

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL held on
Wednesday 15th April 2015 at 7.30pm at The Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire.**

Present: Parish Chair, County Councillor and District Councillor, Mr M Gray.

Parish Councillors, Mrs Dyer-Lynch, Helen Jiggins, Mr P Ramsay, Mr P Jenkins, Mrs L Hamlyn, Mrs M Kaposy.

Members of the public, 7 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies received:** Mrs V Bolt, Mr M Madeley

The meeting commenced at 7.40 pm

2. **Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 23 April 2014**

Mr Sheldon suggested that the annual accounts should be presented at the Parish Meeting. Mr Gray responded that he did not believe this was the case but that he would check back over previous years so see if this had been done previously.

There were no further comments, therefore Mr Gray confirmed acceptance.

3. **To receive reports from:**

- (a) **Parish Council Chair, Mr Mark Gray**

Mr Gray spoke on the following Parish issues:

Ilges Lane and Wallingford Rd Cycle Path

Oxfordshire County Council has now agreed that the Ilges Lane cycle path can have a proper surface. Mr Sinclair a resident and retired engineer has volunteered to take on management of the project.

There is also progress on getting a decent surfaced cycle path along Wallingford Rd. OCC have agreed that the Parish Council can undertake this and it can be delivered with section 106 money that is available to the Parish Council from the build of new homes at Fair Mile.

Local Housing

There are likely to be over 1,000 new homes built in the area in the next few years with large developments approved for the CABI site, former Carmel College site at Mongewell, the old Habitat site and Site B off the Wallingford bypass.

Cholsey has been allocated 128 new houses, discussions on the site for these is ongoing and further consultation is expected by SODC.

Winterbrook

As part of SODC's latest Community Governance Review, Wallingford Town Council applied for Winterbrook to become part of Wallingford, their argument for based on the relatively new artificial boundary formed by the bypass. Despite Council fighting the proposal and SODC receiving letters from one third of Winterbrook residents in favour of remaining part of Cholsey, Winterbrook has now become part of Wallingford.

New Staff

Last year Mr Gray spoke of Council's future plans to appoint a Youth Worker to run a homework club and summer play scheme and a Children's worker working through the school to provide help for families. The Youth Worker Jacob Dearman was appointed in May and now runs an after school homework club Mondays to Thursdays, Youth Club every Thursday evening during term time and a less frequent club night for older teenagers.

The Children's Worker Sarah Masters was appointed in June and now runs a pre-school activity each Wednesday morning and works with local children and families in conjunction with Cholsey Primary School. This year Council would like to appoint an Older Persons Worker to help combat loneliness among older residents and help drive use of the Old School Day Centre, and also a Street Cleaner/Lollipop person.

The Post Office

Despite much opposition Cholsey lost the fight to retain the post office as separate unit within the Tesco store. This has meant that some people, particularly older residents, have chosen to go to Wallingford Post Office especially for banking because they feel privacy is an issue with the new PO set-up in Tesco.

Mr Gray thanked all Parish Councillors for their hard work over the past year.

- (b) **County Councillor – Mr Mark Gray**

Mr Gray reported on the County Council's work in 2014-15 and for the future:

Village Parking

Mr Gray advised that he is still pushing to get something done about the parking problems particularly on Station Road and Papist Way. The Oxfordshire County Council Highways parking proposals consulted on earlier in the year still have to have a second round of more formal consultation. Due to cuts within the County Council Highways department there is no-one currently available to do the work.

Gravel

Although the challenges mounted to the OCC gravel requirement figures have managed to reduce the figure for the amount of gravel required in the county it is still likely that two new gravel extraction sites will be required. The village may have a fight on it's hands to persuade them that Cholsey is not the right site. However, it is likely that ultimately gravel will be extracted from the New Barn Farm site. This site has now been purchased by Grundons and the initial proposals for extraction put forwards by them are very different to those proposed by the previous owners of the site. They have said that they will extract from small areas of the site at a time while the framer will continue to work the rest of the land. Once extraction is completed in a particular area of the site it will be returned to agricultural use.

County Council Cuts

The huge cuts to the money received by OCC from central government means that OCC are being forced to cut everything except for statutory services. No matter who is elected it is likely that the cuts will continue.

Some items of good news include OCC committing to 30 minute visits by carers to their clients and the launch of the Community Information Network funded by OCC and designed to co-ordinate provision of community support. A small offshoot of this will be set up in the village to provide help to vulnerable local people..

(c) District Councillor – Mr Mark Gray

Mr Gray reported on District Council issues in 2015-16

Fire at SODC Crowmarsh Offices

District Council officers and staff are dealing with aftermath of fire as well as possible many are working from home and some from South and Vale offices in Abingdon. SODC have leased some offices at Milton Park and will be moving in later in the year. This is unlikely to be a permanent move. Especially taking into account the current discussions about a unitary authority.

New Housing Plans

The recent District Council consultation on sites for the 128 new houses allocated to Cholsey had narrowed down the possible sites to three – East End farm, the area off Celsea Place and the big field off Papist Way. Residents seemed to be largely in favour of houses going on one site, therefore leaning towards the big field off Papist Way.

It is important that a holistic approach to the provision and siting of new homes is taken, a piecemeal approach could result in services and infrastructure being overwhelmed.

(d) A representative from the local police

Thames Valley Police had been unable to sent a representative. Mr Jenkins read out a report received from local PCSO Sue Harris.

“The Neighbourhood Policing Team at Wallingford consists of four police officers – PC James Moxey, PC Bob McIntyre, PC Nicky Beltran and PC Simone O’Dell. In addition to these officer we also have six Police Community Support Officers – PCSO Marie Davenport, PCSO Louis Page, PCSO Jen Cox, PCSO Sarah Jones, PCSO Clare Beale and PCSO Sue Harris. We cover a very large area between us all but try to spend as much time on each area as possible.

Issues that have been raised to us regarding Cholsey are speeding on the Reading Road and on the Cholsey Meadows development. We are unable to do anything on the Cholsey Meadows development but will take the SID machine out on the Reading Road. We have reports of a few incidents of anti social behaviour by the Pavillion. We are dealing with the individual involved in most of these incidents. There has also been a report of a dog in the area of the park where it should not be. Please can dog walkers be reminded to keep their dogs under control. We continue to monitor the parking around the Station.

With this lovely weather can I please remind you of a few security measures you can take to protect your property. Please do not leave windows open when out. Garden equipment and sheds can be particularly vulnerable. Please ensure it is secure. Anti bolt cropper padlocks, and shed alarms can deter thieves from targeting your shed. Also marking your valuables such as lawn mowers and chain saws is a really good idea.

You can use a kit called CRE marking which is available via the internet. We also highly recommend the use of SMARTWATER for marking. This is available from your local police station for £15.00.

The team will try to be available at the Saturday coffee mornings in the Pavillion. However we do not work every Saturday on a day shift so cannot promise to be a every single one. If there is any specific you want to discuss please phone 101 and ask to speak to one of us. We are a friendly bunch and will always try to help.

You may have noticed that Wallingford Police Station is up for sale. To reassure you this will not affect the policing of your area. The Neighbourhood Team will still be based in Wallingford as now and response officers will still respond from Didcot”.

4. Opportunity for residents to raise other points from the above, or any other items of local interest.

A number of residents raised issues regarding hedge and vegetation encroachment onto public footpaths. Mr Gray advised that the Parish Office will look into the individual items raised but noted that due to cuts OCC will now only be cutting verges twice a year so that vegetation encroachment problems may worsen.

Mr Ramsay suggested that the Parish Council could look at combining with other Parish Councils to organise purchasing of grass cutting services and take them over from the County Council.

Mr Woodley asked if the Parish Office could speak to Biffa to request that bin men leave emptied bins in the correct place.

Mr Sheldon asked if the Ilges Lane extension would be named. He advised that it was known as the Green Road in the past.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.