



# North Hinksey Parish Council



**C A Ryde, Clerk to the Parish Council**

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## **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & WELLBEING COMMITTEE**

### **HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019 AT 7.00pm**

Present: Councillor Church (Chair) and Councillors, Kay, Blase, Bastin, Dowie, Potter, MacKeith and Berrett.

In Attendance: C A Ryde, Clerk to NHPC.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Jones
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** Agreed
4. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

The meeting considered a request from a Field House Resident asking NHPC for support in lobbying the Sovereign Housing Association to install a Wi Fi system in Field House and the Seacourt Bungalows. Councillor Church undertook to liaise with Councillor Berrett to draft a proposal to put to full NHPC Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

#### **5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- **Neighbourhood Plan update**

Councillor Kay informed the meeting that changes agreed by the external examiner were to be incorporated into the plan which was then to be put back to The Vale of White Horse District Council for a Referendum.

- **Botley in Bloom – front garden competition.**

Councillor MacKeith updated the meeting on proposals for this competition which was to be announced in the Sprout. The competition was to run to 15<sup>th</sup> June with judging to take place the following week; entries by e mail to Councillor MacKeith. Councillor MacKeith undertook to put a bid to NHPC Council for a grant to fund prizes and printing costs

- **Oxford – Cambridge Expressway – developments and report**

It was reported that the scheme had been paused pending a full review. There had been no further statements from either Highways England or The Department of Transport who were now working on other infrastructure projects within the Oxford and Cambridge Corridor.

- **Air Pollution update**

Councillor Church reported that since the Covid 19 lockdown, air pollution was down by 59% in Oxford City centre. The UK Government was also reportedly discussing active transport options more and Oxford City Council was planning temporary pedestrianisations and cycle routes.

Discussions were still ongoing with Oxfordshire Council about the EU / Highways England funding for the so called "Green Wall"

- **'20's Plenty' local speed limit – developments**

Councillor Church reported that this issue had been raised by a number of Parishioners at the Botley Green Day and it appeared support for the scheme was gaining ground. The chairman undertook to write to VWHDC to enquire what the Vale's position was on such schemes and how NHPC could progress their own scheme.

- **Environmental improvements in the West Way development**

Councillor Berrett reported that swift boxes had been included in the final phase of the Westway scheme. The chair agreed to write to SDC requesting a list of all the environmental improvements included in the whole scheme to date.

- **Botley Climate Action – next steps in our response.**

The Committee considered and agreed a number of proposals including

- It was agreed that a small working group consisting of Councillors Church, Kay and Berrett draft a leaflet explaining why NHPC had declared a climate emergency.
- There should be a follow up meeting with VWHDC to discuss environmental issues
- There should be a review of NHPC’s environmental performance. Councillor Church will suggest existing tool kits that could facilitate this.
- The review of trees in the NHPC estate should also focus on possible sites for further planting about in autumn 2020 and beyond.
- Councillor MacKeith suggested that Allotments Committee consider its own Environmental policy/plan.

**6. ANY OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.**

Councillor MacKeith raised concerns about the nature of the gardening work occurring in Walbrook Court. As the latter was private property, concerns were raised as to whether this was within NHPC’s remit to comment. It was noted, however that Councillor MacKeith could draft a letter to the property owners as an individual parishioner requesting they consider a more climate/nature friendly approach to their external estate maintenance.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** To be confirmed