Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE



Listening Learning Leading

Council

HELD AT 6.00 PM ON THURSDAY 17 JULY 2014

COUNCIL CHAMBER, SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES

Present:

Ann Midwinter (Chairman)

Margaret Turner, Anna Badcock, Roger Bell, Joan Bland, Felix Bloomfield, David Bretherton, Dorothy Brown, Janet Carr, Celia Collett, MBE, Steve Connel, Bernard Cooper, Kristina Crabbe, Margaret Davies, Leo Docherty, David Dodds, Mark Gray, Tony Harbour, Eleanor Hards, Marcus Harris, Neville F Harris, Paul Harrison, Stephen Harrod, Marc Hiles, Elizabeth Hodgkin, Malcolm Leonard, Lynn Lloyd, Imran Lokhon, Denise Macdonald, Judith Nimmo-Smith, Angie Paterson, Anne Purse, Alan Rooke, Bill Service, Pearl Slatter, Michael Welply and Jennifer Wood

Apologies:

John Cotton, Pat Dawe, Ann Ducker, MBE, Elizabeth Gillespie, Christopher Hood, Christopher Quinton and David Turner tendered apologies.

Officers: David Buckle, Steven Corrigan, Susan Harbour, Anna Robinson, Margaret Reed and Pippa Rugman

15 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest

None.

16 Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the annual meeting held on 15 May 2014 as a correct record and agree that the Chairman sign them as such.

17 Chairman's announcements

Councillor Ann Midwinter reported that, together with the chairman of Vale of White Horse District Council, she was proud to support the 'Lights Out event between 10pm and 11pm on 4 August 2014 – a nationwide event marking the hour that Britain entered World War I one hundred years ago. She encouraged councillors to mark this significant historical event by arranging for at least one prominent building in their

ward to switch off all of its lights between 10pm and 11pm on 4 August and place a candle or lamp in one room to be visible from the outside.

She congratulated Mrs Helen Stewart, Thame Town Clerk, on the award of the British Empire Medal for her work on the Thame Neighbourhood Plan. She also thanked Rev'd A Paterson and Mrs B Guiver for their work.

On behalf of Council she wished Jennifer Thompson well in her new job at Oxford City Council and thanked her work and support for councillors during her time at the council.

On behalf of the council she wished Mrs Ann Ducker, Leader of the council, well with her treatment.

18 Questions from the public and public participation

The Chairman reported details of members of the public who had registered to address Council on the Community Governance Review item and advised that the addresses would be made at the item.

19 Street Trading Policy

Council considered the General Licensing Committee's recommendations, made at its meeting on 8 July 2014, on a revised street trading policy following public consultation.

RESOLVED: to

- adopt the proposed street trading policy to come into force on 1 October 2014 and
- 2. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the chairman of the General Licensing Committee, to make any further minor editorial changes to the policy.

20 Community Governance Review - final recommendations of the working group

Councillor Bernard Stone, representative of Wallingford Town Council, addressed Council in support of the community governance review proposal in CGR4 to use the Wallingford by-pass to define the southern and western boundaries of Wallingford parish to provide a well defined boundary settlement.

Councillor David Rickeard, Chairman of East Hagbourne Parish Council, addressed Council in objection to the community governance review proposal in CGR9 to move that part of the Millbrook estate currently in East Hagbourne parish to Didcot parish. He referred to market research commissioned by East Hagbourne Parish Council of the residents of Millbrook which indicated that of the 98 properties that responded 89 indicated a preference to stay in East Hagbourne parish.

Councillor Jane Bowen, Chairman of Mapledurham Parish Council, and Mr Whittaker, a Mapledurham resident, addressed Council in objection to the community governance review proposal in CGR12 to move the hamlet of Nuney Green from

Mapledurham parish into Goring Heath parish. Such a move would not provide more convenient local government at the parish level and would upset long standing and historical ties.

Mr Roger Templeman, clerk of South Moreton Parish Council, addressed Council in objection to the community governance review proposal in CGR16 to move land currently in South Moreton parish either side of Dunsomer Hill into North Moreton. Such a move would upset historical ties between the residents and North Moreton parish.

Ms Ros Templeman, Chairman of North Moreton Parish Council, addressed Council in support of the community governance review proposal in CGR16 to move land currently in South Moreton parish either side of Dunsomer Hill into North Moreton. The houses on Dunsomer Hill were contiguous with houses in North Moreton yet separated from South Moreton by fields. The proposed boundary would provide a strong boundary.

Mr David Hammond, Chairman of Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council, addressed Council in support of the community governance review proposal in CGR20 to make no change to the boundary between Rotherfield Peppard and Sonning Common parishes. Any change would have a negative impact on historic geographical ties, jeopardise the viability of Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council and were not supported by the majority of local residents who would be affected by any change.

Mr Douglas Kedge, Chairman of Sonning Common Parish Council addressed Council in objection to the community governance review proposal in CGR20 to make no change to the boundary between Rotherfield Peppard and Sonning Common parishes. The properties north of the current boundary form part of a continuous housing development and the inclusion of these within Sonning Common parish would facilitate better governance arrangements. He also expressed the view that the working group had given too much weight to the views of residents and not enough to the other review criteria.

Ms Biggs, Chairman of Kidmore End Parish Council, and Mr Douglas Kedge, Chairman of Sonning Common Parish Council, addressed Council in objection to the community governance review proposal in CGR22 to the transfer of the school playing fields from Kidmore End parish into Sonning Common parish whilst supporting the transfer of the school buildings. Whilst the school buildings formed part of the settlement of Sonning Common parish the playing fields formed part of the Chilterns AONB and any transfer could have future implications for the development of the site.

Mr Robert Parker, representative of Beechwood Estates, and Mr John Curtis, Chairman of Pyrton Parish Council, addressed Council in objection to the community governance review proposal in CGR27 to move Watlington playing field from Pyrton parish into Watlington parish. The current ancient ditch provided a clearly defined parish boundary and the playing field provided a green buffer between the parishes. The proposed transfer of the field and its inclusion in the Watlington Neighbourhood Plan could increase the likelihood of development of the neighbouring land within Pyrton and the field.

Mr Doug Lamont, Chairman of Wheatley Parish Council, addressed Council in support of the community governance review proposal in CGR28 to extend the

boundary of Wheatley parish to align with the A40 to incorporate land currently in Holton parish. The proposal provided for a more logical, clearly defined boundary.

Mr Ian Beach, representative of Holton Parish Council, and Ms Penny Manning, a local resident, addressed Council in objection to the community governance review proposal in CGR 28 to extend the boundary of Wheatley parish to align with the A40 to incorporate land currently in Holton parish. The existing boundary (Holton Park Wall) offered a well defined boundary, the majority of residents affected by the proposal wanted to remain part of Holton, the recent Local Government Boundary Commission review of district ward boundaries had retained the existing boundary because of community identity and the status quo would retain the historic link with Holton park.

Council considered the report of the chief executive on behalf of the Community Governance Review Working Group on the final recommendations in respect of its community governance review of South Oxfordshire.

Ms Lynn Lloyd introduced the item on behalf of the working group. She reminded Council that the proposals before it had been drawn up by a cross-party working group comprising Councillors Bloomfield, Bretherton, Brown, Davies, Margaret Turner and herself and that the decisions reached on each proposal were unanimous. She summarised the review process to date, the requirement to seek the Local Government Boundary Commission's consent to change some parish boundaries and to make alteration orders to ensure parish, district ward and county division boundaries remained coterminous. She explained the proposal for a Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee and the suggestion that significant development proposals which are adjacent to or straddle parish boundaries are included in the Local Plan or granted planning permission, should automatically trigger a community governance review. Finally she thanked the speakers who had addressed Council and stated that the views expressed would be taken into account alongside the views of all the people and parishes affected who responded to the consultation.

Ms L Lloyd moved and Mr D Bretherton seconded the following motion which included an authorisation to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make appointments to the proposed Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee, in accordance with the wishes of the relevant group leader.

That Council:

- (a) supports the Community Governance Review Working Group's final recommendations in relation to each item subject to a community governance review, which are set out in appendices A and B of the chief executive's report to Council on 17 July 2014
- (b) establishes a Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee comprising eight members made up five Conservative, one Independent, one Labour and one Liberal Democrat councillors
- (c) agrees the terms of reference of the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee as set out in paragraph 13 of the chief executive's report to Council on 17 July 2014
- (d) agrees that a significant development proposal that sits adjacent to or straddles a parish boundary should automatically trigger a community governance review, such a review to take place on the inclusion of a site in a

- document that forms part of the approved Local Plan or when planning permission has been granted for the development of the site
- (e) authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make a reorganisation of community governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council, subject to receiving the necessary consents from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
- (f) authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make related alteration orders to change district wards and county divisions to reflect the changes made to parish boundaries
- (g) authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make appointments to the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee in accordance with the wishes of the relevant group leader.

The Chairman advised that Council would consider each of the working group's proposals one at a time.

David Buckle, Chief Executive, provided an assurance that there was no direct relationship between neighbourhood planning/planning issues and the community governance reviews.

Mrs C Collett moved and Mr N Harris seconded an amendment to CGR4 to align the boundary between Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and Wallingford with the verge on the Wallingford side of the by-pass rather than the centre of the by-pass to facilitate the continuation of the beating the bounds tradition by residents of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell parish without the need for a road closure.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared carried with the votes recorded as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Mr D Bretherton	Ms A Badcock	Mr R Bell
Mrs C Collett	Mr F Bloomfield	Ms J Bland
Mr S Connel	Mrs D Brown	Ms K Crabbe
Mr B Cooper	Mrs J Carr	Mrs J Nimmo- Smith
Mr L Docherty	Mrs M Davies	Rev'd A Paterson
Mr D Dodds	Mr T Harbour	Mr B Service
Mr M Gray	Mrs E Hards	Mr M Welply
Mr M Harris	Mr P Harrison	
Mr N Harris	Ms L Lloyd	
Mr S Harrod	Mr A Rooke	
Mr M Hiles	Mrs P Slatter	
Mrs E Hodgkin	Mrs M Turner	

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Mr M Leonard		
Mr I Lokhon		
Mrs D Macdonald		
Mrs A Midwinter		
Ms A Purse		
Mrs J Wood		
18	12	7

Mr M Gray moved and Ms A Purse seconded an amendment to delete the transfer of Winterbrook from Cholsey parish to Wallingford parish. Those councillors supporting the amendment were of the view that Winterbrook had historic links with Cholsey. However, the majority of councillors supported the proposal which provided a strong boundary along the by-pass, reflected the identity and interests of residents and provided for effective and convenient representation.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost with the votes recorded as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Ms K Crabbe	Ms A Badcock	Mrs C Collett
Mr M Gray	Mr R Bell	Mr B Cooper
Ms A Purse	Ms J Bland	Mrs E Hodgkin
Mrs J Wood	Mr F Bloomfield	
	Mr D Bretherton	
	Mrs D Brown	
	Mrs J Carr	
	Mr S Connel	
	Mrs M Davies	
	Mr D Dodds	
	Mr T Harbour	
	Mrs E Hards	
	Mr M Harris	
	Mr N Harris	
_	Mr P Harrison	
	Mr S Harrod	
	Mr M Hiles	

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
	Mr M Leonard	
	Ms L Lloyd	
	Mr I Lokhon	
	Mrs D Macdonald	
	Mrs A Midwinter	
	Mrs J Nimmo-Smith	
	Rev'd A Paterson	
	Mr A Rooke	
	Mr B Service	
	Mrs P Slatter	
	Mrs M Turner	
	Mr M Welply	
4	29	3

A number of councillors spoke against the proposal in CGR9 to incorporate that part of Millbrook estate currently in East Hagbourne parish into Didcot parish on the grounds that it was against the aspirations of local residents as evidenced by the survey commissioned by the parish council and would allow the further encroachment of Didcot into the rural areas. However, a majority of councillors supported the proposal which would provide a clear boundary and preserve an identifiable gap between East Hagbourne and Didcot. On being put to the vote the proposal was carried with the voting as set out below.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Ms A Badcock	Mrs C Collett	Ms K Crabbe
Mr R Bell	Mr B Cooper	Mr N Harris
Ms J Bland	Mr L Docherty	Mrs J Nimmo- Smith
Mr F Bloomfield	Mr M Gray	Ms A Purse
Mr D Bretherton	Mrs E Hodgkin	
Mrs D Brown	Mrs J Wood	
Mrs J Carr		
Mr S Connel		
Mrs M Davies		
Mr D Dodds		

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Mr T Harbour		
Mrs E Hards		
Mr M Harris		
Mr P Harrison		
Mr S Harrod		
Mr M Hiles		
Mr M Leonard		
Ms L Lloyd		
Mr I Lokhon		
Mrs D Macdonald		
Mrs A Midwinter		
Rev'd A Paterson		
Mr A Rooke		
Mr B Service		
Mrs P Slatter		
Mrs M Turner		
Mr M Welply		
27	6	4

A number of councillors spoke against the proposal in CGR12 to move the hamlet of Nuney Green from Mapledurham parish into Goring Heath parish. They expressed the view that the proposal broke historic ties, would threaten the viability of Mapledurham parish, which had reduced in size following previous governance reviews, and would not provide a more logical boundary than that currently in existence in this area of dispersed population. On being put to the vote Council agreed to make no change to the boundary between Goring Heath and Mapledurham parishes.

Mrs E Hodgkin moved and Mrs J Wood seconded an amendment to CGR14 to "also move land south of Greys Road (Highlands Farm) into Henley on Thames parish from Harpsden parish." Those councillors supporting the amendment argued that the land was currently used for light industrial purposes, not farmland, was a potential site for housing which would better served within the town boundary and had better road links with Henley than Harpsden. Other councillors expressed the view that the rural nature of Highlands Farm better suited Harpsden parish and that should the land be allocated for housing in the future a further governance review could be undertaken to determine in which parish the development should sit. On being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost.

In accordance with standing order 15 Council agreed to extend the meeting beyond the three hour period in order to complete the remaining business on the agenda.

Mr P Harrison moved and Mr M Leonard seconded an amendment to CGR22 to remove the school playing fields from the proposal. Those councillors in support of the amendment noted that the playing fields were in the AONB and should not form part of the built up area of Sonning Common. On being put to the vote Council agreed to modify the proposal to remove the school playing fields from the proposal.

Some councillors spoke against the proposal in CGR28 to extend the northern boundary of Wheatley parish to align with the A40 incorporating land currently in Holton parish. The existing boundary offered a well defined historic boundary, the majority of residents wanted to retain the current arrangements and the Local Government Boundary Commission had seen no need to alter the boundary at the recent review of ward boundaries. However, the majority of councillors supported the proposal which provided a strong boundary (the A40) between the parishes.

On being put to the vote the proposal was carried with the voting as set out below.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Ms A Badcock	Mrs C Collett	Ms K Crabbe
Mr R Bell	Mr B Cooper	Rev'd A Paterson
Mr D Bretherton	Mr M Gray	
Mrs D Brown	Mr N Harris	
Mrs J Carr	Mr M Hiles	
Mr S Connel	Mrs E Hodgkin	
Mrs M Davies	Mr M Leonard	
Mr D Dodds	Mrs D Macdonald	
Mrs E Hards	Ms A Purse	
Mr M Harris	Mrs J Wood	
Mr P Harrison		
Mr S Harrod		
Ms L Lloyd		
Mr I Lokhon		
Mrs A Midwinter		
Mrs J Nimmo-Smith		
Mr A Rooke		
Mr B Service		
Mrs M Turner		
Mr M Welply		

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
20	10	2

Mr N Harris moved and Mrs C Collett seconded an amendment in the following terms:

That the following wide ranging and far reaching proposals (b), (c), (d) and (g) in the recommendation become the subject of an officers' report to Council. The report will set out the philosophy, rationale and justification for the proposals together with an assessment of their possible ramifications and implications thereby better enabling the Council to make an informed and considered decision on items (b), (c),(d) and (g) at a future Full Council meeting.

- (b) to establish a Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee comprising eight members made up five Conservative, one Independent, one Labour and one Liberal Democrat councillors
- (c) to agree the terms of reference of the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee as set out in paragraph 13 of this report
- (d) to agree that a significant development proposal that sits adjacent to or straddles a parish boundary should automatically trigger a community governance review, such a review to take place on the inclusion of a site in a document that forms part of the approved Local Plan or when planning permission has been granted for the development of the site
- (g) authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make appointments to the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee in accordance with the wishes of the relevant group leader.

Those supporting the amendment expressed the view that the working group was not tasked with making recommendations on the establishment of an electoral issues committee, that Council should have the opportunity to discuss the matter and agree the terms of reference and that officers should submit a report to a future meeting of Council covering these issues.

On being put the amendment was declared lost with the voting as set out below.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Mr R Bell	Ms A Badcock	Ms K Crabbe
Mrs C Collett	Mr S Connel	Mrs A Midwinter
Mr B Cooper	Mrs M Davies	
Mr M Gray	Mr D Dodds	
Mr N Harris	Mrs E Hards	
Mr S Harrod	Mr M Harris	
Mr M Hiles	Mr M Leonard	

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Ms E Hodgkin	Ms L Lloyd	
Mrs D Macdonald	Mr I Lokhon	
Ms A Purse	Mrs J Nimmo-Smith	
Mrs J Wood	Rev'd A Paterson	
	Mr A Rooke	
	Mr B Service	
	Mrs M Turner	
	Mr M Welply	_
11	15	2

Mrs E Hards moved and Mrs M Davies seconded an amendment to amend the terms of reference of the proposed committee to require it to make recommendations to Council on parish community governance reviews. Following debate the mover and seconder of the amendment, with the consent of Council, withdrew the amendment to allow for the moving of the following amendment.

Rev'd A Paterson moved and Mrs M Davies seconded an amendment to delete the following and insert provision for Council to consider the establishment of a committee and its terms of reference at a future meeting.

- (b) establishes a Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee comprising eight members made up five Conservative, one Independent, one Labour and one Liberal Democrat councillors
- (c) agrees the terms of reference of the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee as set out in paragraph 13 of the report
- (g) authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make appointments to the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee in accordance with the wishes of the relevant group leader.

The majority of councillors supported the amendment which would allow for a full consideration and debate of the issue. On being put the amendment was declared carried.

RESOLVED: to

- support the Community Governance Review Working Group's final recommendations in relation to each item subject to a community governance review, which are set out in appendices A and B of the chief executive's report to Council on 17 July 2014 with the exception of the following:
 - CGR4 approved subject to an amendment to make the boundary between Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and Wallingford the verge on the Wallingford side of the by-pass.

- CGR12 -To make no change to the boundary between Mapledurham parish and Goring Heath parish.
- CGR22 To move Chiltern Edge School (excluding the playing field) from Kidmore End parish into Sonning Common parish.
- 2. agree that a significant development proposal that sits adjacent to or straddles a parish boundary should automatically trigger a community governance review, such a review to take place on the inclusion of a site in a document that forms part of the approved Local Plan or when planning permission has been granted for the development of the site
- authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make a reorganisation of community governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council, subject to receiving the necessary consents from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
- 4. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make related alteration orders to change district wards and county divisions to reflect the changes made to parish boundaries
- 5. requests officers submit a report to a future meeting of Council on the establishment of a Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee and its terms of reference

21 Questions under Council procedure rule 34

Question from Mr Neville Harris to Reverend Angie Paterson.

Making Provision for Housing and its Actual Delivery

The Local Strategic Housing Market Assessment did more than highlight the need for more housing in the District. It also emphasised the vast difference between making provision for housing and its actual delivery.

An example of this is the development earmarked for Didcot (Ladygrove) East where there are many of the elements of provision in place. These include: an identified site for 640 plus houses and associated provision for educational, social and transport infrastructure.

Despite the positive provision made for the housing, outlined above, there has been an unbelievably long and continuing wait for the delivery of this housing. A delay that can now be counted in decades, a Ladygrove resident asked me if the delay could reach half a century. Hence this question, which in the absence of being able to seek guidance from Solomon or Zeus I am asking you.

In addition to the originally identified need for this housing there are other vital measures needed now, such as the completion of the Didcot Northern Perimeter Road, that remain frozen in limbo, seemingly dependent on funding that will be forthcoming on completion of part or all of the housing development in question.

I am aware that SODC has loaned a significant amount of money to the South Oxfordshire Housing Association which in part was aimed at aiding delivery of housing in the District. The challenges posed by the Private Sectors understandably need to take commercial considerations into account you will doubtless cover in your reply.

Could you please outline the reasons for the delay in delivery and detail the options that are available to SODC to influence and achieve the actual delivery of the housing cited in this example (Didcot (Ladygrove) East)? Of these options please give details of those that have been used in furtherance of attempts to speed up its commencement and achieve its long awaited delivery?

Answer

As a result on the additional housing need figure identified in the SHMA we are reviewing our existing plan so it looks ahead to 2031. We have just started the process with our current consultation on the issues and scope of the Local Plan 2031. Once we have an agreed a housing target we will need to identify potential development sites

In parallel to this the Joint Projects Team has been set up (covering the two councils - Science Vale Area) who are developing an Area Action Plan which will help with the delivery of housing and co-ordinate delivery of infrastructure across this area, eg the Ladygrove site. The council are taking active steps to assist in the delivery of housing and infrastructure.

When the planning application for Ladygrove was submitted (1997 & 2000 - additional land) the intention was that this site would predominantly be responsible for providing NPR3 - the last section in the Didcot Northern Perimeter Road. Given the changes to infrastructure costs and funding, such as the emerging Community Infrastructure Levy, it is not reasonable to expect this site alone to deliver NPR3 - it is off wider benefit. In the absence of Ladygrove being developed funding from other sources would be needed and could be secured to complete NPR3. This does not mean that Didcot is 'remaining frozen in limbo'.

Reasons for delay:

Whilst Planning Committee reached a resolution to grant planning permission for this site in 2006, the S106 has not been signed by the land owner.

What have we done:

The council has been in regular dialogue with the applicant to progress the s106 and thus be able to determine the application

Last year the land owner appointed a new planning agent (Lambert Smith Hampton). Given the amount of time that has lapsed since planning committee (eight years), the new agent has been working with officers to update information relating to the planning application. For example revised traffic survey work, ecology surveys, etc have all recently been carried out, in addition there has been discussions about a revised Masterplan. Discussions are ongoing in relation to a revised S106 - which again is required to be re-visited in line with new planning policies and guidance. The next step will be for this information to be submitted to the council as amended information, at which point a re-consultation will be carried out and the application will come back to committee for determination. At this stage it is expected to have the heads of terms in the s106 agreed, so if the planning committee are minded to approve the revised development, we issue a permission very quickly.

Supplementary question

"As our planning function does not cover its costs from planning application fees; what is the cost per household of the subsidy to cover the shortfall; expressed as an annual average, over the last ten years"?

Rev'd A Paterson undertook to provide a written response.

22 Appointments to panels

In light of Council's decision not to establish a Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee consideration of this item was not required.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm		
Chairman	Date	