

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Eynsham
held on Tuesday 24 April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Gordon Beach (Chairman), Katherine Doughty (Parish Clerk)
Parish Councillors: Richard Andrews, Andrew Bickley, Sue Brown, Katy Crowe, Tricia Crowley, Andy Mosson, Sue Osborne, Nick Relph, Dennis Stukenbroeker and Dr Mark Zumbuhl.
Oxfordshire County Councillor Charles Mathew
West Oxfordshire District Councillors Peter Emery and Edward James.
25 members of the public and local organisations.

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

1. **To receive apologies for absence** - Eynsham Parish Councillors: Ross Macken, Jane Baldwin.
2. **To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting of 25 April 2017** - The minutes of the meeting of 25 April 2017 were agreed as accurate.
3. **To consider matters arising from the minutes** - None.
4. **Notification of any other business** - None.
5. **To receive the Chairman's Report** - The Chairman's report was tabled. It was noted that the Local Plan is nearing adoption. Residents are urged to continue responding to consultations and write to the District and County Councillors. Residents were thanked for attending the Local Plan Inquiry.
6. **To consider the Financial Statement for the year 2017/18** - A copy of the unaudited accounts for 2017/18 had been circulated. Residents were asked to forward any queries to the Clerk.
7. **To receive the following reports:-**
 - (a) **Thames Valley Police** – A resident expressed an interest in starting a volunteer speed assessment group and others were urged to join the group. It was noted that PCSO Keen is the only Police representative assigned to Eynsham and explained the difference between theft, burglary and robbery. West Oxfordshire is one of the lowest crime areas in the country and recommended the use of the 101 reporting service. Helen was thanked for her community support. The Eynsham Fire Service report was reviewed.
 - (b) **Cllr Charles Mathew, Oxfordshire County Councillor** – Residents were referred to Cllr Mathew's report. It was noted that the previous year has been difficult and Cllr Mathew has been questioning Oxfordshire Growth Board regarding the £215m being spent on improvements to the A40. A Park & Ride is now planned for 1000 cars albeit 22-25,000 drive past the Evenlode public house every day. West Oxfordshire produces 76% of the whole of Oxfordshire's gravel. No new gravel excavation will be undertaken after 2031. Cllr Mathew welcomes correspondence from residents on their concerns. A resident queried a new community path along the B4049. Cllr Mathew felt it was a good project, however funds are not available. A new roundabout on the A40 at Curbridge was discussed and it was felt that Park & Ride should be at Witney, not Eynsham. Residents were encouraged to write to Ian Hudspeth to object to the scheme. A resident queried the possibility of an Oxfordshire Unitary Council. Cllr Mathew felt the sooner we have a unitary council the better albeit West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) is not in agreement. The matter is in the hands of DCLG and is still being considered.

Cllr Mathew was asked for his opinion of a possible light railway and felt that £215m would just about pay for a light railway from Carterton to Oxford using the old railway line. 35-40% of A40 traffic go straight through Oxford which is contrary to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) findings. The Chairman encouraged residents to contact Robert Courts MP accordingly. Lastly, a £15,000 community grant is available to assist local projects. Residents were encouraged to apply.

- (c) **West Oxfordshire District Councillors** – The Councillors welcomed questions. District Cllr Peter Kelland was asked to support Eynsham residents. District Councillor Ed James was asked for his personal position on the Local Plan and whether there was a possibility for the creation of both Eynsham and South Leigh Garden Villages in the future, which potentially he felt there could be. Whilst Garden Villages must be separate and distinct, he felt that Eynsham Garden Village would be distinct but not necessarily separate. It was noted the District Councillor Peter Emery is not standing for re-election at the current time. Those present thanked Peter for his help over the previous 4 years.
- (d) **Eynsham Community Primary School Governors** – Report was tabled. It was noted that Governors have been replaced by a Rapid Improvement Board.
- (e) **Bartholomew School** – Mr Thomas was welcomed as Head Teacher as of September. The proposed new building work was discussed and contractor's parking referred to – a compound will be on site. There are 1300 pupils at the moment with pupils coming from 45 primary schools. Mr Thomas was asked how the school will cope with the number of new pupils. OCC determine the admission arrangements and it is like to change the school's admission policy so that the catchment area will be restricted. It was noted that 55% of pupils come from within catchment and 45% from outside catchment. Parking by sixth form students in Back Lane car park was discussed and a solution to the capacity problem is difficult to find. Students might be able to use the proposed Park & Ride.
- (f) **Eynsham Consolidated Charity / Bartholomew Educational Foundation** - No questions raised.
- (g) **Eynsham Playing Field Managers** - No questions raised.
- (h) **Eynsham Village Hall Management** - Difficult financial situation noted due to a fall in income (Police and classes) and increased expenditure in the year. A Community Day is to be held on 9 June, all village organisations and groups are welcome to attend. No questions raised.
- (i) **Eynsham Allotment Association** - The Parish Council were thanked for their support for the deer fencing. No questions raised.
- (j) **Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan – Eynsham Futures** - No questions raised. The Council thanked all those who worked on the Neighbourhood Plan. It has been difficult working with WODC. The final stage is impending.

17. **Any other business** - The Chairman thanked everyone present for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed:

Dated: