**Present:**

Cllr Jonnie Bradshaw (JB) Chair

Cllr Megan Hanson (MHa) Vice Chair

Cllr Emma Keene (EK) -acting clerk for this meeting

Cllr Richard Pullen (RP)

Cllr Nigel Meadows (NM)

Cllr Andrea Powell (AP - SODC)

6 Members of the public

2024/**88** **To accept apologies and reason for absence**

Apologies from Gabriela Tanase, Bryony Ringsell (Clerk) and Cllr Robin Bennet (OCC)

2024/**89** **Declarations of interest (existence & nature) with regards to items on the agenda**

Nil declared

2024/**90** **To confirm the minutes of the Meetings held on 30th May 2024**

JB proposed that the minutes were correct, MH seconded. All in favour.

It was agreed to retrospectively adjust the November 2023 minutes for co-option of EK as a Councillor; a unanimous vote took place to confirm that she had been co-opted accordingly in the November meeting. MHa to follow up with the villager who had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor.

The Parish Clerk has given her 3 months’ notice; an advert has been sent out via village comms.

AP suggested contacting other councils to see whether they might know of someone. EK to approach other councils.

Clerk has arranged for removal of barrels from outside 6 Bells.

2024/**91 District Councillors’ Report**

AP highlighted the key elements of her report which will be added to the website. New Chair from Henley. EK to send out comms to the village highlighted by AP regarding the General Election (postal vote deadline, proxy vote restrictions and photo ID requirements).

2024/**92** **County Councillor’s Report**

Absent but report supplied to Councillors; copy will be added to the website.

2024/093 **Representation from the Public for items not on the Agenda (limited to 15 minutes)**

None

2024/094 Planning

None for discussion; one submitted too late for review, have asked for extension for discussion at the next meeting.

2024/095 Discussion on the 6 Bells – Jo Garvey –

JG had submitted a letter for discussion which is no longer relevant. Matthew Day updated W&S Society’s progress with the Asset of Community Value.

2024/096 Neighbourhood Plan Update –

Grant application submitted to Locality on 4th June 2024 for next round of funding for consultants to assist with Design

Code preparation. Progress continues to be made on the Review of the NP.

2024/097 Parish Ditches and Drains –

RP reported back conversations with Lee Travers (LT) from OCC. Whilst the grant funding request to OCC was

unsuccessful, some of the key concerns have been addressed already by the council; Greet Hall and Green South cleared

and they will liaise with St Lawrence regarding the ditch running through the Church yard. RP to follow up with LT

regarding biggest issue on Thame & Warborough Roads.

The Hills expressed concerns regarding road surface on Thame Road near The Greet Hall which is breaking up and

flowing into the ditch system. JB advised villagers to report road damage on Fix My Street.

P.Lamb raised the issue that grass cuttings might be flowing into the ditches and causing blockages.

2024/098 Neighbourhood Watch – Request for funding –

Relatively small amount requested for leaflets and stickers, £100 from 136. JB proposed and seconded by NM.

Unanimous vote. DECISION

2024/099 Capital Projects – update and scores

JB presented back the scoring from the review discussion on 11th May 2024; projects were scored in the same way as in 2020. It was agreed that monies need to be ring-fenced for Parish owned Assets (Greet Hall and Village Store at Green North) and to retain some funds for other important projects as yet uncosted including Traffic Calming.

C. £15,000 allocated, leaving approx. £5000 available for resubmissions. Approx £40,000 unallocated for the above mentioned projects.

Scores reported from highest to lowest.

1. Archway – 24.25 points £300. Unanimously passed. DECISION
2. Church Buildings, Friends of St Lawrence - 22.5 points; £10,000. Not funded before. Unanimously passed
3. Produce Stall – 22.5 points £400 - Unanimously passed. DECISION
4. Golden Plough – 21.25 points, £1750. Community Asset - Gilding, plaques – approved. Try to reduce costs of installation through use of volunteers and alternative fencing. DECISION
5. Book Exchange – 19.5 points, £1650. Insides necessary; shelving and repainting could be done via volunteers. Matthew Day of W&S Society, reported that Councillor R.Benentt of OCC has agreed to fund 50% of the project via Community Projects funding, in light of this funding WPC agreed to match fund the OCC funding; £825 approved unanimously. DECISION

\*\*\* The following project which were supported but need further review and analysis of costs before they can be supported – look to reduce costs or find viable alternatives\*\*\*\*\*

1. St Lawrence Hall Car Park – 17 points, £11,000 (50% match funding). Relatively high proportion of our available funding. Not necessarily the most environmentally friendly; alternatives should be reviewed including patching or different, most cost effective/eco friendly solution.
2. Whitehead Plot - 15 points, £7802 – WPC asking for re-costing/ review of the request. NM suggested that it could be grouped with The Bathing Place project as a site of biodiversity. 12-month funding cycle, £10,000 max. funding application.
3. Church Vestry - 14.75 points, £15,000 – benefit and costs review requested given the size of the grant application. Discussion around loos which would have increased the scoring of the application. Lower scoring than other projects – find funding from other areas and wider benefits to a broader number of people. M.Watkins, Church Warden reported back on some of the challenges being faced around removal of the organ, supply of water to the Church and that it is a staged phase.
4. Ballet Barres – 11.75, £414; WPC have funded a set before, limited amount of money, private enterprise so scored badly. It was suggested that they look for grant funding elsewhere.
5. Vehicle Hard Standing - 9.75 points, £17,000. High value, controversial project potentially affecting the character of the Green. Point raised previously about where the gardens end/verges begin; EK to arrange for Land Registry title deeds. Alternative plans to be explored
6. St Lawrence School - 9.5 points, £20,000. Previously funded projects. £15,000 previously for a new playground, £10,000 for gate and £10,000 village donation from Rectory Homes for the playground entrance. Unanimously declined. DECISION

Thanks from the Chair to all those that submitted and present applications.

2024/100 Resilience Planning –

EK reported on progress with forming a resilience planning group.

2024/101 Working Group Reports

*Infrastructure Road and Infrastructure Other –*

EK reported on Roads- Traffic survey currently in place. Velocity undertaking pedestrian

survey as part of the Traffic Survey. EK expects initial findings to be shared at July meeting but

for the full report to be presented in September, given that there is no August meeting.

As part of their work, Velocity will build in OCC’s traffic forecast as well as reviewing the siting of

Court Farm SID and ways to encourage traffic via the Benson Relief Road once it is finished.

EK thanked B.Oscroft and his helper who replaced the battery in the Court Farm SID so that it

is now functioning.

Concerns raised over the number of farm vehicles being used by contractors to transport

machinery and equipment rather than lorries. Wider concerns were raised over the speed of

farm vehicles on the Green – clerk to write to Mr Cook about the speed of vehicles through the

village, particularly when there are young children in the vicinity.

EK to meet with new Highway Engagement Team as part of their work to improve the quality

and efficiency of roads within the county.

EK to attend Road Safety Partnership seminar which is a community and local council initiative

to form a networking group on road safety.

Infrastructure Other – pedestrian survey being included in the Traffic Survey by Velocity.

*Environment Trees and Environment Other –*

*Trees -* NM reported that Silva will be undertaking their bi-annual survey on 6th June.

*Other –* RP reported that works outstanding as quotes outstanding from contractors.

Needed for Sept budget meeting.

*Recreation & The Green*

*JB updated that the outstanding items on the playground have finally been fixed.*

*Discussion around potential use of The Green for football.*

*Greet Hall -* Greet Hall update from JB – survey for input from the villages closed at end of May. 97 responses were received, so a strong response. Responses sent to L.Eaton and L.Raynor for analysis – will review and discuss in 2 weeks’ time. The committee will then present the findings to the PC, hopefully in July.

New cleaner in the Greet Hall and Pavilion.

*Events –*

Mha to progress next year’s Fete in the Autumn . Feast on the Green 11th August – EK asked M.Watkins to remind her in July to send out village comms. It was agreed that WPC would fund the Brass Band. DECISION

*Capital Projects –* discussed under 2024/099

*Allotment* *–* no updates. MHa requested an update on how the Community Allotment was progressing. EK suggested including a note about the Community Allotment in the village comms email.

2024/**102 RFO Report**

All payments approved unanimously.

Clerk to chase up Lloyds Bank and the issuing of the banking access to EK and RP.

**Approval of Internal Audit:**

AGA Return - Discussed. Unanimously approved by WPC and signed off by Chair.

Annual Governance Statement – Discussed. Unanimously approved by wPC and signed off by Chair.

2024/103 Correspondence for further discussion if not covered under other Agenda items

* Berin Centre – letter of support sent
* Road Safety Consultants – discussed under Infrastructure Roads.
* Ashley Simms – Didcot training facility for football – JB to contact them
* Highway Engagement Team - discussed under Infrastructure Roads.
* Lynda Raynor – Hire of the Cricket Pavilion 18th June – JB to follow up as there may be children’s cricket
* Sue Cooper – Bathing water – update on the quality of bathing water at Wallingford
* Kerry Tuson – Age UK telephone switchover – Comms email sent already to the village
* Matthew Day – The Whitehead Plot - discussed in the meeting

2024/104 Matters for report and inclusion on the next Agenda

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd July 2024**

**Meeting closed at 21.37**

2022/**105 Any other Business – to be included on future agendas**

RP raised the matter of the portrait of the King which JB confirmed is on order.