

# Vale and South Oxfordshire Neighbouring Parish Councils Joint Committee

## Minutes of Meeting held on 30 Sept 2023 (10:00 am - 11:10 am)

---

**Present:** Greg O'Broin (Appleford PC/Chair), John Peters (Nuneham Courtenay PC), Chris Hancock (Appleford PC WG), Robin Draper (Sutton Courtenay Action), Dr Rita Atkinson (Sutton Courtenay PC), Sam Casey-Rerhaye (Culham PC), Dr Caroline Baird (Culham PC).

**Guest:** Richard Tamplin (POETS group).

### 1 **Apologies for absence**

Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk), Nick Fielding, Paul Schenk (Burford & Clifton Hampden), Vicky Shepherd (Appleford PC), Hugo Raworth (Sutton Courtenay PC).

### 2 **Minutes of last meeting – started 5 Aug 2023 reconvened 23 Aug**

The Minutes circulated were approved and signed.

ACTION: GOB to forward to the Clerk. (actioned)

### 3. **Update on Developments since last meeting**

Contributions by Councillors and others at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Planning & Regulation Committee (P&RC) on 27 Sept were discussed. The passing of all three parts of the resolution without amendment and only a single Cllr. voting against was noted with some disappointment. The lack of discussion on material submitted or questioning of the officer's report was noted. It was agreed that the response by Cllrs was weak.

The motion to adopt a neutral stance and delegate case preparation to the Director of Planning, was noted with concern. She had previously recommended HiF1 and is now authorized to prepare documents and coordinate the response to the Planning Committee without oversight

RA said the outcome was very disappointing. RD asked if OCC will now hire and use a second KC? GOB advised Cllr Webber has undertaken to provide APC and SCPC with an update and explanation.

ACTION: GOB to write & ask if a second KC has been retained? (actioned)

### 4. **Registration for Planning Inquiry**

RT has registered as the POETS group. He has been notified that the Planning Inquiry has been put back. Letters of representations are required by 2 Nov. Case management conference 9 Nov with the Inquiry starting on 20 Feb-24 under a new Inspector Ms K McDonald.

CHk asked how we should proceed – Rule 6 or as an interested party?

Vale and South Oxfordshire  
Neighbouring Parish Councils Joint Committee  
Minutes of Meeting held on 30 Sept 2023 (10:00 am - 11:10 am)

---

RA said Rule 6 status would be costly & referenced SCPC experience on the Hobby Horse Lane Appeal. We need to establish costs.

RT suggested that Rule 6 is much superior giving advocacy rights – the right to question officers etc. The alternative is to do it ourselves if Rule 6 status is not doable.

There was a discussion on the pros and cons of Rule 6 v Interested party. GOB said he received indicative figures for Rule 6 which were beyond NPC-JC's ability to bear. JP mentioned Unlock Democracy as a group that might be approached also.

It was suggested that ORAA might be willing to act as an umbrella group and undertake funding raising with grant support from TIF and contributions from others. It was agreed this should be explored whether as Rule 6 or otherwise.

SCR suggested this will be less of an Appeal scenario but more like a discussion particularly on the local District Council plans. Also, involvement of PC's as statutory bodies will be as important as Rule 6 status.

RT noted that OCC adopting a neutral stance will mean this will be the Highway Authority v. the Rest (i.e., groups such as NPC-JC, POETS, FOE etc). He proposed the name OPARAH – Oxfordshire Professionals and Residents Against HIF1.

CB emphasised the need to have a seat around the table. Now that OCC have adopted a neutral position, we are the only voice opposing this development. She advised caution and not to underestimate the connections and resources of those supporters who spoke in favour of HIF1 last week.

RA said having come this far we do need to make representations. She asked if we would be better with many separate organisations. CHk said the 26 speakers at the P&RC had great impact.

RT view was it is better to be one umbrella voice but coordinated powerful as an umbrella group. The Inspector will be looking for a series of cogent arguments & not a series of individual speakers repeating themselves.

RA said she agreed in principle with collaboration but wished to consult with her Parish Clerk.

GOB summarised the discussion and noted collaboration is agreed in principle. RT view was its better to be one umbrella voice coordinated as a powerful umbrella group.

RD said we should have improvements and mitigations ready for submissions. Also, that current plans are defective & will not meet the 4 requirements in the SOS letter.

ACTION: GOB to explore collaboration with others under an umbrella group.



Vale and South Oxfordshire  
Neighbouring Parish Councils Joint Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on 30 Sept 2023 (10:00 am - 11:10 am)

---

5. **OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

GOB advised that David Johnston MP has agreed to meet the JC as and when. John Howell MP has not responded, and Layla Moran MP has declined on the basis the road is not within her constituency.

GOB mentioned he received a call from media following the press release on the planning meeting. It was agreed he should follow up.

CH view is we need publicity to influence both the public and the Inspector. GOB agreed but even if HIF1 is approved, funding will remain as an issue. This a long game!

CH asked if there was an appetite, in the villages for organising fund raising events? He mentioned an evening meal in Appleford, and perhaps a person in each village could organise a local fund-raising event.

CB said there would be a need to call a meeting in each village with representatives from NPC-JC attending. RA mentioned the possibility of a middle page spread for village newsletters.

6. **Administration**

GOB said the fee £4,250 due to Charlie Hopkins (Planning Advisor) was still outstanding and was approaching 90 days overdue.

JP advised that NC PC has missed two meetings due sickness and availability. Charlie's fee invoice is in the agenda this coming week for approval to be paid in full.

RD asked that NPC-JC clarify the date for registration is put back to 2 Nov.

**ACTION:** GOB to circulate the PINS address & contact for each PC.  
GOB to clarify date for letters of representation (2 Oct or 2 Nov)?

(A subsequent email from PINS clarified the date remained unchanged – 2 Oct-23)

8. **Next Actions**

Next actions as above. All to keep a watch out on developments.

9. **Next Meeting - TBA**

*Johnston*  
28/10/2023.

*GOB*