

**Minutes of the meeting of Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the Village Hall**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.06pm.

**23/78. Present/Apologies**

Parish Councillors present: Charlie Vicary, John Peters (Chair), Madhvi Saini and Mandy Rigault (Vice-Chair).

Also present: Cllr Robin Bennett (OxonCC), Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SODC) and 11 members of the public.

In attendance: Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk).

**23/79. Declarations of interest**

No further declarations were made.

**23/80. Parishioners' issues**

Several residents complained about three places where tree roots had made the pavement difficult and dangerous along the main road.

A resident complained about what she believes is burning of plastic at Rogers Metal Management, usually on Saturdays.

**23/81. Minutes of the Council's last ordinary meeting**

The Council **approved** the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, and the Chair then signed them and initialled each page.

**Action: Clerk to publish signed minutes on Council's new website**

**23/82. Vacancy**

A member of the public asked questions about what might be involved and asked a number of questions. A resident also expressed interest in the vacancy.

**23/83. County Councillor's report**

Cllr Robin Bennett (OxonCC) introduced his latest written report, which the Clerk has published on the Council's new website.

**23/84. District Councillor's report**

Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SODC) gave a brief report. She urged a parish councillor to attend the free online forum on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 6-7.15pm to help councils and community groups support residents to reduce energy use and costs.

**23/85. Planning matters**

- a) Lower Farm House, Lower Farm Lane: Alterations and extension of the main house; extension of an outbuilding to create a two-bedroom self-contained annex. [P23/S3473/HH] [Consultation deadline: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023]

The Council **agreed** not to submit a comment.

- b) New Barn Farm, Woodside Barn: Erection of a single-storey timber garden room – discharge of condition 4 (Tree Protection). [Not subject to public consultation]

The Council **agreed** it had no concerns about this.

- c) Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Cllr Mandy Rigault updated the Council.

**23/86. Finance**



a) Bank reconciliation to end October 2023

The Council **noted** a bank reconciliation to the end of August 2023 presented by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.

b) Budget monitoring report to end October 2023

The Council **noted** a report, presented by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer, monitoring payments against the budget for the first seven months of 2023-24.

c) Payments

The Council **approved** the following payment:

- £241.00, Zurich Town & Parish Insurer Trust Account, insurance renewal.

The Chair and Cllr Mandy Rigault signed the payment and initialled the supporting paperwork.

**Action: Clerk to send cheque to Zurich Insurance**

d) Receipts

The Council **noted** the following receipts since the last meeting:

- £1,000.00, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, Joint Committee invoice 23-4
- £3,234.00, South Oxfordshire District Council, precept 2023-24 – second half
- £1,000.00, Clifton Hampden Parish Council, Joint Committee invoice 23-2
- £115.80. HMRC, VAT refund Q4 2022-23-Q2 2023-24
- £1,000.00, Culham Parish Council, Joint Committee invoice 23-3.

### 23/87. Correspondence

None.

### 23/88. Former Cockadoo/Harcourt Arms

Oxana Scheers of Britannica Homes addressed the meeting regarding possibilities for bringing the former Cockadoo/Harcourt Arms building back to life with options to create homes or hospitality facilities, subject on viability studies.

She said she has made contact with the owners, the Wellington Pub Company (which is owned by the Reuben Brothers), who have said they do not usually sell their freeholds but they are open to offers. She has received a floor plan and has been offered a visit.

Tom Long, an immediate neighbour, said he was concerned to see the building brought back into use as people were breaking in and stripping the copper piping.

Richard Butcher, who said he works in the hospitality industry, advised the Council that he believed it would cost at least £1m to convert the building into a viable hospitality business and the Wellington Pub Company might want a similar amount for the freehold.

Another resident said it was a good site on a main road with excellent parking. A couple of residents both said they thought the building was ideally suited to being a boutique hotel.

Oxana said residential and commercial uses represented completely different business challenges. She offered to allow the Chair to view the building with her.

### 23/89. Speeding and other Highways issues

Cllr Robin Bennett said OxonCC has approved the implementation of the 20mph limit through the village. He said the bus company had objected strongly.

A resident asked when the 20mph limit would be implemented and Robin said it would be before the end of March 2024.

Another resident asked if the 30mph speed camera would be recalibrated and Robin said it could not be altered.

Cllr Mandy Rigault offered to speak to OxonCC's about drains issues raised by residents. **Action: Cllr Mandy Rigault**

### **23/90. Conservation issues**

OxonCC's Edward Whorwood has informed the Clerk that OxonCC is aiming for the work to start this month. He had said he would speak with the contractor who is conducting the work and forward on a more exact date for commencement.

### **23/91. Housing Infrastructure Fund 1 Relief Road**

The Council was updated regarding recent developments.

### **23/92. Christmas tree collection**

The Council **agreed** to ask South Oxfordshire District Council to provide a collection point in the parish for Christmas trees again. **Action: Clerk**

### **23/93. Town and Parish Council Charter**

The Council **agreed** not to discuss this matter in view of pressure of time.

### **23/94. Oxfordshire County Council Lane Rental Scheme Proposal Consultation**

The Chair offered to look at OxonCC's proposal to introduce a daily charge of £2,500 on companies for works undertaken during peak periods on Oxfordshire's most critical busiest streets, including the A4074 from the village to Heyford Hill, and to submit comments if he deemed it appropriate. **Action: Chair**

### **23/95. Defibrillator**

The Clerk apologised that he had not yet taken this matter forward.

**Action: Clerk**

### **23/96. Playing Field**

The Council **agreed** that it might be appropriate to offer help to the Trustees and invite them for a meeting. **Action: Clerk**

### **23/97. Succession Planning**

The Council **agreed** to defer this item to the next meeting in view of pressure of time.

### **23/98. Public Transport**

Cllr Robin Bennett said the bus company is promising improvements to the X40 service, but he has no details.

Cllr Mandy Rigault will attempt to find out more when she attends the next online Parish Transport Representatives meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023. **Action: Cllr Mandy Rigault**

The meeting closed at 9.29pm

Signed:



Initialled:  
2024

Date: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

