

**GREAT COXWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022**

Reading Room, Great Coxwell, Oxfordshire, SN7 7NB

Clerk: Joanna Farrant clerk@greatcoxwell.com

**Minutes of Great Coxwell Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 6:30pm.**

<b>Present</b>	Cllr Jacqui Russell (Chair) Cllr Mike Harris Cllr Rory Gilmour Cllr Kym MacDonald Cllr Richard Hankinson Joanna Farrant, Parish Clerk Daryoush Sharifi, RFO
<b>In Attendance</b>	2 members of the public

<b>Item</b>	<b>Minute</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome by Chairman of the Parish Council</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received from District Cllr Elaine Weare and District Cllr Simon Howell.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Approval and signing of minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2021:</b> the minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed by Cllr Russell.
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Annual Reports from Village Groups:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report of the Neighbourhood Planning Team</b></p> <p><i>Conservation Area Appraisal</i></p> <p>Commenced back in 2013, in parallel with development of the Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Plan (GCNP), we have only this year been able to bring a Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) to its conclusion.... well, almost! The CAA is out for consultation (until 1 June) and we hope as many people as possible will provide feedback. This is the first review of the village conservation area since it was created in the 1970s.</p> <p>The delay since 2013 was occasioned by a lack of resource at the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC). Although the CAA is a VWHDC document, rather than a parish one, the GCNP Team has been able to play a major part in its creation. We hope it will add value.</p> <p>The aim has always been to support and strengthen the statutory policies of the GCNP as we strive to ensure that due cognisance is given when VWHDC considers planning applications affecting the village.</p> <p><i>Neighbourhood Plan</i></p> <p>As it was more than five years since the GCNP was 'made' it was necessary to carry out a review to ensure it remained 'up-to-date'. This was completed in 2021 in the form of a 'stage one' update that reflected physical changes in the parish, updated references to statutory documents such as the VWHDC Local Plan, and so on. 'Stage two' would</p>

comprise strengthened policies that would be regarded as 'material' and would require consultation and referendum, a much more detailed process.

In practice, the Neighbourhood Plan team stood down in 2021/2 pending a decision whether to progress a 'stage two' rewrite of the GCNP planning and community policies: now recommended by VWHDC Planning and the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance (ONPA) who keep a close watch on planning matters at a national level.

Should the parish council decide to proceed, a fresh approach may be appropriate to identify relevant planning (and community) policies for the next five years, taking into consideration the many changes, nationally and locally, from planning to the environment and climate change. We will need the involvement of new/additional volunteers and local groups to be able to take this forward. This represents an opportunity to support but also perhaps challenge VWHDC's Local Plan policies and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

*Peter Gale, Secretary, Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Plan Team*

### **Great Coxwell Defibrillator – Annual Report to Parish Council 2021-2**

The Parish Council has requested the Great Coxwell Defibrillator Group ('The Group') to provide an annual summary to the Council in March of each year on the status of the defibrillator and the support group.

The device has been registered with the Ambulance Service since it was installed and is on their records as being 'rescue ready'. It is also registered on the National Defibrillator Network 'The Circuit' (<https://www.thecircuit.uk>) and quarterly reports were made to them - in June, September and November 2021 and February 2022- to confirm that the machine is 'rescue ready'

The machine was installed in June 2021. It is effectively maintenance-free and has a full 10-year warranty. The cost of replacement pads (due March 2025) is approx. £45 and a new battery (due March 2026) is approx. £200. The cabinet also has a 10-year warranty. The Group will continue to hold the funds (£500) in reserve for replacement pads and battery – this is more than adequate for the next 10 years.

The device has been inspected weekly and there is an on-line record of checks. See: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2yg6iiu0yqm16fkp7wo4g/Guardian-Checklist.xlsx?dl=0&rlkey=rro7i0yid51vaak40k5cqfgpt>. There was one instance (14<sup>th</sup> October 2021) where the device was showing a warning light and required a software reset. This was easily accomplished and I understand that it remained 'rescue ready' throughout, despite this event.

The device has not been used within reporting the year.

The Group (the Parish Council already has a record of the names of the membership) is still in place although there has been little call for them to assist since the machine was installed as Ian Mason (the Group lead) has been able to make most of the weekly inspections described above.

*Ian Mason (on behalf of the Great Coxwell Defibrillator Group)*

### **W.I. Report**

The W.I. in the Village carried on during Lockdown with Zoom Meetings and when able met in person with distanced socialising. In September 2021 we went back to our face to face meetings with our very varied programme. In October we held a very successful Scarecrow Trail which many of the villagers took part in and supported us. The weather was kind as we did our pop up Cafe in the Reading Room and raised much needed funds. We are a thriving W.I. for our small community and have at present 33 members. The organisation is open to people who live in or out of the Village.

*Pam Smith*

### **Community Fund Report**

The Community Fund was set up to put together a Fund that could be accessed by the Village. Money from Art Weeks and Sunday Teas is where the majority of the money comes from. A donation was also made from the excess money collected for the Defibrillator. The idea is that the money can be accessed for projects within the Village. If anyone wished to start a new group, we could, subject to approval, provide funds to enable this to happen. Money has been spent on new chairs for the Reading Room and we will be subsidizing the Jubilee Celebrations. It enabled us in lockdown to give each household Mulled Wine & Mince Pies to celebrate Christmas with Distanced Carol Singing. We like to think we are a very happy and caring village and this was proved during lockdown.

*Pam Smith*

### **Allotment Group**

All 7 segments of the Allotment are occupied and in good condition.

August last year the "Allotmenters" met to celebrate another good season and award the prize for Best Allotment of 2021. This was given Mike and Pauline Durham recognising that for 2021 their produce had been planted and tended purely by themselves and had consistently throughout the season provided vegetables and fruit.

The allotment has remained in very good order throughout the pandemic and provided solace during these difficult times.

*Mandy Burns*

### **Great Coxwell Volunteer Support Group**

Due to the Pandemic persisting 2021/2022 turned out to be a year of isolation and releases. The Support Group maintained their services of Volunteers being available to assist when required with people in the village. Prescriptions were collected and delivered diligently by Jonny Farrow on a weekly basis. More recently in 2022 the Support Group has reduced its services at present due to the reduction in need as people have become more confident through the Vaccination rollout. However, the Volunteer Support Group structure is still in place and ready to be put back in action should it be necessary. Mandy Burns and Pauline Durham would like to thank all those volunteers who have offered their services.

*Mandy Burns*

### **Greener Great Coxwell**

Our consultants, Locogen, have completed the Phase 1 Report - the desktop assessment of benefits and risks of potentially technically feasible energy schemes. Locogen concluded "there is potential for a heat network in Great Coxwell - hot network solutions are

potentially viable". Next steps for Phase 2 are to model test scenarios comparing those solutions under different heat demand profiles.

To continue this work we now need more detailed information on the energy requirements of the village. We are therefore asking for as many people as possible to complete our brief survey which collects information on your energy use and some basic household data.

Completing the questionnaire implies no commitment and the information will be strictly confidential to the energy team and the consultants. Please use the following link to access our on-line survey - time is short so we would appreciate a quick response - apart from the information on energy use (from your energy bill) the questions are very simple and shouldn't take more than a few minutes. There is also space to add comments. Please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L9HZBGX>

If you are not already signed up for our Community Energy Bulletin, you are still welcome to complete the survey and you might like to go to the website: [greenergreatcoxwell.com](http://greenergreatcoxwell.com) to sign up or e-mail [energy@greenergreatcoxwell.com](mailto:energy@greenergreatcoxwell.com).

## *2. Greener Great Coxwell Featured in Oxfordshire Climate Action Stories Website*

Our Community Energy Project has been included in the above 'Climate Action Stories' project run jointly by Friends of the Earth and Edinburgh University. We contributed to the Edinburgh research initiative and are featured on the Website under 'Energy Production' - see: <https://www.oxfoe.co.uk/oxfordshire-climate-action-stories>

*Greener Great Coxwell Group*

## **National Trust Report**

As you heard about last year, we have been working on large tree and hedge planting scheme on Colleymore Farm, together with a smaller scheme in Coleshill. Overall, we planted 22,000 trees in 12 different blocks and carried out 6km of hedge restoration planting 17,000 trees. We installed new fencing to keep grazing animals away from the trees and in the larger areas used deer fencing to keep the deer from eating them. There is no current viable alternative to plastic tree guards, but we did trial some biodegradable ones at Coleshill. All the guards will be removed and recycled once the trees are large enough for them to be taken off. We are trialling different mulches around the new trees in some areas to monitor the difference between mulching and not mulching. We will come back and replace any dead trees in a couple of years' time. We are really pleased with the planting and have had lots of positive feedback. The final part of the project was the new paths that we put in around Badbury. The surfacing has worked well and improved access in wet weather.

We are still trying to eradicate the Floating Pennywort in the pond by the barn. We are nearly there now and hope to remove it all this year. We can then think about some replanting of pond plants next year. The grass around the barn is being left long again this year, with paths mown through it. We saw the first orchids in a long time there last year and we have sown some wildflower seed in a few places to provide some more diversity. We hope to replace the wooden bench by the pond later this year.

Planned work at Badbury this year includes the next phase of the ancient woodland restoration by removing more conifer trees this autumn. We are also planning to surface more of the paths, having tackled the worst sections of erosion this spring. We try to get the balance between improving access for the many visitors, but not having a park-like setting in a rural area. There will also be further work to remove more of the Ash trees

	<p>suffering with Ash Dieback disease. We try to leave the trees where they won't cause a hazard but have to fell them for safety reasons near paths, roads and houses.</p> <p>We will continue to work with Andy Kato at Colleymore to support his innovative approach to producing food and encouraging wildlife. More widely across the estate, we are looking at more hedge and tree planting with our other tenants.</p> <p><i>Richard Watson, Countryside Manager, West Oxfordshire</i></p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Chairman of the Parish Council's Report:</b></p> <p>Cllr Russell formally welcomed KM and RH as councillors and thanked all members and officers for their support and work, as well as other volunteers who supported the Parish Council throughout the year: from running the website, to the book exchange to verges. JR reported that over the last year there had been a number of new initiatives, including a defibrillator had been fitted to the Reading Room by the Defibrillator Group, with support from the Parish Council, who cover the insurance.</p> <p>The Reading Room had been closed during Covid, but re-opened after a deep-clean, requiring a new boiler and an upgrade to the water systems to the hand-basins, whose old heaters were at risk of harbouring legionnaires disease. The Community Fund had donated funds for the purchase of new tables and chairs in the Reading Room.</p> <p>It was planned to replace the gutters and repair the soffits on the exterior of the Reading Room over the next year, as well as to repaint and repair the windows and restore the cellar with assistance from s.106 monies.</p> <p>The Park: Funding has been applied for from s.106 monies for refurbishment of the MUGA. A refurbishment will address the safety issues identified in the last inspection. The application is currently awaiting legal agreement.</p> <p>Verges: have been mown in consultation with parishioners and the aim has been to balance neatness with biodiversity. No mow May is being followed, where it is reasonable to do so.</p> <p>Traffic: an application has been made for a 20mph zone. The process will involve full consultation with parishioners.</p> <p>Planning: Outline planning permission has been granted for 125 homes on Steeds South. A legal agreement with the developer will allow for signals onto the A420 from the Great Coxwell Junction and a two lane entry approach. The Parish Council will respond to reserve matters in the planning application this month, in particular considering a 20-metre buffer on the Great Coxwell side of the development.</p> <p>A Conservation Area Appraisal is currently underway, which is consulting on an extension to the Conservation along Cherry Orchard to Dark Lane and to the field South of Giles Lane.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Parishioners:</b> no matters raised

Meeting closed 7pm