

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Minutes of the Meetings held on Skype on
Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: eight parish councillors, Deddington News representative and the Clerk.

Apologies: Cllrs J Eames M Swadling and District Cllr B Williams

Approval of Agenda.

Minutes May 2019 and Matters arising.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for May 2019 were unanimously approved by those in attendance.

Matters arising. **None.**

Report from the Chair 2021. – Parish Council Chair Cllr David Rogers reported;

To say it has been a difficult year wouldn't quite capture it.

The Covid-19 Group saw an amazing team effort, inspired, well led and an exemplar effort by all those involved. Then there is the Church offering a food bank, an incentive to reduce food waste and hot meals delivered to the parish at Christmas and Easter. Services continued online, an innovative effort, much admired by other parishes. Well done Annie, the PCC and all the volunteers.

Not forgetting the School – working hard throughout the pandemic. Every pupil had access to a device for online learning and the Head and the school staff managed the education of our children whilst dealing with the moving goalposts of Government advice with good humour and aplomb.

Not forgetting all the other groups, committees, volunteers and good citizens of Deddington that gave the time and efforts to support our community.

I am delighted that the Parish Council was successful in supporting these schemes. We raised just over £24,700 in grants, a further £10,000 towards the Neighbourhood Plan, received gifts from the parish for various projects and I'm aware of a number of generous donations from parishioners and parish charities to support these and similar efforts.

Well done Deddington, what a good job!

Parish councillors attend monthly council meetings and serve on working groups and their sub-groups, as well as meeting with parishioners, officers, contractors, suppliers, attending training courses and site visits. When necessary, they attend planning meetings and appeal hearings at Cherwell District Council and the OCC Cabinet Office.

Particular thanks are due to Susan Fuller our Clerk, our two stalwart Stewards, Richard Banister and Gareth Smith and I owe my gratitude to my fellow Cllrs who have worked incredibly hard for no reward to keep Deddington thriving.

Finally, we are a rural parish. The countryside is ours to enjoy but it is also some of our neighbours' livelihood. Please may I encourage everyone to follow the Countryside Code.

Report from the Chairs of the PC's Working Groups:

Planning.

Cllr Stella O'Neill reported;

Deddington Parish Council received a total of 61 Planning Applications during 2020/2021 – these were 36 building related, 4 Commercial signage/awning/change of use related and 19 tree related application. We

received one consultation for Tables & Chairs licence on the public highway and another to consult on plans that a landowner had filed with CDC to ensure that these footpaths are recorded as the only footpaths over the landowner's land.

The 19 tree applications involved a total of some 43 trees. Of these, a total of 14 trees were to be felled for a variety of reasons, mostly overcrowding, poor/dangerous/diseased condition, overhanging neighbours' property and potential disruption of overhead cables & property etc. however, a number were requested to be replaced as appropriate. The remaining 29 trees were to pollard/reduce/crown/top trees, in order to maintain them in a good condition.

Of the 36 building related applications, a majority were for renovations, modifications, single and two storey extensions; however, of these 36 applications, there were 7 applications for new residential dwellings, providing a potential to 42 new homes throughout the Parish. Of these, one was in Hempton, 3 in Clifton, 3 in the centre of Deddington, 14 on the Hempton Road, 21 on the Clifton Road, 7 of which were age restricted and as yet not determined. The 14 units on the Clifton Road was won on appeal. An outline planning application for 14 new homes North of Wimborn Close on the Hempton Road, came to us in September 2020. This is a mixed market development of 2, 3 & 4-bedroom homes. This is in addition to the 21 homes granted previously under the Stonepits application that was approved.

There appears to have also been a run on replacing windows within the parish, with 6 of the building related applications relating to this specifically. One application was for a visitor cabin at a local care home, this was approved with limited time as a condition of its use (to September 2022), to assist the care home enable visitors to see its patients throughout the Covid pandemic, but not to leave the visitor cabin in situ as a permanent building.

Of the applications we received; 3 were withdrawn before determination, 3 were refused, one on appeal. 10 have not been determined at the time of writing. CDC has the final say on applications and there have been some occasions where they have not agreed with the PC's recommendations, and we may not have agreed with their determinations, though both scenarios are few. In general, though, we believe our views are heard by CDC. The PC in the majority of cases approve applications that meet planning criteria and are regarded as sustainable development, always having regard to legitimate concerns and objections of neighbours and other parishioners.

Windmill Centre. Mary Robinson reported;

2020 was an exceptional year due to the Covid-19 pandemic which meant somethings changed, while some managed to continue.

Children's play areas: Following the refurbishment of the all-weather court and installation of a new open-access MUGA, reported in 2019, an Adventure Playground on the former bowling green and Woodland Trail through the nearby copse were successfully completed. And to add to that the new nature-themed Pocket Park for under-6 children is a delight. When regulations allowed during the pandemic summer of 2020, these play areas were just heaving with children and families.

These projects, which together cost over £250,000, would not have been possible without a very generous anonymous donation from a local resident, and a grant from central government for the Pocket Park. We are very fortunate in having leisure and play facilities of this standard in a parish our size.

The Windmill Centre. The Centre was closed for much of 2020 due to Covid restrictions. Meanwhile the Parish Council and Management Committee continued their rolling programme of improvements:

- (1) the car paving was extended and two electric vehicle charging points installed at the rear of the building (again thanks to a grant from a local resident);
- (2) cctv and wi-fi have both been improved;
- (3) a new wooden floor has been installed in the upstairs Studio;
- (4) some roof repairs have been carried out to address the ongoing problems of leaks, and a more radical solution is being researched;
- (5) plans to refurbish the ageing toilets are underway;

- (6) as are plans for two new Equality Act compliant toilets on the west side of the building, one internal access from the lounge, and one external for use by those on the playing fields and children's play parks;
- (7) a new entrance gate has been installed as a deterrent against traveller incursion;
- (8) the former bowls pavilion is being repurposed as a pop-up café and children's party venue; and
- (9) plans to turn the old football store into a permanent home for the Parish Archive are also well advanced (again thanks to a grant from the William Delafield Trust).

Elsewhere in the parish: grass cutting contracts have been renewed for a further three years, with the possibility of some areas being turned over to wildflowers; a new Community Orchard is planned for Welford's Piece in Clifton; the allotments have proved invaluable in during the Covid pandemic; the twice yearly litter pick continues to bring in an uncomfortable amount of rubbish abandoned around the parish; the planters at the village entrances are a source of great pleasure, so thanks to everyone who maintains them; speed watch exercises had to be suspended during Covid, It is difficult to find volunteers to run them, however.

Our thanks as always go to the two parish stewards, Richard and Gareth, for keeping us in good nick, and to Cllr Terry Timms who is the PC's eyes and ears around the parish. Thank you all.

Highways & Transport:

Highways. Cllr Maureen Cox reported;

In spite of exceptional circumstances, the working group carried on holding a meeting every month over the past difficult COVID Pandemic year. I wish to congratulate this group for that plus their forbearance and support given my burdensome workload when some had to take the reins as I was unable to do so. As they say we kept calm and carried on. As did this Parish Council.

It has been a team effort during this remarkable year and we have come through this with the support of our brilliant Parish Clerk and David our DPC chair, a heartfelt thanks to both. However, it is recognised that the Pandemic is not over and we may have to do this all over again in the near future.

Looking back at the minutes we have covered issues such as:

Earls Lane – lack of footpath - March 2020. This has been on our S106 S278 wish list following multiple concerns about this issue and are pleased to document this will be happening thanks to monies from the development in Clifton Rd.

Electric charge points. This may not be possible in Earls Lane or the Market Place due to technical electric supply issues.

Speeding tractors, HGVs and increased noisy HGVs on the Hempton Road laden with gravel and clay. An ongoing problem over the past year. Again, on the wish list there is to be a physical road traffic calming structure on the Hempton Road which will slow the vehicles down when entering and leaving the Hempton Road at the site of the new development on the Stonepits site. In addition, Speed watch will be back after 11 May. TVP has agreed to commit to include 2 sites in this area to help with the speeding problem.

Oxfordshire speeding taskforce aims to save lives. This is a multi-disciplinary taskforce. An initiative to support and work together in communities in order to start looking at solutions to reduce speeding on our roads by sharing data, enforcement, safe road management among other suggestion in order to save lives. We look forward to be involved in this new taskforce but have yet to see any data suggesting this initiative has taken off.

Bollard outside hairdressers Market Place/Hudson Street. This was knocked down twice this year and both times created a rip hazard. Although fixed each time DPC is asking OCC for a third bollard which will prevent this happening again. The cause we believe is parking on this paved area by vehicles due to parking problems in the Market Place.

Parking. Less of an issue other than outside the primary school over the COVID year. DPC has worked collegiately with TVP, Head of the Primary School via DPC school governor (Cllr A Collins) to prevent parking on yellow lines outside the school, double parking in this area – there will be zero tolerance for this and PSCO's are committed to regularly police and issue fines should the law be broken.

Super Users. We now have two OCC trained pot hole spotters (Parish Councillors) who will hopefully speed up the process of getting Highway pot holes fixed.

FIX MY STREET. Parishioners are asked to report any Highway problems themselves by using this site. <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Hopcraft Lane and St Thomas Street. Obstruction of pavement by cars and HGV using rat run calls for weight restriction. New weight restrictions have been erected and the weight restriction signs which have faded will be replaced.

A successful court action against a HGV driver came about as a result of a resident taking a photo of the offending vehicle. All such breaches should be report to = Trading Standards <Jody.Kerman@Oxfordshire.gov.uk. with photographic evidence if possible because we are assured that they will prosecute as is evident above. The offending firm pleaded guilty and was fined a total of nearly £700.

Wheelie Bins and Earls Lane Depository. Review again in December. DPC has committed to keep both as ongoing. As the Parish is growing as is waste, we may need an additional/alternative site for the waste bins. We had an issue of the bins being used by businesses and black bags being dumped on top of the bins – this is fly tipping. This was due to insecure locks on the bins they were immediately replaced. Fly tipping is an offence. Offenders will be prosecuted.

Hempton Road light. County Cllr A Fatemian generously gifted us a grant to install a light at the site of the Daedings – we continue to wait for its installation – Parish Clerk chasing this issue with OCC.

Crossing over main road near Grove Court. Following concerns from residents from the Grove and Grove court DPC raised the issue with OCC. As a result, OCC painted SLOW signs on the road at this site and an additional elderly crossing sign has been placed on a pole at Holcombe Close entrance to raise awareness of drivers. However, DPC continue to encourage pedestrians to use the traffic light synchronised crossing just further up the road. This is the safest route for crossing this busy road.

Disabled parking. We requested a further blue badge holders disabled bay be placed in Hudson Street near the Pharmacy– this was rejected due to traffic movement, congestion and parking issues in this area. A further disabled bay was approved for outside the dentist which got full DPC support.

Please note that disabled parking bays are for the use of all disabled blue badge holders not the sole use of the householder who requested it. Equally the space can only be legitimate and legally enforceable providing that the appropriate signage is placed on the wall near the bay if not then even if there are road markings, he bay cannot be considered a disabled parking bay.

Transport Report, Deddington Parish Council, 2020/2021

This has been a strange year for our local bus service as for so much else.

Bus Timetables: During the first lockdown last year, the S4 service between Banbury and Oxford via Deddington was reduced from hourly to one and a half hourly during the day. Then, on September 12020, the service was returned to hourly and extra buses were added in the evenings.

The last bus from Oxford now leaves at 23.15 (two hours later than the previous last bus) and the last bus from Banbury at 21.45 (more than 2 and half hours later than previously). Also, two X4 express buses each way to the centre of Oxford were replaced by two H4 express buses each way to the JR hospital.

These improvements are paid for by a government grant for transport across the country. While welcoming the improvements to the S4 service, especially as we had long wished for a bus service enabling Deddington people to attend events in Oxford during the evening, we queried whether the grant could not be saved until after the pandemic when venues and restaurants open and evening journeys become more attractive. At present the evening buses mostly run pretty empty.

The Oxfordshire County Council transport officer explained that, under government rules, the grant could not be saved but had to be allocated in the 2020/21 year. The grant is likely to run out in September this year, however the officer hoped the late buses may be retained after that date, at least for a while.

When the extra buses were added, the timetable for the rest of the buses throughout the day also changed by a few minutes. We asked Stagecoach to update the timetables on our bus stops and this they did.

Electrification: Stagecoach is planning to make most of its fleet of buses run on electricity, powered by batteries. It is not clear yet whether the S4 will be electrified.

Comet Service: This minibus service available during the day is still available on demand but there are no scheduled services of the Comet.

Volunteer Driver Service: The car service, for hospital trips and other journeys, provided by volunteers and organised by Citizens Advice in Banbury has continued operating throughout the pandemic complete with masks and wipes. The number to call is 0300 3030 125. The service is currently appealing for more drivers to meet high demand. Passengers pay 45p per mile to help cover the driver's fuel costs.

S106 for transport: The developers of two new estates to be built, one on the Clifton Road and the other on the Stone Pits site on the Hempton Road, have pledged S106 contributions for transport, most likely the S4 service - £15,000 and £21,000 respectively.

Report from Neighbourhood Plan. ACOM housing needs assessment for parish underway. Cllr H Oldfield thanked for all of her efforts in raising monies towards the NP from grants.

Covid. Beatrice Maloney, Revd Annie and Al Kitchen were the founder members of the Covid support group. All zone captains and volunteers were thanked for their efforts and the Clerk for printing the newsletters.

Food bank referral centre to Trussell trust. Avoid food waste Eagles kindly donates items running out of date.

Operation Christmas and Easter Dinner.

Open discussions. None.

Cllr D Rogers thanked those in attendance. The meeting closed at 8pm.