

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Council



held on Wednesday 20 July 2016 at 7.00 pm
at the The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Mike Badcock (Chairman), Reg Waite (Vice-Chairman), Alice Badcock, Eric Batts, Matthew Barber, Yvonne Constance, Roger Cox, Margaret Crick, Stuart Davenport, Charlotte Dickson, St John Dickson, Katie Finch, Robert Hall, Debby Hallett, Jenny Hannaby, Dudley Hoddinott, Simon Howell, Vicky Jenkins, Bob Johnston, Mohinder Kainth, Sandy Lovatt, Ben Mabbett, Chris McCarthy, Chris Palmer, Helen Pighills, Julia Reynolds, Judy Roberts, Robert Sharp, Emily Smith, Henry Spencer, Elaine Ware and Catherine Webber

Officers: Steven Corrigan, David Buckle and Margaret Reed

Number of members of the public: 10

Co.17 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Edward Blagrove, Gervase Duffield, Anthony Hayward, Monica Lovatt, Mike Murray and Janet Shelley.

Co.18 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the annual Council meeting and special Council meeting held on 11 May 2016 as correct records subject to the deletion of the words "Once finalised, the Local Plan will be subject to statutory consultation" (last sentence of Minute Co.14) and agree that the Chairman sign them as such.

Co.19 Declarations of interest

None.

Co.20 Chairman's announcements

The chairman provided housekeeping information.

He thanked Ed Vaizey MP for his work as the Minister for Culture, Creative industries and Communications and especially his work on broadband rollout which had benefitted residents in the Vale.

He congratulated Nicola Blackwood MP on her appointment as Parliamentary Under Secretary in the Department of Health.

He congratulated Ron Green, former district councillor, on the award of the British Empire Medal in recognition of his services to his local community.

At the request of the chairman Council formally put on record its thanks to David Buckle for his hard work for the council and wished him well for the future. He reminded councillors that they would have the opportunity to say farewell at a future event and led Council in a round of applause.

Co.21 Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting council.

Dr Les Clyne made the following statement on housing.

"One way of assessing the trend in the overall demand for housing in the Vale is to look at the figures for those on the Housing register. Mr Hamid Khan, Interim Head of Housing, has kindly given me the following figures. As of April 2015, 1,265 households were on Bands 1-3 of the Vale Housing register, and 2,288 were on Band 4. A year later, April 2016, 1,143 households were on Bands 1-3, and 2,520 were on Band 4. Thus over this period it appears that the Vale is tackling the more pressing problems for housing in the Vale (Bands 1-3), but is seeing an increase in the general demand for housing (Band 4). Overall there has been an increase of 110 in the total on Bands 1-4.

Thus the backdrop to the supply side of the housing is an increase in demand. The Grove airfield development is due to deliver 2,500 housing units but it has been severely delayed. The sooner the current impasse on this development is overcome, namely the signing of the Section 106 agreement, the sooner the Vale can see a major boost to the supply side of its housing commitments."

Dr Les Clyne asked the following question of Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council.

"Grove airfield development - the design work for the Grove airfield development was completed over three years ago. When is it expected that all parties will have signed the section 106 agreement?"

Councillor Matthew Barber responded that talks were ongoing with the developers. He hoped to achieve a resolution by October 2016 but this could not be guaranteed as the matter was outside the control of the council.

Dr Andrew Pritchard of North Hinksey Parish Council and Mr Tim Comyn, Chairman, Sparsholt Parish Council made statements on the proposed constitution changes to planning set out at agenda item 9. The following points were raised:

- welcomed the proposal to involve parish councils at an earlier stage of the planning process;
- the current system worked well;
- under the proposed scheme parish councils would need to hold more frequent meetings to meet the district council deadlines; and
- under the proposed scheme district councillors would need to attend parish council planning committee meetings to ensure they were informed of the parish council comments.

The chairman thanked the speakers for their statements and informed them that their points would be considered at agenda item 9.

Naomi Richardson made a statement and presented a petition on Abbey Meadows (although she noted that the petition was outdated as a result of the district council's decision to replace the swimming pool).

She stated that members on the Abbey Meadow Consultation Discussion Group and those that have signed the two petitions she had initiated were delighted that the outdoor pool was going to be replaced. She noted that the press release stated that: the district council will continue to engage with the wider community and special interest groups on the detail of both the Abbey Meadow project and the new plans to replace the swimming pool. She hoped that this would be the case and provided some suggestions for the new facility including:

- A beach area with a handrail to allow toddlers to use it and to allow access for those with reduced mobility;
- At least the same size as the current pool;
- The deep end should be at least as deep as the current pool;
- Lane swimming should still be available;
- The pool should have suitable areas for lessons, for little kids and older kids;
- The lining should be durable, easily cleaned and not cut kids' feet;
- The lining should differentiate between floor, sides and edges to help those with impaired vision;
- The heating system should be economic and sustainable;
- The surround should be a low maintenance surface, not tiles which break all the time.

The chairman thanked Naomi Richardson for her address and undertook to pass her petition to the Cabinet member for leisure.

Julie Mabberley, Campaign Manager of Wantage and Grove Campaign Group, and Ms Annie Thomas, Secretary of SPADE, on behalf of Need not Greed Oxfordshire made statements on the draft Strategic Economic Plan covering the following points:

- The Wantage and Grove Campaign Group (with over 900 members) are concerned about the growth of the population of the area.
- Whilst not against any development these should be proportionate and sustainable, protect the rural environment and the infrastructure should enhance and improve quality of life for its residents.
- In response to a question at the February Council meeting Councillor Barber confirmed that there would be wider consultation in May before the Local Enterprise Partnership Board ratification in June yet the Refresh of the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan was not on the agenda of any meeting between February and now and is now simply to "note the response".
- Would expect Council to have noted the "Report on responses to the Refresh" which was informed by three public workshops and bilateral discussions with the local authorities and other key stakeholders yet no record of any bilateral discussions with the Vale of White Horse District Council were reported to this meeting.
- only two members of the business community had submitted written responses.
- Of the 262 responses received, the vast majority believe that "the LEP is:
 - an unaccountable non-elected body
 - aggressively driving growth
 - responsible for unrealistic and unachievable housing and jobs
 - figures contained in the SHMA

- heavily influencing the Local Plan process which will result in new development that will destroy Oxfordshire's environment and communities."
- 73 per cent of respondents were concerned about the level of growth proposed but no review of the level of growth is being considered as part of the refresh.
- The consultation had failed to address the concerns raised.
- Sought an assurance that the final draft of the document would be the subject of a comprehensive review by the council and take into account the views and concerns of the communities it represents.

The chairman thanked the speakers for their statements and informed them that their points would be considered at agenda item 11.

Co.22 Petitions under standing order 13

None.

Co.23 Questions under standing order 12

A. Question from Councillor Emily Smith to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the Council.

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) strap line says "OxLEP - driving economic growth". Which bodies are responsible for the social and environmental aspects of sustainability?

Councillor Matthew Barber responded as follows:

OxLep's Strategic Economic Plan makes it clear that their approach to growth "is focussed on the Knowledge Spine and underpinned by our high quality natural capital which delivers quality of life and supports our rural and visitor economy". Their Strategic Economic Plan also confirms that it is the LEP's intention to "Grow Oxfordshire's Green Economy and Natural Capital through the development of a Strategic Environmental Economic Plan"

The plan also refers to the fact that "Oxfordshire is renowned for its innovative thinking and nowhere is this more in evidence than at the Earth Trust... which is all about new ways of working, encouraging enterprise, enhancing skills and engaging people as we strive to look after the environment" and to the fact that the SEP aims to "provide opportunities for residents throughout the county to participate in our high skills, high quality labour market, including measures specifically targeted on our rural areas".

Growing Oxfordshire's world-class technology clusters, achieving a more balanced economy, capitalising on the global reputation of Oxfordshire's knowledge base and fulfilling our potential as an internationally renowned business, academic and research centre can only be achieved if efforts to achieve these objectives are matched by an equal effort to improve social and environmental sustainability.

That's why OxLep's plan also refers to the need to "Build on the strong base of skills, knowledge and experience of existing Oxfordshire VCFS (voluntary, community and faith sector) to support the development of social and environmentally-orientated enterprises targeted on social and employment issues such as ageing, worklessness and the number of people not in education, employment or training".

Finally, the plan also refers to intended investment in much needed transport infrastructure improvements (including cycle and walkways) and increased high speed broadband connectivity – all of which is a major contributor to our future social sustainability.

The LEP's main partners include Oxfordshire's Local Authorities and the County Council, the Government and the private sector. The responsibility for delivering social and environmental aspects of sustainability at the same time as economic growth therefore falls to all partners that contributed to the development and support the delivery of OxLeaps's Strategic Economic Plan. Both Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire Council's therefore bear some responsibility to make sure the LEP delivers on the social and environmental sustainability elements of their economic plan.

In response to a supplementary question as to whether the council could influence LEP to improve their consultation processes Councillor Matthew Barber stated that no consultation is perfect but that he would seek to influence the LEP.

B. Question from Councillor Catherine Webber to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet member for Planning.

Vale planners are reluctant to require a Construction Management Plan to manage the construction traffic on a development site (or any other highways needs) where Oxfordshire County Council Highways, who are the statutory consultees, have raised no objections. Most recently, in response to one planning committee member requesting a Construction Management Plan on a sensitive site, planning officers told members that no Construction Management Plan was possible because county had raised no objections. The Oxfordshire County Council officers don't appear to consider comments from other respondents. In light of this, should the public and members direct our parking and roads concerns directly to the Oxfordshire County Council officer instead of the Vale officer?

Councillor Roger Cox responded as follows:

The County Highways Authority seeks to be proportionate in the use of construction traffic management plans and tends to direct their use at larger major application sites, where the scale of traffic-related issues warrants their use.

County officers do consider local comments, which are often drawn to their attention by Vale planning officers and local comments are also available online for all parties involved in the application to read and to review. Moreover, in our role as ward councillors, we are free to draw county officer's attention to the specific local issues.

In response to a supplementary question Councillor Roger Cox confirmed that the County Highways Authority is aware of parking concerns raised in respect of individual planning applications.

Co.24 Review of the council's constitution

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services on proposed changes to the council's constitution.

A number of councillors addressed the points raised by the speakers. Whilst acknowledging that, under the proposals, the automatic referral of planning

applications to committee would stop they pointed out that a number of safeguards, thresholds and triggers would ensure major applications and controversial applications could be referred to the committee for determination at the request of parish councils. The proposals were not intended to curtail the role of parish councils but to improve their engagement in the planning process.

RESOLVED: to

1. note the further work done by the Joint Constitution Review Group and the intention to bring forward further revisions of the council's constitution for consideration by Council;
2. note the ongoing overall approach of the review group to develop "mirror" constitutions with Vale of White Horse District Council and commonality of wording where possible;
3. approve the revised contracts procedure rules attached as appendix one to the report of the head of legal and democratic services to the Council meeting on 20 July 2016 for inclusion in the constitution with effect from 1 August 2016;
4. approve the revised scheme of delegation to officers attached as appendix three to the report of the head of legal and democratic services to the Council meeting on 20 July 2016 for inclusion in the constitution with effect from 1 August 2016;
5. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to update the proper officer and authorised officer appointments section of the constitution to reflect the revised scheme of delegation;
6. approve the councillors' planning code of practice attached as appendix four to the report of the head of legal and democratic services to the Council meeting on 20 July 2016 for inclusion in the constitution with effect from 1 August 2016;
7. approve the revised petition scheme attached as appendix five to the report of the head of legal and democratic services to the Council meeting on 20 July 2016 for inclusion in the constitution with effect from 1 August 2016;
8. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to make any minor or consequential amendments to the constitution for consistency and to reflect the councils' style guide.

Co.25 Appointment of electoral registration officer and returning officer

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services on the appointments of the council's electoral registration officer and returning officer with effect from 1 September 2016.

RESOLVED:

1. that in terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and all related legislation, with effect from 1 September 2016, to appoint David Hill as electoral registration officer and to reappoint Margaret Reed as deputy electoral registration officer;
2. that in terms of section 41 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all related legislation, with effect from 1 September 2016, to appoint David Hill as returning officer, with authority to act in that capacity for elections to the councils and all or any parish and town councils within the councils' areas;
3. to authorise the councils' electoral registration officer to act in respect of all related electoral, poll or referendum duties, including in relation to county

council elections, elections to the European Parliament and national, regional and local polls or referendums;

4. that in relation to the duties of returning officer or any other electoral, referendum or polling duties arising from such appointment, to remunerate the returning officer for local elections, polls or referendums in accordance with the scale of fees approved from time to time by the councils and to note that the returning officer will be entitled to the relevant scale of fees prescribed by a fees order in respect of national, regional or European Parliament elections, polls or referendums;
5. that in all cases where it is a legal requirement or normal practice to do so, the fees paid to the returning officer shall be superannuable and that South Oxfordshire District Council as the employing authority shall pay the appropriate employer's contribution to the superannuation fund, recovering such employer's contributions from central government or other local authorities or agencies where this can be done;
6. that in relation to the conduct of local authority elections and polls, and elections to the United Kingdom Parliament, and all other electoral duties where the councils are entitled by law to do so, the councils shall take out and maintain in force insurance indemnifying the councils and the returning officer against legal expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the defence of any proceedings brought against the councils or the returning officer and/or the cost of holding another election in the event of the original election being declared invalid (provided that such proceedings or invalidation are the result of the accidental contravention of the Representation of the People Acts or other legislation governing the electoral process, or accidental breach of any ministerial or other duty by the returning officer or any other person employed by or officially acting for him in connection with the election or poll);
7. that in the event of such insurance carrying an 'excess' clause by which an initial portion of risk is not insured, the councils will indemnify the returning officer up to the value of such excess.

Co.26 Vale of White Horse District Council comments on draft Strategic Economic Plan

Council considered the response from the council to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).

A number of councillors welcomed the content of the council's response in drawing attention to the Oxford centric nature of the SEP and requesting greater recognition and comment on issues in the Vale and Oxfordshire as a whole. They acknowledged the perceived lack of accountability of the LEP and the lack of public engagement referred to by the public speakers. Whilst sympathetic to the public comments some councillors noted the need for additional housing to support economic growth and provide affordable housing for nurses, teachers etc in Oxfordshire.

Councillor Debby Hallett, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, confirmed that the committee would review the SEP going forward.

Co.27 Application for voluntary redundancy

Council considered the confidential report of the chief executive on a request for voluntary redundancy. The report and recommendation of the Joint Staff Committee were circulated to all councillors on 12 July 2016.

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Councillor Roger Cox, a member of the Joint Staff Committee, advised that in light of plans to implement a slimmer and flatter management structure and in the expectation that the role of strategic director is highly unlikely to remain in the revised structure, Steve Bishop had asked that he be made redundant as of 31 December. As required by the council's officer employment procedure rules, all Cabinet members had been consulted about the recommendation. No objection was received.

At the request of the chairman Council formally put on record its thanks to Steve Bishop for his hard work for the council and wished him well for the future. Over the last two years he had been instrumental in driving forward the five councils partnership with all the benefits that this is due to deliver shortly.

RESOLVED:

To agree to the voluntary redundancy of Steve Bishop effective from 31 December 2016.

Co.28 Report of the leader of the council

The Leader of the council provided the following updates:

- Unitary status – the Oxfordshire authorities had issued a joint statement marking a pause in plans for consultation on unitary status proposals in light of national developments (new prime minister, new secretary of state and Brexit). Publication of the reports had been postponed. The Oxfordshire councils had agreed to discuss areas of common ground, assess potential options and seek to agree a way forward building on the work done to date.
- Abbey Meadows – he welcomed the improvements to the wider area, the availability of contingency funds to replace the pool and the opportunity to work with community groups. Although resources were limited the planned works would significantly improve the existing facility.
- Cabinet portfolio changes – he announced the departure of councillors Mohinder Kainth and Sandy Lovatt from the Cabinet and the appointment of Councillor Robert Sharp to the Cabinet. He placed on record his thanks to councillors Mohinder Kainth and Sandy Lovatt for their hard work and looked forward to their continued service – Councillor Lovatt as a member of the Planning Committee and Councillor Kainth continuing to lead on the IT strategy.

The revised portfolio responsibilities are set out below:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Matthew Barber | Leader; Devolution; Corporate Strategy |
| Roger Cox | Deputy Leader; Planning (Policy & Development Management) |
| Robert Sharp | Finance; Corporate Services Contracts |
| Mike Murray | Regeneration; Economic Development; Property |
| Elaine Ware | Housing; Environmental Health |
| Charlotte Dickson | Leisure; Parks & Grounds Maintenance; Waste |
| Eric Batts | Legal and democratic; community safety; HR; IT & technical services |
- Committee places – he informed Council that he had given notice to the head of legal and democratic services that Councillors Monica Lovatt and Ben Mabbett would become members of the Planning Committee replacing councillors Roger Cox and Robert Sharp.

He thanked David Buckle, Chief Executive, and Steve Bishop, Strategic Director, for their hard work for the council and wished them well for the future.

Co.29 Urgent business

The chairman agreed to take this item as an item of urgent business to allow for the appointment of a councillor to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel on the grounds that the next meeting of the Panel was scheduled for 9 September, prior to the next scheduled Council meeting.

As part of the changes set out in the previous item Council was invited to appoint Councillor Chris McCarthy as the council's representative on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.

RESOLVED: to appoint Chris McCarthy as the council's representative on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.

Co.30 Notices of motion under standing order 11

- (1) Motion moved by Councillor Mike Badcock, Chairman, and seconded by Councillor Matthew Barber:

"We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. We believe that hate crimes have no place in our country, whether they are based on race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender identity. Vale of White Horse District Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We reassure all people living in the Vale that they are valued members of our community".

A number of councillors expressed the view that they could not support the motion without reference to a commitment to support groups involved in the fight against the prevention of racism and xenophobia.

The chairman called for a recorded vote on the motion which was carried with the votes recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstentions
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Alice Badcock		Margaret Crick
Mike Badcock		Debby Hallett
Matthew Barber		Jenny Hannaby
Eric Batts		Dudley Hoddinott
Yvonne Constance		Bob Johnston
Roger Cox		Helen Pighills
Stuart Davenport		Judy Roberts
Charlotte Dickson		Emily Smith
St John Dickson		Catherine Webber
Katie Finch		
Robert Hall		
Simon Howell		
Vicky Jenkins		
Mohinder Kainth		
Sandy Lovatt		

For	Against	Abstentions
Ben Mabbett		
Chris McCarthy		
Chris Palmer		
Julia Reynolds		
Robert Sharp		
Henry Spencer		
Reg Waite		
Elaine Ware		
Total: 23	Total: 0	Total: 9

RESOLVED:

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. We believe that hate crimes have no place in our country, whether they are based on race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender identity. Vale of White Horse District Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We reassure all people living in the Vale that they are valued members of our community.

- (2) Motion moved by Councillor Eric Batts and seconded by Councillor Sandy Lovatt:

“Council welcomes the interim findings of the Local Plan Inspector which allows the process to move on to modifications stage ahead of final adoption. Council thanks the officers and councillors involved in directing the Local Plan process for their hard work, professionalism and perseverance and looks forward to the successful adoption of the Local Plan Part 1 in due course”.

Councillor Emily Smith moved and Councillor Debby Hallett seconded an amendment as set out below with words deleted shown with a strikethrough and additional words shown in bold, to highlight the involvement of the wider community in the Local Plan process, was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original motion.

“Council welcomes the interim findings of the Local Plan Inspector which allows the process to move on to modifications stage ahead of final adoption. Council thanks the officers, ~~and councillors,~~ **parish councils, residents and community groups** involved in ~~directing~~ the Local Plan process for their hard work, professionalism and perseverance and looks forward to the successful adoption of the Local Plan Part 1 in due course.”

The mover and seconder accepted the amendment.

RESOLVED:

To welcome the interim findings of the Local Plan Inspector which allows the process to move on to modifications stage ahead of final adoption. Council thanks the officers, parish councils, residents and community groups involved in the Local Plan process for their hard work, professionalism and perseverance and looks forward to the successful adoption of the Local Plan Part 1 in due course.

- (3) Motion moved by Councillor Ben Mabbett and seconded by Councillor Alice Badcock:

“Council welcomes the success of the grants scheme set up to honour HM The Queen's 90th birthday. In total more than 40 parishes benefited from grants helping to support a wide range of successful celebrations across the district”.

In supporting the motion a number of councillors expressed the view that without the funding a number of events would not have progressed.

RESOLVED: That Council welcomes the success of the grants scheme set up to honour HM The Queen's 90th birthday. In total more than 40 parishes benefited from grants helping to support a wide range of successful celebrations across the district.

- (4) Motion moved by Councillor Judy Roberts and seconded by Councillor Margaret Crick

“During the process of the approval of planning applications, the public sometimes has a mistaken concept of the protection afforded by the conditions attached to planning permission. This council will only attach such conditions as are deemed enforceable”.

In support of the motion a number of councillors gave examples of the effectiveness of planning conditions which had not been implemented or not implemented in accordance with the requirements or timescales specified with the planning permission. However, other councillors expressed the view that officers and councillors already took great care to ensure conditions were enforceable and that each application was different. Officers from the planning and legal services were currently undertaking a review to ensure conditions are enforceable in accordance with national guidelines and the council's own enforcement policy”.

Councillor Roger Cox moved and Councillor Robert Sharp seconded an amendment as set out below with words deleted shown with a strikethrough and additional words shown in bold.

“During the process of the approval of planning applications, the public sometimes has a mistaken concept of the protection afforded by the conditions attached to planning permission. ~~This council will only attach such conditions as are deemed enforceable.~~ **Officers and members already make great efforts to ensure that conditions are only imposed where they are deemed to be enforceable. This Council will continue to impose such conditions only when enforceable in accordance with national guidelines and our own enforcement policy**”.

The chairman called for a recorded vote on the amendment which was carried with the votes recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstentions
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Alice Badcock		Yvonne Constance
Mike Badcock		Katie Finch
Matthew Barber		Robert Hall
Eric Batts		Simon Howell
Roger Cox		Mohinder Kainth
Margaret Crick		Sandy Lovatt
Stuart Davenport		Chris McCarthy
Charlotte Dickson		Julia Reynolds

For	Against	Abstentions
St John Dickson		Emily Smith
Debby Hallett		
Jenny Hannaby		
Dudley Hoddinott		
Vicky Jenkins		
Bob Johnston		
Ben Mabbett		
Chris Palmer		
Helen Pighills		
Judy Roberts		
Robert Sharp		
Henry Spencer		
Reg Waite		
Elaine Ware		
Catherine Webber		
Total: 23	Total: 0	Total: 9

RESOLVED:

That during the process of the approval of planning applications, the public sometimes has a mistaken concept of the protection afforded by the conditions attached to planning permission. Officers and members already make great efforts to ensure that conditions are only imposed where they are deemed to be enforceable. This Council will continue to impose such conditions only when enforceable in accordance with national guidelines and our own enforcement policy.

- (5) Motion moved by Councillor Bob Johnston and seconded by Councillor Debby Hallett:

“This council resolves to manage our public consultations with openness and transparency, using industry best practice. Our public consultations will use open-ended questions that encourage a range of responses, and officers will produce consultation reports that highlight all major concerns raised and the actions to be taken in response. Where we have control of the consultation, we will ensure openness and transparency. Where we are part of a governing body managing the consultation, we will openly encourage openness and transparency”.

RESOLVED:

To manage our public consultations with openness and transparency, using industry best practice. Our public consultations will use open-ended questions that encourage a range of responses, and officers will produce consultation reports that highlight all major concerns raised and the actions to be taken in response. Where we have control of the consultation, we will ensure openness and transparency. Where we are part of a governing body managing the consultation, we will openly encourage openness and transparency.

In accordance with Council Standing Order 27(5) Council agreed to complete the business on the agenda within the next half an hour.

- (6) Motion moved by Councillor Debby Hallett and seconded by Councillor Emily Smith

“Council notes that the planning permission for West Way development in Botley, which includes 140+ new houses, will not include any provision of affordable housing. Council also notes that the developers have contributed £2,000,000 to affordable

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housing elsewhere. This council believes in fair play, and that communities who accept new housing developments should benefit from developer contributions; therefore the council asks officers to take the necessary steps to ring fence this donation, and any future overage, for affordable housing in Botley, and to explore options for providing such affordable housing in Botley”.

The following amendment moved by Councillor Roger Cox and seconded by Councillor Elaine Ware, with words deleted shown with a strikethrough and additional words shown in bold, was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original motion.

“Council notes that the planning permission for West Way development in Botley, which includes 140+ new houses, will not include any provision of affordable housing. Council also notes that the developers have contributed £2,000,000 to affordable housing elsewhere. ~~This council believes in fair play, and that communities who accept new housing developments should benefit from developer contributions; therefore the council asks officers to take the necessary steps to ring fence this donation, and any future overage, for affordable housing in Botley, and to explore options for providing such affordable housing in Botley.~~

Council will ring fence the contribution in lieu of affordable housing and any overage payments in the affordable housing earmarked reserve fund as has been the case with similar contributions. Priority will be given to funding schemes in the North Hinksey/Cumnor area and Council asks officers to work with North Hinksey and Cumnor parish councils and local members to identify suitable schemes”.

In supporting the motion councillors expressed the view that the North Hinksey/Cumnor area should benefit from the West Way development with the provision of affordable housing locally for key workers (nurse and teachers etc) to support community cohesion.

RESOLVED:

That Council notes that the planning permission for West Way development in Botley, which includes 140+ new houses, will not include any provision of affordable housing. Council also notes that the developers have contributed £2,000,000 to affordable housing.

Council will ring fence the contribution in lieu of affordable housing and any overage payments in the affordable housing earmarked reserve fund as has been the case with similar contributions. Priority will be given to funding schemes in the North Hinksey/Cumnor area and Council asks officers to work with North Hinksey and Cumnor parish councils and local members to identify suitable schemes.

(7) The following motion was not moved at the meeting and therefore treated as withdrawn.

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Our council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. We will work to ensure that local bodies and programmes have the support and resources they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia. We reassure all people living in this area that they are valued members of our community.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Chairman