

Minutes of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on 7th October 2024 7pm

In attendance: Alison Geary (Chairman), Vice Chairman Justin Davenport (JD), Councillors Peter Evans (PE), Melvyn Smith (MS), Martin Taylor (MT), Stephanie Stott (SS)

Present: Allison Leigh (Clerk), Mark Coleman (District Councillor)

24/60: Apologies for absence: Mark Coleman (District Councillor)

24/61: Declarations of Interest: None

24/62: Public questions and statements: No members of the public were present.

24/63: Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of the 20th August 2024 were agreed and signed as true record.

Council asked for actions to be on future agendas.

24/64: Reports from County and District Councillors:

Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC)

The District Councillor sent a report. See Attachment 1.

The Council noted that the Joint Local Plan consultation is open.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

The County Councillor sent a report. See Attachment 2.

24/65: Standing Orders: The Council resolved to adopt the edited Standing Orders.

24/66: Internal Audit: The Council considered the following recommendations from the Internal Auditor.

- **Staffing:** The Council resolved not to form a Staffing Committee but asked the Clerk to circulate a draft Written Statement of Particulars for the Clerk's position. The Council did not consider an employee appraisal.

The Council asked the Clerk to draft a disciplinary and grievance policy for the next agenda.

- **Policies:**
 - Updated Financial Regulations: The Clerk noted she is going on a training course and will present a draft at the next meeting.
 - Complaints: The Council resolved to adopt the Complaints Procedure.
 - Training and development: The Council resolved not to have a training and development policy.
 - Equality and diversity: The Council resolved to adopt the Equality Policy.
 - Lone working: The Council resolved not to adopt a lone working policy.
 - Document retention: The Council would like the Clerk to present a draft policy at the next meeting.
 - Freedom of Information (FOI) publication scheme: It was noted that the Council

adopted this at the last meeting.

- **Other**
 - Follow up with Unity re bank signatories: The Clerk will follow up with Unity Trust Bank on the signatories and authorisation.
 - Consider earmarked reserves for future asset replacement: The Council will consider this when considering the 2025 2026 budget.
- **Training:** There were no training courses the Councillors wish to attend. The Clerk noted she is attending several courses which are being funded by other councils.
- **Civility and Respect Pledge:** It was noted that the Civility and Respect Pledge has been adopted and is on the website.

24/67: Finance:

a. Payments authorised

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Item</u>
23/9/24	HMRC	21.77	PAYE
23/9/24	HMRC	5.00	PAYE
30/9/24	Allison Leigh	139.70	Clerk salary
7/10/24	Allison Leigh	61.00	Clerk expenses
7/10/24	HW Village Hall	20.00	Room hire

Receipts since the last meeting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Item</u>
5/9/24	Vale of White Horse District Council	2,200.00	Precept – 2 nd half

- b. **Budget against spend:** The Council reviewed the budget against spend from 1/4/24 – 30/9/24 and had no comments.

- a. **Insurance renewal:** The Council resolved to proceed with Zurich for the insurance renewal.

24/68: Planning: The Council noted the following planning decision:

P24/V0894/HH
12 Priors Lane
Hinton Waldrist SN7 8RX
Permission granted.

24/69: Oxfordshire Councils Charter: The Council resolved to adopt the Oxfordshire Councils Charter.

24/70: Publications and correspondence: The Council noted the correspondence received.

24/71: Matters for report:

The Chair noted that she has been in touch with Savills and is waiting for a revised lease

The Clerk now has a phone and will look at a SIM card. £7/8 per month

24/72: Date of the next meeting: The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday the 10th December at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7:30pm.

Attachment 1

Vale District Council – Member for Thames Ward Report to the Hinton Waldrist Parish Council – 7 October 2024

Joint Local Plan

The Regulation 19 consultation on the South and Vale's Joint Local Plan went "live" on 1 October. This will remain open for 6 weeks, and will be collecting responses from statutory consultees, neighbouring councils, interested parties and local residents on their opinion as to whether it meets 4 criteria – being 'positively prepared', 'justified', 'effective', and 'consistent with national policy'.

The Vale is encouraging as many responses as possible to be made using the online response site linked from <https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp/> - this will aid the team in collating responses ahead of submission in December. Submission in that timeframe will ensure the JLP is considered in the context of the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Were its publication to be delayed, the JLP would be assessed against a revised NPPF, which would require the plan to be reassessed for compliance. This would further delay the JLP's publication and likely result in an increased cost to the Vale and an increase in speculative development applications that might not be supported by the infrastructure the JLP would ensure was in place.

Yours,
Mark

Cllr Mark Coleman
Vale of White Horse District Council Deputy Leader
Lib Dem Member for Thames Ward
Member for Environmental Services and Waste
Armed Forces and Veterans Champion

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Attachment 2

COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Juliette Ash - REPORT- All parishes- SEPT 24

COUNCIL COMMITS TO £0.5M SPEND ON DEVELOPING WORKPLACE PARKING TAX

OCC LD Cabinet member for infrastructure and development, Judy Roberts, agreed with officers' recommendations to approve £500,000 spending on technical aspects of development work around the planned workplace parking tax at her decisions meeting on Thursday July 18. A Team Leader is being recruited on £50k pa. This is despite the fact that the proposal is hugely controversial and hasn't been out for public consultation yet. Critics observe that it is clear that the proposal will go ahead, whatever the result of the consultation.

OCC TO BE A COUNCIL OF SANCTUARY FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

OCC council leader Liz Leffman, has written to the Home Secretary stating:

“Our ambition in Oxfordshire is to support a refugee and asylum system that ensures a warm welcome for all new arrivals and embraces and supports independent living for those staying in the county. Oxfordshire is enhanced by the contribution of a range of diverse communities living here and we are committed to playing our part in the overall national and international challenge. To that end, Oxfordshire County Council is currently working towards becoming a Council of Sanctuary.”

This follows Full Council in July when Cabinet member for Finance, Dan Levy, confirmed that the administration was looking at ways to provide free or subsidised bus travel to asylum seekers from its funds, if financial support from HM Treasury was not made available.

HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN TO LOSE AFFORDABLE BUS TRAVEL TO SCHOOL

At Full Council on 28 March 2023, the Opposition tabled a motion expressing regret about the apparent loss of bus places for children attending schools across South Oxfordshire and Cherwell using the 'Spare Seats' scheme. This scheme allows parents and guardians with children not eligible for free home-to-school transport to pay to use spare seats on school buses. Almost 18 months on, the issue continues to cause concern with a further round of children set to lose their school bus places, particularly in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire, from the start of the school year. This is despite a motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition being passed at Full Council on 9 July 2024 designed to ensure that “school bus places can be maintained and, where possible, increased”. As many as 800 children are thought to have a Spare Seat to school on 29 bus routes into 25 schools across Oxfordshire. The future of the scheme, which has been running for over 30 years, is a huge worry to schools and families across the county.

CONTROVERSIAL OXFORD FOUR-SECTOR PLAN POSTPONED AGAIN

The controversial plan to split Oxford into four sectors for traffic management purposes by using six 'traffic filters' has been postponed yet again. This is because Network Rail has postponed the replacement of Botley railway bridge and is unable to reopen Botley Road in October.

FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTS

Residents are being encouraged to take up the offer of a free electric blanket check. Sessions will be held at locations across the county this autumn. Appointments can be booked by visiting <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/blankettesting> or calling 01865 895999.

ROAD SAFETY IN KINGSTON & CUMNOR

Safety and wellbeing of Oxfordshire residents is my number one priority. There has been a consistent improvement year on year, however, I join with other Cllrs calling on OCC to continue to report on road casualties in Oxfordshire to support decision making and ensure that progress is maintained.

OCC stopped reporting in 2021. 2021 report below:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/roads-and-transport/CasualtyReport2021.pdf>

OCC CRITICISED BY OPPOSITION FOR NOT PUBLISHING EITHER ROAD SAFETY OR 20MPH DATA

OCC normally publishes its [road casualty report](#) every year but for reasons the council has explained as "reviewing the content", it is yet to publish any yearly analysis since 2021. Councillor Eddie Reeves, leader of the Conservatives on the county, said: "Why County Hall has ostensibly withheld publication of such data like a vital road casualty report, is beyond me." He added in relation to road casualty statistics there are "serious questions" about whether 20mph zones are "even enforceable" and "the emerging data on traffic accidents suggests little, if any, positive impact".

CURRENT ROADWORKS ACROSS OXFORDSHIRE

Link to current roadworks on the OCC website:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/roadworks/major-current-roadworks>

UPDATE ON POLICE POSITION ON 20MPH LIMITS

The Oxford Mail reported on 8 August that the Chief Constable said that speed cameras "do not work at 20mph" when questioned during the annual 'Crime and Disorder' meeting held in July.

Previously, as a result of political pressure, Thames Valley Police changed their position on 20mph limits from 'Object' to 'Concerns'. Their concerns can be summarised as follows:

- Compliance with 20mph limits is a challenging issue as there is a difference between the achievable results of the various available schemes. For example, a sign-only scheme will only have a limited effect on the mean speeds.
- If a speed limit is set too low and is ignored then this could result in the vulnerable road user being less safe. It can also cause a dis-proportionate number of drivers to criminalise themselves and could bring the system of speed limits into disrepute.
- Thames Valley Police have no policy to enforce based on arbitrary speed limits alone but will enforce based on threat of harm, risk and resourcing.
- There should be no expectation that the police would be able to provide regular enforcement if a speed limit is set too low as this could result in an unreasonable additional demand on police resources and there are no additional resources.

Community speed watch schemes have been used to curb serial offenders.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES TO CLOSE FOR CLEANING AND REPAIRS

Residents planning to use Oxfordshire's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) are being warned about a series of short closures in September and October to enable essential work to be carried out.

For safety reasons, OCC Council will be shutting the centres for two days – although never at the same time – to allow for deep cleaning and essential maintenance. This includes jet washing the sites and structures, repainting lines and safety areas, as well as other general work to improve the customer experience. The closing dates are:

- Stanford in the Vale, near Faringdon: Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 September
- Ardley, near Bicester: Thursday 5 and Friday 6 September
- Drayton, near Abingdon: Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 September
- Oakley Wood, near Wallingford: Thursday 12 and Friday 13 September
- Dix Pit, Stanton Harcourt: Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 September
- Alkerton, near Banbury: Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 October.

All closures are on quieter weekdays to minimise disruption and sites will reopen at 8am the following day. Residents are asked to plan ahead, ideally holding onto their waste until the site reopens or, if that is not possible, visiting one of the neighbouring sites. The deep clean for Redbridge HWRC in Oxford will be carried out later in the year and full details will be provided in due course. More information can be found on Oxfordshire County Council's website, including details of alternative sites during the closures. Users are reminded that to use their free DIY waste allowance, they need to book an appointment for their visit on the council's website. Residents with van or trailer permits can use these at any of the HWRCs.

[Have your say. For current consultations see:](#)

[Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#)

Useful County Council links:

Customer services: 0345310111

To fix potholes: www.fixmystreet.co.uk

For highway issues: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/contactus/contact-highways-team For emergency highway issues: 01223 849731

For planning regs being ignored: tellplanning@oxfordshire.gov.uk

For flooding support: www.oxfordshiretoolkit.com/emergency/report-flood

Cllr Juliette Ash 2/9/24

Please refer to PC for additional verbal reporting on your top three priorities by Parish

