CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on Wednesday, 9th October 2024, hosted at St Paul's Church, Culham

Attendees – Councillors:	**Apologies noted:**
Chris Pritchard (CP) CHAIR	
Caroline Baird (CB)	
Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SCR) Councillor and District Councillor	
Siobhan Sargeant (SS)	
Robin Bennett (RB) County Councillor	
Mike Richmond-Cooper (MRC)	
Nacho Gimenez (NG)	
Members of the public:	**In Attendance:**
2 members of public in attendance	Denise Corney – Clerk

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

		ACTION
1.	**Welcome, Apologies and Quorate** The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. The meeting was Quorate	
2.	**Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest** None	
3.	**Report from SODC Councillor – Sam Casey-Rerhaye** SCR gave a short verbal update and highlighted the following from her report: Joint Local Plan)SODC/VoWH - Starting from Tuesday 1 October, a six-week opportunity for stakeholders to let SODC know if they think that the JLP meets all the relevant requirements. SODC aiming to submit it along with the comments received to the Planning Inspectorate for formal examination in December. This is a more technical part of the process prior to which, SODC/VoWH had carried out two highly successful public consultations during the development of the plan, which were recognised and commended at national awards ceremonies. **National Planning Policy changes consultation** The councils have submitted a formal response to the consultation. The councils' response can be viewed here: Council Responses to Consultations about Planning - South Oxfordshire District Council (southoxon.gov.uk) Flooding - Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit, (on the county council's website) contains useful advice on what to do if you're at risk of flooding, or indeed if you're currently experiencing a flood. **Homes for Ukraine Grant Scheme -** Community organisations are now able to apply for The Homes for Ukraine Grant Scheme with grants ranging from £250 to £2,000. This grant scheme is designed to help fund projects or services that support the successful integration and settlement of Homes for Ukraine guests into their new communities across the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire.	

	Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Every responsible authority (in our case the County Council) is required by law now to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). SODC is a member of the Local Nature Partnership, to which this responsibility has been delegated, and there have been a number of workshops involving large numbers of stakeholders over the past 18 months or so. The final draft LNRS will be available for public consultation for 6 weeks from 15th October, so I will send out links when it is launched. To view the complete District Councillor report – please see link below: 9th October 2024 - Culham Parish Council (culham-pc.gov.uk)	
4.	**Report from County Councillor** Robin Bennett gave a brief verbal update from his report. Home Upgrade Grant There's still time to get support from the Home Upgrade Grant to change your home to a more sustainable low-carbon heating system, the deadline to apply is October 31st. You may be eligible if: • Your home has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D, E, F or G. If you don't have an EPC, OCC's partner can survey your property as part of the scheme. • Your home doesn't have a mains gas supply, or you don't use gas as your main heating source. For example, you use electricity, oil, LPG or solid fuels as the main heating source for your home. • And, you either have a total household annual income of £39,000 or less (before housing costs/bills), or you receive a means-tested benefit, subject to approval. Local transport schemes RB confirmed that he was continuing to chase up progress on various transport schemes in the area, including the A415/Tollgate Rd crossing, pinch point in Garsington, and the A4074 corridor study. In addition, a decision from the government-appointed inspector on the HIF1 scheme (which connects Milton interchange, Didcot and a new river bridge at Culham before rejoining the road between Clifton Hampden and Golden Ball roundabout) is expected sometime this month.	

5.	**Clerks' Report** **Transfer of The Green** –No further updates. Clerk to follow up. **Finance -** Moore- External Auditors Report received and uploaded to website. **Diocese of Oxford - ongoing -** No further updates but Clerk will contact Sidleys by phone to chase up response to emails. **The Community Orchard –** Planning permission submitted by Morrells Holdings for temporary access to Community Orchard. **General Village Repairs and Maintenance** – AWBS will collect aggregate and swap for Type 1 aggregate (10 sacks). Clerk researching a contractor to carry out the works. **Thame Lane** – request to reduce the speed limit – DC had requested a speed survey with Highways prior to a request to reduce the speed limit. The survey to be reviewed on completion. **Bus Shelters/Hard Standing** – DC had contacted the bus company who confirmed that further details and discussions should be with OCC.	**CLERK** **CLERK**
6.	**Public Participation (15 minutes maximum)** Members of the public requested that grass on the corner between the barns and the Green to be cut as part of the grounds contract and NG agreed to request for future cuts and to include the grass triangles to The Glebe (adjacent to noticeboard) CP agreed to chat to the resident of No.1 Tollgate to request the cutting back of the overgrown hedge. The Clerk to follow up with Adkins regarding the spring water flooding to the eastern side of Tollgate Road and request repairs. NG explained that a tender process was planned for a new grounds maintenance contract. NG and the Clerk would be initiating the process. The Parish Council were saddened to hear that John Taylor had recently died and the Clerk would follow up to send condolences.	**NG** **CP** **CLERK** **NG/CLERK** **CLERK**
7.	**To discuss: Grounds Maintenance Contract** Councillors RESOLVED to agree a grounds maintenance contract from January 2025 to December 2026. The Clerk to invite 3 companies to tender. NG and the Clerk would follow up and agree the works to be provided. Furthermore, Councillors to research contractors to provide ad hoc tree surgery 2025-26.	**NG/CLERK** **CLERK**
8.	**To discuss and agree bridge build for flood area on footpath** Councillors discussed the issue with the flooded land along the footpath. The landowner would need to be contacted to discuss the issue (Morrells) and the best way to resolve going forward. SS agreed to research further and report at the next PC meeting.	**SS**

9.	**To Approve Minutes 11th September 2024** The minutes 11th September 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **APPROVED.** A signed copy of the minutes would be uploaded to the website.	**APPROVED** **CLERK**
10	**Finance** Internal Auditor , Theresa Goss. for 2024-25 audit External Audit – Moore 2023-24	**APPROVED** **APPROVED**
11	**To agree accounts for payment:** Clerk's Salary September inc HMRC £442.00 Scribe Monthly Fee £37.20 A&W September invoice £780.00 External audit fee (Moore) £252.00 **APPROVED**	
12	**To discuss the following Planning Applications:** P23/S2920/28 High Lodge Farm, Thame Lane, Abingdon To swap three antennas in the existing positions on the tower, swap a cabinet at ground level together with associated ancillary. **NO OJBECTIONS** P24/S2807/FUL The Waggon and Horses, Abingdon Road, Culham OX14 3BW Creation of temporary access into designated Community Orchard area in advance of grant of planning permission re P22/S3308/FUL **NO OBJECTIONS**	
13	**Items for report and inclusion on next Agenda:** Clerks Report, updates from Councillors; budget preparation; grounds maintenance tenders; flooded footpath	
14	**Date of Next Meeting:** **13th November 2024 at 7.30pm.**	

The meeting closed at 9.15pm