

**CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Cumnor Parish Council**  
**on Monday 2 October 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, Gary Mason, Judy Roberts Chris Westcott, Oliver Wright and DC Scott Houghton.

**County Councillors.** Judy Roberts.

**District Councillor.** Scott Houghton and Judy Roberts.

**Visitors.** None.

**274/23 Apologies for Absence.**

James Harris (prior commitment), Paula Lopez (prior commitment), CC Juliette Ash (prior commitment) and Tina Brock (unwell). These apologies were received.

**275/23 Declarations of Interest. None**

**276/23 Variance of Order of Business. None.**

**277/23 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council.**

Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 September 2023.

**278/23 Matters Arising from the Minutes. None.**

**279/23 Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum. Received**

- i. Payment of Accounts. Approved as per minute 280/23.

**280/23 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 (£) |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 6 LGA 1982 s150 | VWHDC             | Precept 2 <sup>nd</sup> half | 49,500.00 |

*Table 2 List of payments due.*

| Statutory Power                                                        | Payments now due:                 | Description                                                                           | Total (£) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 66a-d, SO LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014                     | Staff costs                       |                                                                                       | 5,439.59  |
| DD Telecom Act 1984 s97                                                | BT                                | Office phone and broadband                                                            | 101.89    |
| DD Telecom Act 1984 s97                                                | BT                                | Mobile phone                                                                          | 7.73      |
| 67 LGA 1972 s111                                                       | Open Spaces                       | Annual subscription                                                                   | 45.00     |
| 68 Public Health Act 1936 s234                                         | Farmoor Village Hall              | Grant                                                                                 | 411.48    |
| 69 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19                                         | As New Property Cleaning Services | August clean                                                                          | 96.00     |
| 70 LGA1972 s111                                                        | T Brock                           | Reimbursements Apr - Sept                                                             | 497.08    |
| 71 Public Health Act 1875                                              | Total Pest Control (UK) Ltd       | Quarterly mole control – Fogwell Field                                                | 113.40    |
| 72 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19                                         | MRH Services                      | Service inspection of play equipment and emergency repairs to trampoline at The Glebe | 818.12    |
| 73                                                                     | T Brock                           | Advance of petty cash                                                                 | 159.47    |
| 74 LGA 1972 s111                                                       | The Net Result                    | Payroll Jul-Sept                                                                      | 88.50     |
| 75a LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19                                        | Ady Podbery Grounds Care          | Cut back hedge at entrance to Closes Field                                            | 3,000.60  |
| 75b LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19 Highways Act 1980 Open Spaces Act 1906 | Ady Podbery Grounds Care          | Grass cutting, litter picking & raking sand at play park, burial ground & grass verge |           |
| 75c LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19                                        | Ady Podbery Grounds Care          | Grass cutting, litter picking, hedge cutting & raking sand at play parks              |           |

|                                                         |                             |                                                                              |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 75d LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976 S19 Highways Act<br>1980 | Ady Podbery Grounds<br>Care | Grass cutting, litter picking & raking<br>shingle at play park & grass verge |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

Notes.

- i. After all payments/receipts are accounted for Unity Account will be in credit at £59,545.13.
- ii. After all payments/receipts are accounted for the Santander Community Account will be in credit £88,909.25.
- iii. The Council has the following debtor for 2023/24: HMRC (Reclaimable VAT) £8,531.51.

**281/23 Public Participation. None.**

## REPORTS

### 282/23 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<sup>th</sup> November and we have a briefing on 11<sup>th</sup> October.](#)

The website area for the Flood Alleviation Scheme is:-

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

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

#### Traffic and highways

The HIF1 scheme has been referred to the Secretary of State. Although the inquiry is not until 5 December 2023, all documents submitted to the inquiry have to be with them by the 4 October 2023 as the case meeting is on the 11 October 2023. Any extra information concerning the committee's refusal comments has to be finalised by that date.

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 but the committee still had concerns over some of the reasons for refusal.

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 not have a 5 year housing supply.

We have been assured that SODC's and the Vale's 5 year housing supply has not been lost as the decision wasn't actually "made" before the SoS call in because the minutes hadn't been issued or the decision ratified.

The roadworks at the Botley roundabout have started this week with road closures from 9pm to 6am there are the following closures:

Monday 2 October 2023 to Monday 9th October 2023 – the A420 over the Botley interchange will be closed on weeknights between 9pm and 6am.

Tuesday 17 October 2023 to Friday 3 November 2023 – the A34 underneath the Botley interchange will be closed on weeknights between 9pm and 6am.

The daytime changes will be until March 2024, and they are :

On A420 from either direction, the inside lane will go only to the A34, and the outside lane will only go around the roundabout which means there is only one lane open on the roundabout. The lane markings have been changed on the road.

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

[www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a34botley](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a34botley)

There is a section on OCC's website that should cover the Botley 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/>

#### Consultations

Let's Talk Oxfordshire.gov.uk website:

There is now an open consultation on mobility Hubs. There are 4 different levels of suggested travel mode change sites from major to bus stop upgrades. There is a map covering all the suggestions (which includes Cumnor) and they want feedback on whether these are correct and any others that might be suggested. I can't find an end date.

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. Council agreed to review and contribute to the mobility hub consultation at its next Environment and Amenities Committee.

Council discussed the extended closure of the Botley Road until October 2024 with concerns being expressed about the inadequate nature of bus stop provision to the west of the railway station – especially given winter weather conditions. Council agreed to add this item to the next Environment and Amenities Committee and include concerns in the article for the November Cumnor Parish News edition.

#### **283/23 Report from District Councillor(s).**

DC Scott Houghton submitted a written report.

#### **Air Quality**

A new Oxfordshire air quality website has launched, providing up to date air quality guidance and resources for across the county.

The website ([www.oxonair.uk](http://www.oxonair.uk)) which has been created in partnership between Oxford City, Cherwell, West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, and Oxfordshire County Council – aims to integrate all relevant air quality-related information from all district councils in Oxfordshire under one single platform.

The platform replaces <https://oxfordshire.air-quality.info/>, and includes several new features, including:

Air pollution forecasts up to five days in advance.

Air pollution alerts for Oxfordshire

Air quality footprint calculator

Air quality pledges for individuals

Information on individual council air quality projects across the county

The website also continues to feature a map and real-time readings of monitoring stations across Oxfordshire including NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>, as well as general advice on air quality, why it is important, and how it is monitored across the county.

#### **Tree Planting**

The tree planting season begins at the end of the year and Oxfordshire County Council is looking for community tree planting projects that will benefit people and nature. Please pass on to any groups who may be interested. More details are available on the Climate Action Oxfordshire website. (<https://www.climateactionoxfordshire.org.uk/actions/gardenbiodiversity/start-community-tree-or-woodland-project>)

#### **Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Although not affecting Cumnor directly I thought that including this would be of interest:

The public inquiry for the compulsory purchase order for the Oxford flood alleviation scheme will begin on Tuesday 14 November at 10am. We expect it to run for around 3 weeks and anyone is welcome to attend. It will be held at The Kings Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.

A virtual pre-inquiry meeting will be held by the Inspector on Thursday 21 September 2023 at 10.00am. This meeting is an opportunity to consider how the public inquiry will be run, to ensure it is conducted as efficiently as possible. For further information, please contact

[oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Further information is available at: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/ofas-updates/>

District Councillor Houghton was asked whether the tree planting scheme was open to schools to take part. He said he believed so but would check further.

#### **284/23 Report from Representatives on Outside Bodies. None.**

#### **TRAINING**

##### **285/23 Training Programmes. None.**

#### **COUNCIL**

##### **286/23 Section 106 spend.**

Council resolved to approve the request from Cumnor Minors Football Club s106 funding request of £18,782.07 towards the purchase of portable wheeled football goals for use at Close Field.

## FINANCE

### 287/23 Cumnor Burial Ground interment fees.

Council resolved to approve the interment fees.

### 288/23 Expenditure.

Council resolved to approve the following quotes/estimates.

- Recreation expenditure. Estimate from MRH Services of £348.91 to replace the rope of the Burma Bridge at Closes Field with a chain.
- General expenditure. Subscribing to Zoom for £120 per annum.
- General expenditure. Applying for a Royal Mail PO Box which will deliver to Clerk's address, payment by debit or credit card only, annual fee of £396.
- Highways expenditure. Quote not exceeding £400 + VAT for the supply and fitting of a litter bin for Closes Field.
- Recreation expenditure. Quote from Nicholsons to survey trees on parish land of £1,500 + VAT.

### 289/23 Quarter 2 Financials.

- Council received and verified the bank reconciliation as of 30 September 2023.
- Council noted the quarterly accounts as of 30 September 2023.

## ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES

### 289/23 Strategic Plan Working Group.

The Chairman reported on the first meeting of the Group which had agreed the timetable for a parish consultation on key strategic themes tied to the 4 yearly election cycle, which could be aligned with information gathering for a refresh of the Neighbourhood Plan. A proposed timeline of consultation in the first quarter of 2024 with a draft strategic plan by the third quarter of 2024 was discussed.

### 290/23 Ad-hoc Grass Cutting of Grass Verges in the Parish. None.

### 291/23 VWHDC Deep Cleanse Service

Council resolved to request that the following areas were included in the schedule of work.

- Footpath running south from Cricket Field to The Park, Cumnor.
- Meadow Close/Oxford Road, Farmoor footpath
- Footpath from junction of Oxford Rd/Cumnor Hill to slip road off west bound A420 and then to junction of Cumnor Hill and B4017.

### 292/23 The Glebe play park.

Council considered residents request for the stile to be either blocked or moved as the current location presented a safety issue with young children leaving the park unnoticed. Two entrances/exits are required for safety reasons so the stile cannot be blocked and there was no suitable location to move an entrance/exit to. The Clerk would liaise with residents and MRH Services to try to find a solution.

### 293/23 Update on other current matters. None.

## PLANNING

### 294/23 Draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 18 September 2023.

Received.

### 295/23 Submitted Planning Applications.

The Council would submit the following observations:

*Table 3 List of planning application.*

| Ref | Planning application number  | Address and proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| i   | P23/V1267/HH amended details | 50 The Glebe, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QB<br><i>Proposed single storey rear extension, garage conversion and internal refurbishment works (as amended by plan rec'd 4/8/2023). (Amended places rec'd 20/9/2023.)</i><br><b>Supports.</b> |
| ii  | P23/V2115/O                  | 16 Cumnor Hill, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9HA                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Ref | Planning application number | Address and proposal                                                                                                                                          |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     |                             | <i>Demolition of existing dwellinghouse. Erection of 9 no. apartments and associated works including new access and landscaping works.</i><br><b>Objects.</b> |

As well as its grounds for objection (listed below) Cumnor Parish Council wants to make VWHDC aware of material errors in the application, the most notable being that it states the site is in N Hinksey Parish and so the N Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan applies.

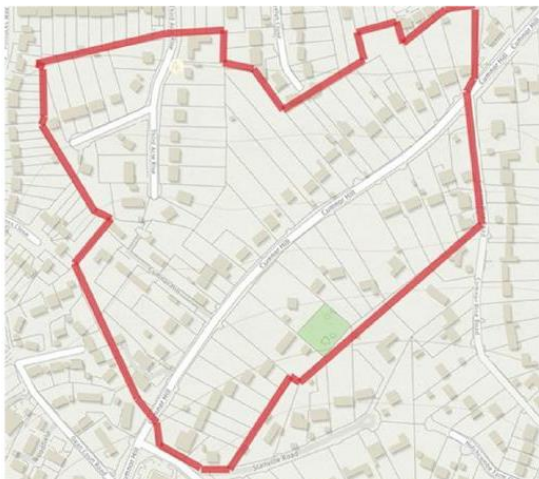
This is not the case.

The site does not lie within N Hinksey – it is within Cumnor Parish (see the screen grab below from the [VWHDC/SODC GIS system](#)) and within what the GIS calls the Cumnor ‘Neighbourhood Plan Greenspace allocation’.



Specifically, the site lies within both the Cumnor made [Neighbourhood Plan](#) ‘low density’ area – so policy DBC 3 applies, and, most importantly, within the ‘Lower Cumnor Hill/Third Acre Rise Area of Special Local Character’ (see map 11 from page 33 of the [NBP document](#) below) - so policy DBC 5 also applies.

This ‘special local character’ designation sits within a [hierarchy of local designations administered by Historic England](#), sitting just below the ‘conservation area’ designation.

| Ref                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Planning application number | Address and proposal |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
|  <p>Map 11 Proposed Lower Cumnor Hill and Third Acre Rise Area of Special Local Character</p> <p>Council's grounds for objection are therefore.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The application does not comply with Policy DBC 5 of the made neighbourhood plan, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not having demonstrated that it has 'paid full regard to the characteristics that contribute to the significance of its local architectural and historic interest' (DBC5 part B); and</li> <li>that it would have material adverse impacts – harm and loss – 'on the character of the Area of Special Local Character' (DBC5 part C) exacerbated by the topography of the site (sloping down from south to north) – see para 86 of policy DBC5</li> </ol> </li> <li>The application does not comply with policy DBC 3 (part B) given that parking provision (see also 3 below) will intrude on the street scene</li> <li>Inadequate parking provision for 9x 2 bed flats in a rural area (see VWHDC GIS designation above)</li> <li>The provision of foul sewage disposal is stated in the application as 'unknown' – of concern given the topography of the site (it slopes upwards to Cumnor Hill)</li> <li>The application states the site is not within an area at risk of flooding. This is incorrect as Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan policy RNE2 demonstrates (for example see Map 15 page 45). The application therefore does not comply with policy RNE2</li> </ol> |                             |                      |

**296/23 Permitted planning application(s). Noted.**

*Table 4 List of permitted planning application(s).*

| Ref | Planning application number | Address and proposal                                                                                                                                             |
|-----|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| i   | P23/V1328/FUL               | Matthew Arnold School, Arnolds Way, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9HB<br><i>External replacement of cladding and windows (as amplified by Bat Survey rec'd 10/08/2023).</i> |
| ii  | P23/V1670/HH                | 47 Pinnocks Way, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9DD<br><i>New rear family room extension and internal alterations.</i>                                                   |
| iii | P23/V1813/FUL               | Flt 4, Fairdale House, 2 Third Acre Rise, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9DA<br><i>Proposed single storey extension (sitting room).</i>                                  |
| iv  | P23/V1316/HH                | Hillfield, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QU<br><i>Single storey front extension.</i>                                                                                       |

**297/23 Update on other current matters.**

- Judy Roberts informed Council that there was a new VWHDC portfolio holder for planning.



- ii. To note Secretary of State appeal decision.

*Table 5 List of Secretary of State appeal decisions.*

| Ref | Appeal reference                                                         | Address and proposal                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | APP/V3120/D./22/331807<br>Planning application reference<br>P22/V1569/HH | Hillfield, road between Henwood and Abingdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QU – <i>Replace existing garage with a new annexe and a new pool enclosure.</i><br><b>Appeal dismissed.</b> |

**298/23 Proposed Industrial installation (Solar Power Station) for the production of electricity on Green Belt land.**

**i. Proposed 'Botley West' solar power station.**

- a. Stop Botley West roadshow on Friday 15 September was attended by over 130 residents. Chris Westcott opened the meeting and gave a recap and update on the 3 solar power stations in the parish. Layla Moran MP addressed the meeting and listened to residents' concerns. The 3 presentations can be found on the [planning page](#) on the Council's website. They were:

[Cumnor Parish Council's intro, recap and update](#)

[Professor Alex Rogers presentation on Botley West - plans and status](#)

[What is Blenheim? aka 'follow the money'](#)

- b. Council resolved to agree the following:

1. To respond to the upcoming Botley West consultation and share the responses with residents, MPs, VWHDC and Stop Botley West amongst others.
2. Council should continue to engage with Layla Moran MP, seeking her assistance and informing her of issues of concern to residents.
3. Council should continue to try to get engagement and answers from VWHDC.
4. Recognising that 3 above has so far proved pretty fruitless, Council should seek further engagement with WODC, offering evidence and views and seeking assistance where appropriate.
5. Council should continue to actively liaise with the Stop Botley West campaign, sharing information and offering 'in kind' support where appropriate.
6. Council should consider supporting Stop Botley West financially, as and when the campaign group is registered as a charity or other suitable financial vehicle, in line with Council's standing orders for donations.

- ii. Council discussed the difference between the engagement of WODC with its parish councils, and with Council, and the engagement of VWHDC. Concern were expressed about the latter.

**iii. Land West of Red House Farm, Farmoor.**

- a. Council noted that the developer of this proposal had approached the Clerk asking to meet a parish councillor on site to discuss 'community benefit'. The Clerk had advised developer by email and in a subsequent call made by the developer repeating their invitation, that this was not appropriate and if the developer wanted to present anything to Council as a body they could attend Council's November meeting (invite subsequently accepted).

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

- a. It is understood that the director of the company who had made both the original presentation to Council in Autumn 2021 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation in December 2022 is no longer with the company.

**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.**

**299/23 Confidential Matters. None.**

## **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **300/23 Next meeting.**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 6 November 2023** at **7.30pm** in **Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.**

Further meetings are due to be held in **2023** on **Mondays:** 4 December and in **2024:** 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 9pm.

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