

Draft Minutes from Littleworth Parish Meeting 31 May 2023

Present: Clare Berry, David Coleman (Vale of White Horse District Council), Bill Fox, Ann-Marie Lewis, Alice Margey, Adrian Pickett (Clerk), Fiona Pickett, Lala Phillips, Nicki Simpkins, Bethia Thomas (Oxfordshire County Council), Anna Timbrell, Ceri Thompson, Simon Thompson, Imelda Twine, Mike Wilson, Tony Woodward (Chairman)

Apologies: Dave Mackay, Julia Smith, Tracey Clay, John Hudgell, Mags Hudgell,

Item	Action
<p>1. Minutes of the Parish Meeting on 15 December 2022</p>	<p>Minutes approved</p>
<p>2. County Councillors report and update on A420 safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A decision on when to implement the 20mph speed limit is due in September. • Fix my street - if reported work is not actioned please contact Bethia Thomas • Tree planted at the entrance to the village. County Councillor apologised that the tree is in an inappropriate place and is organising a site visit to discuss options. • The highways budget for 2023/24 includes the installation of a drop curve near the bus stop on the Swindon side of the A420. • The possibility of lighting scheme for the bus stop is under discussion. • Our County Councillor has made a request to the highways team to clear the footpath on the A420 between Littleworth and Barcote. • The Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee (FATAC) met in January about safety on the A420. Data has been requested to identify accident hotspots. Clerk to provide data from the road traffic survey carried out by the wood business near Harewood Farm. • There have been a number of near misses involving people turning right into Littleworth. When vehicles heading towards Swindon come around the corner by the Snooty Meehan they are often only just able to stop in time if a vehicle is turning right. Questions were raised about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether the speed limit on the A420 running through Littleworth should be lowered to 40 to reduce the possibility of accidents for people turning right into Littleworth • Improving the signage on the A420 to warn approaching vehicles about the danger of the right turn into Littleworth • Traffic lights are to be installed on the A420 junction to Great Coxwell before any of the houses in the new development are occupied • There is a proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A420 around Faringdon from 60 	<p>Clerk to share data</p> <p>County Councillor to ask highways</p>
<p>3. District Councillors report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Councillor for Thames Ward outlined the local election results, his district wide responsibilities for both environmental services and waste and his role in acting a link between veterans and the District Council. He will be holding surgeries every 6 to 8 weeks at the VEG coffee mornings in Littleworth, starting on 10 June. • Cost of Living crisis - a Discretionary Council Tax Exceptional Hardship Fund has been set up to help council taxpayers who are facing 'exceptional hardship' to help reduce their council tax liability. More details are available here https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/council-tax/discretionary-council-tax-exceptional-hardship-fund-ctehf-2023-2024/ • Climate action fund - The fund will provide grants from £250 to £5,000 for projects to help tackle climate change, with a total of £100,000 available. More details are available here https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/community-support/grants/climate-action-fund/ • Botley Medical Centre. Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & West Berkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) met to carry out due diligence on plans submitted by a number of Oxfordshire GP practices to take over primary care services at Botley Medical Centre and Kennington Health Centre from September 2023. A small number of patients in the outlying parts of the Botley/Kennington catchment area will be able to register with other practices. 	

<p>4. Election of Chairman and Clerk for 2023/24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Woodward was re-elected as Chairman • Adrian Pickett was re-elected as Clerk • The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Parish Meeting is looking to limit the time people are in role to a maximum of 4 years. By May 2024 the Chairman will have been in role for 3 years and the Clerk for 4 years. The Chairman is looking for a volunteer to become Clerk. If you are interested please let Tony Woodward know. 	<p>Parish Chairman to look for volunteers</p>
<p>5. Receive and approve the accounts for 2022/23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish meeting received and approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Internal Audit Report • the Annual Governance Statement • considered, approved and signed the accounts • Certificate of Exemption • set 15 June to 28 July as the period for the exercise of public rights • The Parish Meeting would like to thank Steph Clinkard for carrying out the internal audit 	<p>Clerk to return the Certificate of Exemption to the Auditor and publish the required information on the web site and notice board.</p>
<p>6. Parish reports</p> <p><u>Footpaths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the footpath between Littleworth and Faringdon is becoming overgrown by rape • the footpath between Littleworth and Barcote was overgrown by the rape but has now been cleared • the footpath between the centre of the village and the A420 is impassable • the stiles near the metal bridge near the sewage works require some attention <p><u>Neighbourhood watch</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hare coursing has been an issue over the last few months and is receiving attention. • There is still a need for vigilance and to ask any unknown persons seen in the parish if they need help or are looking for someone or a property in the village. If they do not know the name of either of the last two they are probably up to no good and may be deterred by the fact that they are approached in this manner. However do not take any risks. <p><u>Speedwatch</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 sessions in 2023 to date. The tradesman's vehicles parked on the road has been a problem again and the wet weather has prevented several sessions. Average mean speeds are 19 mph. One or two marginally exceeding 30 mph per session. Still having a positive effect on drivers. • Request to hold some Speedwatch sessions at the Thrupp end of the village as a number of drivers are driving at speed as they enter the village. <p><u>Village Events Group (VEG)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group was formed to create opportunities for people to come together as a community. • VEG would like to thank everyone involved in the Coronation and Alice for the application for Lottery funding • As part of the lottery grant there are funds to buy woodland bulbs and plants for Weavers walk which will happen later in the year • Monthly coffee mornings have been introduced • There will be a cream tea on Saturday 1 July and a bonfire night on 5 November 	<p>Clerk to report issues</p> <p>Alice Margey</p> <p>Dave Mackay</p>

Parish reports continued

Reading Room & Playing Field

- Dave Mackay and Nicki Simpkins resigned as trustees. The continuing trustees are Robert McInnes, Jeremy Flawn and Adam Viner. Three new trustees have been appointed for a 3 year term: Leah Baigel, Alice Margey and Lala Phillips.
- Wifi: The Wifi in the Reading Room is being reinstated and should be available to users during June 2023. There is a reduced rate available for community spaces, however the cost of this provision may need to be reflected in a small increase to the hire charges for the Reading Room, where applicable. Having wifi available should make the Reading Rooms more attractive to potential users and increase the type of events that can be held.
- Trustee Meeting: The trustees will be meeting in June to consider the short and medium term goals and action plan for the Reading Room and Playing Fields. These discussions will include the Reading Room Renovations for which Planning Permission was granted in January this year. The trustees are keen to work closely with the community. If there are any items or issues relating to the Reading Room or Playing Fields you would like the trustees to look at please email ciotrustee@gmail.com.
- The trustees are working with the Welcome The Warmth Scheme and Oxfordshire County Council to survey and identify appropriate measures to improve the energy efficiency of the Reading Room flat and explore the grants/funding options that may be available, however the exact detail of the Government requirements and timing have not been finalised and the trustees will be monitoring any developments.

Littleworth Church

- We applied to the Church authorities for temporary (2 year) permission to remove 12 pews and insert a temporary wooden floor along the aisle at the same height as the pew platform. This was granted in November and the work was accomplished this spring thanks to a great team who gave their time, effort and skill. Clearly it is still a church too, and if/when we need to accommodate larger congregations, we will provide extra chairs. The temporary permission expires in 18 months, so before then we need to apply to make it permanent if that is the general wish.
- We entirely depend on fund raising to meet our annual running costs as well as building repairs, and we are so grateful to the community for their support

Old School Playground

- The Old School Playground is held in a trust with Parish Chairman and Head of Legal at the Vale of White Horse District Council as trustees. The Parish Meeting puts aside money each year to contribute to the maintenance of the playground, there is currently £3,000 in the fund. We are aware of the potholes on the surface and will look at the situation once the building work at The Old Orchard is completed.
- The Trustees have given permission for the Old School Playground to be used for short term parking for village residents and visitors. It is not to be used for regular or long term parking.

7. AOB

- There has been an increase in the amount of dog poo and poo bags being left on footpaths
- We are planning to provide some CPR and defibrillator training and are looking for someone to carry out the training.
 - There is a first aider in Great Coxwell who does training
 - There is also someone in Buckland who has provided training
- The grass on the verge of the A420 in the Swindon direction is obstructing the view of oncoming traffic for people trying to cross the road by the bus stop.

Clerk to mention in Newsletter

Bethia Thomas to contact

Clerk to report on fix my street

