

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CLIFTON HAMPTON AND BURCOT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

**Present**

Councillors: Chair: Suzanne Neave (SN), Nick Fielding (NF), Christine McCulloch (CM), Rory Maxwell (RM), Paul Schenk (PS) **Apologies for absence:** Marc Juffkins (MJ),

Clerks: Anne Davies (AD), Charlotte Ray(CR)

Oxford County Council: Cllr Robin Bennet

South Oxfordshire District Council: **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Sam Casey Rerhaye

Members of the public - 54

The Chair welcomed Councillor Maxwell and the new Parish Clerk, Charlotte Ray (CR) to their first meeting.

**Minutes**

Minutes from the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**1. Public Participation**

- a) Chris Neil queried the minutes of the previous meeting which recorded reasons for possible withdrawal of the NDO but did not discuss its benefits.
- b) Debbie Croft asked how much time councillors spent on the priorities of the community, maintaining amenities, addressing issues like flooding.
- c) David Williams said that as a resident for over 40 years, he feared that the NDO would damage the village and set a precedent for overriding Green Belt and Conservation Area planning protections. The community benefits stated in the original plan may not be realised; the doctor's surgery will not purchase the freehold of a new building and there is no formal agreement about the leasehold. The Parish Council has a right to raise concerns, the Council represents the whole community. The NDO was drawn up without proper engagement with the community, nor competition between landowners for provision of the sites. Not enough consideration has been given to flooding and problems raised in the development have not been resolved.
- d) Giles Baxter stated that Locality grants of £115,000 may have to be repaid within 30days if the NDO failed to make satisfactory progress.
- e) In response to a query about the current position of the NDO application, Cllr McCulloch (CM) read out a letter dated 6 November 2024 from the Independent Examiner appointed by SODC in which he states "there is insufficient clarity to underpin a meaningful debate on the Order, and to allow me to assess its proposals against each of the basic conditions. Moreover, it is my role to examine the Order against the basic conditions. It is not my role to secure agreement between the Parish Council, the Order's Steering Group, and the affected landowners and organisations. The Next Steps In all the circumstances, I invite the Parish Council to withdraw the Order. I would be grateful for its response by 27 November 2024. Should the Parish Council not wish to withdraw the Order, I will prepare a report on its proposals for the District Council and without a hearing".

The PC noted the public's comments and will respond in due course.

**2. Co-option of Dougie Anscombe-Stephen.**

The Chair proposed and the PC unanimously voted for the co-option of Dougie Anscombe-Stephen to join the PC.

### **3. OCC Report to the Parish Council**

Cllr Bennet reported a meeting on flooding support (still awaiting final confirmation) and a citizen's assembly for transport.

Cllr Fielding asked if OCC had decided whether Council meetings could be held remotely. Cllr Robin Bennet replied that he felt that they should not routinely be held remotely but a decision was awaited.

### **4. Flooding**

The Chair of the Flood Committee reported that PC has funded some equipment to help with the flooding with the help of a grant of £10,000 from OCC. Remedial work, funded by a grant of £4495 from OCC, has been carried out in Burcot. The Flood committee was working with the landowners to see if it would be possible to build some temporary dams to help with the flooding and is keeping an eye on the drains to prevent any blockages.

### **5. Traffic and Highway matters**

Cllr Fielding (NF) reported on HIF1, which had now been approved by the Department of Transport. The large road-building scheme will bypass this village, affecting the A415 and the Oxford Road. The PC will need to consider the implications this will have on the village and whether there should be traffic calming measures within the village.

He said that there was no update on the introduction of a 20mph speed limit. The Clerk(AD) said that OCC Highways has offered to meet up for a walk around the village to discuss current issues. The PC agreed to invite members of the public to join in the walk and talk. The information will be provided on the website of the date and time. The public may also write to the PC with their issues which the PC will be happy to relay.

The Clerk (AD) received some quotes for equipment for speeding reduction indicators.

Cllr Schenk reported communication from the Culham Campus on their efforts to reduce traffic congestion when contractors will be coming on and off site. Their entry and exits will be staggered and their performance monitored. The PC **agreed** to invite representatives of the Culham Campus to come to its March meeting.

### **6. Recreation ground update**

Cllr Schenk reported that Martin Drew and workers will be tidying up the foliage/hedges and the play area and - works are underway to support the nature recovery areas. In the early Spring, a "Tidy up" would be organised with the cricket club.

### **7. Playground Repairs**

The Chair reported that an application for a lottery fund grant to cover the cost of the play equipment was pending.

The Clerk reported that there was an outstanding invoice of £1124.44 from Kompan. Cllr McCulloch reported that the PC had obtained a quote from a company called Kompan to repair a swing but when the work men arrived on site they discovered further rotting of the timbers and advised the PC not to go ahead with the work. Cllr Anscombe-Steven **agreed** to speak to the company and report back to the PC at its January meeting.

### **8. NDO**

The Chair asked the PC to consider its response to the invitation from the Independent Examiner to withdraw the application for an NDO.

Cllr Fielding proposed that the PC should accept the offer to withdraw because a meaningful debate cannot be held. The PC has spent a lot of time over the last 12 months considering the NDO. The defence of the Green Belt in our parish is very important for the community, particularly because of the knock-on effects of the proposed building of a large community and doctors' surgery at Culham.

Cllr McCulloch proposed that the Council should accept the invitation to withdraw and seek to submit a new proposal. There have been many changes since the original was issued. There must be clarity before further discussion and referendum.

Cllr Maxwell spoke as a newly-elected councillor who had not been involved in the last 18 months but he was concerned that the NDO could not guarantee a surgery in the village. The development of both villages should be considered. Proceeding now was not a good idea.

Cllr Schenk understood the community's passion which made it really important that the PC should ensure that it is a sound plan, which we have been unable to do so far. This duty has also been recognised by the Examiner. The PC should accept the invitation to withdraw and not let the Community down.

Cllr Anscombe-Steven agreed with the Examiner's desire for more clarity and felt that the NDO needed to be looked at again.

At this point, there were many interruptions from the public. The Chair assured the public that their questions would be addressed in due course. In view of continued noise and interference, the meeting was closed to members of the public under section 1.

After deliberation, the PC **decided** unanimously not to withdraw the NDO at this stage because of the level of intimidation within the room. The PC **agreed** to write the Examiner to ask him to prepare his report for the District Council without a hearing.

#### **9. Environmental matters**

The Chair circulated a report from a Nature Recovery meeting (9th October) which considered how residents can help to improve the wildlife. It was suggested that in the New Year an event is organised to share ideas with the community.

#### **10. Footpaths and Cyclepaths**

Following the withdrawal of the Government's subsidies to farmers to provide permissible footpaths, Cllr McCulloch (CM), suggested that the PC might step in to establish some of these footpaths. She agreed to put a proposal together for discussion at the next meeting in January.

#### **11. Planning Applications**

Noted by all councillors.

#### **12. Finance**

- a) Report
- b) Payments below approved

Anne Davies salary	£
Charlotte Ray salary & work from home allowance	£403.56

- c) Draft budget Precept for 2025/26 – With the rate of CPI Agreed by the PC
- d) Grant application for £341.50 to support the Christmas Lights Walk - Approved

#### **13. Any other business**

Nothing to note.

#### **14. Items for next agenda**

Date of the next meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 which will be held in the Village hall.

The meeting closed at: 21:49