

# Draft Minutes from Littleworth Parish Meeting

## 30 May 2024

Present: Keith Boswell, Mark Coleman (Vale of White Horse District Council), Sarah Hyland, Ann-Marie Lewis, Alice Margey, Richard Moss, Adrian Pickett (Clerk), Julia Smith, Bethia Thomas (Oxfordshire County Council), Anna Timbrell, Ceri Thompson, Simon Thompson, Imelda Twine, Mike Wilson, Hillary Wilson, Jill Woodward, Tony Woodward (Chairman).

Apologies: Leah Baigel, Ron Baird, Claire Berry, Dave Mackay, Lala Phillips

Item	Action
<b>1. Minutes of the Parish Meeting on 14 December 2023</b>	Minutes approved
<b>2. Vale of White Horse Councillors report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The climate action fund is open and discussions are ongoing regarding thermal insulation for the Reading Room.</li> <li>• There is a review of Local Authority Boundaries to even out the number of voters in each ward. Littleworth may become part of the Stanford in the Vale ward.</li> <li>• The Vale is introducing changes to the way garden waste subscription works. This year will be a transition period which will see in a new permit scheme in April 2025. When a customer's invoice is due, they will receive information on the changeover, what to expect, and what they need to do in early 2025 if they wish to continue to receive the service from April 2025 onwards.</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Oxfordshire County Councillors report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Council boundary review, the proposed boundary reviews mean that Littleworth will no longer be part of the Faringdon ward from May 2025 and will probably become part of new ward stretching between here and Kingston Bagpuize</li> <li>• Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee (FATAC). A dropped curve has been installed on the Swindon side of the A420 along with solar lighting for both bus stops. The County Council are aware of the concern over the tight access to the Swindon side bus shelter.</li> <li>• Water running across the road near Park Farm. There has been a meeting with Oxfordshire County Council Highways team to look at improving the drainage. What they find will determine the date for the work to be carried out.</li> <li>• A420 speed limit and pedestrian crossing. FATAC will raise this again with highways to find out what is happening. A change in the speed limit would be determined by the results from a speed survey.</li> </ul>	County Councillor and District Councillor
<b>4. Election of Chairman and Clerk for 2024/2025</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tony Woodward was elected as Chairman</li> <li>• Adrian Pickett was elected as Clerk</li> <li>• Julia Smith will be shadowing Adrian over the next year with the intention of standing for election as Clerk for 2025/2026</li> <li>• In 2025 we will be looking for someone to shadow Tony with a view to being elected as Chairman</li> </ul>	
<b>5. Accounts for 2023/2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Meeting received and approved the internal audit, annual governance statement, accounts, certificate of exemption and set 15 June to 28 July as the period for the exercise of public rights</li> </ul>	Clerk to notify County Council

## 6. Parish reports

### Footpaths

- With the recent weather everything is growing fast. If you have a pair of secateurs with you when you are walking please feel free to cut back any growth obstructing the footpaths.
- The path near Grove Lodge (previously known as Rocket House) on the way to Faringdon is overgrown and has been reported.
- On the footpath from Littleworth to Carswell the bridge over the stream between Park Farm and Sally's land is difficult to cross.
- The entrance / exit to the footpath near Smokedown Farm is tricky to find. (There is a gate near the buildings where the cows are. The gate is locked in the evening and after lunch at weekends to prevent the cows getting out as has happened when the gate was not secured properly).
- There are extensive badger sets on the footpath between the Village and A420 which can be a trip hazard.

### Allotments

There are 9 allotments. There is room to create additional allotments in the Autumn. If you are interested please contact Keith Boswell or email the clerk

### Neighbourhood watch

- Fly tipping. There have been several incidences. If you see anything please take photos and report it through the Vale of White Horse web site. A member of the enforcement team will come out. Please leave everything as it is so the enforcement team are able to recover any information.
- There are a number of believable delivery scams using text messages at the moment. Please be alert if you click through from a text to a delivery web site asking you for personal information.

### Speedwatch

- 3 sessions since November 2023 with 4 reportable speeding events.
- Permanent speed watch signs have been installed at either end of the village
- New volunteers urgently needed. Each session lasts 1.5 hours. Please contact Dave Mackay for details.

### Village Events Group (VEG)

- The coffee mornings and quiz night have been well supported. Thank you to everyone who has popped in for a coffee or baked cakes.
- Over the last 18 months VEG events have raised roughly £3,500 which has been invested back into the village.

### Playing Field and Reading Room

- Progress towards Reading Room improvements is slow and frustrating but is moving forward. There is a final grant application to be made (VoWH Climate Action Fund year 2), the outcome of which will be known in the early autumn, and after that we will be in a position to start the work.
- We are very grateful to people who have booked the Reading Room to use and given donations towards the cost.
- The playing field maintenance weekend was held 18/19 May, thank you so much for everyone who came and helped, it is all looking fantastic!
- The next trustees' meeting is 10 June so do give any feedback you wish before then, so they know your views and ideas.

### Faringdon United Charity

- This is a charity formed in 1971 by combining a number of local charities including one from Littleworth to provide support to residents of Faringdon and adjacent parishes. Requests usually come from health care professionals or community groups. Most of the support granted is to help children's education.

Littleworth Church

- An application has been made to make the temporary changes to the flooring and pews inside the church permanent.
- Phoebe Gresford is helping with ramp design for our proposed new path surface to the main door. When this is ready we can apply for permission and grants for the ramp, resurfacing all paths and creation of the spur to the Reading Room.
- We have had a meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund to see if we can apply for a grant towards safeguarding the heritage of the church. The scope of this could include redecorating, addressing heating, investigating and conserving the painted panels and the oil painting and improving the storage of our paper records.

Old School Playground

- The potholes will be filled with gravel to make them safe ahead of the fete on Sunday 2 June
- The potholes will be patched up with asphalt as a temporary repair
- The weekly trips of bin lorries over the playground to collect bins from outside the properties bordering the playground will be causing long term damage to the surface. Clerk to contact to contact the property owners to suggest they place their bins near the phone box for collection.

Richard Moss

Clerk

Clerk

**7. Any other business**

- None raised