. Done.
22	Campaign to Protect Rural England: Oxfordshire bulletin.
23	OCC Review of Subsidised Bus Services - Henley, Wallingford & Didcot area - June 2008
24	Berinsfield Community Business: re review of parish grass cutting contract 2008. *Customer Satisfaction Form for Parish Councils
25	Vale of White Horse District Council: Your Vale-Your Future: Issues and options report for future Vale development *Comments by Monday 31 December 2007.
26	Clerks and Councils Direct: Issue 54 November 2007.
27	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils/Oxfordshire Rural Community Council: Re OCC Review of the provision of Primary Education in Oxfordshire.
28	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council: Re Changes to the Post Office network in Oxfordshire – leaflet enclosed.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P07/W1222 - Erection of a replacement single storey conservatory at **6 The Green, Culham, OX14 4LZ**. **The council has no strong views.**

P07/W1181/CM Erection of a Rubb Tent and modified ISO container for the packaging of approx 30 tonnes of radioactive waste per year, for off site transportations **within the J30 compound at Culham Science Centre** - Planning permission is **GRANTED**.

P07/W1078 Erection of 2 units on land at **J5 Culham Science Centre Culham** - planning permission is **GRANTED**.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

PAYMENTS

<i>Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>For</i>	£	£
1130	J Beck	Salary (October 2007)	131.74	
		Expenses	10.00	
		Post & telephone	2.04	
		TOTAL PAYABLE		143.78
1131	B Cannings	Salary (October 2007)	49.40	
		Backpay April 1 - September 30 2007	19.20	
		TOTAL PAYABLE		68.60
1132	BCB	Maintenance (Invoice no. 1256) for cut and face hedge on Tollgate Road (Invoice no. 1292)	204.69 229.36	
		Maintenance (Invoice no. 1293)	283.89	
		TOTAL PAYABLE		717.94
1133	The Diocese of Oxford Board of Finance	Invoice 1003/07 re Culham rent to year ended 28/11/08		521.80
1134	Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	Donation		50.00
Total Payments				1502.12

RECEIPTS

<i>For</i>	£
HM Revenue & Customs VAT refund	551.82
Quarterly Interest	200.66
UKAEA Playground sponsorship	550.00
Total	1302.48

Playground

The Chairman presented the playground refurbishment plan and cost estimate of £15,000. The council agreed this expenditure.

Instructions to Bank

A new mandate was completed by all councillors to inform the bank of the change of clerk's details.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- SODC Forest and Countryside Service request for names for Tree Warden role. **Item to be put in the next village newsletter to gather interest.**
- The lawnmower needs to be serviced. The meeting authorised this outlay but suggested payment could be made from the Culham Recreation and Community Committee. **Dr Price to confirm payment.**
- The Community Facilities and Services Survey for SODC Planning Services had been completed and returned by Mr Steele.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is 7.30pm - Monday 10th December 2007.

Signed **Date**