

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 1st FEBRUARY 2024 at 6.30pm in YARNTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cathy Bowden (CB), David Brown (DB), Mike Groves (MG), Mick Hall (MH) (Vice-Chairman), Jackie Hoyle (JH) (Chairman), Ashley Hurd (AH), Fiona Mawson (FM), Ian Middleton (IM) (Parish and County Councillor), Steve Smith (SS), Lynne Whitley (LW) (Parish Clerk), Dorothy Walker (DW) (District Councillor), Dave Thornhill (Yarnton Flood Defence Group) and one resident.

- 1) **Apologies:** None
- 2) **Declaration of Interests:** Members were asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the agenda items under discussion at this meeting. None declared.
- 3) **Co-option:** It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Cathy Bowden to the Parish Council to fill the vacancy following Anna Isles' resignation. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.
- 4) **Minutes:** The minutes of the monthly and budget meetings held on 9th January having been previously circulated were accepted as a true record by all.
- 5) **Matters Arising:** Will be included with relevant item.
- 6) **Public Participation and questions:** None
- 7) **Report of District Councillors:**
See 11a/2024 for items relevant to Yarnton.
- 8) **Report of County Councillor:** See 11a/2024 for items relevant to Yarnton.
- 9) **Police Liaison:** Nothing to report.
- 10) **Schools:** Nothing to report.
- 11a) **Planning Applications:**
None received
Planning Decisions:
23/02598/F 27 Great Close Road – Installation of Daikin EDLA04E2V3 air source heat pump at ground level at the rear of the house to replace gas boiler – Granted 18.1.24
23/03320/F 34 The Garth – First floor rear extension, new side single storey extension and porch to main entrance, replace existing flat roof to existing two-storey side extension with hipped pitched roof to match main building – Granted 23.1.24
- 11b) **PR8/PR9 Planning applications and consultations:**
Notice has been received from CDC that the hearing for 21/03522/OUT appeal against non-determination and the appeal against the non-determination of planning application 21/04202/F will take place from 13th February for approx 6 days. It appears that access to the hearing will probably be available online.
- 11c) **Other Planning matters:**
“Cherwell Local Plan Review Update Meeting” has been arranged on Microsoft Teams on 6th February 3.30-5pm. Nobody from YPC is available to attend.

- 12) Emergency Management Plan:** Article went in January YVN asking for comments from residents, only one received.
Dave Thornhill (YFDG) gave an informative presentation regarding flooding. He mentioned that if an area in a ditch in Meadow Way, owned by YPC, was altered (change a T-Junction to a curve) to make the watercourse flow better it could solve a problem to help Aysgarth Road. It was noted that work within 8 metres of a watercourse needs permission from Environment Agency.
Parish Councillors gave permission to Dave Thornhill to go onto YPC land in Meadow Way/A44.
As it seems that OCC aren't able to supply more sandbags YPC agreed to pay for them.
- 13) Highway Matters:**
IM will try to organise some people from OCC to meet parish councillors in Rutten Lane to discuss potential positions for new street lights between The Paddocks bus stops and Merton Way and the bus stop north of The Garth to assist passengers when walking away from buses at night.
- 14) Village Hall:** Nothing to report.
- 15) Environmental Matters including Orchard:** A new dog bin has been ordered for opposite the office which David Wilkins will fix when it arrives. CDC have notified YPC that the dog bin at the top of Gravel Pits Lane has been damaged. As it appears (from a message left by CDC on top of the bin) that the bin has been used inappropriately it was agreed to remove the bin and not replace it at the moment – there is a bin on the opposite side of the A44.
Scouts have enquired about dates for this year's litter pick – JH will liaise with them and CDC.
- 16) Playing Fields:** YPFMC meeting was held on 15th January.
Rutten Lane - Bark Pits dug and raked over. Ivy cleared from residents garages and from around trees. Still no updates from Thames Water reference the drainage, they are still waiting on permission from a resident to work on their property. A new Netball post is to be ordered for the Youth members. A meeting has been held with a member of the Playground Group and once the Plans are handed over the team are looking to regroup. Annual risk assessment has been completed.
Little Marsh - Some lighting is being updated due to some safety concerns. Dave Thornhill (YFDG) visited Little Marsh and has advised on Flood Prevention measures, the main issue is that the ditches need to be cleared and dug out, the ditches are shared responsibility so quotes are to be sought and neighbours consulted to try to get the work completed. Extra gravel has been laid in the car park to fill in the holes and level off the area.
Annual risk assessment has been completed.
As MH is the only person currently trained to carry out weekly inspections of the play equipment it's hoped that AH/SS will be able to attend the OALC training day on 6th March.
- 17) Burial Ground/St Bartholomew's Churchyard:** Risk assessments have been carried out for cemetery and St Bartholomew's churchyard. JH noted that the back wall was damaged, presumably by the Manor. She's emailed Oliver to check that the Manor will be making good.
- 18) Finance and General Purpose:** The monthly financial report for January was unable to be presented because LW had been unable to get onto the Unity website to print the bank statement. Will be emailed around when available and agreed at the March meeting.

Risk assessments for playing fields, cemetery, and churchyard have all been received. The Bridge between Meadow Way and the A44 is in good condition (As this is YPC property it should be added to future risk assessments).

All agreed to reimburse DB for land registry documents being purchased.

The Community Service team have been moved away to a high priority area. A thank-you has been sent and a list of future work has been submitted for consideration and the return of the team to Yarnton in the near future.

LW has handed her notice in to leave on 30th April. The vacancy is currently being advertised. APM – Chelle Daly, the manager of Floryn House care home has agreed to speak. Contact is being made with Severn Trent to see if they can send someone to speak as it was suggested at the time of the lightning strike that it would be appropriate for them to inform residents what is being done to prevent another similar incident.

Maya Evans has now resigned as a councillor; the CDC notice re potential election is on the noticeboard/website.

Financial Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations 2024 were reviewed and agreed by all.

As there have been problems recently with the reliability of the office computer LW will get someone to look at it. If needed it was agreed by all to purchase a laptop/docking station up to £1000 total.

The Council resolved under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and Press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. LW also left the meeting.

“Salary Review – to consider a salary and hours review for 2023/24. The Council resolved to agree to increase the Clerk’s scale point from SCP23 (£16.67) to SCP25 (£17.64) per hour which would be backdated to April 2023, and from SCP 22 (£15.30) to SCP25 (£16.64) per hour from January to March 2023.

19) Recent Correspondence: No further correspondence.

13/2024

20) Accounts: The following invoices were agreed for payment. BACS payments authorised by

DB, MH and JH by email and LW (items up to £200).

NEST (Pensions)	115.32	DD
British Gas (YPF)	245.09	DD
Alan Fursdon (Village tidying)	108.26	BACS
Alun Oliver (YPF)	415.46	BACS
Lynne Whitley (Clerk's salary)	1030.25	BACS
David Wilkins (Village tidier/Handyman)	250.08	BACS
Castle Water (Cemetery standpipe)	42.57	BACS
EDF (YPF – Electric at Rutten Lane)	39.00	DD
CDC (Garden Waste subscription x 4)	196.00	BACS
CDC (YPF - Garden Waste subscription)	49.00	BACS
Origin Amenity Solutions (YPF – Linemarkers)	441.00	BACS
Lynne Whitley (Argos – laminator)	34.99	BACS
Wybone (Replacement dog bin)	262.15	BACS
Origin Amenity Solutions (YPF – Net clips/weed forks)	197.54	BACS
CJM Roofing (YPF – roofing repairs)	660.00	BACS
EDF (YPF – Electric at Little Marsh)	200.00	BACS
Lynne Whitley (“Microsoft 365 Family” for 1 year)	79.99	BACS
Mick Hall (YPF – Screwfix – new padlock)	16.99	BACS
British Gas (YPF)	47.94	DD
Function 28 Ltd (Website/email management)	30.00	BACS
David Thornhill (John E Wright – printing documents for planning appeal)	44.05	BACS
David Thornhill (Post Office – Postage for above documents)	<u>8.15</u>	BACS
	4513.83	

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 7th March 2024

Signed as a correct record

Date:

Report from District Councillors:

Following a rigorous and robust recruitment process, Cherwell District Council approved Gordon Stewart's appointment at its meeting on 18 December 2023.

Kidlington's allocation of 4,400 new homes in the Cherwell Local Plan in six locations PR6a and PR6b, PR7a and PR7b, Yarnton and Begbroke PR8 and PR9 is a significant project. Cllr Walker, Cllr McLean and Cllr Conway have made a strong case for an overall strategy which would consider how to integrate all these developments with the current settlements and develop strategies for, flood risks, community integration, utilities, public transport, traffic management, Sandy Lane/Green Lane, active travel, employment. CDC has agreed that a strategy group should be set up along with a dedicated resource to progress holistic strategy. As local councillors we aim to be involved so that we can feedback views from local councils and residents.

PR8 (OUD) – 1800 homes, Science Park and other aspects - formal resubmission of amended documents (30 November 2023) – consultation ongoing until end of January 2024. OUD a rule 6 part on PR9 appeal to seek consistency in the s106 requests across PR sites.

PR8 Development Brief – consultation now closed. Responses being reviewed.

PR9 – appeal lodged against non-determination. Inquiry set to start on 13th Feb 2024. Committee report of 2nd November 2023 with 5 putative reasons for refusal. Reasons 1 and 2 have been subsequently addressed and will not be taken forward to the inquiry. Agreement has not yet been reached with OCC regarding access for William Fletcher School to the new playing fields. OCC have submitted a proof of evidence accordingly. Reason 4 viability remains ongoing, a final report is expected from the council's viability consultant this week. At this point, not clear what the affordable housing offer will be. Reason 5 relates to sec 106 – negotiations are ongoing, we hope to have agreed sec 106 by the Inquiry. OUD is a Rule 6 party relating to Section 106, which appear to be OCC requests. Yarnton Parish Council also Rule 6 party on Flooding and Drainage which was not a reason for refusal as CDC and OCC raised no objection.

Yarnton Home and Garden (Part of PR8) – no further information – application understood to be in preparation.

Sandy Lane – awaiting Transport and Works Act submission from Network Rail.

GP Facilities - In response to the increase in housing and the confirmation by BOB:ICB that the current provision is insufficient we have forwarded a request for additional discussion at the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and also plan to bring it forward to CDC. CDC has now bought some thermal imaging cameras.

County Councillor's Report:

Flooding - It is a very complex problem as our villages/areas have historically been built with little regard to previous drainage/sewage requirements. CDC are looking into working more closely with villages regarding land ownership and responsibilities as well as tackling flytipping and general littering which can cause flooding back ups and mismanagement of drainage ditches. IM will be having a meeting with Ian Boll to discuss problems/solutions more fully. This is particularly important as Yarnton, Begbroke and Kidlington will be connected more closely as a result of the various LPPR sites.

20 MPH - This has now been approved for Yarnton including a reduction in the limit on the whole of Sandy Lane to 30 MPH. New signage should be going up soon.

Budget - OCC is in the process of setting the budget for the 2024/25 financial year. New pressures were introduced on the budget when government funding turned out to be lower than expected and additional responsibilities were added. This pushed the funding gap to over £11M from around £9M previously. After further work the gap has been reduced to £900K and work is ongoing to close this.