



CASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of The Cassington Parish Council Meeting at
7.30pm on Thursday 1st December 2022

1. **Attendees – Cllr Metcalf, Cllr Thompson, Cllr King, Cllr Levy, Cllr Goodwin, Cllr Rogers, 13 members of the public**
2. **Apologies – Cllr Mills & Cllr Rylett,**
3. **Declarations of interest**
(Any pecuniary interests should be declared also a review of current declarations of interests circulated)
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd November 2022**
5. **Report from Blenheim Estates –** 1st half of year 10% down from 2019. Summer was also down. Christmas sales are up from 2019. Differences they ran the roving theatre of Peter Rabbit which they hope to do again next year. 2nd year of Halloween. New things for next year a new adventure playground called the Lost Garden. 34 eco logs opening. Year End March 2022 135m with visitor spend 55m, 2600 jobs supported. 100 apprenticeships in a 10-year plan and at the moment there is 30 300 affordable homes at the moment they have about 72. Goal zero generator goal 2027. NE Woodstock 2000 trees. 2000 acres agriculture land. New housing consent for 150 called Long Hanborough North. In committee for Hill Rise in Woodstock.
6. **Report from Clerk**
 - **Dog Waste Bins** – Tracey has contacted Ubico to ask where the bins are especially as they one by Williams Court was paid for by the Parish Council. The Council has agreed that they would like a double bin by Williams Court and one small one by Little Lane. Tracey is awaiting for a email to confirm prices.
 - **Proludic Maintenance Contract** – This is for the play area and also the other play equipment on the recreation ground. Tracey to contact Ben again to try and arrange a meet to get a price for the January meeting.
 - **20mph Limit** – Tracey has not heard anything from OCC with regards to the 20mph zone – Cllr Levy said that he will look into this.
 - **Balfour Beatty** – They have advised that they are able to help if there are any community projects. The Parish Council would like to see if they are able to offer financial help. **Tracey to go back to ask if they are able to help with the dry stone walling within the village.**
 - **St Peters Close Sign** – This has not been done – **Tracey to chase up.**
 - **Yew Tree in the Closed Burial Ground** – Tracey is still trying to get another 2 quotes for the pruning of the tree.
7. **Planning**
 - a) Previous Planning Application Decisions

APPLICATION NO:	LOCATION:	PROPOSAL:	APPLICANT:	DECISION:
22/02137/HHD	The Granary Jericho Farm	Worton Proposed basement extension, replace existing timber framed windows and doors with new double glazed metal framed windows and doors, change one of the south facing ground floor windows to a door set and raise adjoining windows. The west facing old diary wing elevation, to have timber cladding finish in-between French doors replaced with a natural Cotswold stone finish (previously approved (21/03845/HHD)	Mr And Mrs Ivanovic	UNDER CONSIDERATION
R3.0151/21	A40	Notice of Submission of Further Information in relation to Application for Planning Permission Accompanied by an Environmental Statement (Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 as Amended) Planning application seeking full planning permission for: • The dualling of approximately 3.2km of the A40 carriageway from the existing Hill	OCC	UNDER CONSIDERATION

		<p>Farm junction at Witney to the Eynsham Park and Ride site (R3.0057/19) including the construction of two new roundabouts. • An eastbound and westbound bus lane approximately 6.5km in length from the Eynsham Park and Ride site to existing structures at Duke's Cut waterway (Duke's Cut Canal Bridge, Earl's Culvert, Wolvercote Railway Bridge and Wolvercote Canal Bridge);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity and connectivity improvements over the existing structures at Duke's Cut waterway to enable the proposed eastbound bus lane to extend over the existing structures up to the A34 flyover in the east, forming a connection into Oxford North (Northern Gateway) strategic development site; • Construction of a new signalised junction to the Eynsham Park and Ride site; • New pedestrian/cyclist underpass at Cuckoo Lane ('the Eynsham Underpass'). <p>Two new pedestrian/cycle bridges at Cassington Halt (Cassington Halt Footbridge North and Cassington Halt Footbridge South);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening of Cassington New Bridge; • Demolition and replacement/extension of existing White House Culvert; • Demolition and replacement/extension of Barnard Gate New Culvert; • New and improved shared use footways and cycleways, including new shared use links to National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 5 at Duke's Cut waterway; • Alterations to existing junctions and property accesses along the A40; • Controlled crossings, external lighting, noise barriers, sustainable drainage systems, landscaping, habitat creation including ecology ponds and associated hibernacula; and • All associated engineering and temporary construction works, site compound and storage areas 		
22/02741/HHD	Lime Cottage Bell Lane Cassington	Erection of a single storey extensions to front, side and rear with first floor office/gym above part of the proposed rear extension. Alterations to include amendments to driveway and boundary fencing	Mr and Mrs Humphrey	APPROVED
22/02742/LBC	Lime Cottage Bell Lane Cassington	Internal and external alterations to erect single storey extensions to front, side and rear with first floor office/gym above part of the proposed rear extension. Internal alterations to include conversion of garage to living space and alterations to floor layouts along with removal of a staircase, changes to fenestration and the addition of a mezzanine floor to create a storage space.	Mr and Mrs Humphrey	APPROVED

b) New Planning Applications

APPLICATION NO:	PROPOSAL:	LOCATION:	APPLICANT:	COMMENT DATE:

c) **Botley Solar Farm** – 2 rounds of public consultation. A report will be sent to the secretary of state with an answer to every question.

Blenheim want to de carbonize energy to combat climate change. Central South of England needs to be large scale. Blenheim are a majority landowner – 3b farmland. Which is Land that is suitable for consideration for solar. Blenheim would seek permission to temporarily build on Green Built.

Cllr Levy – The plans are to plug into the grid in Botley. The supply will be used in Oxfordshire. The grid has plans to how it will be used and where it will. There are business that are looking to create the storage for the energy generated.

WODC – There is the plan on how this will work on the WODC website. WODC has employed an officer who will Solely work on this planning application.

National infrastructure benefit - pre application stage, expectation that the district council will get involved. Work commencing on the local impact report. The inspectorate who looks at it will make the decision and will give the local 14 days to submit the initial response, pre-examination stage in which the WODC will put together comments. Then there will be an examination by the Inspectorate.

Cllr Metcalf – Has asked if we are at the beginning of the consultation – Dominic Hare responded that as this is a government led initiative then they have to do a consultation before they make the application.

Resident 1 as asked if the District & County Councillor would like any response to be copied to them. – Answer was yes

Resident 2 – The newsletter speaks of Blenheim lending its land – Dom responded they have agreement to lease the land. The resident advised that they are not fundamentally opposed to using the land for solar panels. They feel that there has little respect for the integrity for the village. He mentioned that 2 historic farms will disappear from the village.

Resident 3 – Is a tenant farmer who has been advised that they are going to lose the land that they use to grown wheat and also have a dairy herd. They have been advised that the land will be total rubbish for 5 years after the panels have been moved. So will be unable to be farmed on.

A Member of the family took the tenancy in 1945. They were advised that they would have a buffer zone they have now been told that there is now no buffer zone.

Resident 4 – Has also advised that where they live there will also be no buffer between themselves and the new Solar Farm will be. They live between Cassington and Worton

Cllr Rogers made the comment that Grade 3B land is medium land which is not good for growing but is good for grazing. Solar Panels are not great for certain number of birds as they will mistake the panels for water and will then find themselves not able to take off and then are at the mercy of other animals.

Resident 5 has asked about brown field sites – there aren't enough of brown field sites, and it isn't efficient to put them on buildings.

Resident 6 has advised that they see a lot of birds of prey. They have asked how they will survive when all of their habitat has been taken away – Dominic Hare advised that they are looking at the creating a habitat along a piece of land.

Resident 7 has asked if there was a chance that when the solar panel farm is removed could Blenheim in 30 years' time not build houses on it - Dominic advised that it would still be Green Belt land and at the moment the law states that they cannot build on it.

8. Correspondence

9. Reports from County and District & Parish Councillors

a) County Councillor – Cllr D Levy

Cost of living

Cost of living support for low-income pensioners and families: OCC are sending a one-off payment of £85 to 11,000 lower income pensionable households to support with energy bills. Eligible residents will receive an Oxfordshire-branded letter from the 2 Post Office, redeemable for cash at Post Office branches. Schools and colleges will provide children entitled to free school meals with a £15 voucher.

£100K pot to help community organisations with energy bills: Applications for grants between £250 and £3000 can be made through the Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Expected to be popular - deadline is 21 November 2022.

Council Tax: WODC has agreed a new exceptional hardship scheme on top of the statutory council tax discount scheme that goes to WODC Cabinet next week. OCC has agreed to match the WODC discounts, which is important because the bulk of council tax receipts go to the County Council.

Council votes to request more energy support for off-grid residents: Many residents in rural areas live without access to mains energy and instead use heating oil, bottled gas, or other forms of fuel. That is certainly true in many parts of rural Oxfordshire including many households in the division I represent. The leader of the council will write to government to request off-grid residents receive the same level of support (£400) as on-grid residents.

Rather surprisingly Conservative councillors abstained on the motion on the basis that local authorities shouldn't "interfere" in central government decisions.

Care provision

OCC supports care business start-ups: OCC is supporting new 'micro enterprises' to become established care providers, helping local businesses to grow, and develop greater local choice for people looking for additional support. The Community Catalysts' programme takes people through the standards, so that new micro-enterprises have a thorough understanding of what it takes to deliver quality care. Over one hundred people have signed up and have the combined capacity to support one thousand people in the county.

Renewed call on government to fund Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND): OCC is appealing to the government to urgently address the national funding issues facing all local authorities providing SEND services for children and young people. The county council has also submitted to the Department of Education bids for two further special free schools.

Environment and transport

HIF2

As you will have seen, the likely cost of the HIF2 A40 scheme is now judged to have exceeded the funding from Homes England, because of the high level of inflation. The scheme has therefore been paused to be reviewed. The likelihood is that aspects of it will be scaled back, to bring it back into the available funding envelope. It isn't yet entirely clear what is in scope or what elements could practically be dropped. The Park and Ride at Eynsham has been started, but it seems imprudent not to include it in the review. The same is true of the Shores Green junction. We need to ensure that the best bits of the scheme are retained – that includes the reworking of the junction at Cassington, including the installation of intelligent traffic lights. I will share more information when I have it.

Tree services team successfully bids for funding: OCC tree services team has been successful in a bid to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Funding will be used to provide two new community tree and woodland planting officers who will work to increase tree cover across the county.

More sustainable streetlights policy: OCC has approved a new policy for streetlights to reduce impact on climate change and the environment. The policy considers the impact of light pollution on nature and dark skies in assessing where lighting should be added. When new lighting is necessary, dimming and reduction in operating hours will be used to preserve the night sky.

Parking standards for new developments: Developers will need to follow a revised set of guidelines when they consider parking provisions for new developments. New standards place much more emphasis on cycles, shared car clubs, and public transport than on multiple cars per household. A graduated approach is taken to allow for increased need for parking in rural settings.

Cheaper Park and Ride tickets up and running: Passengers can now buy a combined ticket covering both parking and return bus travel for £4 for a car with only 1 adult and £5 for a car and 2 adults. With both options, up to three children under 16 can travel for free. Drivers are encouraged to purchase a combined ticket through the RingGo parking app, or at one of the onsite ticket machines.

Oxford traffic filters and Botley Road: Public consultation on the filters closed on 13 October 2022. The next step was for the cabinet to take a decision on 29th November 2022, where the cabinet considered the outcomes of the public consultation and the closure of Botley Road for a year by Network Rail to accommodate improvements to the railway.

Network Rail's decision is unwelcome, although the station improvements are needed and the bridge under the railway does need replacement. Most buses will terminate at the Seacourt P&R. A shuttle will run to the railway bridge. Pedestrians can then go under the railway to the city and to buses at the station. The station will be open continually apart from a period during August, and I expect additional use of Hanborough and Parkway stations.

As a reminder, there will be nowhere in the city that cannot be reached by car that currently is accessible to cars. The filters just make the route different, to speed up buses.

Salt Cross Garden Village. The consultation on the planning inspector's amendments to the WODC Area Action Plan has now closed. The County Council, along with many residents and groups, and along with WODC itself, has strongly called for the obligation for new housing to be Net Zero to be put back into the plan. It is deeply frustrating that planning authorities can't obligate developers to put solar panels on new buildings, at a time when we are being asked to look at solar panels taking over open spaces.

Freight strategy. The cabinet member responsible has suggested that the new strategy is being prepared. I will continue to press for heavy traffic to be routed away from villages and for proper enforcement – the use of APNR cameras on Newbridge demonstrates their effectiveness.

Policing. I met a few weeks ago with the Police and Crime Commissioner and with the head of the Thames Valley roads policing team and reminded them that speed management is an important part of their responsibilities. They are of course strapped for resources and reliant on Speed watch volunteers, but that isn't good enough.

Science Fund from North Oxford & Homes England. The A40 project is being reviewed and will be going to cabinet, all CPO have been withdrawn and will be done again when they have reviewed the project. Certain parts are likely to be shelved but the chances are that it will still go from the Park & Ride by Cuckoo Lane through to Wolvercote, which will include going pass Cassington.

- b) District Councillors
- c) Parish Councillors – The Bollards by the post box by the Red Lion

10. Ditches, Drainage and Flooding

A problem in Orchard Close as some of the fences have fallen down as the ditches haven't been cleared – **Tracey to get a copy of a map that has who owns which ditches in the village.**

11. Maintenance/ Grants

12. Traffic

- **Speed Watch**

13. Play Area & Recreation Ground – Tracey has done the Playground Check and has advised that we need safety signage for the play equipment at the far end of the recreation ground. – **Parish Council has advised Tracey to get prices for signs.**

14. Finance

a) Payments to be approved:

Individual/Company	Reason	Amount
Tracey Cameron	Clerk Pay	S/O paid £768.15 Extra to be paid

		£161.12
HMRC	Tax & National Insurance	£297.53
Village Hall	PCM 06/10 – 03/11 – 01/12	£48.00
SLCC	Membership	£93.50

b) Income:

Individual/Company	Reason	Amount
HMRC	VAT Refund	£1572.93

c) Balance of Unity Bank as of Sunday 30th November 2022 £14,513.34

d) Precept Discussion – The Parish Council has made the agreement to raise the precept by 10%

15. Any other business:

- Parish Council Objectives
- Parish Council Facebook Page
- Parish Council Meetings for 2023

16. Questions from the Public

17. Date of next meeting: 5th January 2023 @ 7.30pm in The Village Hall

Parish Council Objectives 2022 – 2025

The purpose of this document is to provide a list of objectives for Cassington Parish Council to lead in implementation over the period 2022 – 2025. It is suggested that this initial list of priorities is discussed and refined prior to presentation to the village.

- ~~1. Completion of the Neighbourhood Plan and adoption by the Parish Council and village of Cassington.~~
- ~~2. To look at sustainable energy supplies for the village of Cassington that can be provided at matched or lower costs than conventional power supplies. Adoption of additional strategies to reduce use of hydrocarbon-based fuels and reduction of energy waste.~~
- ~~3. To address increasing problems of rising levels of traffic and speeding in the village of Cassington and roads within the Parish.~~
4. To maintain a watching brief on flood prevention and drainage issues in Cassington and Worton villages.
5. To implement policies outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan and Green Infrastructure Plan with respect to nature conservation.
6. To work with St Peter's School to rectify the current funding and management issues with respect to the school swimming pool. To identify further priorities for fund raising for the school.
7. To develop a community food program through working with the allotment and other landowners around Cassington. This includes distribution of excess produce and the planting of a community orchard.
8. To work with West Oxfordshire District Council and local landowners to address sustainable transport for the village and to maintain and build upon the local network of footpaths and cycleways for both commuting and leisure, as outlined in the Green Infrastructure Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.
9. To examine provisions for young people and senior / vulnerable residents of Cassington. Can Cassington do more for these members of our village?
10. To look at what other measures can be taken to improve the quality of life of our villagers.
- ~~11. Current and future provisions of the Almshouse~~
12. A more accessible village car park
13. Maybe moving the gate to playing fields and introducing a fence to the perimeter to allow the car park to be use 24 hours?
14. Community glass house - I've heard of other villages who have provided facilities to allow produce to be grown all year round.
15. Finally, introduction of green initiatives we've discussed in the past - EV charging points at the VH and pavilion, plus cycles racks etc.