

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN SHIPLAKE
MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY APRIL 11TH 2016 AT 7.45 P.M.**

- 1. PRESENT Mr** G Thomas, Mr T Taylor, Mr G Davies, Mr D Pheasant Mr R Head, Mr C Smith, Mr M Leonard, Mr D Bartholomew(OCC), and Mr P Harrison (DC) **APOLOGIES.** Received from Mr F Maroudas and Mr R Curtis. In addition there were 3 members of the public present. As the chairman was recovering from a throat operation and unable to speak Mr G Thomas took the Chair. Mr Thomas expressed his condolences to Mr F Maroudas, on behalf of Council, for the recent sad loss of his wife Vanessa.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS & INTEREST.** Councillors were given the opportunity to declare any gifts or interest in any item on the Agenda. Mr G Thomas, Mr M Leonard declared an interest in PA for Cannongate.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND MARCH 2016** were approved on a motion proposed by Mr R Head and seconded by Mr T Taylor
- 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS** The clerk was requested to get a costing on purchasing an "open "list of electors available for PC mailings etc. ACTION : Clerk
- 5. POLICE MATTERS.** PCSO Ashley Richardson is moving on. There were two reported incidents: the fire at Sydney Harrison House due to vandals and a tree down in Bolney Road during the storms.

6. O.C.C. Cllr D Bartholomew.

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2016
FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW
GENERAL OCC REPORT

1. PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL

Without consulting the public or the County Council, on Thursday 25th February a surprise announcement was made by Oxfordshire's District Councils and Oxford City Council. It called for the abolition of the County Council and the establishment of four district quasi-unitary councils, to include parts of Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire. (A unitary council combines the functions of a county council and a district council into one body.) 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 the County Council, such as social care and major road projects. So, this would mean four councils spread across three counties, plus an over-arching unelected quango. The Districts are now in the process of commissioning management consultants to produce a report to evaluate their proposals. Initially their brief to consultants 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 Oxfordshire County Council view was that a single county-wide unitary authority was an option that should be considered (along with the Districts' proposal and other options for two or three unitary councils), and had thus been forced to begin the process of commissioning a separate management consultant's report.

As a result of County and public pressure, District Council leaders have now agreed to commission a report covering all the options. However, the terms of reference of the Districts' revised brief to management consultants has not been agreed between County and Districts, and Districts will not accept that the report should be independently commissioned. It therefore looks like Council-Tax payers will have to unnecessarily fund two separate reports at great cost. Mr Bartholomew urged Council to write to District leaders to support his concerns at the apparent waste of taxpayers' money when budgets are so tight. ACTION: Chairman

2. STREET LIGHTING

OCC's current Street lighting contract with Scottish & Southern Electrical (SSE) was until March 2024, however, the contract contained a single break point at 1st April 2016. In July 2015, SSE served notice on OCC that they intended to activate this break clause as the contract was not affordable to them for its full duration. Negotiations to achieve a compromise were unsuccessful. OCC therefore has to implement interim arrangements while a new maintenance

contract is procured. The interim contract is expected to last 18 months. For the first 6 months there will be an emergency/make-safe service only. Beyond that period OCC will look to increase the level of service provided to more than just emergency/make-safety activity as appropriate. The street lamp LED replacement project is a one-off capital programme of works funded through DfT's challenge funding. A separate procurement arrangement is being made for this project to ensure its continued delivery as planned.

It is appreciated that there will be concerns locally about the impact of this interim arrangement and reduced level of service, but in a time of significant financial pressures, the termination of the current street lighting contract provides an opportunity to procure a new and improved street lighting contract. The county council will also be able to take advantage of recent improvements in technology and general advancements within the sector.

3. DRAGON IGNITES BATTLE AGAINST POTHOLES

A new weapon is being deployed in the battle against potholes on Oxfordshire's roads. The 'Dragon' – so called because of the fire breathing nozzle it uses to dry out potholes – is a mobile patching machine that has already fixed many hundreds of potholes and a multitude of other defects on the county's roads. The machine repairs an average of 20 defects day and has filled up to 44 potholes in one shift. So far it has fixed just short of 2,000 in Oxfordshire. The traditional method of pothole repair consists of a two-person gang and a lorry manually filling the potholes with hot tarmac. In the right circumstances, potholes filled using the Dragon can cost as little as £10 compared to £70 for traditional methods. It is also safer and provides a more environmentally sustainable solution. The potential savings that Dragon brings allows additional focus on repairing many of the defects that have yet to form into potholes. These repairs can be done at the same time due the multi-function repair capabilities of the Dragon. It can fill pot-holes, seal cracks and provide a thin overlay to minor surface damage. This preventative maintenance saves money in the long-term as the repairs are all undertaken at the same time.

4. RECYCLING CENTRES TO OPEN LATE ON THURSDAYS

Opening hours on Thursdays at OCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres will be extended from 7 April to 29 September. The sites will be open until 8pm on Thursdays in addition to the normal hours of 8am-5pm every day (including Sundays). The Household Waste Recycling Centres can accept a wide range of materials for recycling including garden waste, textiles and electrical items. Food waste should always be placed in the food caddies provided by the district council and collected as part of the kerbside collection scheme. More information about the sites, including layout and a full guide to what can be recycled can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

5. KEEPING HGVS MOVING WHILE REDUCING THE IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

A free online mapping tool has been launched to help freight and logistics companies plan their routes through the county. Oxfordshire Freight Gateway is linked to the National Freight Journey Planner and is designed to help logistics managers and drivers of large goods vehicles to select the most appropriate routes for their journeys in Oxfordshire. A suitable route is provided based on the vehicle's weight and dimensions and journey details. Details here: <http://freightgateway.co.uk/oxfordshire/>

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

DAMAGED CHEVRONS ON A4155 AT SPAN HILL

I have received apologies for the delay with this work and am advised the repairs will be completed before the end of April.

THAMES FARM

I have submitted my 'Member Comments' as part of the County 'Single Response' process.

7. S.O.D.C. Cllr P Harrison, reported the following:

1. Unitary devolution proposals

At its meeting on 16th February, Oxfordshire County Council put forward proposals for a consultation on governance in Oxfordshire and made it clear that its preference was for a single unitary council to cover the whole county. The district council leaders discussed the county council proposal and concluded that they did not consider a single county-wide unitary authority was the right solution. They decided instead to put forward alternative proposals for three or four unitary

authorities (the latter option including Cotswold and South Northamptonshire districts). In their view, this would offer a better solution for the people of Oxfordshire for two key reasons:

It would allow decision-making and service delivery to better reflect the different challenges and priorities of the communities that we represent in different parts of the county; and

It would build on a strong track record of sound financial planning and service transformation that are at the heart of good governance and effective service delivery.

The proposal is to abolish the county and district councils, and to create new unitary authorities that would be responsible for delivering all local government services within their area. The preferred option is for four new unitary authorities that would come together collectively deliver strategic services large scale can be secured (e.g. transport planning) through a combined authority.

The proposals have been drawn up in support of the substantive elements of the original devolution proposals and are intended to provide a better approach to the implementation of those proposals. It is now important to undertake detailed work to test the proposals to ensure that they are robust, financially viable, offer improved service delivery and command wide support. Having taken appropriate advice, the work will consider options for one, two, three and four unitaries to ensure that all practical options are understood and tested.

The request is to agree an allocation of £50,000 from the corporate contingency budget to facilitate the necessary work to draw up detailed proposals. Part of this money will go on funding consultants, whilst other elements will be used, for example, to undertake market research.

In light of this work, council will be invited to consider whether it wishes to pursue a proposal to create unitary councils in Oxfordshire and, if it does, what form these should take. It is difficult to be precise but the most likely date for consideration by council is July.

2. Police and Crime Commissioner election update

The Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) has now published the names of the people standing in the Thames Valley PCC election taking place on 5 May. You'll find all the details on the PARO's website www.thamesvalleypccelection.co.uk. Later this month you'll be able to see the candidate's statements on the Cabinet Office's website www.choosemypcc.org.uk - you can order a printed copy now by calling 0800 1 070708.

Poll cards for this election went out on 30 March so if you haven't received yours by now, you need to contact elections as soon as possible as it may mean you're not registered, email elections@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 540351.

The deadline for registering to vote is Monday 18 April. For more about registering to vote, postal and proxy votes, visit www.southandvale.gov.uk

3. Building regulation changes

Last month, the Department for Communities and Local Government informed building control bodies about changes to building regulations.

Most of the changes are minor, but there are some substantial changes on providing energy performance certificates. You can take a look at a summary [here](#).

Any questions, please email building control or call them on 01235 540357.

4. Beacon lighting at the clumps

We're working with the Earth Trust to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday by lighting a beacon on Wittenham Clumps on 21 April.

The event is open to the public, with the beacon lighting at around 8.30pm. Everyone's welcome.

5. Upcoming public inquiries

We've seen a significant increase in planning applications going to appeal this year. The outcomes of subsequent inquiries can have wide reaching implications for future applications. Here's a list of some coming up over the next few months:

- 26–29 April 2016 - planning application P14/S3524/O, Mount Hill Farm, High Street, Tetsworth. Venue: Tetsworth Memorial Hall
- 10–13 May 2016 - planning application P15/S0262/O, land north of Celsea Place, Cholsey. Venue: 135 Milton Park

- 7-9 June 2016 - planning application P14/S2391/FUL, Lea Meadow, Sonning Common. Venue: Henley Town Hall
- 28-29 June 2016 - planning applications P16/S0322/DA and P16/S0323/DA, Queenford Lakes, Burcot Lane, Berinsfield. Venue: Innovation Centre, 99 Park Drive, Milton Park
Any questions, please email Planning or call them on 01235 540546.

8. OPEN FORUM The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.56pm to allow comment from members of the public. Mr and Mrs Neasley commented on his application for development of Vale Cottage. The Chairman thanked Mr Neasley for his comments and closed the open forum at 8.04pm

9. SPECIAL REPORTS-PLANNING.

10. PLANNING

The Planning Working Party submit the following recommendations
PLANNING REPORT: MARCH 2016.

A) APPLICATIONS.

P16/S0713/HH: Sagamore Lodge, Bolney Road, Lower Shiplake RG9 3NT
Applicant: Mr P Way Type: Other
Proposal: Conversion of garage to family games room.
Recommendation: **NO STRONG VIEWS.**

P16/S0626/HH: The White House, Bolney Road RG9 3NR
Applicant: Mrs C Moore Type: Other
Proposal: Outdoor swimming pool and plant room.
Recommendation: **NO STRONG VIEWS**, subject to Environment Agency approval.

P16/S0698/FUL: Dulverton, Reading Road, Lower Shiplake RG9 3JN
Applicant: Mr B Moore Type: Minor
Proposal: Demolition of single storey house and garage and construction of two three storey 5 bedroom houses and double garages
Recommendation: **REFUSAL** on grounds of increased traffic generation and safety risk exiting the existing exit on to a dangerous bend on the busy A4155; and any clearing of trees to improve sight lines will further detract from the tree-lined character of this edge of the village.

P16/S0769/HH: Cannongate, New Road, Lower Shiplake RG9 3LG
Applicant: Mr F Banks Type: Other
Proposal: Construction of single storey rear extension and associated alterations, including access to existing roof space.
Recommendation: **NO STRONG VIEWS.**

P16: Shiplake Tennis Club new lighting to be reviewed
The recommendations were approved on a motion proposed by Mr T Taylor and seconded by Mr G Davies.

B) OTHER.

-P15/S4041/FUL: Devonvale-Informed that this application now to be approved as affordable housing not viable part of this scheme.

-Thames Farm: Informed of new application for 95 houses submitted to SODC and now awaiting receipt of documentation from SODC. Council approved Working Party to approach a Consultant for an estimate for developing response to Thames Farm application. ACTION: Mr G Thomas
Council agreed for Mr D Pheasant to contact residents via website and email to request their support in objecting to the new PA. ACTION: Mr D Pheasant.

-Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) effective 1 April-see SODC guidance note circulated by Parish Clerk 25 March.

The recommendations were approved on a motion proposed by Mr T Taylor and seconded by Mr G Davies

C) DETERMINATIONS

Permission granted by SODC for the following applications:

1. Application No : P15/S4041/FUL_Devonvale and Little Vale Mill Road Lower Shiplake RG9 3LN
Demolition of existing dwellings
2. Application No: P16/S0345/FUL_Collingwood Baskerville Lane Lower Shiplake RG9 3JY
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission P14/S1750/FUL
3. Application Reference: P16/S0469/HH (Householder) Danes Place New Road Lower Shiplake RG9 3LG. Addition of external porch to entrance facade of existing house. NSV

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

1. The month accounts for April are attached and the following payments require approval

R V Hudson – salary March	1.16	102462	338.27
R V Hudson – expenses, office allowance. March	2.16	102463	95.43
Inland Revenue – clerk’s tax March	3.16	102464	225.20
Mr D Pheasant(Reimbursement)	4.16	102465	54.54
Oxford IT Solutions	5.16	102466	120.00
Mr Robin Head (Grasscutting)	6.16	102467	24.00
Staples	7.16	102468	36.16
Broadband	8.16	DD	37.62

The accounts were approved on a motion proposed by Mr C Smith and seconded by Mr G Davies

2. Bank reconciliation approved on a motion proposed by Mr C Smith and seconded by Mr R Head
3. Budget vs Year Actual Year End to be reviewed by FWP in conjunction with all year end and AFR papers. Clerk to set up meeting ACTION: Clerk
4. Grant application for Noticeboard replacements Clerk updated Council
5. Clerk has received an invoice from OCC for £5772.51 for 20mph zone signage and consultation costs. Council approved payment of the invoice on a motion proposed by Mr T Taylor and seconded by Mr C Smith

12. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.

1/17 HIGHWAY MATTERS.

1. Mr R Head updated Council Clerk to contact Area Steward via Mr D Bartholomew to set up meeting with working party for advice. ACTION: Clerk.

2/17 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT.

3/17 RECREATION GROUNDS/OPFA

1. Badgers Walk - Mr C Smith had nothing to report on the condition of the equipment and general condition of the playground. Mr G Davies reported that his groundsman when inspecting the site noted that there were weeds/brambles growing between the two boundary fences which made clearance difficult.
2. Memorial Hall. Mr G Davies had nothing to report on the condition of the equipment and the general condition of the playground.

4/17 FOOTPATHS

5/17 SHIPLAKE – DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES.

1. Network Rail: Agenda circulated for Initial consultation meeting re electrification of branch line with council and SVP representatives on 12th April 2016.
2. Broadband: Outstanding issues with ISP connectivity to new infrastructure and interaction with Openreach appear to be largely resolved. Project viewed as successful with no further updates envisaged.
3. Website: Latest changes with more dynamic photo galleries successfully incorporated in March and Phase 1 of resident survey (online) implemented. Most appreciated features are the Home page, Notifications, the new Forum and Live Links. More details to follow and Phase 2 of survey ('on street' questionnaire) to be finalised in April.
4. Newsletter: Next issue being scheduled for May/June time frame. Consideration of 'more electronic' version of newsletter deferred pending feedback from surveys.

5.Future Phases

a) TREE PRESERVATION A TPO has been issued for trees in the grounds of Dulverton

6/17 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS.

7/17 S.O.D.C.

8/17 OCC

9/17 O.A.L.C. /O.R.C.C.

1. 2016 OALC Members Latest update circulated by email

10/17 MEMORIAL HALL

11/17 CHILTERN SOCIETY/CPRE

1. Latest Chiltern /Conservation Board /Society newsletters 2016 circulated by email
2. Latest CPRE newsletter circulated by email

12/17 DEFRA & OTHER GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENCE

13/17 TOWNLANDS & OXFORDSHIRE PCT.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Mr S Swiatek.

Can I put the following question to the council? We hear a lot of talk about clearance of drains, sewers etc. Can the council identify who is responsible for the clearance of the roadside drains in Station Road and alert them to a job that needs doing? The drains are all full of detritus and they thus overflow the moment a mere rain drop falls. During a downpour the rain water runs from the top of the road over each and every drain until the it reaches the bottom of the road where it lies in large puddles awaiting the unfortunate to be splashed by passing cars. Clerk to report on Fix my Street ACTION: Clerk

14. ITEMS OF INTEREST OR FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Annual Parish Meeting would commence at 7.45pm on 28th April with access to the Hall from 7.30 pm so any help laying out chairs would be greatly appreciated. There being no other items of interest the chairman closed the meeting at 9.38pm.

R.V. Hudson.
Clerk to the Council.
21/04/2016