

Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on

On Monday 24th of May 2016

Present	Brian Forster (Vice Chairman) acting as Chair	Carol Shepherd	Josie Allsworth
	Stephen Smith		
	With no members of the public		
	Commenced 2115	Ended 2205	

1. **Apologies:** Elizabeth Oastler, Ian Charlton, David Hancox, Melinda Tilley, Eric Batts
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** the minutes of 9th May 2016 were reviewed. Item 8 was amended: Brian Forster was noted as being the keeper of the Memorial including arranging flag flying days. With the changes the minutes were recorded as being accurate records of proceedings
3. **Declarations of interest - none**
4. **Public Participation - none**
5. **Reports from District and County Councillors**
 - a. Cllr Melinda Tilley – report as attached.
 - b. Cllr Eric Batts – report as given to Parish Meeting as attached.
6. **Planning Applications**
 - a. The following planning applications were considered:
 - P16/V1035/HH, Crella Beggars Lane Longworth ABINGDON OX13 5BL, Rear Extension, Loft Conversion and New External Rear Chimney. Associated Internal Alterations. Resolved unanimously not to object.
 - b. For updates on previous Planning Applications see attached note.
7. **Accounts**
 - a. Refer to Finance Report
 - b. Budget 2016-17: due to errors in the VAT listed in the first budget, some changes were needed. The Council had considered the suitably revised budget and resolved that as now presented is accepted.

INCOME

Precept, grants, and burial income	39571	
Total		39571

EXPENDITURE

General Admin	12486	
Professional services	3200	
Grounds maintenance	7453	
Rep & Maint	7832	
Litter	4800	
War memorial	0	
Donations	3300	
Election	500	
Total		39571

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- c. Financial Statements and Audit 2015-16: The Clerk outlined that the Audit regime has changed. The 2015 Regulations, unlike earlier versions, require that the Annual Governance Statement (Part 1 of the Annual Return) is approved before the Accounting Statements (Part 2 of the Annual Return) are approved. The Clerk took Council members through the Annual Governance Statement line by line as the members are responsible for giving the correct response. The approval of the unaudited 2015/16 accounts need to approved by 30th June at a full Council meeting, but can be done at this meeting. It was resolved that the Council would approve the accounts, the Annual Governance Statement, and the Accounting Statement. The relevant documents had been passed to all Councillor at least one week prior to the meeting. Those Councillors not present today had commented on these documents without objection.
- The 2015-16 unaudited accounts were approved unanimously
 - The content of the Annual Governance Statement (Part 1 of the Annual Return) was approved unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting and the Clerk
 - The content of the Accounting Statement (Part 2 of the Annual Return) was approved unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting and the Clerk

8. Next meetings

- a. Next ordinary meeting 6th June 2016
- b. Extra meeting 20th June 2016 if needed
- c. Ordinary meeting 4th July 2016
- d. Extra meeting 18th July 2016 if needed

SIGNED

DATE:

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PLANNING APPLICATION UPDATES

- P16/V0773/HH, 1 Sandy Lane Southmoor Abingdon OX13 5HX, Erection of porch and detached store: approved 11th May 2016
- P16/V0430/FUL, Methodist Chapel Faringdon Road Southmoor Abingdon OX13 5HE, Change of use from Chapel to residential: approved 17th May 2016

FINANCE REPORT

Invoices outstanding	Recipient	Value
None		
Invoices paid	Recipient	Value
17/5/16	Came & Company Insurance	£843.94
17/5/16	McCracken (grass cutting), invoices 7436, 7420	£1495.20
17/5/16	BGG (litter picking), invoice 036/16	£240.00
Receipts	Payee	Value
None		
Donations	Recipient	Value
17/5/16	CPRE (subscription by donation)	£36.00
Clerk Payments		Value
None		

REPORT FROM D-CLLR ERIC BATTS

This meeting marks the end of the first year of representing this Parish at the District Council and Cllr Batts hoped to continue to do so.

There has not been any increase in the VOWH Council Tax despite OCC increasing their part. VOWH finances are in a good position to meet the demands of the future.

Some further back office functions are being merged with other partners later in the year. This will make more savings but no difference to public contact.

The Inspector is about to release his findings on the first phase of the Local Plan. The second phase will follow soon after.

The planning application on Southmoor House is under appeal.

David Hill has been confirmed as the new Chief Executive of VOWH.

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Unitary Status: both Councils have set out their respective positions. VOWH will continue to promote their own case. The costs of this promotion will not be borne by residents.

The swimming pool at the Abingdon Leisure Centre (Tennis Centre) will be closed for six weeks this summer for refurbishments, together with some general improvements in the entrance and gym.

REPORT FROM C-CLLR MELINDA TILLEY

PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL

Without consulting the public or OCC, on Thursday 25th February a surprise announcement was made by Oxfordshire's District Councils and Oxford City Council. It called for the abolition of OCC and the establishment of four district quasi-unitary councils. In addition, the announcement called for the creation of an unelected quango to be known as a 'Combined Authority' to take on difficult areas of responsibility currently with OCC, such as social care and major road projects.

The Districts put out a tender to consultants to produce a report to support their proposals. Their brief to consultants initially stated: "The District Councils' view is that a single county-wide unitary authority is not the right solution for Oxfordshire". It went on to say that any finding suggesting a single county-wide unitary is best would not be approved. The OCC view was that a single county-wide unitary authority was an option that should be considered, and stated that it would therefore be forced to commission a separate report.

As a result of OCC and public pressure, District Council leaders eventually agreed to commission a report covering all the options. However, the protocol relating to the commissioning and management of the report could not be agreed between OCC and Districts, so the nett result is that two separate reports costing in excess of £100,000 each will proceed. Initial findings will be available June/July with public consultations to follow. It is likely the Secretary of State will rule on the reports in the autumn.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE CONTRACTS EXTENDED UNTIL SPRING 2017

OCC has extended contracts for Oxfordshire's children's centres and early intervention hubs until 31 March 2017. The Cabinet is due to meet on 24 May to consider a proposal on how to allocate an additional £2m that the County Council agreed not to cut from early intervention services when the budget was set in February. The extension to the contracts until the spring of 2017 is intended to allow more time to manage the transition into the new service, pending decisions being taken on how the £2m is to be spent. It will also allow more time for OCC to continue working with community groups to develop the best possible local solutions for the continuation of open access services – including proposals for the continued use of children's centre and hub buildings. Following the decision of the Cabinet, the council will carry out an extensive staff consultation regarding the new Children's Service model and the roles within it.

OXFORDSHIRE TOGETHER - HIGHWAY SERVICES NEXT STEPS

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Since the launch of the Oxfordshire Together proposals in September 2015, around 140 town and parish councils have expressed an interest in taking on delivery of some local highway services that the council will no longer be able to deliver in the future, or will only deliver to the statutory minimum standard. OCC is now inviting all interested town and parish councils to sign the necessary agreements that will allow the council to formally transfer the undertaking of highway services under the Oxfordshire Together proposals to town and parish councils that wish to take them on. More information on Oxfordshire Together and the approach and services which can be taken on by Towns and Parishes can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiretogether and any questions or comments should be sent to localities@oxfordshire.gov.uk

COUNTY'S ADOPTION WAITING TIMES AMONG NATION'S SHORTEST

Children are waiting less time to be adopted in Oxfordshire than almost anywhere else in the country, latest Government figures show. The council is rated among the best performing authorities on three key measures linked to the time taken for children in care to move in with adoptive families. Between 2012 and 2015, 73 per cent of Oxfordshire children waited less than 16 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family - the third highest figure out of 149 authorities across the country. The council was sixth best for the average time taken between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, and recorded the 15th shortest average time between receiving court authority to place a child and matching them with a family.

NEW TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

The County Council is to launch a new initiative to use the Council's own busses in the "Down Time" for community use.

Any community Group or individual will be able to bid for a journey. Parish & Town Councils will be able to bid for a repeat service. I will keep you informed when the pilot is launched.

LATEST INFORMATION ON CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IN OXFORDSHIRE

An updated version of the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership's Strategic Intelligence Assessment has been published. The Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) provides the latest information on crime and community safety in Oxfordshire. It aids understanding of emerging trends and patterns in crime and disorder, and it explores future threats and opportunities. The SIA is part of the evidence base which supports community safety partners to plan and target their work. It is a good first port of call for anyone wanting to know about crime and community safety in Oxfordshire. The headline long-term trend shows that crime in Oxfordshire has fallen by 33% over the past eight years. The full report and an executive summary can be seen via this link:

<http://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/community-safety-0>