

NORTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF NORTH HINKSEY, HELD ON THURSDAY 22nd MARCH 2018, AT 7.30 PM, IN THE SEACOURT HALL, BOTLEY.

Present:

Parish Councillors: D. Kay (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Councillors L. Berrett, J. Bolder, Mrs. V. Carr, C. Church, Mrs. A. Dykes, L. Kunzemann, R. Mayne, C. Potter and A. Pritchard.

County/District Councillors: County Councillor Mrs. J. Roberts and District Councillor Mrs. E. Smith.

Others Present: PCSO A. Wright (TVP), E. Casley (Chairman LMPMT), J. Godden, D. O'Neil (Nortoft), S. Wolstenholme (SWA Architects), 41 members of the public and A. J. Stone (Parish Clerk).

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors A. Hardiman and Ms. A. MacKeith.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman, Councillor D. Kay welcomed members of the public to the meeting, explaining that it was the annual public meeting for North Hinksey parishioners and he hoped people would fully participate in the meeting. The meeting would be audio recorded for minute purposes.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th March 2017, were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation by Nortoft Consultants Regarding Work on the Rejuvenation of the Louie Memorial Playing Fields and Pavilion.

The Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, Councillor C. Potter briefed the meeting about progress that had been made since the APM in 2017, including the appointment of Nortoft Consultants to prepare a master plan and investigate financing options for agreed rejuvenation works.

David O'Neil (Nortoft) and Steve Wolstenholme (SWA Architects) then did a presentation of the proposed master plan, timescales and a number of options for both new play equipment, the possible increased use of the upper playing field for more football pitches and the possibility of renovating or rebuilding of a new pavilion which would incorporate the local 4th Oxford Scouts (and possibly the 15th Oxford Scouts). Options and costs were discussed for the existing pavilion and scouts hut, including a new pavilion and refurbishment of the scout hut, a new (traditional design) pavilion replacing the existing pavilion and scouts hut and a new angled design pavilion replacing the existing pavilion and scouts hut. After explaining what was involved in each option including possible costs, the audience was asked whether they supported the refurbishment or new build options. **The new build option was heavily supported by those present and no one in attendance supported the refurbishment option.**

Steve Wolstenholme (SWA Architects) then explained the interior options and possible additional external storage that was being proposed for each scheme and he and David O'Neil (Nortoft) then answered a series of questions from the audience regarding their proposals, adequacy of storage and advantages/disadvantages of the two new build options. They also explained that this was the start of a consultation process and that the main consultation event would take place in the LM Pavilion on Saturday 28th April 2018 between 10.30am and 4.00pm. They both welcomed comments and suggestions in relation to the proposals. Councillor C. Potter thanked them for their informative presentation.

5. Policing Issues

PCSO Aide Wright spoke primarily about the recent problem of house break-ins and the things that residents should do to discourage such events, which were often done on an opportunist basis. He

reminded those present of security measures that each household could take to reduce the possibility of a break-ins and the importance of things like an active neighbourhood watch. There followed a question and answer session involving residents PCSO Aide Wright encouraged the public to contact him if they had any further concerns.

6. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council (*Circulated at the meeting*)

The Chairman, Councillor D. Kay explained that his report this year was aimed at bringing parishioners fully up to date on just four major planning related areas.

1. Mace / BDC Botley Centre Redevelopment:

Everybody should have received an update newsletter recently, which was also downloadable at <http://westwayconsultation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/1st-construction-newsletter-Mar-2018.pdf>. This newsletter included details of contacts for any issues arising on site during the works. Recently we had the saga of the closed public toilets and the disappearing bins in the precinct, which was brought to our attention by local residents, and the issue resolved reasonably quickly with the help of several Parish Councillors. If further issues arose the best action to take was to contact Mace's representatives directly, but if they don't respond in what you consider to be an appropriately speedy or positive manner please do subsequently inform us as well so that we can bring further pressure to bear.

Works HAD started on the temporary site on Monday 19th March, and the intention was for the users of those buildings (Seacourt Hall, Botley Baptist Church, Botley Library, Co-op, Tesco, and Lloyds Chemist) to move in during June, with the main works starting after that. Seacourt Hall would be holding an open day shortly after the move into the Grant Thornton Building which would be announced in The Sprout and on various websites closer to the day, please do come along to see the new facilities available there.

We are expecting the boarded up shops in the precinct to have artwork put in place soon including images produced by children at our local schools, and information about important local initiatives. In terms of visual appeal that will definitely be a major, if temporary improvement.

Further updates will be placed on the Parish Council website and the developer's own website as the works progress.

2. National, Local and Neighbourhood Plans:

Neighbourhood Plan. Responses to public feedback from last Oct/Nov consultation are now on the NHPNP website plus an updated version of the Character Assessment – see

<http://www.nhinkseynp.org.uk/consultation-on-draft-plan-october-november-2017/>.

Volunteers are busy drawing up the final submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan plus support documents, the next main stages being a final 6 week public consultation to suggest changes to the content (intended for June / July), followed by submission to an Independent Examiner, then a Parish wide referendum where residents, businesses and other local stakeholders can simply vote yes or no to adopting the Neighbourhood Plan.

The VOWHDC Local Plan 2031 Part 2 has been submitted for Independent Examination after final public consultation - see the Vale's latest update at

file:///C:/Users/david/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/Vale%20Local%20Plan%20Update%20Bulletin%2009.pdf

Additionally the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was also being rewritten and is currently undergoing public consultation until 10th May – see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-revised-national-planning-policy-framework>.

3. Oxford Cambridge Expressway / East West Rail Link / other major local transport issues:
Oxford Cambridge Expressway

A number of documents about various phases of the Oxford Cambridge Expressway study have been already published over the past two years including:

Interim Government Study for the Oxford Cambridge Expressway – see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-strategic-study-interim-report-from-august-2016>

Stage 3 Report for the Oxford Cambridge Expressway – see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-strategic-study-stage-3-report>

Oxford Cambridge Expressway Stakeholder Reference Group presentations up to 2017 – see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-strategic-study-stakeholder-reference-group>

The Government has announced its intentions that Highways England will select a route later this year, with no opportunity for members of the public or their representatives to comment on the need for the road, or the local impact of any particular proposed route.

Oxfordshire County Council has recently passed a Motion to call for a Public Enquiry into the issue, various action groups are also demanding that some form of public consultation is included in the process, and NHPC will be debating this matter in the forthcoming Council meeting on 29th March. The final choice of route could have major local implications, primarily relating to the A34 and potential reduction of traffic around the Oxford Ring Road, or alternatively the widening of our section of the A34, which has still not been totally discounted as an option.

The East West Rail Link to join Didcot and Norwich via Oxford and Cambridge – see www.eastwestrail.org.uk/ - is rather less contentious from a local viewpoint. The Western Section across to Bedford has already been finalised, and partially implemented, whilst the Central and Eastern sections are yet to be finalised.

Locally the Botley Road Corridor Study resulted in the County Council gaining £5m worth of funding from the Department for Transport aimed at improving facilities between Binsey Lane and Eynsham Road for pedestrians, cyclists and buses – see the County Council website for details <http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/botley-road-gets-sustainable-major-transport-boost/>

No doubt anybody with an interest in local transport issues will already be well aware of the Oxfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan, and the desire for well-integrated networks across Oxford City and throughout the County including the much touted rapid transit systems. At this stage nobody has decided whether we ought to have trams, or even a gondola cable car system running down Botley Road, buses running through tunnels under the centre of Oxford or any number of other options. This may offer opportunities for amusing articles in the Oxford Mail, but at the end of the day a practical solution needs to be reached, and whatever is implemented will have major implications for local transport in Botley. I would urge everybody to try to keep abreast of the latest proposals, and whenever possible to participate in public consultations.

4. The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme:

Although the Scheme itself will be implemented on land outside North Hinksey Parish it will impact on this area, and particularly on residents living along North Hinksey Lane and in North Hinksey Village. One direct impact will be the removal of a significant number of trees on the eastern (Oxford) bank of the Seacourt Stream, with some replacement trees being planted on the western (North Hinksey) side.

Currently the land allocated for the main part of the Scheme (the ‘scrape’) has been identified by markers, along with tags identifying which trees will be removed, so residents can walk along the route to see for themselves.

The full funding for the Scheme has now been obtained, and a final version of the Plans for the Scheme are likely to be submitted by the Environment Agency shortly. If they are approved then works could begin later in 2018.

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/reducing-flood-risk-in-oxford-and-abingdon> for more details.

Overall there are a large number of major schemes either already underway or in the pipeline that will impact significantly on North Hinksey Parish. Nobody can be an expert on all of these issues, but I would encourage you to take an interest in them, to find out more using the information provided here and by talking to your Parish, District and County Councillors, and wherever possible to participate in public consultations that allow you to have a say in these matters.

7. Other Reports *(Circulated at the meeting)*

The following reports were taken as read.

- a). Allotments, North Hinksey Nature Reserve and Community Orchard (Councillor Ms. A MacKeith)
- b). Planning Committee (Councillor A. Pritchard)

- c). Recreation and Amenities Committee (Councillor C. Potter)
- d). Remembrance Day Committee (Councillor Mrs. A. Dykes)
- e). Louie Memorial Pavilion (E. Casley, Chairman of the LM Pavilion Management Committee)
- f). Seacourt Hall Management Committee (Councillor L. Berrett, Chairman of the SHMC Committee)

8. Question and Answer Session with County, District and Parish Councillors

No questions had been received prior to the meeting. At the meeting the following questions were asked and responded to by:

County Councillor Mrs. J. Roberts

Oxford – Cambridge Expressway and working with other parishes.

What was the Parish Council views. The Chairman, Councillor D. Kay explained the Parish Council would be considering this item at its meeting next week.

County Councillor Mrs. J. Roberts and Parish Councillor D. Kay

Proposed works for Botley Road from Oxford Station to Eynsham Road

Flood Relief Scheme and the possibility that the problems could be resolved by clearing the streams culverts.

District Councillor Mrs., E. Smith

How will the proposed Spaetial Plan (which will be co-ordinated by the Growth Board) interface with each District Council's Local Plan.

9. Financial Matters (*Circulated at the meeting on Salmon paper*)

The Parish Clerk answered two questions in relation to the level of expenditure in the audited final accounts for 2016/2017 and explained the level of balances held, especially in relation to possible funding of the rejuvenation of the Louie Memorial Playing Fields and Pavilion project.

The meeting finished at 9.25pm