

WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held in Village Hall on Wednesday 4th December 2024

Meeting Number 24.416

Note for information: Cherwell District Council – CDC, Oxfordshire County Council - OCC

Public Participation

Presentation by Puy du Fou group regarding potential application for a cultural and historical immersive experience on a site to the north of Bucknell in Cherwell district.

Attendees representing Puy du Fou (non-profit organisation): David Nouaille (Head of International Development) and a representative from Real Estate Communications.

Puy du Fou currently have two destinations, France and Spain with the aim to develop two new international destinations before 2030.

Further information on the schemes proposals and goals can be found at the Puy du Fou website: <https://www.puydufouconsultation.co.uk/>

Estimated timeline outlined:

July 2023 – concept launched in Cherwell

Summer 2024 - first public consultation held

February 2025 - second public consultation to be held

June 2025 – aim to submit planning application

2029 – assuming planning permission granted, attraction to open

Aims of the development: Restore biodiversity and ecological ecosystems, save energy, preserve water, work with local producers/farmers, promote sustainable mobility, create an economic ecosystem providing a range of job opportunities, professional training partnerships with local universities and schools.

Questions from the Council and members of the public over major concerns for the village included:

Qu. Do you plan to open all year round?

A. The attraction will be open spring to autumn.

Qu. Have you undertaken noise profiling as the shows look like they may be quite noisy? Will you be using fireworks? Concern was raised for nearby local residents.

A. Noise studies are currently being undertaken including baseline surveys to take account of the existing M40 noise, simulations of the site will be compared to the existing sites in France and Spain. The company is focused on how to contain noise around the site as they do not want to bleed noise from one show to the next. The outdoor shows are managed effectively to reduce the impact of noise e.g. using directional speakers, orientation of stands, sinking seating areas, remodelling the landscape and using the material to create bunding around the site. Large scale fireworks are not utilised and pyrotechnics are only used when appropriate, quiet fireworks are also an option.

Qu. What are the plans to deliver people to the site by public transport as there are concerns over the effect of the development on the traffic on local roads, especially via the B430 directly through Weston.

A. The target is 50% by year 10. Trains can arrive at Bicester North and Bicester Village stations and people can be shuttle bussed to the site. Chiltern trains will put in a bid to support the provision of longer trains. Coach visitors

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 4th December 2024

Minutes Approved: Dated.....

will be mainly expected during the week e.g. school trips. Car vehicles will be routed via the M40 and via junction 10.

Traffic and transport flow analysis (at opening, 5 and 10 years) taking into account existing consented schemes and schemes under consideration will be modelled as part of the planning application submitted, with the aim of the information being available at the February 2025 consultation.

As a comparison 45% of people visiting the Harry Potter studios experience in Leavesden are currently transported to the site by public transport.

Qu. Will there be routing agreements for construction traffic?

A. A traffic management plan will be submitted with the application stipulating routes that construction traffic are able to utilise. The current route is anticipated to be the M40/A43/B4100.

Qu. What proportion of visitors are expected to be international visitors?

A. The target market is British visitors, there will not be a big international marketing campaign. The majority of visitors are expected to already be visiting Oxfordshire, the aim is to extend their stay. The visitor profile is expected to be consistent across the year with busier periods at weekends, bank holidays and school holidays.

The representatives were happy to return again to discuss project in further detail if required.

24.416.1 To Receive: Apologies for non-attendance

Councillors Bohm (DB), Davies (SD), Rowan (TR), Miller (JM) and Aldridge (MA) were in attendance. Councillor Lanham (BL) sent his apologies, which were accepted.

Neither Councillor Coton (Cherwell District Council) or Councillor Simpson (Oxfordshire County Council) were in attendance.

3 members of the public were in attendance.

24.416.2 To Receive: Declarations of Interest

JM declared an interest in relation to planning application 24/03060/AGN (related to 24/01572/AGN) – OS Parcel 4658 North of Shell Filling Station and SW of the Chequers.

24.416.3 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th November 2024 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th November 2024 were discussed with no changes required.

The resolution to approve the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 6th November 2024 was proposed by DB and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council with one abstention.

Action: Clerk to present minutes to Chair to sign, then file and upload to the web.

24.416.4 For Information: Chairs Comment (DB)

DB provided an update to the council, highlighting that the Parish Council, Church and Village Hall committee have worked well together over the last year on the food bank collections. A Christmas food bank drive will be held on the morning of Saturday 7th December 2024.

<i>Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 4th December 2024</i>	
Minutes Approved:	Dated.....

There is currently no date for the public consultation of the draft Cherwell Local Plan. A good summary of the Local Plan can be found on the CDC website, especially covering rural strategy, if time is limited to take in all the documents it would be helpful for Councillors to read this ahead of the Parish Council responding to the consultation.

The ONPA held its monthly meeting and again highlighted the issues around the housing expectations in the area and the inability of OCC to manage to get infrastructure in place e.g. roads and the availability of surgeries and dental care for the expected population. One of the biggest topics with chairs in the regions is flooding concerns as is similar in the village too.

DB wished everyone a lovely Christmas and a good rest.

24.416.5 For Information: Clerk report (Clerk)

The clerks report to the Council was noted which confirmed payments from the Parish Council bank account including the usual monthly clerk salary payment and the latest instalment of the loan repayment to PWLB. Payments received included the VAT claim by HMRC (£3,172.11) on 05/11/24 and two grants received relating to the community bus, one for £4,000 from OCC on 31/10/24 and the other for £500 from Community First Oxfordshire on 19/11/24.

Ongoing highways issues are being raised with OCC.

Natural England have informed the council that unfortunately they are not able to attend a meeting to discuss possible works to the weir in Weston Fen due to time limitations, they did however provide guidance on how to submit an application for permission to undertake works on the site.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the contractor has had to amend the dates of parish treeworks to:

- Spinney works: 9th January 2025
- The Stocks and oak tree pond: 23rd January 2025

Residents will be notified of the works in advance.

Action: Clerk to notify residents of the planned tree works in the parish in January 2025.

It was noted that the next Village News deadline is 2nd January 2024.

24.416.6 To Note: updated Parish Council development plan (DB)

DB provided a revised version of the Parish Council Development Plan 2025-2028 drafted following discussions at the November 2024 Parish Council meeting.

BL will be leaving the village next year and therefore development work at the playing field is dependent on a new person leading the work.

The council enquired of Graham Bennett (GB) if there are any rules set by OCC over the safety of a bus stop on a main road. OCC have just undertaken a survey of bus stops in parishes which GB has completed and further information is awaited.

GB was queried whether the bus route is likely to continue to operate. GB confirmed that OCC have no intention of cancelling any existing bus routes but are looking to extend existing routes over the next year or two. The bus serving Weston on the Green benefits from Bletchingdon and Kirtlington users but is dependent on the operator Grayline continuing to operate the route.

Action: When finalised the PC Development Plan 2025-28 to be placed on the website.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 4th December 2024

Minutes Approved: Dated.....

24.416.7 For Discussion: Discuss recommendations from the Planning Group on planning applications (SD)

Key planning applications on the planning report were discussed by the Council.

Building Applications

Decisions Received - Permitted

None

Decisions Received – Refused

None

Withdrawn

None

Awaiting Decision

24/01136/F - The Old Vicarage, Mill Lane

Renovation of existing detached garage to incorporate first floor home office space. **Commented**

24/02685/F – Southview, Northampton Road

Infill extension to existing bungalow and addition of first floor. Erection of garage and store with room in loft, including demolition of existing pole barn.

New Applications

24/03060/AGN (related to 24/01572/AGN) – OS Parcel 4658 North of Shell Filling Station and SW of the Chequers.

Erection of a General Purpose Agricultural Storage Building (non-livestock). Slightly larger and moved it away from watercourse. Ecological report submitted.

Tree Applications

24/01232/TCA – Manor Hotel - T1 x Multi stem Sycamore - (BLUE) overhanging power station/room, to fell; T2 x Poplar - (PINK) damaging wall of moat, to fell.

Action: SD/Clerk to send appropriate planning replies to Cherwell District Council.

24.416.8 For Information: Playing field and playground update

BL provided a written update for the Council.

The playground repairs works were completed this week and the invoice has been received. The spring on the gate closer (gate nearest the car park) has gone so they are quoting to replace that. As far as BL is aware there are no other new issues with the playground.

Ardley FC have had recent games at the field, and Mark East was thanked for keeping on top of the grass cutting.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 4th December 2024

Minutes Approved: Dated.....

24.416.9 For Information: Update on village works (JM)

JM provided an update to the Council on various issues in the parish.

Broken sign: JM highlighted that there is a broken sign on B430 heading towards the Chequers.

Action: Clerk to report broken sign on B430.

Westen Fen: JM has spoken to Mr Calcutt, who has informed him that the land is currently being divided up between new owners. When this work has been completed Mr Calcutt will forward the address/email of the new owner and the Council can then discuss potential works on the weir and also discuss obtaining permission to ask Natural England to carry out the works.

Village hedge trimming: contractor plans to trim various external areas of the village when he is next in the area.

Sink hole: issue has been reported to OCC, following Thames Water visiting and advising they are not responsible for it. Clerk to chase up any developments with OCC.

Action: Clerk to enquire with OCC over developments with reported sink hole.

24.416.10 For Information: Update from Traffic Calming Action Group (MA)

MA provided an update on the B430 speed reduction application following feedback by OCC. OCC, having looked at the traffic speed data, reportedly said the 40mph speed limit was appropriate and no reduction to 30mph would be approved. GB queried the decisions behind the speed reductions at both Ardley and Middleton Stoney with OCC and thanks to his efforts and Councillor Simpson for querying at a more senior level OCC agreed to break from protocol and granted the reduction of the speed to 30mph.

The Council thanked the traffic group and Councillor Simpson for all their hard work. The next stage of the process will be for OCC to decide where the speed limit change will come into action.

The Speedwatch programme is continuing but has been limited due to the weather and daylight hours. GB considered an improvement has been seen with the scheme acting as a deterrent.

JM commented that Wendlebury are looking into buying a fixed speed traffic camera which automatically sends information to the Police. The Traffic group will investigate this option further.

Action: TCAG to investigate option of installing a fixed speed traffic camera if appropriate.

24.416.11 For Discussion: Draft Parish Council 2024-25 budget (TR)

The Council discussed the budget lines provided in the draft budget for FY 2025-26 and provided additional guidance on some lines. The level of precept increase was considered by the Councillors and the views of members of the public was gathered.

The draft budget will be updated when the tax base figures are received from CDC in December. The amended budget will be circulated to the Councillors for consideration.

Councillors were advised to inform the clerk of any amendments or additions to the Council budget by the end of the year as the budget for 2025/26 would require approving at 8th January 2025 Parish Council meeting in time for the precept request to be submitted to CDC by 12th January 2025.

Action: Clerk to amend budget and circulate ahead of proposed approval at January 2025 PC meeting.

Action: Clerk to add an agenda item to the February PC meeting for a discussion to cover security protection lead by MA.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 4th December 2024

Minutes Approved: Dated.....

24.416.12 Resolution: To Approve donation request of £300.00 to the Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall to support their VE Day event in 2025 (TR)

The resolution to approve a donation request of £300.00 to the Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall to support their VE Day event in 2025 was proposed by TR and seconded by JM. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to notify the Village Hall of the donation request to the VE event.

24.416.13 Resolution: To Approve Adoption by the Parish Council of Oxfordshire Councils Charter (DB)

DB introduced the Oxfordshire Councils Charter which is aimed at improving communication and collaboration between all levels of local government. The charter focuses on shared commitments, proper consultation and empowering local democracy. DB explained that adopting the charter does not result in any losses but provides a tool for enhanced negotiation.

The resolution to approve the adoption by the Parish Council of the Oxfordshire Councils Charter was proposed by DB and seconded by SD. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to advise OALC of adoption of Oxfordshire Councils Charter.

24.416.14 Resolution: To Approve the following invoices for payment

DB requested approval of the following invoices detailed in the table below.

PC Ref	Payee	Purpose	Total (incl VAT)	Budget Line	Amount Remaining in 2024-25 Budget
471	SLCC	Membership Annual Renewal 2025	£150.00	Subscriptions/SLCC	£150.00
472	Graham Barnett	Fuel for community van (Sainsburys)	£78.34	Village Works/Community Bus Scheme	£1,668.49
473	WotG Memorial Village Hall	Village Hall hire for Neighbours Natter village group Jan-June 2025 (Donations approved at Nov PC meeting)	£90.00	Donations	£1,000.00

The resolution to approve the invoices detailed in the table was proposed by DB and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to update invoice log with approvals.

Action: Clerk to initiative request for payments from Councillors and ensure payments authorised.

24.416.15 For Information: Update on oak tree footpath (OCC/CDC Councillors)

There was no update due to the absence of councillors.

24.416.16 For Information: Oxfordshire County & Cherwell District Councillors updates (OCC/CDC Councillors)

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 4th December 2024

Minutes Approved: Dated.....

There was no update due to the absence of councillors.

24.416.17 **To Note:** Councillors Rowan, Bohm and Davies are listed on the Parish Council Barclays Bank mandate with two Councillors required to approve all payments from the accounts (TR)

It was noted that Councillors Rowan, Bohm and Davies are listed on the Parish Council Barclays Bank mandate with two Councillors required to approve all payments from the accounts.

24.416.18 **Resolution: To Approve** the increase in Clerks salary on the contracted salary point following the national salary award for local Government services 2024-25 and to pay the backdated salary owed from 1st April 2024 (8 months) of £214.93 as a one off payment from the 'Parish of Weston on the Green' Barclays Bank account (SD)

The resolution to approve the increase in Clerks salary on the contracted salary point following the national salary award for local Government services 2024-25 and to pay the backdated salary owed from 1st April 2024 (8 months) of £214.93 as a one off payment from the 'Parish of Weston on the Green' Barclays Bank account was proposed by SD and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to initiate request for backdated salary payment from Councillors as part of the invoice payment process.

24.416.19 **Resolution: To Approve** the amendment of the Standing Order for the clerks salary for FY 2024-25 to reflect the amended clerks salary and the associated amendment of the direct debit to Nest pensions in relation to the clerks pension payments from the 'Parish of Weston on the Green' Barclays Bank account, as detailed and discussed by the HR advisory group (SD)

The resolution to approve the amendment of the Standing Order for the clerks salary for FY 2024-25 to reflect the amended clerks salary and the associated amendment of the direct debit to Nest pensions in relation to the clerks pension payments from the 'Parish of Weston on the Green' Barclays Bank account, as detailed and discussed by the HR advisory group was proposed by SD and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Finance councillors to amend standing order for clerks pay and Nest pension direct debit payment.

24.416.20 **To Note:** National Insurance implications following amendments to thresholds in the Autumn 2024 budget. The employer contribution rate will increase from 13.8% on earnings over £9,100 per year to 15% on earnings over £5,000. The variable direct debit paid by the Parish Council to HMRC will automatically take these changes into account alongside the Council's PAYE system (SD)

National Insurance implications following amendments to thresholds in the Autumn 2024 budget were noted. The employer contribution rate will increase from 13.8% on earnings over £9,100 per year to 15% on earnings over £5,000. The variable direct debit paid by the Parish Council to HMRC will automatically take these changes into account alongside the Council's PAYE system.

24.416.21 **Next Parish Council Meeting Date:** Wednesday 8th January 2025, 7.30pm (DB)

Meeting Closed: 21.39

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 4th December 2024
Minutes Approved: Dated.....