

**MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting of North Leigh Parish Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30 pm outside of the Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Vice Chairman Julie Minch (JM), Councillors Susie Cuisck (SC), Andy Clements (AC), Kevin Swann (KS) and Jim Nicholson (JN) and County Councillor Liam Walker (LW)

Also present: Allison Leigh (Clerk) (AL)

**80/21. Apologies for absence:** Chairman Greg Matthews (GM) and Councillor and District Councillor Harry St. John (HSJ)

**81/21. Declarations of interest:** None

**82/21. Minutes of the meetings held 8<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021:** The minutes of the meetings of the 8<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 were agreed and signed.

**83/21. Public Forum:** Two members of the public were in attendance to comment on planning application 21/02800/FUL. They reported that they believe the application to fail according to West Oxfordshire District Council's (WODC) Local Plan 2031. They believe it is not in accord with Policy EH2: Landscape character due to the size and orientation. Among the comments they made were that the application would affect the rural landscape, light would be compromised and views would be compromised. The tranquility, unique and dark landscape would all be compromised.

They believe it is not in accord with Policy EH8: Environmental protection. Point 8.88 in the Local Plan 2031 focuses on conservation and enhancement. They noted this area is a historical environment that would be compromised by this application.

They believe it is not in accord with Policy EH9: Historic environment in that it overlooks the Grange/Grange Farm.

JM thanked them for their comments and noted that the council would seriously consider their comments when discussing the application further in the agenda.

**86/21: Bus Shelters:** This agenda item was moved up as Geoff Barrell (GB) from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) attended via Zoom to answer any questions on the bus shelters.

GB reported that he had been out to meet with local residents. Several did have queries and concerns about the bus shelters and their locations such as sightlines and one concern about a drain. He reported that he clarified any

points raised and noted that the residents he spoke to felt reassured after their discussion.

GB agreed with a resident to move the bus shelter on Park Road laterally. He also agreed that OCC would move the rubbish bin at Park Road.

The council asked AL to obtain costings on the cutting of any hedges and grass at the new bus stops.

The council resolved to proceed with the installation of the stops and craft a letter to residents letting them know that the shelters would be installed and that the council would be taking care of the grass and hedge maintenance.

AL will also get window cleaning quotes for the shelters.

#### **84/21. District and County Councillor Reports:**

##### **WODC**

HSJ sent the following report:

*I have attended various ASB issues in New Yatt Road area with young lads causing a nuisance to various residents in the vicinity and met PCSO Luc Chappell and a colleague who I hope will put a stop to it.*

*I have been chasing up delivery of play area on Bellway's southern site which seems to be delayed because they have put their site office and car park on where the LEAP should be by now! Hoping to get Bellway to replant dead trees within the site and get memorial plaques up for November 11th; also replacing trees felled along Green Lane boundary.*

*Met agent for Webb family successors re 6.2 acres of land for sale north of the allotments - not sure it relates well to the village for the PC to consider PC buying it for a recreation ground - narrow and steepish access etc Yet. However, I did ask about the strip of land between Park Road and allotment car park which they also own - they might consider leasing this for a village car park serving allotments school and hall users - worth pursuing further... I also mooted future of land west of Bewley site (which family also owns) and need for a space for a recreation site - we need to arrange a meeting about all this with Matthew Green who is the partner involved for the family.*

*I will try and set that up when I return if the PC agree - need a couple of others to join me as and when it takes place.*

##### ***Oxfordshire 2050 consultation plan***

*We need to respond by 8th October. There is a lot of good stuff on the environment climate change etc but then...*

*The main question is level of growth we want to see - there are three options- keep steady along lines of current planned growth figures for whole County in existing local plans plus a bit more so about 102,000 homes from 2021 to 2050; an increase of c 25% in house numbers on current numbers to c 125,000 by 2050; third option is transformational growth to c 150,000 new homes by 2050 and in parallel jobs growth of 85K, 125K and 171K new jobs in that time frame respectively. The transformational figures seem to me a massive increase likely to compromise our environment and unless the infrastructure is installed first to cater for such expansion the current infrastructure simply would not cope and we would not be prepared to accept such circumstances given our experience in last ten years.*

*Given the recent census figures are due out soon the estimates being made should be based on that info not earlier stats.*

*The planning subcommittee needs to have a look at it and comment. NB there are two other consultations going on - OXCIS - all about Oxon infrastructure (now just closed) and the Ox/Cam Arc - which strategy will clearly have bearings on the Oxon 2050 plan.*

*A number of independent analysts have prepared a paper (364 pages long!) on Oxfordshire's Growth Needs assessment - that is a key paper influencing thinking, as is the Housing and Growth Deal with DHCLG. Huge amount to consider!*

*The recent application 21/02800/FUL needs careful check as impact on landscape could be more significant than previously approved scheme- original bungalows to be replaced with one house - bungs are 6m high to ridge, approved house 8 metres to ridge and gable end to south and main view - new proposal is 10m to ridge and main facade faces south so much more visible from various points afar and especially number of local footpaths. I have asked it to come to Lowlands as I think it needs careful assessment.*

*I will be interested to hear feedback about waste and dog bins being combined in replacement programme underway...*

*I am still awaiting a reply from the police and crime commissioner about speeding stats our OCC survey produced - I have reminded him a number of times...hopefully may have a reply by Oct meeting.*

*Liam Walker and I attended OCC cabinet member session last week to try and get 40 mph limit extended from Park Road to Common Road but without success. very frustrating - we will keep trying.*

**OCC**

LW reported the following:

There has been vegetation work on the A4095 to make road signage more visible.

Attempts to have the A4095 speed limit reduced to 40mph from Long Hanborough to Common Road have been unsuccessful. The developers at Eynsham Hall have not agreed to fund this and the OCC Cabinet Member did not agree for OCC to fund it.

The footpath from A4095 joining Common Road to Park Road is coming along quickly.

**85/21. Matters arising from the July and August meetings and not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:** There were no matters arising.

**87/21. Parish Councillor Vacancies:** GM and JM had met with one candidate who is now not available, but may become available in the future. There is another candidate who is due to provide a CV and then meet with AC and KS.

JM will put up the advertisement again to see if there is any further interest.

**88/21. Communication:**

- **Parish Council newsletter:** AL promised to get her comments to KS by the 10<sup>th</sup> September. AL will get a printing cost for 1200 copies – 600 in each box or a combination as such. The council would like these printed and delivered asap.

**89/21. Website:** The council is happy with the direction of the website. KS asked if perhaps the website could be made a bit brighter such as other samples of the designer's work.

**90/21. Platinum Jubilee:** The council asked AL to write a letter to local organisations asking what plans they may have for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**91/21. Defibrillators:**

- **Maintenance:** The council resolved to maintain the 2 defibrillators is currently maintains: the defibrillator in Memorial Hall and the defibrillator in East End.
- **Training:** The council would like to proceed with defibrillator training. AL will ask if Memorial Hall can be used and if there would be a charge.

**92/21. Social media responses:** The council reported that some issues have been raised on non-Parish Council social media platforms. The council agreed that if any councillor notices concerns raised on non-Parish Council social media platforms, the way to proceed is to send a private message suggesting that the best way to direct queries to the Parish Council is to contact the Parish Clerk.

**93/21. Land for sale north of the allotments:** The council noted that HSJ has been in touch regarding this and will pursue this. The council noted that perhaps there would be a future opportunity to rent some land for parking.

**94/21. Library:** AC reported that the Chairman of the Friends of North Leigh Library has resigned. He reported there are 2 less staff working and that the opening hours are now back to normal.

**95/21. Planning Applications:**

<u>Planning number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>NLPC Comments</u>
21/02693/HHD	7 Masons Grove North Leigh	Single storey rear extension	North Leigh Parish Council has no comments on this planning application.
21/02793/HHD	Fermain East End North Leigh	Proposed render the house	North Leigh Parish Council has no comments on this planning application.
21/02723/HHD	25 Windmill Road North Leigh	Erection of single storey rear extension, alteration to existing front and rear dormer windows and the conversion of the integral garage to create additional living space	North Leigh Parish Council has no comments on this planning application.
21/02800/FUL	The Bungalow Wilcote	Demolition of 2 bungalows and associated buildings and construction of a replacement dwelling. The erection of a detached garage with ancillary accommodation above, the provision of a swimming pool	North Leigh Parish Council objects to this application because of its impact on the local landscape and is consequently contrary to Policies EH2 and EH13 of the current Local Plan.  Policy EH2 requires that: "Special attention and protection will be given to the landscape ..... of the Wychwood Project Area".

		<p>with associated pool building and the erection of a greenhouse. Associated works and landscaping</p>	<p>Policy EH13 notes that; "the degree to which the form, scale, massing, density, height, layout, landscaping, use, alignment, and external appearance of the development conserves or enhances the special historic character of its surroundings."</p> <p>There have been many applications for the development of this site since 2016 each of which entailed larger and more extensive buildings and each of which were approved. This application proposes new building design and a reorientation of the main structure. The proposed house is now 2 metres higher to the ridge (an increase of 25%) and it is realigned to face north.</p> <p>North Leigh PC objects to this since it would be overbearing in the landscape of the Wychwood Project Area because of its scale and mass and thus contrary to Policies EH2 and EH13 of the Local Plan.</p>
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- **S106 monies:** AL reported she has e-mailed WODC as to an update on the monies for the expenditure for the Children’s Playground, but had not heard back. She noted that there is a meeting regarding S106 monies on the 28<sup>th</sup> September which she will be attending and asked if any councillors would like to attend. JM, JN, SC and AC would like to attend. AL will e-mail WODC to this effect.
- **Response to Bewley e-mail regarding maintenance of the LEAP:** It was noted that a response had already been made on this and that NLPC asks Bewley to maintain the LEAP.

**96/21. Open Spaces Report**

- **Trees:** AL reported she has done a tree log which her and SC are looking at.

- **Playgrounds:**

- JM reported the group working on the Children's Playground refurbishment had met with parents and they are happy with the direction of the project.

- The working group reported that they are looking to update the entrance to the playground as well.

- The working group reported that the costs have increased. The council noted it has £70,000 to come from S106 monies and has £30,000 in reserve for the expenditure.

- The council discussed applying for art funding for a mural on the water station in the Children's Playground. No further action is required as of yet.

- Future maintenance of the laurel hedge was discussed, but there is no further action on this at this time.

- Inspection Reports: AL reported she had received the inspection reports for the Adventure and Children's Playground. It was agreed that AL and SC will review the report for the AP. With regards to the Children's Playground, a new play area is imminent and there are no high risk areas at present.

- Reports: There is offensive writing spray painted on the AP skate ramp that needs to be removed. AL will look into this.

- Children's Playground Lease: AL reported that Pellmans has reported they are waiting on OCC.

- Adventure Playground Lease: The council resolved to proceed with Adventure Playground lease. AL will inform WODC.

- **Cuckamus Green report:** All was reported to be well at Cuckamus Green.

- It was reported that a request has been made to use Cuckamus Green for a garden festival | June 2022. The council is happy for this to take place and there would not be a charge to use the green. The council will ensure correct insurance is in place and that the green is tidied up after the event.

- The organisers have asked if they can use the council's bank account to deposit/take out monies. AL will check with Oxfordshire Association for Local Councils.

## 97/21. Cemetery/Churchyard

- **Activity:** AL reported there has been a burial of ashes, some requests for memorials and a query since the last meeting.
- **Regulations and fees:** The council reviewed the revised cemetery regulations and made some changes. AL will circulate these and this will be on the October agenda for adoption. The fees were not reviewed at the meeting.
- **Mapping software:** AL and AC reported they'd received a quote for the mapping software, but that it was somewhat different to what they were expecting so they are in discussions on this.

**98/21. Traffic/ Highway matters/Speedwatch:** Speedwatch sessions have been taking place and the Community Speedwatch signs have been used in New Yatt and East End and on common Road. They appear to be having a positive impact.

- **Road safety:** The council agreed to AC contacting OCC directly regarding road safety possibilities.

## 99/21. Finance Report:

### *Payments made since the July meeting*

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cheque/online payment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
OALC	Employing Staff with Confidence training session – Andy Clements	Online	60.00	13/8/2021
Greens Funeral Services	Refund to Greens due to a receipt from them made in error (should have been to the PCC)	Online	215.20	12/8/2021
Staff costs	Staff costs	Online	484.32	30/9/2021
Allison Leigh	Clerk expenses	Online	123.95	9/9/2021
Edge IT Systems Ltd	Cemetery database	Online	254.40	9/9/2021
BGG	Grass cutting – July	Online	624.00	9/9/2021
Steve Legg	Reimbursement for wood stain for bus shelter	Online	40.00	9/9/2021
Grundon	Cemetery bin emptying – July	Online	52.57	9/9/2021



WODC	Adventure Playground cleaning - July	Online	145.76	9/9/2021
Rospa	Play area inspections	Online	168.60	9/9/2021
Nigel Green	Grass cutting	Online	324.00	9/9/2021
BGG	Grass cutting – August	Online	624.00	9/9/2021
North Leigh Youth Project	Room hire – July	Online	20.00	9/9/2021
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	Donation	Online	100.00	9/9/2021
Grundon	Cemetery bin emptying – August	Online	52.57	9/9/2021
Shelter Maintenance LTD	Bus shelter repair – Park Road outside Masons	Online	271.20	9/9/2021
WODC	Adventure Playground cleaning - August	Online	145.76	9/9/2021

***Receipts since the July meeting***

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cheque/online payment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
Greens Funeral Services	Receipt paid in error (should have been to the PCC)	Online	215.20	12/7/2021
Marion Hebblethwaite	Grave transfer fee	Cheque	35.00	12/8/2021
E Taylor and son	Interment fee for Beryl Ward – ashes	Cheque	125.00	26/8/2021

- **Internal Audit 21/22:** The council deferred the review of quotes and selecting an internal auditor for the 21/22 internal audit to the October meeting
- **Donations**
  - **Enrych:** The council resolved not to donate to Enrych at this time as it is not a local charity.

**100/21. Correspondence:** The council reviewed the correspondence list.

**101/21. Matters for report:**

Noticeboards: To discuss the possibility of noticeboards in New Yatt and Wilcote

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.