**SHELLINGFORD PARISH MEETING**

**Minutes of Parish Meeting on 11 November 2024 at The Community Hall**

1. *Welcome and Attendance*

Fiona Wright, Chair, welcomed fourteen residents to the meeting.

An Attendance Record was completed by those present. Apologies for absence had been received or were given on behalf of Sally and Tom Barton, Jane and Paul Brown, Jennie and Phil Chesterton and Susie Price.

2. *Previous Meeting*

Minutes of the meeting on 20 May 2024 were reviewed and accepted as an accurate record without amendment. The Chair signed these minutes.

3. *Matters Arising*

None arose that were not already covered on the agenda.

4. *County Council Report*

Juliette Ash was not present. Roy Samways, Clerk read extracts from her written November Report. Oxfordshire County Council (“OCC”) have recently published the results of a Residents’ Satisfaction Survey, which show that only 10% of Vale of White Horse respondents were satisfied with OCC’s performance. The figure for Oxford City was 36%. Other topics included a draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation (comments requested by 26 November via Let’s Talk Oxfordshire website); further OCC budget planning with a 2% council tax rise envisaged; and the unknown impact of the 30 October National Government Budget.

5. *District Council Report*

Sue Caul was not present and had not submitted a report.

The Chair and Clerk referred to the Vale of White Horse District Council’s recent consultation regarding Election Polling Places, whereby it was proposed to replace the Community Hall with Stanford in the Vale’s village hall. The Chair had been informed that this was due to the inconvenience caused at the school, but the Headteacher had confirmed that it was not a problem for the school. The Clerk had submitted a formal objection to the proposal.

The Clerk was asked to contact Sue Caul for her support and the meeting passed a unanimous motion in favour of retaining the Community Hall as Shellingford’s Polling Place if at all possible.

6. *Planning Applications*

The Clerk reported on applications and decisions made since the last Parish Meeting.

Listed building consent had been granted on 25 July for reinstatement of the original wall height and enlargement of the vehicular access at Quarry House, Church Street.

An application to construct a new balcony and doors at Wilderness Copse, Fernham Road had been approved on 19 August.

An application for a new dwelling at 2 Council Houses, Fernham Road had led to many objections from parishioners and had been withdrawn on 21 September.

The Clerk reported that the Glebe Committee of the Diocese of Oxford had decided to grant extraction of mineral rights on Glebe Land between the A417/B4508 crossroads and the village. The Parochial Church Council had been told at a meeting on 27 June that they had a right of veto over this and had voted to exercise that right. This had been subsequently ignored by the Glebe Committee. Further action is to be considered by the Parochial Church Council on 14 November.

7. *Traffic Calming Subcommittee Report*

The Chair reported that the new 20 mph sign and Speed Indicator Device (“SID”) at the Hatford end of the village had been defaced and vandalised. OCC had promptly replaced the sign and Julian Mellor had repaired the damaged cables. The meeting thanked him for this.

A motion to approve the expenditure of £90 on cutting back the hedge in front of the SID location was unanimously approved.

A motion to approve annual expenditure of up to £100 on SID expenses was unanimously approved.

The acquisition of a second SID was discussed. OCC have said that in order to have two SIDs in the village at least four poles must be installed and a location in Church Street must be approved. The Clerk explained that the Community Infrastructure Levy (“CIL”) officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council had agreed to propose the use of CIL funds for this purpose subject to prior approval by OCC and the Parish Meeting.

After further discussion, a motion to approve expenditure of up to £4,000 on a second SID was approved with 12 votes in favour, none against and two abstentions.

There are still two old faulty speed awareness signs on Fernham Poad. Paul Brown had suggested that these could be reactivated. The Chair will investigate how and whether this can be done.

The meeting thanked everyone on the Traffic Calming Subcommittee for their work.

8*. Financial Report*

Christopher Price, Treasurer reported that the current bank account balance was £5,797. As Lloyds Bank will introduce monthly usage charges from 1 January 2025, alternatives will be investigated.

9*. Budget for the Parish*

Donations by the Parish Meeting were reviewed and it was decided to maintain the previous amounts. A motion to donate £150 to First Responders and £50 to Thames Valley Air Ambulance was unanimously approved.

The level of Precept for the coming financial year was debated A motion to retain the Precept for the year to 31 March 2026 at the current level of £1,000 was unanimously approved.

10. *Neighbourhood Plan Report*

Mike Wright reported that Bluestone Planning, our advisors, are finishing the draft Plan. It is hoped that it will go out to all parishioners for consultation within the next couple of months.

11*. Parochial Church Council Report*

Chris Kemp (on behalf of Imogen Jonas) presented an update on the plan for a servery and WC in St Faith’s church. An archaeological survey will take place during the week beginning 25 November. A faculty (permission) has been granted by the Diocese of Oxford for six pits, of one metre depth, to be dug where it is proposed to bring services and to build to the north of the church. It is hoped that a full planning application will be submitted before Christmas.

The Christmas Fayre will be on 30 November from 10 to 12 a.m. in the Community Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend services of Carols by Candlelight at 5 p.m. on 8 December and Holy Communion at 10.15 a.m. on Christmas Day.

12*.*  *School Headteacher’s Report*

Jane Samways (on behalf of Judith Terrill) presented a summary of major school events. The current pupil role is 94 with another 2 expected this term. Reception class is full with significant demand for September 2025 places. Volunteers to listen to children reading are always welcome. There has been very good support for church services from parents, but the envisaged removal of pews from St Faith’s would cause significant seating problems. The major current concern for the school is a lack of Teaching Assistants.

*13. General*

The Clerk reported that Mike Wright, Tom Barton and he had visited the Shellingford Quarry on 17 June for a tour of activities by Earthline.

Caroline Clinker resigned as Footpath Warden on 13 August. No volunteers to replace her had been identified.

The Chair reported that the new online booking system for the Community Hall was working well. She would appreciate any assistance with the administration.

14*. Any Other Business*

Repairs to the B4508 will mean it is closed on 9 December from 7.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The Clerk was asked to inform Judith Terrill of this.

Barry Moody further explained that he believed there will be five days of repair work, starting 18 November, to the road and ditch, to prevent flooding of the B4508/A417 crossroads.

Robert Sharp informed the meeting that a detailed planning application was imminent regarding the Home Farm site at the end of Church Street.

15. *Date of Next Meeting*

Planned for Monday 19 May 2025 at 19.30 in the Community Hall.