

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ARNCOTT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 3rd OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT: Paul Wilson, Paul Hooper, Alex Dean, Martin Byrne Danny Cooper and Dinesh Patel.

APOLOGIES: Luke Collins and Cllr Gemma Coton (CDC)

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Julian Nedelcu (CDC) and Cllr Calum Miller (OCC)

21. Declarations of Interest

None.

22. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2023 were agreed as drawn.

23. Councillor's report

Councillor Nedelcu reported that Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive of Cherwell District Council, had recently resigned and that the council was looking at relocating into the middle of Banbury. He informed the meeting that the District Council was concerned at its level of debt. He noted that the coach parked in Harper Close adjacent to the village hall had not moved and suggested it was reported to Environmental Health. He asked to be sent any comments on CDC's draft Local Plan. He advised the meeting that Cllr Miller had been chosen by the Liberal Democrats to be their parliamentary candidate.

Cllr Miller advised the meeting that, having been appointed as a prospective parliamentary candidate, he was no longer a Cabinet member at OCC. He was chasing OCC for news about the streetlight by the level crossing. The "rainbow coalition" at OCC had disintegrated following an OFSTED report into its provision of special educational needs. He confirmed that OCC had provisionally agreed to lease land at the Triangle to Oxford United.

24. Planning Applications

<u>23/02663/DISC</u>	BGSU St Georges Barracks Arncott Wood Road, Arncott, Bicester OX25 1PP	Discharge of Condition 8 (replacement tree planting) of 23/01459/F	26/09/2023	Application Permitted
<u>23/02624/NMA</u>	HM Prison Bullingdon Patrick Haugh Road Upper Arncott Bicester OX25 1PZ	Non-material amendment to 21/04216/F - Interior and Exterior design changes to the houseblock	22/09/2023	Application Permitted
<u>23/02216/DEM</u>	MoD Bicester Palmer Avenue Lower Arncott OX25 1QS	Prior approval for demolition – Demolition of the buildings is required because they are currently structurally unsound and therefore needed to be demolished for health and safety reasons. The buildings have been out of use since the early 2000s and have asbestos containing materials	09/08/2023	Prior Approval Not Required
<u>23/02215/DEM</u>	Building G5 MoD Bicester Palmer Avenue Lower Arncott OX25 1QS	Prior approval for demolition – The proposed demolition is required as the building is old, not in use and in a poor state of repair	09/08/2023	Prior Approval Not Required

Finance

The Financial report for July 2023 is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

Invoices

Payments have been authorised as follows :

22	03-Aug-23	F Milloy	cleaning	B/P	03/08/24	140.00
23	03-Aug-23	Mrs A Davies	salary	B/P	03/08/24	176.48
24	03-Aug-23	HMRC	cl tax	B/P	28/03/00	88.40
25	03-Aug-23	P Hooper	epairs	B/P	03/08/23	53.24
26	14-Aug-23	K Forrest	garden	B/P	14/08/23	30.00
27	11-Sep-23	F Milloy	cleaning	B/P	11/09/23	140.00
28	11-Sep-23	Playsafety	inspection	B/P	11/09/23	286.80
29	11-Sep-23	HMRC	cl tax	B/P	11/09/23	44.20
30	11-Sep-23	Mrs A Davies	salary	B/P	11/09/23	176.48
31	21-Sep-23	Empower	maintenanc	B/P	21/09/23	654.89
32	30-Sep-23	Bank			30/09/23	18.00
33	05-Oct-23	Mrs A Davies	salary	B/P	05/10/23	187.73
34	05-Oct-23	CDC	dog bins	B/P	05/10/23	1111.97
35	05-Oct-23	moore	audit	b/P	05/10/23	252.00
36	05-Oct-23	PR Hooper	repairs	b/P	05/10/23	55.74
37	05-Oct-23	HMRC	cl tax	B/P	05/10/23	44.20
38	05-Oct-23	F Milloy	cleaning	B/P	05/10/23	140.00
39	05-Oct-23	Gallaghers insurance	insurance	B/P	05/10/23	2287.10
40	01-Oct-23	H and L Plumbing	village Hall	B/P	13/10/23	96.00
41	13-Oct-23	Bicester Trees	trees	B/P	13/10/23	1230.00

25. Parish Council matters

Playground Transfers

Following the transfer to the Parish Council of 2 new playgrounds, the payment of the commuted sum to cover their maintenance is due shortly.

Balls on the playing field

Investigation shows that part of this problem arose from the football club marking out a training pitch area across the width of the pitch rather than along the length of the pitch. This was done to prevent football being played in the re-seeded goal mouth areas. As a consequence, one training goal was placed in front of the fence of a property in Harper Close and the other training goal was placed in front of the hedge line backing onto the gardens of the houses in Hopcraft Close. Balls being kicked at those goals were hitting the fences when the players missed the goals. The Chairman spoke to the Football club and they have re-marked the training area to run lengthways along the pitch instead of across the pitch, stopping short of the re-seeded goal areas. On occasion, children playing football by Harper Close have been asked to stop kicking balls against the fence, with an explanation as to why. This has been successful as children have been seen kicking balls on the re-marked training area along the length of the pitch and not across the width of the pitch, and recently there have been no further complaints from residents. Regarding the issue of footballs sometimes going over into the gardens at the rear of the houses in Hopcraft Close, the parish council and affected residents need to consider and agree on a solution / options to try and prevent that from happening.

Buchanan Court streetlights

These were all working when checked on the evening of October 1st.

Buchanan Rd / Murcott Rd small play area

Previous discussions have taken place around turning this area into a sensory area for special needs children. The Council now needs to review its options as the area was vandalised earlier in the year and repaired (again) by Cllr Hooper.

War Memorial garden – and arrangements for Remembrance Sunday

The garden borders of the Memorial garden are looking good thanks to the continued efforts of the residents who look after the flowers and plants. A new Union Jack flag and cord has been fitted to the flag pole, and there is a now spare flag in the village hall store room. The Memorial stone will be given a wash before Remembrance Day and the Chairman will also ask Print Run if the Council can use their electricity and water to jet wash the patio area. Rev Steve Mann and Steve Hayes not being available to conduct the service, arrangements have been made with Dr Christopher Young to conduct the service. Dr Young is a Lay Minister who is part of the Reverend Peter Wright's team in Bicester. Brian Leach from the Bicester branch of the Royal British Legion will be in attendance together with a representation for the MOD / Army. Five poppy wreaths have been ordered – one each for the parish council, VHMC, ACA, football club and a village resident. The Parish Council will donate £50 for the wreath and will also make a donation to the Church for Dr Young's service.

Street Light problem at C site level crossing

Councillors met with Cllr Calum Miller and Dave Catling from OCC on site on Friday 22nd September to talk about the possibility of getting some lighting installed. OCC recognise that something needs to be done, and the Council is now waiting for an update. The state of disrepair of the pavement between the corner of Green Lane and the entrance to the C site North gate was also highlighted at this meeting. As this is a safety issue it is to be hoped that the necessary repairs can be done as soon as possible.

Update on coach parked in the village if any

Councillors spoke with the coach owner on Friday 22nd September, when he was doing work on / repairs to the coach. They asked him how much longer he thought it would be before he could move the coach. The owner told them he didn't know but that he didn't want the coach to stay where it is any longer than necessary. It seems the engine will not start and the repair is not straightforward. The coach has now been parked since the middle of April. It seems unlikely that the owner will get a repair company involved to fix the coach and neither OCC, Thames Valley Police, DVLA or the Transport Commissioner are interested in ordering its removal. There seems to be no official avenue left to go down to get the thing moved so it looks like it will be there until the owner decides otherwise.

Harper Close / playing field trees and hedgerow

Bicester Tree Services has completed the agreed work schedule for this. The tree on the edge of the driveway to Lauren Whipp's house in Harper Close was removed on Monday 21st August and the remaining work on the playing field was completed on Friday 22nd September.

Ditch between Orchard Close and Greenfield

Following on from the July parish council meeting, the parish council has not received any further update(s).

Road side grass cutting of ditch at Buchanan Court and the Village Close Play area.

These are now part of the contractor's cutting schedule

Possible new speed watch campaign ?

The Parish Council may try to generate interest in a Speedwatch campaign, to start in the Spring 2024.

Village hall works – alternative to wooden / upvc quadrant beading

This work was done as part of the recent decorating work done in the hall.

Village Hall – solar panel system maintenance plan renewal

Empower recently increased the premium for 2023 / 2024 dramatically from £350.00p to £545.74p, due to increased costs. As Empower have stated the charge could not be reduced, the AVHMC has agreed to contribute 50% of the renewal cost.

Village Hall Construction of hard standing for waste bins

This job was completed on Friday 8th September. Many grateful thanks to Cllrs Paul Hooper and Danny Cooper.

26. Correspondence

The Chairman reported email correspondence from a Green lane resident expressing concern about ground works that have taken place at the rear of his property.

27. Public participation

A Green Lane resident attended the meeting and informed the council about his concerns regarding groundworks that have been carried out on land to the rear of his property. He expressed his concern with regard to the filling in of a drainage ditch on the land area as that would, in his opinion, raise the risk of flooding to both his adjacent property and the Parish Council playing field. He believed that this work was a precursor to a possible planning application for development. The Parish Council advised that previous applications for development on this site had been refused by the district councils planning department.

28. Any other business

The recent ROSPA report has highlighted minor works required to the playgrounds.

29. Date of next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 2nd January 2024.

Arcott Parish Council		Monthly Financial Report	
		Parish Council Meeting	03 October 2023
Payments processed since last meeting			£1,486.05
06-Jul-23	K Forrest	B/P	£115.00
06-Jul-23	HMRC	B/P	£88.40
06-Jul-23	ICO	B/P	£40.00
06-Jul-23	F Milloy	B/P	£140.00
06-Jul-23	Mrs A Davies	B/P	£187.73
03-Aug-23	F Milloy	B/P	£140.00
03-Aug-23	Mrs A Davies	B/P	£176.48
03-Aug-23	HMRC	B/P	£88.40
03-Aug-23	P Hooper	B/P	£53.24
14-Aug-23	K Forrest	B/P	£30.00
11-Sep-23	F Milloy	B/P	£140.00
+ 5 more			£286.80
Receipts processed since previous report			£9,276.87
04-Jul-23	SSE		£4.00
06-Sep-23	AVH		£272.87
13-Sep-23	CDC		£9,000.00
Bank Reconciliation		Statement dated	02 October 2023
		Unity Trust Current account	£50,136.69
		Barclays Current account	£13,712.02
		Cambridge Savings account	£15,817.51
Items not yet cleared:			
Receipts	None		
Payments	None		
		Net Total	<u>£79,666.22</u>
Of which:			
Allocated reserves	Playground reserve		£20,588.38
General reserve			£59,077.84