

# Vale and South Oxfordshire Neighbouring Parish Councils Joint Committee

## Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 6:30pm

Present: Greg O'Broin (Appleford PC) as chair. Chris Hancock (Appleford PC Working Group), Chris Neill (Burcot & Clifton Hampden PC), Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk to Joint Committee), John Peters (Nuneham Courtenay PC), Robin Draper (SCA), Sam Casey-Rerhaye (Culham PC), Vicky Shepherd (Appleford PC).

Chris Church (Friends of the Earth) admitted to the meeting at 19:22.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Rita Atkinson (Sutton Courtenay PC). Also: Cllr Richard Webber (OxonCC & VoWHDC), Cllr Robin Bennett (OxonCC & SODC).

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

GOB opened the meeting with a review of minutes from the previous meeting.

**Action:** GOB to amend minutes in 'wet ink' per change requests made by Robin Draper. Amended minutes will be sent to GF for upload to NCPC web site.

### **3. Developments on HIF1 Application / Objection**

- a) Status of interim objection – completed by Charlie Hopkins (CHp), and sent to all 65 OxonCC councillors on 17<sup>th</sup> June by GOB, incl. to POETS, etc. Chris Hancock (CH) also sent an email to each of the 10 Cabinet members on 17<sup>th</sup> June with an abstract of CHp's document. Acknowledgement from Cllr Robin Bennett, but generally limited/poor response. CHp has raised invoice for work to date – discussed under Administration.
- b) Updates to OxonCC Planning Portal – nothing material posted.
- c) Status of Objections by Others – EA & CPRE mentioned.
- d) Freedom of Information request – submitted, followed by a formal complaint submitted to Information Commissioner's Office. Information is being (deliberately?) withheld. RD led discussion on outstanding request for traffic modelling data: how can we obtain data to better understand justification for SC roundabout, etc? The data to answer SC concerns may not be available. Everyone keen to support this, but looking unlikely to receive anything from OxonCC until Regulation 25 request made available.

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**Action:** SCPC to propose traffic modeller to obtain data and to perform more detailed analysis at next meeting.

- e) Update housing numbers – Culham No. 1 site development consultation held at Europa School, 11am-2pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022. Many on the call had taken the opportunity to learn more about Commercial Estates Group (CEG)'s very high-level plans, focused on the business park to the East of the Culham Railway Station and Line, bordered by current Culham Science Centre on the West. Online details available: [www.culhamdevelopment.co.uk](http://www.culhamdevelopment.co.uk)

Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SCR) mentioned that she's been invited to a number of more detailed meetings next week (for which Appleford PC have now received invites too: **19<sup>th</sup> July (Placemaking – 1-5pm)**, **20<sup>th</sup> July (Blue & Green Infrastructure – 9am-1pm)**, **21<sup>st</sup> July (Movement & Connectivity – 9 am-1pm)**). SCR confirmed that train strategy published last year, so CEG have limited influence (no plans to electrify the full track, should become 4-track from Radley, relying on spurs around Appleford/ Culham to enable passing trains, etc).

**Action:** Those interested in attending CEG meetings commencing week of 21<sup>st</sup> July to let [victoria.Walker@ceg.co.uk](mailto:victoria.Walker@ceg.co.uk) know asap.  
[ALL]

- f) Next action – planning application/ objection

Discussed need for clear and simple campaign to gain momentum behind need for alternative ways to spend HIF, e.g. focus on:

- climate change, and (inter-)national (infrastructure) decarbonisation
- cheaper, more sustainable options to cross the Thames, support South Oxfordshire transport network and local housing developments

Continue to work with, and share material developed by those that have ideas for more sustainable alternatives.

**Action:** GF to email CC/ FoE requesting £500-£700 to kickstart a campaign focused on alternative sustainable transport alternatives for HIF, river crossing, and South Oxfordshire transport.

**CC** to action local campaign materials, involving other influential organisations, e.g. CPRE, Sustrans, Living Streets, etc. PCs/ local communities to buy-in and support momentum.

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Discussed future need to raise money to support campaign, and be prepared for judicial review – TBD following campaign development.

## 4. Cabinet Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> June – Issues Arising / Forward

- a) Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) – approved on 21<sup>st</sup> June.
- b) Grant Determination Agreement (GDA): Homes England (HE) correspondence with OxonCC from 20<sup>th</sup> June was shared: "OCC to.. continue to work ...to identify alternative (funding) solutions..or rescoping schemes to ensure that they are both deliverable within the HIF funding availability period and to successfully conclude infrastructure delivery to unlock homes." Confirmed delivery date is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, and there will be no clawback on any funds spent on construction even if the scheme is not fully completed. Cllr Callum Miller spoke with GOB and CH after the Cabinet Meeting, and confirmed OxonCC will not risk losing HE Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). Time to deliver the project is the biggest pressure.
- c) Meeting Request Cllr Duncan Enright & CAG – email of questions compiled since the last meeting with Cllr DE shared on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022, and CAG meeting minutes received via CHp on same date. Discussions seem to be led by OxonCC, with focus on 'public consultation' and 'greening measures'. Both continue to support the road as the only option: awaiting a first invitation to meet with CAG, previously targeting end-July.
- d) Supportive councillors flagged need to increase public pressure against the road – those against are being dismissed as a 'loud minority' – resulting in limited need to consider alternatives, particularly given prominent Cllrs determination to realise current plans. See above Campaign action plan (1f).

**Action: GOB/ GF to write / email Cllr DE re: NPC-JC CAG meeting.**

## 5. Administration

- a) NPCJC Agreement  
NPCJC Agreement has been circulated for signature – was not discussed (carry forward).

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## b) Budget / Costs Arising

RD raised SCPC commitment to reserve £2k funding to meet traffic modelling request. All PCs generally agreed commitment to support obtaining more detailed traffic modelling data for all, acknowledging (again!) frustration that this isn't being shared, despite repeat requests.

**Action: SC to recommend traffic expert on traffic modelling.**

Discussion on financial administration focused on using Phase 2 funds (budgeted at £9,550), and approved payment of CHp's recent invoice for £2,250. Any further Phase 2 spending to be approved at future meetings.

GF advised that the payment to CHp is material and will need to be approved at a meeting of NCPC. This will be held in September. GF acknowledged, and was thanked for joining the call, and supporting NPC-JC finances.

**Action:** Each PC to issue payment to GF at the earliest opportunity, and GF to arrange payment to CHp [ALL]

## 6. Any Other Business

COHSAT Meeting - 20<sup>th</sup> July, 7-9pm

## 7. Next Meeting

TBA (meeting with CAG/ campaign planning with FoE to inform date in interim).

Date:

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