

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Council



held on **Wednesday, 16 July 2014 at 7.00 pm**
at the **The Ridgeway (main hall first floor), The Beacon, (formerly Wantage Civic Hall), Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY**

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Mike Badcock (Chairman), Eric Batts (Vice-Chairman), John Amys, Marilyn Badcock, Matthew Barber, Yvonne Constance, Roger Cox, Charlotte Dickson, St John Dickson, Gervase Duffield, Debby Hallett, Jeanette Halliday, Jim Halliday, Jenny Hannaby, Anthony Hayward, Dudley Hoddinott, Simon Howell, Bob Johnston, Bill Jones, Mohinder Kainth, Angela Lawrence, Pat Lonergan, Sandy Lovatt, Ron Mansfield, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Elizabeth Miles, Mike Murray, Jerry Patterson, Helen Pighills, Julia Reynolds, Judy Roberts, Fiona Roper, Robert Sharp, Andrew Skinner, Alison Thomson, Melinda Tilley, Margaret Turner, Tony de Vere, Reg Waite, Elaine Ware, Catherine Webber, Richard Webber and John Woodford

Officers: David Buckle, Steven Corrigan, Susan Harbour, Margaret Reed and Pippa Rugman

Number of members of the public: 15

Co.19 Apologies for absence

Councillors Jason Fiddaman, Gill Morgan, Val Shaw and Janet Shelley had sent their apologies for absence.

Co.20 Minutes

RESOLVED: to adopt as a correct record the minutes of the annual meeting held on 14 May 2014 subject to the following amendments:

- Minute Co.1 – replace Alison Thomson with Mike Badcock to read ‘Councillor Mike Badcock read out the oath of office ...’
- Minute Co.16 – in the first paragraph replace Mike Badcock with Jeanette Halliday to read ‘Councillors Jim Halliday and Jeanette Halliday declared ...’
- Minute Co.7 – delete reference to motion (5) which was not moved at the meeting.

Co.21 Declarations of interest

None.

Co.22 Chairman's announcements

Councillor Mike Badcock reported that, together with the chairman of South Oxfordshire District Council, he was proud to support the 'Lights out' event between 10pm and 11pm on 4 August 2014 – a nationwide event where the UK would plunge into darkness to mark one hundred years since Britain entered World War 1. He encouraged councillors to join him in the event by arranging for one prominent building in their ward to switch off all of its lights for the designated period and place a candle or lamp in one room visible from outside.

The Chairman's Community Awards Lunch would take place on 11 October at The Beacon in Wantage. Nomination forms were available at the meeting and should be returned by 22 August.

The Chairman's Dinner would take place on 7 November with proceeds going to the Poppy Appeal.

He congratulated Councillor Matthew Barber on the birth of his daughter, Lucy, and welcomed Councillor Julia Reynolds to the council following her election to the vacant seat in the Wantage Charlton Ward on 10 April.

Co.23 Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting council.

Dr Les Clyne made the following statement to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council.

Complaint about possible policy breaches in major Vale housing developments.

"The Section 106 agreements for Grove airfield and Crab Hill developments are being progressed under strict, non negotiable, instructions from the Planning Committee that a minimum of 30% affordable rented housing shall be realised. I understand from recent conversations with Stuart Walker and Anna Robinson that officers may be downplaying these requirements whilst negotiating with developers. I feel that this implies that Adrian Duffield, as Head of Planning, and Anna Robinson, as the Strategic Director, may be exceeding their authority in allowing this to happen, and that instead they should instruct Cathie Scotting (Grove), and Stuart Walker (Crab Hill), only to negotiate with the developers within the parameters laid down by the Planning Committee in both cases, which did allow for flexibility in relation to the shared ownership element (down already from 10% to around 5%), but not in relation to the affordable rented element".

Dr Clyne referred to an article in the Wantage and Grove Herald which implied delays in the delivery of housing.

Mr William Selby-Lowndes, representative of Great Coxwell Parish Council, addressed Council in objection to the community governance review proposal in CGR11 to move land south of Faringdon bounded by the A420 and Coxwell Road from Great Coxwell parish into Great Faringdon parish. He made the following points:

- No planning permission had been granted with several matters still outstanding
- The current physical boundary provided a clear delineation between the parishes
- The proposed development would not make Great Coxwell Parish Council too unwieldy
- Future residents of the development should have a say.

Ms June Stock, Chairman of Grove Parish Council, addressed Council in support of the community governance review proposals in CGR13, to move that part of Grove Technology Park that lies within East Challow Parish into Grove parish, and CGR24, to extend the boundary of Wantage parish at Stockham Farm and Crab Hill. The proposal in CGR13 would provide a logical boundary for Grove and place the technology park in the parish of its name and the proposal in CGR24 would provide effective and convenient representation.

Co.24 Urgent business

None.

Co.25 Petitions under standing order 13

None.

Co.26 Questions under standing order 12

1. Question from Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet member for planning policy

‘The Vale consulted on its draft Local Plan 2029 in February 2013. How many responses were received, and could the Cabinet Member please tell me when the consequential changes made to that first draft Local Plan 2029 will be made public, and how he intends to highlight what has changed between the drafts?’

Councillor Murray responded that the council had received 2340 responses. The consequential changes would be made public when the council publishes the pre-submission version of the Local Plan scheduled for later in the year. The Consultation Statement will identify the changes made to the Local Plan in light of the consultation.

In response to a supplementary question on the purpose of the consultation Councillor Murray responded that consultation was a statutory requirement and ensured that residents had the opportunity to comment on the challenges facing the council.

2. Question from Councillor Jerry Patterson to Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet member for planning policy

‘What is our five year housing land supply status as of this evening, and how is that calculated?’

In response Councillor Murray stated that the latest version of the five year housing land supply statement was published in August 2013 which reported 4.4 years supply. This remained the published position until the receipt of site completion data and forecasts from developers. The next statement would be published alongside the Local Plan pre-submission consultation. He explained how the housing land supply is calculated as set out in the table below:

Start	Housing target for the next five years (annual target x 5)	Annual target from the Local Plan ¹
ADD	Past shortfall (or deduct surplus)	Calculated from the start of the plan period, actual completions less target requirement
ADD	Supply buffer	5% or in our case 20% due to consistent past under-delivery
SUM	Total housing requirement next five years	
Divide by 5	Current ‘annualised’ requirement	

5 year pipeline	Calculate projection for housing completions in the next five years	From the housing trajectory (developer survey based completions forecast)
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Divide	Divide the 5 year housing completions pipeline by the annualised requirement to obtain the current number of years of identified land supply	“Sedgefield” method
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As his supplementary question Councillor Patterson asked if Councillor Murray considered an annual statement sufficient.

Councillor Murray responded that this was the standard approach and that the information provided was better than the option of providing no information.

3. Question from Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Elaine Ware, Cabinet member for economy, leisure and property

'What is the current policy for deciding about letting empty units in West Way Centre?'

Councillor Ware responded that under the contract with Doric Properties for the sale of the West Way Shopping Centre the council retained the right to manage and deal with the centre in the ordinary course of estate management.

As her supplementary question Councillor Hallett asked what Doric's role was in the day to day management of the West Way Shopping Centre.

In response Councillor Ware answered that the council retained the right to manage the centre. In order to maintain the centre to function as fully as possible some short term lets had been entered into albeit at reduced rent levels to reflect the present situation. Doric had made some funds available to offset these lower rentals. Occupancy of the retail units had remained high but the letting of office units had been challenging and in some circumstances it made sense to accept relatively low rental offers in order to get the properties let and save the payment of void rates. When offers were considered officers had regard to the financial standing and reliability of the tenant and the proposed use, so that as far as possible a good tenant mix was maintained at the centre.

4. Question from Councillor Jim Halliday to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Matthew Barber

'As the Leader is aware, during the early May Bank Holiday weekend I discovered that the Council's out-of-hours service could not be accessed by telephone, and that subsequently a temporary work-around was put in place for the remainder of the holiday period. Could he advise me of a) the cause of the problem, and b) what measures are being taken to prevent a re-occurrence, particularly, as he will recall that the out-of-hours service was also unobtainable during a previous holiday period of this administration?'

Councillor Barber responded by firstly thanking Councillor Halliday for bringing this to his attention on the bank holiday in question and thanked staff, particularly Simon Turner, who responded incredibly quickly to work around the problem over the weekend.

In response to the question he stated that the problem was caused by a contractor physically cutting through the telephone cable inside Abbey House. Several steps were being taken to make the system more resilient including random tests of the number and the option of using a digital line.

As his supplementary question Councillor Halliday referred to another occasion when a councillor had experienced problems contacting the out of

hours service and asked whether officers could devise a fallback procedure for councillors in case the system should fail again.

Councillor Barber responded that he was aware of the incident, although arising for very different reasons. He confirmed that the council will instigate a fall back procedure for councillors who are often the first point of contact for members of the public.

5. Question from Councillor Julie Mayhew-Archer to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Matthew Barber

'For how long were council tax bills for just the first three months of 2014 sent out by Capita with incorrect information in the explanatory notes, because the notes had been updated to apply to bills post April 1st? Does the Leader agree that it is up to the bill payer to find out the rules, not for the sender to ensure that the correct information is sent out?'

In response Councillor Barber stated that it appeared Councillor Julie Mayhew-Archer was the only recipient of the incorrect explanatory notes. If Councillor Mayhew-Archer would supply officers with full details of the council tax account to which it relates it will no doubt aid the investigation.

He did not agree that bill payers should have to seek out the correct information which is why, as well as having details available at the Vale offices and online the council also send these explanatory notes with the bills. As a result of Councillor Mayhew Archer's comments officers were revising the notes to make it clearer to which period they apply.

In response to a supplementary question Councillor Barber agreed that all relevant staff should be briefed on the content of the bills.

Co.27 Recommendations from Cabinet, individual Cabinet members, and committees

Council considered the following recommendation from the General Licensing Committee.

Street Trading Policy

Council considered the General Licensing Committee's recommendations, made at its meeting on 7 July 2014, on a revised street trading policy following public consultation.

RESOLVED: to

1. adopt the proposed street trading policy to come into force on 1 October 2014 and
2. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make any further minor editorial changes to the policy.

Co.28 Community Governance Review - final recommendations of the working group

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on behalf of the Community Governance Review Working Group. The report invited Council to make final decisions in respect of its community governance review of the Vale of White Horse.

Councillor Matthew Barber moved and Councillor Charlotte Dickson seconded the following motion with strikethrough showing the words deleted and bold the words added to the working group recommendations. In supporting the motion councillors expressed the view that Council had a responsibility to ensure the correct decisions were made. The changes to the working group recommendations took account of parish council views and allowed further consideration of a number of matters which were the subject of future housing developments.

That Council:

- (a) ~~to support its~~ **the Community Governance Review Working Group's** final recommendations in relation to each item subject to a community governance review, which are set out in appendices A and B of this report, **with the exception of CGR8 (Chilton, East Hendred and Harwell), CGR11 (Great Faringdon and Great Coxwell), CGR13 (Grove and East Challow), CGR18 (Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Fyfield and Tubney), option two in CGR21 (Radley and Kennington) and CGR24 (Wantage, Grove and Lockinge)**
- (b) **rejects CGR8 (Chilton, East Hendred and Harwell) because Council agrees with Harwell Parish Council that no problems result from the existing boundaries and that there is little merit in the proposed changes given the possibility of further development**
- (c) **rejects CGR11 (Great Faringdon and Great Coxwell) because Council agrees with the views expressed by Great Coxwell Parish Council and considers the proposed changes to be premature and could be the subject of a future review**
- (d) **rejects CGR13 (Grove and East Challow) because Council agrees with the views of East Challow Parish Council but requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a further review of this area after May 2015**
- (e) **supports an amended proposal in relation to CGR18 (Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Fyfield and Tubney) to transfer a more limited area of land as shown on the revised map 18, tabled at the meeting, to accord with the views expressed by Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Fyfield and Tubney Parish Councils**
- (f) **requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a wider review of the boundary between Sunningwell, Kennington and Radley parishes than that proposed by option two in CGR21 (Radley and Kennington) after May 2015, in**

accordance with option one proposed by the Community Governance Review Working Group

- (g) **requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a wider review than that proposed by CGR24 (Wantage, Grove and Lockinge) after May 2015, to take account of future development**
- (h) ~~to establishes~~ a Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee comprising eight members made up four Conservative and four Liberal Democrat councillors, **namely Councillors Marilyn Badcock, Batts, Constance (chairman), Jeanette Halliday, Hoddinott, Thomson, de Vere (vice-chairman) and Catherine Webber and to appoint all other councillors from the relevant political groups as substitutes**
- (i) ~~to agrees~~ the terms of reference of the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee as set out in paragraph 13 of the Chief Executive's report
- (j) ~~to agrees~~ that a significant development proposal that sits adjacent to or straddles a parish boundary should automatically trigger a community governance review, such a review to take place on the inclusion of a site in a document that forms part of the approved Local Plan or when planning permission has been granted for the development of the site
- (k) ~~to authorises~~ the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make a reorganisation of community governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council, subject to receiving the necessary consents from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
- (l) ~~to authorises~~ the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make related alteration orders to change district wards and county divisions to reflect the changes made to parish boundaries

Councillor Richard Webber moved and Councillor Tony de Vere seconded an amendment to the above motion in the following terms with deleted words shown by a strikethrough and additional words shown in bold.

That Council:

- (a) supports the Community Governance Review Working Group's final recommendations in relation to each item subject to a community governance review, which are set out in appendices A and B of this report, with the exception of ~~CGR8 (Chilton, East Hendred and Harwell), CGR11 (Great Faringdon and Great Coxwell), CGR13 (Grove and East Challow), CGR18 (Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Fyfield and Tubney),~~ **and** option two in CGR21 (Radley and Kennington) and ~~CGR24 (Wantage, Grove and Lockinge)~~
- (b) ~~rejects CGR8 (Chilton, East Hendred and Harwell) because Council agrees with Harwell Parish Council that the no problems result from the existing boundaries and that there is little merit in the proposed changes given the possibility of further development~~

- ~~(c) rejects CGR11 (Great Faringdon and Great Coxwell) because Council agrees with the views expressed by Great Coxwell Parish Council and considers the proposed changes to be premature and could be the subject of a future review~~
- ~~(d) rejects CGR13 (Grove and East Challow) because Council agrees with the views of East Challow Parish Council but requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a further review of this area after May 2015~~
- (b) **supports requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to decide whether to support** an amended proposal in relation to CGR18 (Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Fyfield and Tubney) to transfer a more limited area of land as shown on the revised map 18, attached to the procedural notes, **before May 2015** to accord with the views expressed by Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Fyfield and Tubney Parish Councils
- (c) requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a wider review of the boundary between Sunningwell, Kennington and Radley parishes than that proposed by option two in CGR21 (Radley and Kennington) after May 2015, in accordance with option one proposed by the Community Governance Review Working Group
- ~~(e) requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a wider review than that proposed by CGR24 (Wantage, Grove and Lockinge) after May 2015, to take account of future development~~
- (d) establishes a Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee comprising eight members made up four Conservative and four Liberal Democrat councillors, namely Councillors Marilyn Badcock, Batts, Constance (chairman), Jeanette Halliday, Hoddinott, Thomson, de Vere (vice-chairman) and Catherine Webber and to appoint all other councillors from the relevant political groups as substitutes
- (e) agrees the terms of reference of the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee as set out in paragraph 13 of the Chief Executive's report
- (f) agrees that a significant development proposal that sits adjacent to or straddles a parish boundary should automatically trigger a community governance review, such a review to take place on the inclusion of a site in a document that forms part of the approved Local Plan or when planning permission has been granted for the development of the site
- (g) authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make a reorganisation of community governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council, subject to receiving the necessary consents from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
- (h) authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make related alteration orders to change district wards and county divisions to reflect the changes made to parish boundaries

In supporting the amendment a number of councillors expressed concern that the motion set out to overturn the recommendations of the cross party working group

rejecting some and proposing further reviews for a number of areas which would not be implemented until 2019. Other councillors stated that the motion retained 19 of the 25 working group recommendations and that the changes reflected local views.

The chairman called for a recorded vote on the amendment.

For	Against	Abstentions
Councillors:	Councillors:	
Tony de Vere	John Amys	
Debby Hallett	Marilyn Badcock	
Jeanette Halliday	Mike Badcock	
Jim Halliday	Matthew Barber	
Jenny Hannaby	Eric Batts	
Dudley Hoddinott	Yvonne Constance	
Bob Johnston	Roger Cox	
Pat Lonergan	Charlotte Dickson	
Ron Mansfield	St John Dickson	
Julie Mayhew-Archer	Gervase Duffield	
Elizabeth Miles	Anthony Hayward	
Jerry Patterson	Simon Howell	
Helen Pighills	Bill Jones	
Judy Roberts	Mohinder Kainth	
Andrew Skinner	Angela Lawrence	
Catherine Webber	Sandy Lovatt	
Richard Webber	Mike Murray	
John Woodford	Julia Reynolds	
	Fiona Roper	
	Robert Sharp	
	Alison Thomson	
	Melinda Tilley	
	Margaret Turner	
	Reg Waite	
	Elaine Ware	
Totals:		
18	25	0

The chairman declared the amendment lost.

The chairman called for a recorded vote on the original motion.

For	Against	Abstentions
Councillors:	Councillors:	Mike Badcock
John Amys	Tony de Vere	Angela Lawrence
Marilyn Badcock	Debby Hallett	
Matthew Barber	Jeanette Halliday	
Eric Batts	Jim Halliday	
Yvonne Constance	Jenny Hannaby	
Roger Cox	Dudley Hoddinott	

Charlotte Dickson	Bob Johnston	
St John Dickson	Pat Lonergan	
Gervase Duffield	Ron Mansfield	
Anthony Hayward	Julie Mayhew-Archer	
Simon Howell	Elizabeth Miles	
Bill Jones	Jerry Patterson	
Mohinder Kainth	Helen Pighills	
Sandy Lovatt	Judy Roberts	
Mike Murray	Andrew Skinner	
Julia Reynolds	Catherine Webber	
Fiona Roper	Richard Webber	
Robert Sharp	John Woodford	
Alison Thomson		
Melinda Tilley		
Margaret Turner		
Reg Waite		
Elaine Ware		
Totals:		
23	18	2

The chairman declared the motion carried.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (a) supports the Community Governance Review Working Group's final recommendations in relation to each item subject to a community governance review, which are set out in appendices A and B of the Chief Executive's report to Council on 16 July 2014, with the exception of CGR8 (Chilton, East Hendred and Harwell), CGR11 (Great Faringdon and Great Coxwell), CGR13 (Grove and East Challow), CGR18 (Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Fyfield and Tubney), option two in CGR21 (Radley and Kennington) and CGR24 (Wantage, Grove and Lockinge)
- (b) rejects CGR8 (Chilton, East Hendred and Harwell) because Council agrees with Harwell Parish Council that no problems result from the existing boundaries and that there is little merit in the proposed changes given the possibility of further development
- (c) rejects CGR11 (Great Faringdon and Great Coxwell) because Council agrees with the views expressed by Great Coxwell Parish Council and considers the proposed changes to be premature and could be the subject of a future review
- (d) rejects CGR13 (Grove and East Challow) because Council agrees with the views of East Challow Parish Council but requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a further review of this area after May 2015
- (e) supports an amended proposal in relation to CGR18 (Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Fyfield and Tubney) to transfer a more limited area of land as shown on the revised map 18, attached to these minutes, to accord with the

views expressed by Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Fyfield and Tubney Parish Councils

- (f) requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a wider review of the boundary between Sunningwell, Kennington and Radley parishes than that proposed by option two in CGR21 (Radley and Kennington) after May 2015, in accordance with option one proposed by the Community Governance Review Working Group
- (g) requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a wider review than that proposed by CGR24 (Wantage, Grove and Lockinge) after May 2015, to take account of future development
- (h) establishes a Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee comprising eight members made up four Conservative and four Liberal Democrat councillors, namely Councillors Marilyn Badcock, Batts, Constance (chairman), Jeanette Halliday, Hoddinott, Thomson, de Vere (vice-chairman) and Catherine Webber and to appoint all other councillors from the relevant political groups as substitutes
- (i) agrees the terms of reference of the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee as set out in paragraph 13 of the Chief Executive's report to Council on 16 July 2014
- (j) agrees that a significant development proposal that sits adjacent to or straddles a parish boundary should automatically trigger a community governance review, such a review to take place on the inclusion of a site in a document that forms part of the approved Local Plan or when planning permission has been granted for the development of the site
- (k) authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make a reorganisation of community governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council, subject to receiving the necessary consents from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
- (l) authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make related alteration orders to change district wards and county divisions to reflect the changes made to parish boundaries

Co.29 Report of the leader of the council

The Leader of the Council reported that the Citizens Advice Bureau and Oxfordshire County Council have now moved into Abbey House and works were almost complete.

He reported that officers would ensure local ward councillors were consulted on county council applications in their area and consultation responses returned promptly to Oxfordshire County Council.

He had attended the opening of Williams Advanced Engineering last week which brought new jobs and investment to the district and also secured the area as the centre of the Formula 1 industry.

Officers are working to broker a solution with RWE to identify safe areas for public viewing to witness the demolition of three of the cooling towers at Didcot A power station. He hoped to have further details by the end of the week.

Co.30 Notices of motion under standing order 11

Council considered the following motions submitted under standing order 11

(1) Motion proposed by Councillor Richard Webber and seconded by Councillor Dudley Hoddinott

‘Council requests that Cabinet commit to a feasibility study and a public consultation for one or more new settlements in the Vale as solutions to our long term need for housing.’

In supporting the motion councillors noted that the current public consultation made no mention of the possibility of a new settlement to meet the housing delivery targets. The current policy of building houses near towns and villages was not supported because of concerns regarding the lack of infrastructure, traffic concerns, the lack of jobs in the vicinity of the new homes and the impact on the countryside. A new settlement, comprising two or three village communities, would provide the opportunity to design sustainable communities with planned infrastructure, schools, businesses and other facilities which would allow extra houses to be added over time and take the pressure off other towns and villages in the district. Reference was made to similar developments in Cambridge and Poundbury.

Other councillors, whilst supporting the idea in principle, expressed the view that the proposal would not contribute to the current Local Plan process and the requirement to address the council’s housing supply shortfall, would present greater infrastructure challenges than smaller developments and take many years to plan and implement.

An amendment, moved by Councillor Mike Murray and seconded by Councillor Yvonne Constance, was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original motion with the consent of Council – additional words shown in bold and deleted words shown by a strikethrough.

‘Council ~~requests that~~ **commends** Cabinet **for being committed to continue to explore all possibilities to address our long term need for housing, including investigating the feasibility of one or more new settlements** ~~commit to a feasibility study and a public consultation for one or more new settlements in the Vale as solutions to our long term need for housing.~~’

With the consent of Council the mover and seconder accepted a proposal by Councillor Jim Halliday to add the words ‘and carry out appropriate public consultation’ at the end of the motion.

RESOLVED:

Council commends Cabinet for being committed to continue to explore all possibilities to address our long term need for housing, including investigating the feasibility of one or more new settlements and carry out appropriate public consultation.

(2) Motion proposed by Councillor Julie Mayhew-Archer and seconded by Councillor Judy Roberts

‘Council urges the Cabinet to consider improvements to the Vale car parks, which businesses and the public would welcome, such as a pay on return or a number plate recognition system. This would prevent the growing number of fines which alienate people, particularly visitors, but have earned this council an astonishing £100,000 last year.’

Those councillors in support of the motion expressed concern at the level of fines collected which caused frustration for both visitors and businesses. Fines punished forgetful shoppers and were disproportionate to the offence. The current payment on arrival system reduced the time spent shopping and other neighbouring towns (Witney with five hours free parking and Didcot with lower fines) appear more attractive. The technology existed for alternative payment methods and should be considered by the council. The current trial of payment by mobile phone did not make clear whether payments could be topped up. Other options the council should investigate included number plate recognition and payment on exit systems on a trial basis. Whilst this would entail additional capital costs staff costs would be reduced in the long term.

However, other councillors, whilst supporting the sentiment of the motion, stated that it was unnecessary as Cabinet was already investigating alternative means of payment. Doubt was also expressed regarding the impact of the level of fines on people’s choice of car park. Income from fines had also decreased over the past three years.

The chairman called for a recorded vote.

For	Against	Abstentions
Councillors:	Councillors:	
Tony de Vere	John Amys	
Debby Hallett	Marilyn Badcock	
Jeanette Halliday	Mike Badcock	
Jim Halliday	Matthew Barber	
Jenny Hannaby	Eric Batts	
Dudley Hoddinott	Yvonne Constance	
Bob Johnston	Roger Cox	
Angela Lawrence	Charlotte Dickson	
Pat Lonergan	St John Dickson	
Ron Mansfield	Anthony Hayward	
Julie Mayhew-Archer	Simon Howell	
Elizabeth Miles	Bill Jones	

Jerry Patterson	Mohinder Kainth	
Helen Pighills	Sandy Lovatt	
Judy Roberts	Mike Murray	
Andrew Skinner	Julia Reynolds	
Catherine Webber	Fiona Roper	
Richard Webber	Robert Sharp	
John Woodford	Alison Thomson	
	Melinda Tilley	
	Margaret Turner	
	Reg Waite	
	Elaine Ware	
Totals: 19	23	0

The chairman declared the motion lost.

(3) Motion proposed by Councillor Jeanette Halliday and seconded by Councillor Andrew Skinner

‘This council requests the Chief Executive write to Oxfordshire County Council about the solid line marking on the Wootton Road/Dunmore Road roundabout, which is confusing drivers and could be potentially dangerous, and to suggest that lane markings be provided to enable drivers to approach the roundabout in the correct lane.’

RESOLVED:

That council requests the Chief Executive write to Oxfordshire County Council about the solid line marking on the Wootton Road/Dunmore Road roundabout, which is confusing drivers and could be potentially dangerous, and to suggest that lane markings be provided to enable drivers to approach the roundabout in the correct lane.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm