

Vale and South Oxfordshire  
**Neighbouring Parish Councils Joint Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 28 Oct 2023 (10:00 am - 11:45 am)**

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**Present:** Greg O'Broin - Appleford PC/Chair, John Peters - Nuneham Courtenay PC, Chris Hancock - Appleford PC WG, Dr Caroline Baird - Culham PC (left 10:30).  
Dr Rita Atkinson - Sutton Courtenay PC (joined 10:12 left 11:08),  
Sam Casey-Rerhaye - Culham PC (joined 11:05).

**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 – 30 Sept 2023**

The Minutes circulated were approved and signed.

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

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

GOB advised that Planning Inquiry dates have been revised with the final hearing dates ending towards the end of April.

POETS have registered as Rule 6 participants and are open to collaborating with others. They would welcome and need both legal advice and advocacy support at the hearings. They expect the core Planning Application hearings to be 8-10 days. While 22 days have been listed their view is the CPO decision (based on public need as the criteria) will follow if the application supports HIF1.

CH advised that he was working on a document for submission and asked when the Statement of Case (SOC) had to be submitted. GOB said his understanding was this applied to Rule 6 only and we can submit a Letter of Representation at any time as an Interested Party.

OCC were due to submit their Statement of Case (SOC) by 27 Oct. but it appears this has been extended to 3 Nov. (same date given to POETS).

CB asked if we could clarify the current position with HIF1 and what will be required from the villages. JP agreed. Perhaps a newsletter for circulation in the villages? RA suggested each village needs to reference the specific impact of the road on their own village.

ACTION: Contact information for Case Officers to be circulated. [GOB].

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---

**4. Registration for Planning Inquiry**

RA expressed reservation about the financial implications of registering as Rule 6. GOB advised that the POETS group has formally registered under Rule 6 which has been acknowledged by PINS.

ACTION: RA to liaise with Parish Clerk & the PINS Case Officer who administered the appeal for Hobbyhorse Lane North. [RA]

GOB advised that APC will be considering Rule 6 at their forthcoming PC meeting early Nov but nothing has been agreed as yet.

CB said Appleford, one PC on its own would not be as effective as 5 PCs. GOB agreed, if NPC-JC commit to Rule 6, we can consolidate under an umbrella group. He understands registration for Rule 6 is possible up to mid Dec but the advice is the earlier the better. Agreed that GOB would seek representation at the Case Management Conference on 9 Nov to be held physically at County Hall.

ACTION: GOB to seek registration at the Case Mgt. Conference for NPC-JC. [GOB]

**5. Alliances & Fund Raising**

There was a discussion on the need for fund raising across all affected parishes and it was agreed that fund raising will determine the extent to which we will be able to engage professional support during the Inquiry and lead up.

CH explained that Appleford have already arranged a two-course lunch on 26 Nov in the village hall as a fund-raising event. He invited people from outside the village who would be most welcome to join.

CB said she would approach some people in Culham to see if willing to assist with fund raising. (CB left the meeting). GOB advised he had provided a piece for Sutton Courtenay News asking for fund raising volunteers, but nothing has emerged so far.

GOB is liaising with ORAA and other groups (FOE, TAN etc.) and looking to set up a Crowd Funding page. TAN have suggested making an application to TIF (Transport Innovation Fund) who may grant aid campaign fund-raising on a matching basis up to £10k. Chris Church has also prepared a media campaign plan to support fund raising.

The plan is for funds raised from the public would be routed through ORAA to pay for professional support. GOB is working on text for fund raising leaflets.

ACTION: GOB to circulate when available. [GOB].

GOB  
18/11/23

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RA said any money from PCs should be paid directly to providers and not through another organisation. GOB agreed.

GOB suggested liaising with East Hendred who also oppose HIF.  
It was agreed NPC-JC should explore wider support for participation at the Inquiry.

ACTION: JP to contact local Parish Councils (The Baldons etc). [JP]  
GOB to contact East Hendred PC, Garsington & others. [GOB]

**6. Other Developments**

RH David Johnston MP has agreed to meet the Joint Committee. It was agreed this should happen after we have sight of OCCs Statement of Case and closer to the Planning Inquiry hearings in the new year.

There was a discussion on where local Cllrs stand following the recent Planning Committee motions in Sept. (neutral stance and delegation of response to the Case Officer). Cllr. Middleton voted against the motion. Cllr. Webber has spoken to GOB.

ACTION: GOB to liaise with Cllrs to engage with the Pl. Inquiry. [GOB]

SCR mentioned the need to put an alternative vision forward. She is due to have a meeting with David Milner, MEng, Director- Creative Streets. They will require a fee and funding permitting they could prepare credible alternative proposals.

**7. Administration**

The fee due to Charlie Hopkins (Planning Advisor) raised 7 Aug has now been paid. No further commitments have been undertaken.

Next Actions

Next actions as above.

Watch & review OCC's SOC due 3 Nov-23.

**9. Next Meeting – 18 Nov. 10:00 am.**

*Gay O'Brien*  
18/11/2023.

*gob*