



# EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held at  
Eynsham Village Hall  
7.30pm on Tuesday 15 November 2022

## MINUTES

**Councillors Present** – Cllr R Macken (Chair), Cllr S Brown, Cllr M Chen, Cllr D Knight, Cllr A Mosson, Cllr S Osborne, Cllr A Partlett, Cllr B Partlett, Cllr C Rylett and Cllr N Victory.  
Also in attendance – Clerk to the Council. There were five members of the public.  
In attendance remotely – Deputy Clerk and two members of the public.

**22/143 To receive apologies for absence** – Cllr T Crowley.

**22/144 To receive Declarations of Interest in agenda items** – None.

### 22/145 Minutes

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign as a true record the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 18 October 2022.
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign as a true record the minutes of the Amenities & Estates of 25 October and note the delegated decisions contained therein.
- (c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign as a true record the minutes of the Traffic Working Group of 25 October. The recommendations were considered and items a) and c) were approved. It was **RESOLVED** that item b) subject to the location of the Vehicle Activated Sign at Witney Road being agreed. Item d) was not carried as it is not the jurisdiction of the Parish Council to write to businesses whose drivers are considered driving above the speed limit.
- (d) It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign as a true record the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes of 8 November (subject to minor amendment) and note the delegated decisions contained therein.
- (e) It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign as a true record the minutes of the Extra Full Council meeting of 8 November 2022.

**22/146 Public Participation** – Members of the public contributed to item 22/147 only.

**22/147 Conduit Lane Update** – Mr Hugh Potter, Group Manager, Countryside Operations & Volunteer Coordination, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) was welcomed to the meeting and provided an update on Conduit Lane work. It was noted that the opportunity to widen part of the footpath arose as an option of a Covid Recovery Scheme. Shortly thereafter, the wall became unstable which then required closure of the footpath. There was a significant delay in obtaining permission to undertake repairs to the Grade II listed structure and further significant delays were experienced in contractors commencing wall removal work. OCC has apologised for the delays and gaps in the project management.

The current situation is that the footpath is unable to be re-opened due the 'spur-ends' of the remaining parts of the wall which if moved, could cause the remaining wall to become unstable. Also, bags of stone are being stored on the footpath ready to use in the wall rebuild work and the need for contractors to use the footpath space to work in. It is going to be 'quite a while' before the resident's contractor can commence rebuilding work, the added complication is that any freezing weather will add further delays to the completion timescales. Legal work is nearing completion and tree stump removal work has now been undertaken. Footings for the wall in its new alignment need to be dug and concrete poured.

When the wall rebuild work is almost complete, the wall on Mill Street will need to be altered to dovetail the rebuilt section of wall into it, a gas marker will need to be moved (date is awaited from British Gas) and street signs will need to be moved to a new position. The resident (and person liable for the wall) commented that the footpath will also need to be resurfaced.

The current footpath closure order expires in mid-December at which time it will be extended for another 6 month period (it being the statutory length of time), however the footpath will be re-opened sooner if at all possible. It was agreed that a weekly progress update will be received by the Parish Council for publication on its website and social media.

A resident queried whether OCC is aware of problems with the gradient of the ramp from Evans Road/Back Lane Car Park and the ramp at the bottom of Wastie Lane/Acre End Street, both of which are too steep for wheelchairs/mobility aids. Similarly, the footpath at Acre End Street is poor quality. It was noted that the quality of the diversion route was not assessed by OCC when Conduit Lane was closed although a query was raised with OCC Highways midway through the project - these concerns will be investigated. Residents' objections to the widening scheme were made during the planning application process and were not taken on-board and the importance and community value of the public footpath has not been understood by OCC. An assessment will be made as to whether a pedestrian safety barrier will be required at the junction of Conduit Lane/Acre End Street, towards the end of the project. The Public Right of Way will remain as a footpath and not change to a bridleway (that would otherwise permit cycles). The Parish Council made its dissatisfaction with OCC, clear to Mr Potter.

OCC agreed that a weekly project update will be provided to the Parish Council to update the community accordingly.

**22/148 To receive an update report from Eynsham's West Oxfordshire District Councillors and Oxfordshire County Councillor** – Cllr Levy reported on National Railways' work to Botley Road rail bridge which will take 12 months and the road will be closed. No cars will be permitted beyond West Oxford Community Centre. Most buses will go to the Seacourt Park & Ride and shuttle buses will operate from there to the youth hostel. Footpath users will continue to access Oxford during the project period with the exception of 9 days in August 2023. Oxford Station will remain open. Cllr Levy is to investigate whether bus services can be improved for travel into Oxford and Hanborough Station. Cllr Rylett reported on the closure of Old Witney Road which affects about 9 households as foulwater and water supply connections need to be made for the Park & Ride. WODC is working on an up to date statement on its 5 year housing land supply which was accurate to 31 March 2022. The Strategic Sites haven't progressed as expected – there is no control over when developers should submit planning applications. Standard methodology for calculating required housing numbers will become available next September when the Local Plan is 5 years old. Botley West Solar Farm was raised – a consultation event is scheduled for 28 November, 5.00pm at St Leonards Church Hall.

**22/149 Planning** - To consider drafting a response for the [Oxford Local Plan 2040 consultation](#) and agree actions. A draft response was circulated and minor amendments made for submission.

**22/150 Finance**

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Schedule of Payments.
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation.
- (c) The income and expenditure for the year to date was reviewed and queries raised.

**22/151 Master Project List and Dashboard Report.**

- (a) To review the Master Project List and Dashboard Report – Cllr Macken summarised the Dashboard Report.

**22/152 To receive reports from Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies/meetings**  
– Cllr Osborne provided a brief report on the Allotments Association. A borehole is being investigated for a water supply. Cllr Rylett represented the Council at the Service of Remembrance on Sunday. Also, Cllr Rylett attended Bartholomew School to meet their Youth Council and discussed engaging with them more on subjects and projects. Cllr Macken met with Balfour Beatty about undertaking community projects that match their skillsets. Footpath improvements are to be considered at Fishponds, Oxford Road Play Area, Oxford Road (north) car park to the Skate Park and the footpath from Marlborough Place to Hanborough Close. Site meetings are required.

**22/153 To note the dates of the next Parish Council meetings (all at 7.30pm in the Village Hall unless otherwise indicated):-**

- (a) Amenities & Estates Committee - 22 November 2022
- (b) Traffic Working Group - 29 November 2022, 6.45pm
- (c) Planning Committee - 29 November 2022
- (d) Traffic Working Group - 13 December 2022, 6.45pm (if needed)
- (e) Planning Committee - 13 December 2022 (if needed)
- (f) Full Council Meeting - 20 December 2022

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS:** At the conclusion of this part of the agenda, the Chair will move that, considering the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the public, press and broadcast media be excluded for the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

**22/154 Oxford Road Playing Field (South) & Fishponds**

- (a) The Clerk's report to the Council was noted.
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer arrangements from Fields in Trust as per the recommendations and to seek advice from Wellers Hedleys solicitors regarding administration of the land.
- (c) To resolve to set up a sub-committee of the Amenities & Estates Committee as Managing Trustee and appoint members – Deferred pending advice.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.