

Minutes of meeting of East Challow Parish Council
Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 7:30pm held in East Challow Village Hall

In attendance: Councillors VA Bosley (Chair), S Parker, P Barrow and T Hayes.
Linda Hooper (New Parish Clerk).
Two members of the public

Action

Apologies for absence

Councillors F Webb and I Game

- 1/22 **Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 1 December 2021** L Hooper
The minutes were not approved and need to be re-written in parts.
- 2/22 **Declarations of interest:** none were declared
- 3/22 **Public discussion time:**
A potential Parish Councillor introduced himself
- 4/22 **District and county council matters**
Report from County Councillor Paul Barrow

District Councillor Report 2021229

Road drainage

We have been pestering OCC and the Vale, to whom some of the work is delegated, about road drainage. When the responsibilities changed in 1991 poor communication meant that landowners who now had most of the responsibility for ditch maintenance were poorly informed or supported and many of these have been badly neglected for at least 2 decades! There is a lot of catching up to do. The worst stretches in this ward are Gramps/Smith's Hill and Holborn Hill in Letcombe Bassett, Warborough Road in Letcombe Regis and Whitelands Road connecting West Challow with the B4507. There are also patches on the B4507 at Sparsholt and the Blowing Stone (near the house not the pub). We have been reviewing the worst of these with the Vale Flooding Officer to see what can be done to ameliorate some of this neglect. OCC also need to be involved since some of the road drainage system is blocked and there is clearly no point in clearing out ditches if the water can't go anywhere. This is ongoing and more of this in due course.

Flooding

We are now in contact with the Vale and OCC (and awaiting a response) to see whether we can meet them jointly to develop a strategy for maintaining a comprehensive road drainage system for Warborough Road, Gramps/Smiths Hill and Holborn Hill.

Health

I am the Vale representative on JHOSC (county health scrutiny committee) as my background is in infectious disease. We had an interesting meeting on Nov 25th.

The Covid update involved a heat-map indicating that after restrictions were dropped in June levels of infection went up in 20-24 year olds followed by other youngsters. It increased steadily again in September in school-age children followed a month later by it appearing in their parents generation and from there it has spread into older age groups. The guidance on mask wearing is common sense. I won't preach but 90% of hospital cases are in those who have not been vaccinated. I know that there are some irrational but real concerns about this vaccine but how does it differ from the childhood vaccinations that everyone received years ago? No difference at all is the answer. For protecting populations and preventing disease they are all very effective and there is nothing dodgy about them at all. I have worked with vaccines all my life.

The review of county-wide provision of community health services, which took over from our much-slated OX12 review, is ongoing. This looks a much more reasonable and rational approach than that taken for the OX12 postcode. It is quite clear from some of the international literature that the emphasis will be, wherever possible, of being cared for, recuperating and aging at home to try and improve the efficiency and quality of care. It is recognised that community hospital beds will be needed and there is a national "bed optimisation" programme underway. We have asked for more information on this but at least it was stated that should beds be discontinued permanently at Wantage Hospital then a public consultation will be carried out.

The timetable for all this is that short-listed options will be discussed in March 2022.

I carried out my own research on infection control procedures in care homes in late 2020 and found that the care homes associations were not using the best and most comprehensive sources of advice and information. This was submitted as a report to HOSC and accepted by the Director of Adult Care Services so we hope that protocols in care homes and other institutions will be improved for this winter and beyond.

Healthwatch/Community First Oxfordshire is carrying out a survey and review of rural isolation. This is important not just regarding loneliness but also in access to services. The result of the survey will be published in March.

We are all concerned about the current Omicron variant. The number of cases in Oxfordshire and nationally are through the roof with more than 1,000 new cases daily in the county. However, in contrast to early last year tis has not resulted in a significant number of deaths. In fact in the last 7 days, none at all (now 1!)! However, the OUH is very worried about staff shortages and we hope to get some figures from them in February at HOSC. Care homes are also very concerned about increasing staff shortages from illness.

AONB and Environment

We had a meeting of the Council of Partners (the Vale is a partner) of the North Wessex Downs AONB on Nov 9th. A number of topics were discussed including the govt response to the Glover review on Landscapes, the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme which I have

mentioned before, dark skies and Farmer Clusters. I can provide more details if requested.

I have been in touch with the Letcombe Brook project and The Fresh Water Habitats Trust to see what might be done regarding improving the several streams that cut across our parishes, particularly Childrey Brook in the first instance, together with their surrounding environment.

Planning

We have seen the first intention to apply for planning permission for one of the plots of land submitted in the call for sites in May. This one is between East Challow and Wantage just north of the A417 and is at the screening application stage to determine whether an environmental impact assessment (EIA) is needed – It is bizarre and I'm not sure why they go through this stage at all! This involves the Vale working through criteria set out by Central Government as to whether additional EIA assessments should be submitted with any future planning applications. East Challow village is producing a Neighbourhood Plan (at public consultation stage), a major point for which is to keep Wantage, Grove and East Challow as separate settlements. East Challow is the worst affected by these submissions following the call in May since there are several plots almost surrounding the village.

I will keep you informed on any others that come out of the woodwork. Many will be aware that Lovat Parks Lts, a caravan park operator has bought Britchcombe Farm, below Whitehorse Hill and thereby acquired lawful development certificates enabling them, we believe, to station mobile homes. A similar screening application has been received by the Vale for bases for caravans, surfacing for car parks, minor internal access roads plus the laying of general utilities (Water, electricity and drainage).

The Vale has increased its input into planning enforcement. As always, prioritisation of cases will be done but hopefully we can get a more proactive approach to this (which is necessarily reactive, of course).

Puppy sales

We have had reports in East Challow of puppy selling. The Vale is following this up but if there is any evidence of this in other villages please let me know.

Cllr Dr Paul Barrow
Ridgeway Ward

5/22

Planning matters

To consider any new applications/update on previous planning applications

P21/V2985/HH For a single story extension, Field View, Canal Farm Lane, East Challow, OX12 9YQ

There were no objections and the application was responded to over the Christmas period via email to the planning group.

P21/V3299/SCR Request for a screening opinion with regard to potential application for approximately 200 dwellings. East Challow



Parish council responded with an objection.

P2/V1643/HH 7 Childrey Way, East Challow, OX12 9RX.

The council objects and a presentation for the planning committee meeting 13 January 2022 is being prepared.

Cllr S Parker

6/22

Matters to report not otherwise covered on the agenda

Public art – Ms. A Brown from the Vale of White Horse District Council is responsible for public art and is looking to employ the person who did the artwork on the Nalder building to produce art on a Suffolk sign. Cllrs S Parker & VA Bosley

Mrs M Cumberland will be asked to provide defibrillator training - due to COVID this has been delayed.

X

The East Challow Parish Council are meeting the Village Hall committee with a proposal to use the meeting room as a Parish Council base and a storage facility for paperwork, Cllr VA Bosley to find out when this can take place.

The meeting room could be held as a venue for the District councillors surgery

Cllrs
S Parker
and V A

It was noted that deeds and paperwork need to go to a solicitor for safe keeping.

Bosley

7/22

Accounts

a) To agree the January 2022 Payments

Total for approval for January 2022 is £2,487.46 proposed by Councillor P Barrow and seconded by Councillor V A Bosley. It was resolved to approve the January payments

b) To confirm budget/ Precept requirements

The budget was proposed by councillor P Barrow and seconded by councillor T Hayes. The budget was increased in line with the R.P.I. and approved £35,895.

Cllr S Parker
to inform the
Vale

c) Audit update

E Green of Do The Numbers Ltd will undertake the audit and over the next 6 weeks the clerk will review the paperwork.

L Hooper
review the
paperwork.

d) Financial rules and regulations

To carry forward for February Parish Council Meeting. Clerk to review them with the councillors.

L Hooper to
study on
receipt

8/22

Cemetery

a) to receive an update on the new cemetery

The planting of trees was discussed to reduce water level. Cllr T Hayes has continued to take the wellpoint readings.

Cllr T Hayes

Email to be sent to VWHDC planning to confirm the current situation with regard to the approval letter dated 2 June 1980. Cllr T Hayes

A memorial garden has been proposed a quote of £3425.00 + planning and application fees has been received. Carry forward to next meeting.

A suggestion to include provision for a new cemetery as a condition of any new housing developments and should be on higher ground.

9/22

Speeding

a) village meeting with Mark Francis,

Highways, OCC. An open meeting is to be held on 25 January Discuss a VAS (vehicle activated sign) or SID (standard indicator device) or ELAN (a radar speed sign).

To discuss the speed of traffic, the state of the road surface in Main street and especially outside Old School House.

It was mentioned that help towards funding might be sought from the county Councillors Priority fund if it is still available.

Cllr P Barrow

b) 20's plenty

To check legislation.

All agreed by Parish councillors to support at this point the council mentioned regular speed traps/guns, and of road narrowing markings to be painted on the roads, will this be enforceable?

Cllr Paul Barrow

The clerk to add information to the website

L Hooper

10/22

To receive an update on the Neighbourhood plan consultancy

The Consultancy commenced in November 2021 and ran for some 6 weeks. Councillor P Barrow reported on the small amount of feedback he had and on the way forward.

Cllr P Barrow

a) Village conservation area

To be revisited in 6 months

11/22

Footpaths and rights of way

a) Work on the Canal Towpath

The chair, Cllr Sarah Parker and Paul Barrow met with John Miles and Mrs. Scatchard to discuss tree planting along the canal. As soon as they are delivered the WBCT work party will be notified and they may contact the local scout group for assistance.


Cllr P Barrow

Documents to be put on website

It was noted that all footpaths are to be registered by 2024

Councillor P Barrow set himself the task of finding out who owns Marsh Lane

Cllr P Barrow



	Also the clerk will approach Emma English of the local scout group to ask if they would like to help with clearing the footpaths.	L Hooper
	The question of annually walking the footpaths was raised.	Cllr P Barrow
12/22	Recreation area	
	a) Play area	
	The councillors are unsure if Mr Broyd has gone through the ROSPA report to identify what work he is able to do.	
	The chair will ask Mr Broyd for an update.	Cllr VA Bosley
	It was noted the council have funds to purchase new items such as the surface tiles that need replacing	
	b) Pavilion	
	SSE to disconnect the electricity Councillor Parker to confirm. It was noted that the water supply has been turned off.	Cllr S Parker
13/22	Grounds maintenance	
	a) Schedules and contracts	
	Counsellor VA Bosley checked the schedule and said the inner village area is to be kept as is. Also, two extra areas had been added to the schedule.	Cllr Trevor Hayes
	The beech hedges needs a professional to maintain them.	
	The south meadow which needs to be done once a year, we need to find a contractor who can do this possibly as a 'lone job.'	
	Village green in front of Longs cottages needs extra care and attention.	
	Councillor Hayes requested contractors to provide RAMS (Risk assessments and methods) and these will be checked before commencement of work	
14/22	Village Broadband	Cllr Paul Barrow
	Councillor Barrow reported that meetings are taking place and the rollout has been brought forward to 2023.	
	Councillor Parker reported the need for faster broadband for the many home workers in the village.	
15/22	Challow News and Information for February 2022 edition	
	Items for inclusion need to be with Mr N Langford by 15 February	Cllr Paul Barrow
	Introduction from new clerk	Linda Hooper
16/22	Clerks' correspondence	

Email London Bridge is down. The OLAC and OCC are having a Zoom meeting Tuesday 18 January 2-3pm need to reply to let them know who is attending.

Oxon and South Vale citizen advice centre have requested a grant. They are on the list of usual recipients. Discuss at next meeting.

Cllr Paul
Barrow

Update on planning enforcement statement 2021. Prioritizing actions now they have more staff. Cllr Paul Barrow to respond

Cllr V Bosley

Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, beacons on 2 June 2022
There will be a big jubilee lunch on Sunday 5 June 2022

L Hooper

Clerk to put an entry in the Parish newsletter to see what people are planning to do.

L Hooper

The church, the school and scout group will be contacted to see what they have planned.

L Hooper

Clerk to check if funding is available for special events.

Communication has been received regarding the mixed native trees that were requested in October, will arrive between 28 February and 30 March 2022.

The Parish Council will discuss how to prepare the land and look after them at the February meeting

Infrastructure claims annual monitoring department has made contact and the report on CIL money received, needs submitting by December 2022

Communication from Vale planning has been received as a Notice of Change of the layout 11 new properties

OLAC has set up a petition for virtual meetings

Have your say on transport in Oxfordshire sent by County Councillor Y Constance

16/22

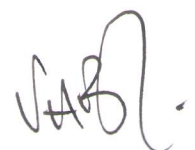
Any other business – information only

Mr A Crawford is undertaking a review of the Wantage bus services

The council would like to see a community bus service

There are still cars parked on the grass verges.

Protected landscape schemes discussed such as the Letcombe brook project, fresh waters habitat



Post delivery service in the village – there have been long delays and a L Hooper change of postman/woman.
The Clerk to contact the post office

It was noted Canal Farm Lane has a new road sign. We will again request a sign for Circourt Road.

Photograph of a very snowy old school house to go on the website

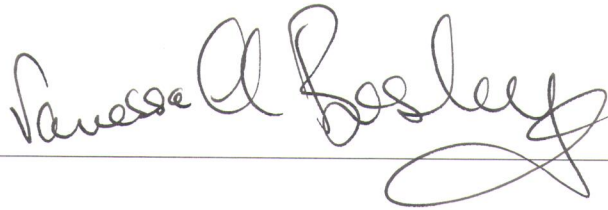
17/22

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 7.30pm at Challow Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10:30pm

Signed by Cllr Vanessa Bosley (Chair)

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vanessa A Bosley", written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and includes a large flourish at the end.