

ODDINGTON PARISH MEETING
Church of St. Andrew
Friday 21st May 2021 AT 7 PM
MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence. Received from Sue Gosling, Sue and Ian Kay, Sarah Young, Rosemary Morton-Jack, Emma Kenney-Herbert, Francesca and Mike Heaney, Kevin Vickers, Ken Hayward, and Juliet Bostwick. 24 residents attended.

2. To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 6th August 2020. Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Mark Stanley Price. Approved unanimously.

3. (i) To approve the annual accounts for the year 1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021 and

(ii) To approve individual payments made during the year

The Chair presented the accounts and details of payments made, explained their contents and proposed their approval. Seconded Kevin Gosling. Approved unanimously.

4. (i) To receive and note the Internal Audit Report

(ii) To approve the Annual Governance Statement – Section 1

(iii) To approve the Accounting Statements – Section 2

(iv) To approve the Certificate of Exemption from external audit

The Chair presented these documents, explained their purpose and proposed their approval. Seconded David Morton-Jack. Approved unanimously.

5. Proposal for a Community Ecology Group. Mark Stanley Price & Vicky Robinson. Vicky and Mark explained this concept and its purpose. They would welcome any residents who wish to be involved, and will take the proposal forward, keeping residents informed.

6. A proposal by Mark Stanley Price to plant a tree on the grass triangle between Manor Farmhouse, Logg Cottage and in front of College Farmhouse. This was welcomed by all, including those whose homes overlook the area, provided a suitable small-growing tree is chosen. In part this may be used to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee in 2022. Mark has very kindly offered to fund this, and will choose a suitable species. The likelihood is that this will be planted in the coming autumn, winter or very early spring.

7. For information:- (i) St Andrew's becoming a Pilgrim Church and the concept of Oddington as a Pilgrim Village. Revd. Lisa Holmes. Lisa explained this proposal and her wish to make this clear to potential visitors by addition of a small sign attached to the village name signs, and probably by placing a bench in an agreed location. (ii) 'Oddington 100 Club'. Kevin Gosling explained this concept in which those interested would be offered the opportunity to contribute monthly to a 'prize draw'. A part of the monies received would be passed to the Church to directly aid maintenance, repairs etc. Kevin will keep residents informed and invite them to contribute as the proposal proceeds.

8. Flooding at 'The Burge'. The Chair explained the difficulty of achieving a definitive solution to this problem, which seems to be becoming more frequent and more severe. He recently supported a request for action made by Charlton on Otmoor Parish Council. There are no easy answers – raising the road level by a significant amount would help, but obtaining the necessary funding would no doubt be a challenge. Jonathan Smith explained the importance of not only keeping the nearby ditches clear (which he will try to do) but of clearance of obstacles to

the flow of water (such as fallen trees) by landowners on the Ray and Cherwell downstream, which he has encouraged. The Chair will do the same when provided with contact details of those landowners.

9. Proposed Solar Farm, Noke Parish. Residents are aware of these proposals. While generally supporting the concept in principle, various concerns were expressed involving land use, the visual impact from locations overlooking the site, and particularly the seriously adverse effect on the outlook by those using the footpath between Oddington and Noke. The Chair explained a proposal, suggested by Mark Stanley Price, which, by moving a proportion of the panels from an eastern field to a western field, would maintain the existing outlook from those footpaths, and also avoid the panels being overlooked by Jonathan and Heidi at Logg Farm. The meeting agreed that Green Nation, who are handling the installation for the landowner, be invited to present their plans to residents at a meeting in the village in the near future. Residents will have a further opportunity to make their views known when a formal planning application is made. The Chair will continue to liaise with Noke Parish council, and will contact Islip Parish Council, to seek common ground and perhaps an agreed response.

10. Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. Plans for the 'Expressway' have been cancelled, but 'improvements' to the A34 and other roads, and housing and industrial development associated with the 'Oxford-Cambridge Arc' will remain a threat in the years to come.

11. East-West Rail Proposals. This will have little direct effect on the parish as a whole, although increased frequency of trains using the line will adversely affect those residents living close to it.

12. H5 bus service. The Chair explained his initial request that this should serve Charlton on Otmoor and Oddington was denied for 'timetabling' reasons. Nor could the bus stop near 'the Burge' because of the speed of traffic using that road and lack of a space to pull in. A further request has recently been lodged and will be considered by Stagecoach.

13. Payments to Oxford Green Belt Network, and Church of St. Andrew. Nigel Lambert made it clear that he had never proposed any specific figure for use of the Church and was entirely comfortable with any decision the Meeting might make. The Meeting discussed the issue and it was clear the overwhelmingly majority view was that these payments should be continued at their present levels, despite the fact that they contributed to the Meeting's excess of expenditure over income.

14. Elections of Chair and Treasurer. Adrian Young as Chair and Gerry Johnson as Treasurer were willing to stand for a further year and were elected unopposed.

15. Any other business. Mark Stanley Price thanked the officers for their efforts. He mentioned the various fallen road signs on the road to Islip – the Chair has reported these some months ago. Heidi Smith expressed concerns that the proposed restrictions to traffic the bridge over the Ray at Islip might cause serious congestions, and that in particular traffic using Lower Street might have difficulty because of its restricted width. But, although unwelcome, if there is no option of rebuilding or replacing the bridge, there seems little alternative. Congestion might, at least, deter some vehicles using Islip as a 'rat run' into Oxford!

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.