

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF CLIFTON HAMPDEN PARISH
COUNCIL
VILLAGE HALL**

Wednesday 20^h May 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Chris Neill (Chairman) , Carolyn Read , Bob Matthews,
James Walker and Jaqi mason..

Apologies Lorraine Lindsay Gale (OCC)

Also Present

42 Parishioners

1.Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2014 having been circulated, were taken as read and approved as drawn.

2.Chairman's report

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the last year the Council had effectively been in a “ holding pattern” pending the results of the Parish Plan. However the Parish had played an active part in negotiations about the Science Vale Master plan, and had responded to consultations about bus services., which were likely to be increasing, with busses to Abingdon morning and evening. The Village has been in discussion about plans to expand the railway station at Culham, the Science Vale plan and the SODc Local Plan.

Once the Village has completed its Community Plan it was use the information to develop its own Neighbourhood Plan – which is a formal planning document that has legal weight. Initial results suggest that residents recognise that the village can carry some controlled housing development – possibly a small estate with some starter/retirement homes.

The Council is also looking at the proposals for the Oxford Flood relief channel, which will end at Sandford and then deposit the flood water downstream.

The Parish Council has vacancies and this is an exciting time for the village. If anyone would like to volunteer to be on, or work with the Parish Council please come to the next meeting on 17th June.

He also advised the meeting that the web site is now up and running – www.cliftonhampden.org.uk with many thanks due to Anthony Clarke; and finally he reminded the meeting that people should apply to the Parish Council if they have a prject they would like to take forward.

3 Finance

The Clerk presented the accounts to the meeting and explained the Parish held almost £30,000 in reserve to support any response it may need to make to a planning consultation.

4.Councillor's Reports

None.

John Cotton – the Council's outgoing District Councillor attended the meeting as a resident. He advised the meeting that the District would support the Parish in its

Neighbourhood Plan work, and confirmed that a Neighbourhood Plan would give the Parish some control of development. SODC are working on more plans for housing and questioning the housing numbers it has been allocated. SODC will be moving to Milton park in Didcot shortly and are likely to stay there for 3 or 4 years. During that time they will be consulting on options.

When asked about funding for a new road he confirmed that OCC are working on plans at present.

4. Traffic

Bob Matthews report on the work of the traffic sub group. 2 aspects of traffic are a major concern to the Village – 1) Volume and 2) speeding. The Parish Council has organised surveys from OCC which have indicated that , when roads are clear over 30% of the cars are exceeding 40mph and 45% exceeding 30mph. The Parish Council installed a VAS in Burcot in an attempt to slow down the traffic, and there has been increased police activity.

In conjunction with TVPA the Parish Council have formed a Speedwatch group, which had its first outing about 6 weeks ago with the Police Community Support officer. During the course of a day the group monitored 5 locations. The group will be meeting the police shortly for a feedback session.

5. Local Planning/Culham Science Centre

Peter Canavan (SODC) and a representative from Kemp and Kemp (Commercial Managing Agents) reported on the consultation on the future of Culham Science Centre. The policy was for job growth at the Centre, with a projected 1000 extra jobs. SODC are working on a Supplementary Planning Document relating to Culham – for which the Science Centre is developing its baseline information.

There will be a consultation from 19th May until 14th July and an Exhibition at the Science Centre on 2nd June – Parishioners were encouraged to take part.

SODC is now working on its planning Core Strategy, and parish aspirations will be included in the Plan.

SODC will also be supporting the Parish Council as it develops its Neighbourhood Plan, particularly with a view to understanding local problems.

A parishioner present asked what SODC wanted from the Parish to facilitate a new road being built to ease the traffic demands on the local roads.

6. Batchport

Giles Baxter explained the gravel concerns currently being considered by Batchport. Currently there is a proposal for a 160 hectare quarry and concrete batching plant at a site adjacent to the River in Clifton Hampden, which, should it proceed, will affect the parishes of Clifton Hampden, Culham Long Wittenham and Appleford. The group is particularly concerned about the cumulative effect of this development , which will increase traffic and impinge on the greenbelt and AONB. It is likely to have an effect on the flood plain and may increase the flooding risk for the Parish.

There is an active group fighting these proposals and residents were urged to consider joining this group. So far the group have identified the site of an early Bronze Age Barrow cemetery, which has been scheduled as an Ancient Monument by English Heritage. This means that this site must be protected during any mineral extraction. The group is also working on the Science Vale implications – which have

identified the need for another road bypassing the junction at Clifton Hampden. Some of the possible routes cross the potential site, and should they proceed, will need to be protected, thus sterilising the mineral extraction in this area as well. Residents were urged to respond to consultation by OCC on 1) the amount of the current minerals aggregate assessment and 2) the gravel extraction planning application once it is forthcoming. Batchport will provide drafts of suggested letters. Residents were asked to take posters objecting to the proposals for display and to join the group fighting the proposals.

He asked all attendees to make their village contacts aware of the proposals, to volunteer to work with the group opposing the proposals and to assist with fund raising.

John Howell, the local MP has pledged his support for the group, and the group has obtained much good publicity.

He confirmed, in response to a question, that the material could not be removed by railway because the site was too small.

7. Recreation ground and Village Hall

Carolyn Read reported that last year the Committee had held an Open afternoon hosted by the Tennis Club to formally open the new play equipment. The Recreation ground Committee would now welcome suggestions for future projects.

8. Report from the School

The school has 66 children with an additional 15 starting in September. They have recently completed a new outdoor classroom. The school has a varied curriculum and uses the Village Hall for PE.

9. Report from the Village Hall

The Village Hall “ticks over” with a few regular bookings. It was refurbished 25 years ago and is now beginning to show its age again.

The committee are in negotiation with a language school for 2-4 year olds which will help the hall.

10. Report from the Tennis Club

The Tennis club is doing really well, but it feels its court is shabby, and it is investigating the possibility of re surfacing the tennis court and having an extended multi use play area. The Club is looking for another Committee member. Annual subscriptions range from £25 for a single member to £45 for family membership with unlimited guests. The Club plays 3 tournaments a year, with Club night on Wednesdays from 6.30pm. It has an online court booking system.

11. Report from the Cricket Club

Carolyn Read reported that the Cricket Club does a wonderful job maintaining the Recreation Ground, but it now needs both Members and Associate members.. the club is holding a Barbeque on 23rd may from 1.00pm onwards – she urged Parishioners to come along and try out both the Club and the Bar.

12. Report from the WI

The WI meets every 1st Thursday of the month and at present has 22 memebrs. They have a varied number of speakers – although the recent highlight was a “mind

boggler". Last month there was a talk about pearls. Members are lucky to be close enough to attend the WI college at Denham. They go on outings (eg to the Donkey Sanctuary and Cjristchurch) and support food banks and Women of the World. It is the WI's centenary year and the Branch chairman is delighted she has been invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. The branch always welcomes new members.

13. Report from the Scouts

David Piper told the meeting that the Scouts, having completed their new boat store, were now reconfiguring the inside of the Scout hut. They are in discussions with the Parish Council over the terms of a new lease, and then will be looking for funding for projects once this has been completed..

14. Report from the Parish Plan Committee

The Committee is aiming to create a plan that represents the whole community of Clifton Hampden and Burcot. The process started 2 and a half years ago , and in November the committee sent a survey to every house in the Parish. There were 266 responses – a response rate of 53%. The Committee is now writing up the plan, which the Parish will send to every household in the Parish. If anyone has anything to add to comments already submitted, please contact John Hill.

15. Footpath and Cycleways Group

There have been some immediate successes – eg the new play equipment on the Recreation ground, and there is the chance of a footpath/cycleway connecting Didcot to Culham via Long Wittenham. There is another group supporting the Berinsfield initiative for a cycleway through the Baldons to Oxford.

16. Any Other Business

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm.