

CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Cumnor Parish Council
on Monday 6 November 2023 at 7.30pm
held in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.

In attendance.

Council. Tom Christophers, Chairman, Laurence Waters, Vice-Chairman, Basil England, Alison Jenner, Paula Lopez, Gary Mason, Judy Roberts, Chris Westcott, Oliver Wright and DC Scott Houghton.

James Harris has retired from Council.

County Councillors. Judy Roberts.

District Councillor. Scott Houghton and Judy Roberts.

Visitors. 27 and Jonathan Thompson, Green Nation.

301/23 Apologies for Absence. None.

302/23 Declarations of Interest.

303/23 Variance of Order of Business.

Council approved bringing forward of the agenda item 14 ii planning application P23/V1785/FUL Farmoor Stores.

304/23 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council.

Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 October 2023.

305/23 Matters Arising from the Minutes. None.

306/23 Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum. Received

- i. Payment of Accounts. Approved as per minute 307/23.

307/23 Payments of Accounts.

Council resolved to authorise the payments specified in the Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum and reproduced below.

Table 1 List of income received.

Statutory Power	Receipts received	Description	Total (£)
7 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977	T Stockman	Interment of ashes	128.00
8 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977	S R Childs	Interment	306.00
9 CIL	VWHDC	CIL share	4,655.99
10 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977	Carl Boswell Ltd	Memorial tablet	68.00

Table 2 List of payments due.

Statutory Power	Payments now due:	Description	Total (£)
76, SO LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014	Staff costs		2,939.46
DD LGA 1972 s142	Eurosolve Ltd	Domain name registration	36.00
77 Highways Act 1980	Wood Dragon Tree Survey	Cutting of tree on footpath by 12 Appleton Road	300.00
78 LG (misc prov) Act 1953 s4	The Bin Cleaner	Quarterly clean of bus shelters extra 30 minutes due to graffiti on several shelters	625.00
BACS	Unity Bank	Bank charges	18.00
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	BT	Office phone and broadband	101.89
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	BT	Mobile phone	12.53
79 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Playdale Playgrounds	End caps for Burma Bridge at Pinnocks play park	26.74
80 LGA1972 s111	OALC	Councillor training – planning	66.00
81 LGA 1972 s111	Critchleys LLP	Quarter 2 procedures and cloud fee	218.86
82 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	JA Plumbing & Heating Solutions Ltd	New boiler associated works	5,128.99
83a Public Health Act	Total Pest Control	Quarterly mole control – Closes field	196.60

1875			
83b Public Health Act 1875	Total Pest Control	Quarterly mole control – Mayfield Road	
84 CIL	JA Plumbing & Heating	New boiler and associated works at Fogwell Road Pavilion	5,317.01
85a	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Call out to sweep broken glass The Glebe	2,124.00
85b LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19 Highways Act 1980 Open Spaces Act 1906	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Grass cutting, litter picking, raking sand at Burial Ground, verge and play parks	
85c LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Grass cutting, litter picking at play parks	
85d LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19 Highways Act 1980	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Grass cutting, litter picking, raking shingle at verge and play parks	
86 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19 Parish Council Act 1957	MRH Services	Visual inspection of play equipment, repair to gate at The Glebe and fitting of bench at Arnolds Way	478.89
87 Public Health Act 1936 s87	T Christophers	Sundries for Eco loo	53.99

Notes.

- i. After all payments/receipts are accounted for Unity Account will be in credit at £44,331.57.
- ii. After all payments/receipts are accounted for the Santander Community Account will be in credit £91636.64.
- iii. The Council has the following debtor for 2023/24: HMRC (Reclaimable VAT) £10,736.30.
- iv. As of 17 October 2023 the Corporate Notice account held a credit balance of £76,400.81.

308/23 Public Participation. None.

PRESENTATION.

309/23 Red House Solar Farm presentation by Green Nation Solar Energy.

Jonathan Thompson presented to Council the updated project which would be submitted to VWHDC and confirmed the intention to provide public and community benefits. He described Green nation Ltd as “specialised in solar and now battery storage”. A Q&A session followed the 15 minute presentation.

- Why was this location chosen? There is a necessity to create more solar farms close to power lines. It was identified that there is spare capacity at the substation just inside of Oxford, (at Osney). “The question then is where is there some land nearby?” The land is poor quality agricultural land.
- You are offering to sell cheaper power to local residents and businesses. How would you store this power? There are no battery storage facilities planned at the moment but “hypothetically in the future”. Power is not produced all the time so it would be difficult to put a deal together, but we are working with a company to work out combining other sites and buying from other suppliers. The aim is “a little bit of a discount to current prices” but “most of the time it’s not June in the middle of the day”.
- Where are the panels made? Globally mostly mass produced in China. Any suspicions of the panels being made by forced labour are taken seriously and not ignored. We buy products not made by forced labour. “After 30 years the panels are taken down and recycled”.
- Where is the construction access located? There will be a temporary access on Cumnor Road, Farmoor
- Has the impact of the Botley West on the environment been considered? This has been considered and we only knew about the proposal during the first consultation. “We are not part of Botley West” and “have nothing to do with them”.
- “We’ve spoken a lot to the Council’s Landscape Officer”. The Red House proposal has been ‘pulled back’ to reduce the visual impact and the application would be submitted “soon”. VWHDC would consider the cumulative impact on Botley West if our proposal were

approved first. It would have more of an impact on the decision on the Botley West proposal.

- Would you use the Botley West proposed substation? It has crossed our mind. Long grid routes are expensive, but capacity has been agreed with SSE just inside Oxford.
- What is the lifespan of the panels? They would last between 35 to 40 years and then would be obsolete and would likely be recycled.
- Who would be responsible for dismantling the solar farm? This would be a planning obligation.
- Have you acquired the land? A lease has been obtained and the land would then revert to the landowner.
- Who would be responsible for any drainage issues? Pre-dated issues are the responsibility of the landowner, any issues after installation would be Green Nation's responsibility. 99% sure that VWHDC said that swales would need to be installed to mitigate run-off.
- Botley Road disruption again. The Botley Road would need to be dug up – “not sure if this would take weeks or months.”
- How would the grassland between the panels be managed? A natural method by having sheep graze a few times a year to keep the grass short. 10% biodiversity net gain is ‘easy’ to achieve as the fields won’t ‘be getting herbicide on them’.
- How many sheep, as Botley West would require a flock of 10000 – calculated at 5/acre? Not sure – there are shepherds who are happy to be paid for their flocks to graze. At other times, a mechanical cutter and weed killer would be used.
- What is the expected lorry traffic? During the initial phase 10 a day. A Construction Management Plan would be included with the planning application submitted to VWHDC.

The Chair thanked Jonthan Thompson and residents for attending the meeting.

PLANNING

310/23 Submitted Planning Applications.

Table 3 List of planning applications to be considered.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P23/V1785/FUL	Farmoor Stores, Cumnor Road, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NN <i>Alterations and extensions to shop and flats including the creation of two new flats above.</i> Supports.

Residents left the meeting.

REPORTS

311/23 Report from County Councillor(s).

CC Judy Roberts submitted a written report.

General OCC.

The Public Inquiry for the Flood Alleviation Scheme will start on the 14 November 2023 at the King's Centre. The briefing we had on the 11 October 2023 from the Environment Agency that the channel will still allow them to keep approximately 4 fifths of the MG4 area which they hope will increase in size as they have now added ripple structures that will make sure that area maintains its current level of water. They can add more ripples if necessary. They also said that the current planning application has all the spoil removed by road but that the negotiations with the rail link are progressing well and they hope to be able to put in an amendment with at least a third being removed by rail.

The website area for the Flood Alleviation Scheme is:-

<https://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/MW.0027/22/>

The cheap £2 fares that are on offer at the Park and Rides will continue until April 2024.

Sunday single fares in December 2023 in the run-up to Christmas are set to be capped at £1 after Oxfordshire County Council was awarded £1.9 million government funding to improve bus services over the next 2 years.

SEND Improvements after the Ofsted Report: A priority Action Plan has been developed by the Council, NHS and the Education services responsible for the delivery of the SEND services. The County's Parent Carer Forum has been involved and the plan has been submitted to Ofsted for their approval. An Improvement Board meeting will take place in November 2023.

Traffic and highways

The HIF1 scheme has been referred to the Secretary of State and the inquiry will start on the 20 February 2024. There was a further meeting of the planning committee to create a Statement of case. Some of the reasons for refusal had been met in the month between meetings and the committee took a neutral position in its Statement of Case. Some concerns of the committee were met by the Statement of Common Ground, but the committee asked for the SoS to be assured on the carbon management plan, the noise mitigation for Appleford and the traffic modelling for the site. The implementation of this road was part of the soundness of both SODC and the Vale's Local Plans and should it not go ahead, they both would lose their 5 year housing supply.

The roadworks at the Botley roundabout will continue until March 2024.

The website link which will contain up to date information is:

www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a34botley

Wytham villagers can now apply for a permit that will let them through Seacourt Lane between 10am – 1 pm.

This weekend's chaos was due to a gas pipe replacement from metal to plastic near the Southern bypass road. There has been a constant smell of gas since the last investigation. The gas works have overrun as they were supposed to finish at 5am and are now hoping to open by 4pm. They won't be fined under the open Lane agreement as it is National Highways. The road works in Farmoor were not suspended as promised over the weekend which has caused tailbacks as far as the A40 at peak times. I am enquiring why.

There is a section on OCC's website that should cover the Botley Bridge Road closure:

The work is now being carried out 24/7 and the bridge will not reopen until October 2024.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/roadworks/future-transport-projects/oxford-city-station-phase-2c>

This will have all cycle paths, bus and Network Rail information and various links to other websites posted on there.

This is the website that the latest information will be posted on from Network Rail

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/western/oxfordshire/botley-road-bridge-replacement/>

As we are going into winter, there has been a strong resident ask for some form of shelter for the temporary bus stop at Osney Island. Phase 1 of the Osney bridge works are due to start in February 2024 and OCC are making sure these works will not interfere with the temporary stop. If the stop remains in the same place, a new shelter is being investigated but there is no funding at the moment.

Consultations

Let's Talk Oxfordshire.gov.uk website:

Experimental bus Lane at St. Clements is in force from 31 July 2023 until 31 January 2024.

There are some proposed changes to the ZEZ pilot scheme. The discounts will remain for the rest of the pilot scheme and the proposed increase in charges in August 2025 will no longer happen.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy closes 12 November 2024, if you wish to respond you will have to be quick.

312/23 Report from District Councillor(s).

DC Scott Houghton submitted a written report.

General

Living Wage

Vale of White Horse District Council has pledged its ongoing commitment to paying staff at least the Real Living Wage. At the last council meeting, councillors put forward a cross-party motion on the Real Living Wage, which passed unanimously. The council is now working towards accreditation as a Living Wage employer with the Living Wage Foundation. This will include setting out a plan of action so all future companies seeking to win council contracts are committed to paying, as a minimum, the Real Living Wage.

Garden Waste

Residents who are subscribed to the district council brown bin garden waste service can have

extra garden waste collected for free, on their normal collection day only, between 30 October 2023 and 10 November 2023. Householders will be able to put out a maximum of up to four additional sacks of garden waste, per brown bin subscription, next to their brown bin. To be eligible for collection, the extra waste must go in standard sized (60L) sacks and should only contain natural garden waste such as cut grass, plants or branches. Alternatively, it can be placed in boxes / containers totalling no more than a standard bin full.

Food and Warmth Grant

A new food and warmth grant has been launched by Vale of White Horse district council. The grant is aimed at local voluntary and community groups, and town and parish councils, who can use it to support those most in need in the districts. Organisations can apply for grants between £2,000 to £5,000, or up to £10,000 for collaborative projects between groups of two or more organisations. The grant can fund projects providing food and warmth to people who may otherwise struggle to access these crucial essentials over the winter. The grant can cover capital and revenue costs for projects that support people with food and warmth, such as buying food and essential supplies such as household cleaning products, toiletries, hot water bottles and blankets and cooking equipment such as saucepans and slow cookers. Projects might also include cooking clubs, gardening clubs and educational activities that promote healthy food choices and saving energy. The grant scheme opened week commencing 23 October 2023 and closes at midday 27 November 2023. Decisions are expected to be made within four weeks. More information can be found at: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/community-support/grants/food-and-warmth-grant-scheme-2023/>

Rural England Prosperity Fund

A new grant scheme has launched for rural businesses and organisations based in Vale of White Horse. The fund is designed to support capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure that help to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities. Interested parties are encouraged to submit their application before midday on Friday 24 November 2023 by visiting the Vale of White Horse District Council website. Grant funding is available for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas, growing the local social economy and supporting innovation, investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.

Town and Parish Councils, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, registered charities, constituted community-based organisations, social enterprises (like CICs) are eligible for the scheme. A grant panel will then meet in February 2024 to discuss each project and assess which projects should receive funding. Further details can be found here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/business-and-economy/advice-for-businesses/rural-england-prosperity-fund/>

313/23 Report from Representatives on Outside Bodies.

- i. Cumnor Minors Football Club. Gary Mason attended a meeting on Monday 16 October 2023 and reported that the FC had requested more litter bins, the removal of overhanging branches, increasing the parking area and a discussion around rebuilding the pavilion. The Clerk would contact the FC to discuss the issues raised.
- ii. Cumnor C of E School. Tom Christophers reported the school was in the early stages of developing a Traffic Management Plan and Active Travel Plan.
- iii. Parish Transport Representative. Alison Jenner reported that the next meeting would be on 14 November 2023 at 1.30pm. Council requested that the issues of buses bunching be raised again and ask if a universal ticket is being looked into.

TRAINING

314/23 Training Programmes. None.

COUNCIL

315/23 Cumnor Hurst SSSI.

Council agreed in principle to make enquires into the possibility of purchasing the land from All Souls College. The Clerk would make enquires.

316/23 Consultation.

Council that the Clerk would respond to [Oxfordshire Councils Charter survey](#)

FINANCE

317/23 Draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 October 2023.

Received.

318/23 Estimates 2024/2025.

- i. Council resolved to approve the projected expenditure for 2023/2024 of £107,660 (includes £13,000 transferred to dedicated reserves) and income of £113,568.
- ii. Council resolved to approve the estimated expenditure for 2024/2025 of £102,492 (includes £2,000 transferred to dedicated reserves) and income of £102,700.
- iii. Council resolved to levy the precept for 2024/2025 at £99,000.

319/23 Grants.

Council resolved to approve the following grants.

- i. Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (s137) £100.
- ii. Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice (LGA 1972 s142) £600.

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES

320/23 Draft minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on Tuesday 24 October 2023.

Received.

321/23 Draft minutes of the Cumnor fit for the Future Steering Group held on Wednesday 4 October 2023.

Received.

322/23 Ad-hoc Grass Cutting of Grass Verges in the Parish. None.

323/23 Update on other current matters. None.

PLANNING

324/23 Draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 16 October 2023.

Received.

325/23 Submitted Planning Applications.

The Council would submit the following observations:

Table 4 List of planning application.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P23/V2439/HH	28 Cumnor Hill, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9HA <i>Replacement rear extension. Part first floor extension over ground floor extension. Extend existing study to form new shower room. Single storey front porch extension. Minor internal alterations.</i> Supports.
ii	P23/V23145/HH	51 Norreys Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PT <i>Single storey rear/side extension.</i> Supports.

326/23 Permitted planning application(s). Noted.

Table 4 List of permitted planning application(s).

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P23/V1916/HH	The Garden House, 14 Abingdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QN <i>Erection of a prefabricated wooden summer house in the garden.</i>
ii	P23/V1984/HH	14 Oxford Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PG <i>Demolition of existing rear lean-to extension and outbuilding and construction of a single storey rear extension. Loft conversion with the addition of rear and side dormers. Replacement glazing to front porch and new window at first floor on front elevation. (Preliminary roosting assessment rec'd 19/09/2023.)</i>
iii	P23/V1939/FUL	Red Gable, 84 Appleton Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QH

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
		<i>Proposed demolition of existing single storey dwelling to make way for a two storey dwelling on same footprint.</i>

327/23 Withdrawn planning application(s). Noted.

Table 5 List of withdrawn planning application(s).

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P23/V1977/FUL	134 Cumnor Hill, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PH <i>Erection of detached part single part 2 storey dwelling house with home workshop. Erection of bin and bike stores/energy hub building. Car parking provision. Improved visibility splays to existing vehicular access. Landscaping on the site.</i>

328/23 Update on other current matters. None.

329/23 Proposed Industrial installation (Solar Power Station) for the production of electricity on Green Belt land.

i. Proposed 'Botley West' solar power station.

- a. Council noted the withdrawal of Merton College from the proposed development and their reasons <https://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/news/plans-sustainability-biodiversity-college-estate>
- b. Chris Westcott reported that WODC would be holding a round table to talk with Parish Council and has asked that Council be involved as VWHDC are not in talks with Council.

ii. Land West of Red House Farm, Farmoor.

- a. Council agreed to assist residents to make evidence-based responses by providing policy headlines to help inform their responses to VWHDC on the expected planning application. Council agreed that help from other Councillors would be required to write a report and discussed setting up a Working Party. Interested Councillors should contact the Clerk.

iii. Land at the Hurst/Millennium Field/Harcourt Hill.

- a. No update.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Exclusion of Press and Public

To move the following resolution, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting, and they are requested to withdraw.

330/23 Confidential Matters. None.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

331/23 Next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 4 December 2023** at **7.30pm** in **Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.**

Further meetings are due to be held in **2024** on **Mondays**: 8 January, 5 February, 4 March, and 8 April at **7.30pm** in **Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 7 May 2024** at **7.30pm** in the **Old School, High Street, Cumnor.**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed..... Date.....2023