

Vale and South Oxfordshire Neighbouring Parish Councils Joint Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd November 2022 at 8pm

Present: Chris Neill (Burcot & Clifton Hampden PC), Geoffrey Ferres (Nuneham Courtenay PC/Clerk to the Joint Committee), Greg O'Broin (Appleford PC/Chair), John Peters (Nuneham Courtenay PC), Vicky Shepherd (Appleford PC).

1. Apologies for absence

Andrew Steele (Culham PC), Chris Hancock (Appleford PC WG), Rita Atkinson (Sutton Courtenay PC), Robin Draper (SCA) and Sam Casey-Rerhaye (Culham PC).

2. Minutes of last Meeting

Approved. **Action: GOB to sign, scan and send to GF for website**

3. Status – Actions arising from previous meeting/minutes

- a) Letter to OxonCC – 28-day consultation period insufficient
OxonCC has only allowed 30 days for the new consultation.
- b) Traffic modelling report review – status
GOB will contact RA. **Action: GOB**
- c) Village Assemblies held
None held since last meeting.
Clifton Hampden PC does not intend to hold one.
- d) Letters to Councillors on Planning and Regulation Committee
No letters have been sent.
- e) Letter to OxonCC to clarify CPO issue & funding status
GOB has not received a reply.
- f) Response from Cllr Enright for meeting – remains o/s
Cllr Enright has not responded to messages.

4. Developments on HIF1 Application

- a) Regulation 25 Material – discuss
GOB said the material is still being examined but his initial impression is that the amount of new information is light and is

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mostly a regurgitation of original material. The Environment Agency objection remains in place, so far as GOB is aware.

b) Advice/Strategy for ongoing objections

GOB will approach CHp for a maximum of four days' work to analyse the material. **Action: GOB**

5. Recent Cabinet/Council meetings

a) Local Transport & Connectivity Plan (LTCP)

The LTCP recently passed is now Council policy. CHp has advised that it is relevant to the HIF application. The LTCP seeks to remove 1 in 4 car trips and net zero by 2040. The LTCP consultation has been deferred and we are awaiting new dates.

b) Impact of new policies on HIF application?

i) Decide & Provide

GOB says VoWHDC has fewer concerns about achieving its housing targets than SODC, which is relying on building in the Green Belt south of Oxford and at Culham, where development depends on the HIF1 road.

ii) Climate & Natural Environment Policy Statement

The policy, which is quite general, was recently passed by Cabinet. The precise relevance is unclear as yet.

6. Discussions Cllrs (Bearder, Bennett, Hicks, Webber, other)

GOB has been speaking to councillors. Some are sceptical of the case for HIF1.

He said OxonCC is assuring councillors it has the funding to deliver HIF1, but not HIF2. He is not clear how this can be true. He understands OxonCC is claiming it has a large contingency so can proceed with HIF1.

GOB says he understands the risk passes from the Government to OxonCC if the road is not completed on time and construction extends beyond 31st March 2026.

He is concerned OxonCC intends to start building the road knowing it cannot afford to finish it, so part of it will not get built, perhaps the Clifton Hampden by-pass.

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CN reminded everyone that the whole of SODC is up for re-election in 2023 and GF said he thought the same is true of VoWHDC, so re-election will soon become the councillors' main focus.

7. Other developments (for information or discussion)

a) Campaign Options

Agreed: wait for CHP's advice before deciding.

b) Oxfordshire Roads Action Alliance (ORAA)

GOB advised that ORAA, which was launched recently, is a campaign group separate to the Joint Committee. It is planning a protest opposing HIF outside OxonCC's offices to coincide with the Council Meeting on 13th December.

c) Other Groups/Alliances

None discussed.

8. Mitigation Strategy

a) Mitigations identified

None mentioned.

b) Mitigations to be pursued jointly and individually by parishes

Agreed: Joint Committee to submit a consolidated list as well as parishes to submit their own separately.

Action: GOB to circulate draft to parishes

9. Administration

a) Budget Update

GF had circulated a report in advance.

b) Payment & Remaining Funds

GF said there were no outstanding bills to pay and he expected that the two invoices listed on the report as unpaid have probably been paid since the report was written.

10. Next Actions

VS asked if the Committee should plan for a physical presence at forthcoming OxonCC meetings: Council meeting on Tuesday 13th December at 10.30am; Planning and Regulation Committee is at 2pm on Monday 16th January.

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Agreed: parishes should fill the room at the planning hearing.
The Committee discussed the time permitted for addressing
Planning and Regulation Committee and how it might be best used.
CN suggested one person should speak for the Joint Committee.

11. Next Meeting

To be decided.

The meeting closed at 9.13pm

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