

Minutes of Nuffield Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th September 2023 at 8pm at The Maker Space @The Crown, Nuffield

Present:

Parish Council: Gill Austin (GA), Mary Anderson (MA), Matt Byrne (MB), Peter Neagle (PN), David Wood (DW), Dave Passmore (DP), Annette Young (AY, Clerk)

Residents: Adrian Mettem, Michael OShea, Stuart Sinclair, Ben Burton, Robert Jackson

1. Apologies: Jo Robb (SODC), James Barlow (SODC), Felix Bloomfield (OCC), Peter Watt (Huntercombe Nursing Home), Emily Hughes (NT), and residents Richard and Lee Sauden, Nick Lloyd, Will Brocklebank, Richard Saunders
2. Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interest: None
3. Confirmation of Minutes of 25th May 2023. Signed by GA.
4. Actions and Matters Arising:
 - a. Dog bins at Huntercombe. GA and AY had a successful meeting and tour of the prison with the Governor, David Redhouse. Aim to improve communications between HMP Huntercombe and the Parish Council. There are no plans to change the grading of the prison from Category C. However, planning permission has been passed to install 40 modular units to increase the capacity of the Prison to 480. The dog bin problem is out of David's hands and a new general bin will be sited in the training centre car park in due course. **NO FURTHER ACTION.**
 - b. Speeding/Noise/20mph limit. DW has borrowed a speed camera and will one weekend monitor noise. **ACTIONS**: DP to assist with finding the right site.

PN reported back on the recent meeting at Crowmarsh with local Parish Council representatives and Superintendent Lewis Prescott-Mayling, Thames Valley Police. The meeting covered all aspects of traffic noise, speed, etc and there were promises for TVP to start using drones to monitor traffic, investigations are ongoing at the H Café along the A4074 and speed vans. No notes of the meeting have been received and no evidence of the promises made! It was noted that other local parishes have radar speeding signs costing approx . **ACTION**: AY to look into funding options.

It was also agreed to arrange a local parish councilors meeting with MP. Matthew Barber, Senior Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Councillor Felix Bloomfield, Chairman, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). **ACTION**: AY to get suitable dates and letters to be drafted by DW/PN. Residents are strongly urged to report any road/street issues e.g. red lines worn away at the top of Gangsdown Hill, potholes to fixmystreet, link: <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>
Note – the more people that report on the same problem, the more likely it will be noticed and acted upon.

Decision to go ahead with getting 30mph speed signs in the village to be replaced with 20mph. Proposed PN and seconded GA. **ACTION**: AY to move this forward.

- c. Grass cutting and brambles – completed in Fred's Field and Playground. Playground needs to be done again and possibly area around the bus shelter. **ACTIONS**: MB to let Annette know and GA to check verge behind bus shelter.

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5. Update on joint community use of Holy Trinity Nuffield/ The Friends of Nuffield Church Charity Church Use – A representative from the NCC reported that there was a small committee meeting on Monday 4th September. The plan is being reappraised, as a result of receiving funding from the Mosawi Foundation. Approximately £50k is needed for Phase 1 to resurface footpath from gate to church and a second path to car park. Friends have offered money to help with some funding. Phase 2 will be internal upgrades-fix water leak, upgrade electrics, fix drainage problems. Parish Council to keep Parishioners updated with progress. **ACTION:** AY to include in next newsletter.
6. Report from Oxfordshire County Council – none. It was noted that whilst Felix Bloomfield sends apologies, he very rarely attends parish council meetings, or replies to parish-related questions. **ACTION:** AY to send personal invite to FB for next meeting.
7. Report from South Oxfordshire District Council: Added to website, link here: <https://tinyurl.com/SODC-Sep-2023>
8. Planning Applications
 - a. Applications Received:

[P23/S2999/FUL](#) Registered 04 September 2023. Huntercombe Golf Club, Nuffield RG9 5SL. Installation of irrigation lake for water storage linked to the Golf Clubs fairway irrigation system. GA had meeting at golf club and the Parish Council has no objection from a planning point of view. However, there was much discussion about concern about the use of bore holes and particularly chalk streams under threat. It was noted that a licence not yet issued and the parish council should lobby the Environment Agency (EA), raise the issue with the Chiltern Society to make them aware of the plans. Consultation Period to 28th September. **ACTION:** DP to draft letters.
 - b. Awaiting Decision: None
 - c. Decisions Made:

[P23/S1274/LDP](#) 21 April 2023. HMP Huntercombe, Huntercombe Place Nuffield RG9 5SB
The erection of modular units. **Decision:** Certificate of Lawful Use or Development on 26 May 2023.

[P23/S1279/FUL](#) Registered 06 April 2023. HMP Huntercombe, Huntercombe Place Nuffield RG9 5SB. Proposed erection of a 5.2m fence within the secure perimeter of HMP Huntercombe. **Decision:** Planning Permission on 26th May 2023

[P23/S2374/LB](#) and [P23/S2374/LB](#) Registered 11 July 2023. The Old Stables Huntercombe RG9 5RY. Regularisation of former works and new works comprising alterations of windows and internal alterations. **Decision:** Planning Permission granted for both 29th August 2023.

[P23/S1957/HH](#). Registered 29 June 2023. 2 Mays Cottages Ewelme OX10 6QF
Installation of domestic air source heat pump to replace oil boiler.(additional information submitted to determine noise levels, received 31st July 2023). **Decision:** Planning Permission granted 18th August 2023.

[P23/S1983/LDP](#) Whitebeam Cottage Access Road To Mays Farm Ewelme OX10 6QF
Use of the land for siting a mobile home for use ancillary to the main dwelling and the proposed mobile home. **Decision:** Certificate of Lawful Use or Development on 11th August 2023

[P23/S1981/HH](#) 12 June 2023. Whitebeam Cottage Ewelme OX10 6QF
Erection of a timber single storey granny annex for ancillary use to the main dwelling. **Decision:** Planning Permission on 11th August 2023

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Discussion on building being constructed opposite English Lane what it could be used for. Check with SODC. **ACTION:** GA to write to JR, discussions ongoing.

Concern about use of land opposite Churchfield – area is open and a deterrent is needed. **ACTION:** DP to put in posts and chain across the entrance.

9. Playground Refurbishment

Work has now been completed. PN thanked all those involved. MB reported that the gates have now also been painted. It was agreed to have a Grand opening and invite Jo Robb. **ACTION:** AY to get date and arrange HS to come.

10. Huntercombe Residents Assoc

AY reported that the dog bin issue is now closed, not replaced yet but promised by the Governor.

11. Oakley Court Residents

DW reported that 8 hedgehogs had been found during a tidying session.

12. Footpath Report

Report received from from John Case.

After a wet and late spring, growth seemed very fast and I had to make more trips than usual to try to ensure paths didn't get obstructed. Particularly challenging was FP 10, especially on the narrow section south of where all the work was carried out by SCPMV last year (in fact, it did get blocked for a short time) and also, of course, FP14 by the prison houses.

I noticed that FP 2 at the A4130 end had been slightly improved by taking away the rotten steps up to the road and smoothing out the slope so that, while still fairly steep, it is easier to walk up. Also on FP6, after all this time, it was a great relief to find that someone had taken away the pair of unsafe stiles where it crossed Blenheim Cottage's boundary hedge and replaced them with a new single one. However, FP 6 is still deteriorating with rabbit holes and another set of unsafe steps up to the main road.

In all, this summer I made 16 trips to keep growth down to a passable level.

Generally, though, most of the paths in the Parish are in good condition and I will continue to monitor and maintain them.

Discussion about the path at English Farm blocked. **ACTION:** DP/ PN check.

13. Correspondence

Email from Donna Guile about speeding and layby clearing and drains blocked. Layby has been cleared/mown. **ACTION:** AY to include reminder to residents to report to [fixmystreet](#) in next newsletter.

14. Finance

a. **Payments:** Playground Equipment £167.54; P Wyatt Grass £60, Ferndale (auditor) £120; K Wheeler Ink £31.99; OALG R&R June £96; Payroll £84; Zurich Ins £574.62; Eibe Play Equip £6930.12; P Wyatt Grass £40

b. **Income** – None

c. **Bank Balance** £5624.30– 4th September 2023

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15. Chairman's Business/Other Matters

Litter pick to be arranged for 4th November to include a working team to clear up area behind the bus stop. Refuse bags needed. ACTION: AY to include in newsletter and purchase bags.

16. Public Comment

Resident raised that pavements in the village are badly damaged and dangerous. Residents urged to report on [fixmystreet](#) as pavements and road are the responsibility of Highways. ACTION: 18th November working party- High viz jackets, signs, cones needed .

16. Any Other Business

Fred's Field Lease. The lease has recently expired and Peter proposed, Gill seconded renewal. Ask to purchase as tenant.

Date of Next Meeting

9th November 2023, 8pm at The Maker Space – PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE

Meeting finished at 21.45