

Western Valley Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Western Valley Parish Council

Thursday 08th February 2024 at 19:45, The District Centre, 1 Gentian Mews, Didcot

Public Session – Prior to the Start of the Meeting

MoP1: Spoke regarding 23.14.6.4, the plan is in adequate, and does not represent the housing which has been erected in recent years. The plans are from older maps, making it look like it is being developed in a green space. There are properties which will be sharing the boundary. There are issues with car movements, and parking in this area already. How will the parking and traffic be managed. There will also be a noise factor due to the usage.

Members Present:

Chair	Cllr S Peacock (SP)
Vice-Chair	Cllr A Thomson (AT)
Members	Cllr V Humphries (VH)
	Cllr L Durman (LD)
	Cllr P Knowles (PK) [Arrived 19:47; Left 21:16]

Officers Present:

Clerk to the Council	Mrs L White (LW)
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Public and Press: At least 3 including DCllr H Gascoigne.

Meeting started 19:51

23.14.1. To receive apologies for absence. [LGA 1972 s85(1)]

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Cllr A Dearlove, G Clarke and T Williams.

23.14.2. Declarations of Interests [LA 2011 s31]

23.14.2.1. To receive declarations of interest for items on this agenda

VH declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 23.14.6.4 and will abstain from the vote.

23.14.2.2. To consider requests for Dispensations [LA 2011 s33]

None.

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23.14.3. To approve the minutes of previous council meetings [LA 1972 Sch 12. Para 41(1)]

23.14.3.1. Meeting held on 11th January 2024

It was agreed the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed.

23.14.3.2. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

23.14.4. Chairman's Report

None.

23.14.5. District and County Councillor Reports

Any formal reports issued after this agenda will be published on the website once available.

23.14.5.1. County Councillor S Povolotsky

Appendix A

Was unavailable to attend the meeting, any report will be put on the website once available.

23.14.5.2. District Councillor H Gascoigne & D Dewhurst

Appendix B

Healthcare: As mentioned previously DCllr Dewhurst attended the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and still does not have an answer on what the hold up actually is, the response so far can be summarised as "it's complicated". Vale Full Council meeting is on the 20th February, and will include the full budget approval for next year. Most of the spend is statutory, but if there are any parish comments please submit them in advance.

23.14.6. Planning

23.14.6.1. To approve response to the Joint Local Plan Consultation.

Appendix C

Resolved: delegate to the Planning Committee to approve the response at the 22nd February Planning Meeting [**ACTION**] all Cllrs to send comments they have to the Clerk to form a draft response which fits in to the relevant parts of either the Nutshell or Full Survey.

23.14.6.2. To agree representative to go to the Local Inquiry for APP/U3100/V/23/3326625 (HIF1)

SP has been registered to speak at the HIF1 enquiry, 20th February, virtual attendance.

To respond to the request to consult by the Planning Authority

23.14.6.3. P24/V0128/A - Land to the West of Great Western Park (Valley Park), Didcot

New signage

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Resolved: Approved Unanimously to submit the response: NO OBJECTIONS

23.14.6.4. P24/V0153/FUL - Meadow View, Didcot Road, Harwell, OX11 6DW

Change of use from residential bungalow and grounds to Children's Pre-School. Minor change to bungalow - 1 no. window to double doors. Garage and carport to be converted to staff room and office. External works to include security fencing, cycle and bin store, new pedestrian access and extended car parking.

Resolved: Approved By Majority to submit the response: OBJECTS primarily on the grounds of highways safety, with detailed comments as below:

- This is a change of use from residential.
- The site plans for this application do not reflect the current site. The site plan shows the development surrounded by green space, in reality there are 75 homes and an industrial site using the same road entrance as the proposed development.
- This road junction is also exceedingly busy already, and with the business moving from Central Didcot rather than a new business to attract local families, it would be expected that the children being cared for here would most likely be driven to the site exacerbating the traffic problems here already. The business plans to provide wrap around care so traffic movements will be from 7am to 6pm.
- There is an extended boundary with a residential home, which will be affected by the noise of the development when in use.
- The next junction on this road has a care home with additional homes being built behind, which also will attract extra traffic at the start and end of each day.

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23.14.7. Finance 2023-2024

Appendix D

23.14.7.1. To approve payments list for February 2024

Resolved: Approved Unanimously the payments list as detailed below.

Voucher No	Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier
63	13/02/2024	£51.25	£-	£51.25	Meeting Room Hire	Vale of White Horse District Council
62	13/02/2024	£9.99	£1.99	£11.98	Hosting	Cloud Next Ltd
61	13/03/2024				PAYE Deductions	HMRC
60	13/02/2024	£10.30	£2.06	£12.36	Microsoft 365	Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd
59	13/02/2024	£26.00	£-	£26.00	WFH Allowance	Laura White
58	13/02/2024				Salary	Laura White
		£402.99	£4.05	£407.04		

23.14.7.2. To note the reconciled bank account and reserves balances as at 31st January 2024

The bank reconciliation was noted as below:

A	Bank Reconciliation at 31/01/2024		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2023		
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2023 - 31/01/2024		70,727.08
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2023 - 31/01/2024		10,863.51
	Cash in Hand 31/01/2024 (per Cash Book)		59,863.57
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/01/2024	0.00	
	Unity Trust Current 31/01/2024	22,778.49	
	Unity Trust Reserve 31/01/2024	37,085.08	
			59,863.57
	Less unrepresented payments		
			59,863.57
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
	Adjusted Bank Balance		59,863.57
	A = B Checks out OK		

Current Account Balance: £ 22,778.49

Reserve Account Balance: £ 37,085.08

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23.14.8. Clerks Report

23.14.8.1. To review the Action List

Action List

See action list.

23.14.8.2. To receive an update on the Illegal/Pavement Parking meeting and agree actions arising.

Members of the PC along with DCllr Gascoigne, CCllr Snowdown, PCC M Barber and Insp Byrne of the Neighbourhood Policing Team – TVP, were joined by some members of public on the evening of 2nd February 2024 to discuss primarily the issue of pavement/nuisance parking in the Parish, but also speeding and antisocial driving.

The overarching issue with all of the points raised in the meeting and being able to take action is that the whole of the developed site has still not been adopted. It was noted that the main trunk road through GWP has a special order in place despite not being adopted, to allow the police to enforce speeds and illegal parking, but this is not applicable on any of the side roads. Whilst additional special orders can be put in place, these are costly legal matters and all parties directly involved with the adoption keep assuring “the adoption will be completed soon”. CCllr Snowdon took an **[ACTION]** to keep pushing the adoption and why it has not happened yet / how to keep pushing it.

Pavement Parking

Two main topics were discussed, the District Centre, and the side roads across the site.

As the **side roads** have not been adopted, technically all of this land is still privately owned by the developer, because of this, there is little which can be done to enforce road parking. It was noted that the school day results in a lot of parking congestion, with people at the meeting highlighting:

- Teachers parking on Candytuft Lane instead of in the Aureus (Secondary) car park.
- Parents parking outside Didcot Primary Academy, blocking the paths and roads despite there being an arrangement in place to allow cars to park at the Station Garden, public house at drop-off and pick-up.

Insp Byrne gave detail that in other areas, getting the TVP Neighbourhood Team to talk with the schools, and going in to schools to educate the children on safe parking, and being present at some drop-off / pick-up times can make a big difference. **[ACTION]** Clerk to send details of the issues to Insp Byrne and ask that this also be done here.

Regarding the **District Centre**, it was agreed that the best course of action is bollards of some sort. The Clerk detailed that in some places planters can be used to great effect. Some commented that this would

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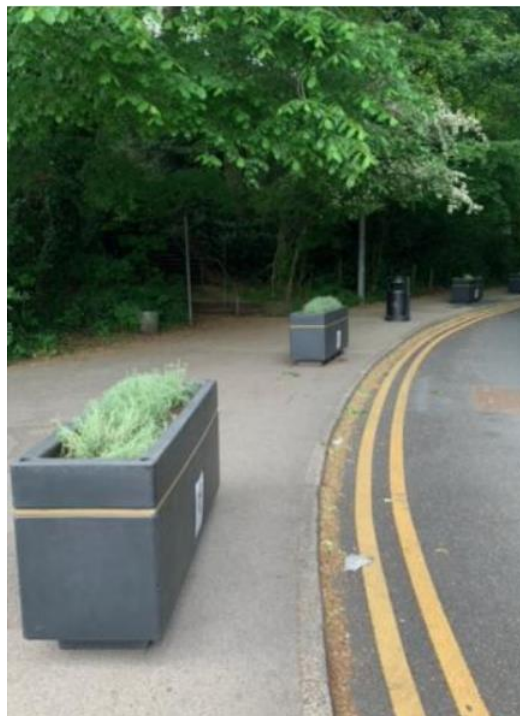
be just as bad as cars parking there, but planters do not block the views of the road like cars as they do not rise from the pavement as high, and can be placed to have gaps similar to bollards. The placing of any bollards or planters, whatever is decided, will have difficulties as would require the developer's permission, whilst also not jeopardising the adoption of the land. **[ACTION]** Clerk to create costed scheme, and investigate how to progress in parallel with the much anticipated adoption.

Initial thoughts Since the Meeting

A mixture of bollards, benches and planters could be used to enhance the area and manage the parking.



An example from Wilmslow Town Council which had the same issue:



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For bollards, as this will essentially be public land, permission will need to be sought and a maximum spacing of 1.2m used.

In Oxfordshire, “Walnut Bollards” have been used to prevent parking on green spaces. Initial thoughts are that this might not be suitable on the trunk road, but we could make a feature of the bollards than just regular tall straight bollards.



Speeding

The meeting continued and moved on to speeding and anti-social driving, particularly on Miles East → Diamond Drive, and Didcot Road → Harwell Link Road.

Miles East → Diamond Drive, of particular concern in this area is families and children crossing the road to use the play park. It was noted that the parish boundary, is just the other side of the play park referred to.



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All participants at the meeting were in agreement that traffic calming of some sort on this road would be required to reduce speeds, and to encourage the residents to form a Community Speed Watch group, the PCC Barber confirmed that later this month (February) a project will go live, that will make it easier / cheaper to set up such a group. **[ACTION]** Clerk to investigate how to set up a CSW group, and ask PCC Barber for more information. Since the meeting the Clerk has had a long discussion with the CSW lead for Harwell who has explained the process and offered to provide the required training for team members. **[ACTION]** Cllr Snowdon also to ask about traffic calming on Miles East in conjunction the pushing the adoption.

Didcot Road → Harwell Link Road, not only is there speeding on this road, but in the good weather the link road is used for joy riding, as it is a long, new and therefore well maintained road. Insp Byrne detailed what can be done in this location, but TVP needs an indication of when the issue is likely to occur to allow them to make the most use of their resources. **[ACTION]** Clerk to collect data from residents who have specifically complained about this issue, to get a view of any pattern and send directly to Insp Byrne,. **[ACTION]** Clerk – any other complaints of anti-social behaviour of any sort should be reported using the normal channels through TVP and encourage residents to do this directly.

Regarding the speeding in general, it was confirmed the residents association has a “grey box”, a subtle traffic monitor which can be attached to street furniture which records speed, direction and time of day the traffic is flowing, which can monitor and provide real world data to feed in any traffic calming scheme or similar, and this can be made available to be used by the parish council.

Private Driveways

Finally the meeting moved to “Private Driveway” signs on road signs around the parish. Technically all of the street signs are owned by the developer still as the adoptions has not been completed, despite them being provided by Vale. The roads are all still owned by the developer, but it has been noticed that some pavement parking is being exacerbated, because of “private driveway” signs discouraging residents from using visitor spaces in these locations. It was discussed that upon studying the GWP master plan, there was no actual private driveways marked, but this would need to be investigated further. **[ACTION]** Clerk to speak with the developer about these signs and ensuring they are only put up on actual private driveways.

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23.14.9. To approve response to the consultation on ward boundaries for Vale of White Horse

NOTE: They are currently seeking proposed changes, from which they will create a draft proposal to be published in June.

Resolved: Approved Unanimously to submit the response that our parish will grow significantly over the coming years and OCC is creating a new division to cover Great Western Park and Valley Park. Whilst it would be complicated, ask that the community of Great Western Park to be wholly in Vale or South as opposed to the current situation of parts being in Didcot, so we are formed as one community.

Response submitted:

The Parish of Western Valley is set to grow significantly between 2023 and 2029. Already at the 2023 electors levels, the Harwell and Blewbury Ward has one of the highest ratios of electors per district councillor, and projected to be 4594 in 2029.

By 2029, Western Valley is also projected to be the 7th largest parish in Vale surpassed primarily by the large towns of Abingdon; Grove and Wantage. Long term, leaving us grouped with Blewbury & Harwell will be detrimental to our residents and over-stretch the District Councillors allocated. In reality, the best solution would be to add another district councillor somewhere. There are multiple options:

- 1) Leave Western Valley Parish with Blewbury & Harwell and increase the number of District Councillors to three.
- 2) Move Western Valley Parish to be grouped with Sutton Courtney and increase their number of District Councillors from one to two.

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3) Create the New Western Valley Ward, much like the Drayton or the Wotton Ward with its own District Councillor.

Option 3 is the preference of this Council, as an additional Cllr is required in all 3 options to keep the overall number of electors per district councillor the same.

Whilst likely out of the scope of this consultation, this Council asks that the boundary between the South and Vale districts is revisited. The community of Great Western Park is currently split between two separate districts, with in places, next door neighbours living in separate districts. At this time this Council has no specific preference to be in either South Oxfordshire District Council or Vale of White Horse District Council, but we are passionate about the whole of our community being together in one parish, one district ward, and not partly in Didcot.

23.14.10. To approve response to the request to consult on the Faringdon Learning Trust and Vale Academy Trust Merger.

Resolved: Approved Unanimously to not submit a response, it is far outside our parish.

23.14.11. To receive verbal reports on any training courses attended.

Forward Planning

- Ensure the plans are achievable
- Highlight specific parts of the plan on a website.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Handouts from the course will be sent to everyone.

23.14.12. To receive Items of Correspondence and agree actions arising.

None.

23.14.13. Matters for future discussion.

- Annual Meeting of the Parish – 27th April 2024 provisionally.
- Future consideration of Parish Online Mapping - £170

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23.14.14. To agree list of items from this meeting to be submitted to any local publication or our Facebook Page as a Parish Council Update.

- Annual Parish Meeting
- Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour
- Asking if anyone wants to form a Community Speed Watch.

23.14.15. Confirm the date and time of the next Council Meeting 14th March 2024.

Confirmed.

There being no further business to be transacted the Chair closed the meeting at **21:27**

Number	Item	Update	Action Pending On	Status
2023-005	External Noticeboard at the District Centre.	[Earlier Updates Deleted] 14 December 2023 - Main Agenda item. 08 February 2024 - Awaiting Confirmation from TW and Vale that we can go ahead and install.	District Centre & GC	Open
2023-008	Invite PCSO to discuss Civil Parking Enforcement	[Earlier Updates Deleted] 14 December 2023 - DCllr helping to set up meeting with TVP in the new year, also South & Vale Arts Person keen to work with us on "art bolloards" 08 February 2024 - Main Agenda Item	Clerk	Open
2023-010	Parish Logo - to speak with local secondary schools	[Earlier Updates Deleted] 14 December 2023 - South & Vale Arts Person keen to work with us once the Parish Noticeboard is bottomed out. 08 February 2024 - Cllr AD has been working on some draft suggestions; no schools have responded to requests.	Clerk	Open
2023-011	Allotments	[Earlier Updates Deleted] 09 November 2023 - Didcot TC happy to send on generic email to all on waiting list to get in contact with WVPC directly. 08 February 2024 - No Update.	Clerk	Open
2023-012	Lobby OCC regarding Parking Allocations for new builds	10 August 2023 - New Item 12 October 2023 - No Progress to date. 14 December 2023 - The reduction is part of "LTCP" and the reduction in parking will have increased investment in public transport. To invite an Officer form OCC to explain the reason for this - likely presubmitted questions. 08 February 2024 - No Update.	Clerk	Open

Number	Item	Update	Action Pending On	Status
2023-013	Lobby OCC/Vale/Landowner regarding Sounds Mitigation from the A4130, should HIF1 be completed.	10 August 2023 - New Item 12 October 2023 - No Progress to date. 08 February 2024 - Cannot discuss until the public enquiry has been completed and know if this will or will not go ahead.	Clerk	Awaiting HIF1 public enquiry.
2023-014	Write to the ICB for updated information on local medical provision	14 December 2023 - Asked awaiting feedback. Also propose writing to leader of Vale; and other key stakeholders; regarding the Healthcare provision for GWP, ask other local Parish Councils to send the same letter, to arrange an official update meeting. 08 February 2024 - Public Consultation Currently Open	Clerk	Open
2023-015	Write to land owner of the land outside the shops, to discuss bollards or similar to prevent inconsiderate parking - also Greenfinch Road, outside the Best One shop.	14 September 2023 - New Item 12 October 2023 - No Progress to date. 09 November 2023 - No Update. 14 December 2023 - Awaiting noticeboard installation, to discuss with South & Vale Arts Person, about "Arty Bollards" 08 February 2024 - Main agenda item - discussion with PCC & Police.	Clerk	Open
2023-017	Consider adopting the defibrillator at the sports park, and ask that developers include defibs at an interval not less than 500m to ensure the entire development has access to one.	14 September 2023 - New Item 12 October 2023 - To ask if the rugby club would consider adopting it. 09 November 2023 - No Update. 14 December 2023 - Developer confirmed they will have them in their sales offices. 08 February 2024 - Awaiting to hear if rugby club will adopt sports park defib.	Clerk	Open
2023-018	Culvert Clearance, entrance to the Estate.	11 January 2024 - To ask OCC to clear the Culvert suspect blocked after recent works.	Clerk	Open

Number	Item	Update	Action Pending On	Status
2023-019	Parish Welcome Pack	11 January 2024 - •Parish Logo •County infographic (See Thame, goring, Woodcote) •Investigate costs for printed infographic, with magnet/QR Code •Ask developers if they can include it in their packs, and when would need by. •Costs including delivery to all of the current residents. •[PK] Accessible versions.	Clerk	Open