

# MINUTES OF THE ADDERBURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT CHURCH HOUSE, HIGH STREET, ADDERBURY ON WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2025 AT 7.30PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor Diane Bratt (Chairman): Councillors Jacky Atkinson, Simon Davies, Joel Greenberg, Oliver Ighani, Sue Jelfs and Rachel Moffat.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), District Councillor David Hingley and Rob Pattenden and fourteen members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Parish Councillor Mark Gerold.

**01/25 Minutes** - The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**02/25 Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.

A request was made by a resident for more detailed minutes. The Clerk agreed to address this issue. **Action TG**

**03/25 Chairman's Report 2024/2025** – The Chairman presented a report on the Parish Council's work during 2024/2025. The report included information on traffic calming, Adderbury Lakes, the play areas, grass cutting and the review of the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan.

A resident asked the Parish Council if it would consider double yellow lines where the speed limit changed from 30mph to 20mph limit at the junction of the High Street and Oxford Road. The Chairman reported that she had raised this issue with the County Council previously and would follow this up. The Chairman advised that if the project did go ahead, then the consultation costs to be paid by the Parish Council, would be in the region of £4,000 and this had not been budgeted for. **Action TG/DB**

A resident asked when work would start on the Community Centre on Milton Road. The Chairman advised that work would start as soon as funding was available. Over the past seven years, the project had been delayed due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, as well as the cost of living crisis, not through a lack of effort on the part of the Parish Council and volunteers from the village.

With regard to the funding gap, the Chairman advised that there was circa £750,000 available from Section 106 funds, plus £40k from fundraising in the village. There was approximately another £200,000 which would be available from new developments in the village. The original quotes for the project had been in the region of £2m but the plans had been reviewed and the costs were now around £1.2m. It was hoped work could start in the autumn.

A resident asked whether the building would be available for use by the Adderbury Theatre Workshop. The Chairman advised that it would be available because it was a community building and the facility was based around the main hall. If the Theatre Workshop required a stage, it would be an item they would possibly need to fundraise for themselves.

A resident asked whether Adderbury Parish Institute would be sold as part of the project. The Chairman advised that this was not part of the current plans and the Trustees had not approached the Parish Council with this suggestion. The Parish Council had not suggested this to the Trustees either, however the Parish Council could approach them for a discussion if it was a route the community supported. **Action DB**

A resident asked whether grants were still available for the project. The Chairman advised that Valencia was no longer giving grants and had been wound up by the new Labour Government. The Government grants for replacement buildings were also not supported by the new Labour Government and this fund had also been wound up.

The National Lottery and the Football Association had not supported the project and grant funding applications had been unsuccessful, but now the plans for the building had been scaled down, these organisations would be approached again. Cherwell District Council was now supporting the Parish Council with the project and they would help with grant applications.

A resident asked whether the pitches could be opened for use by the community. The Chairman advised that Cherwell District Council had included a number of planning conditions when permission was granted and one of those conditions was that the pitches could not be used until the building, entrance and car parking had been completed.

Residents suggested that the area was remote and the public should be able to use it. It was also suggested that a community day could be held on the field. However, the Chairman confirmed that this would be contrary to the planning conditions.

A resident asked whether there was a Business Plan for the project which could be published. The Chairman advised that a new Business Case was being produced by Cherwell District Council. However a Plan had been produced by Working for Adderbury Community and could be published on the Parish Council web site, although some details would now be out of date, following the work which had been completed by Cherwell District Council.

**Action TG/DB**

A resident asked whether the public could use the playing field as a 'one-off'. The Chairman again reiterated that this was contrary to the conditions of the planning permission, imposed by Cherwell District Council.

A resident felt that the project was a divisive subject in village and reminded the meeting that a number of years ago, Barclay Homes had planned to make a pitch available for the village. The resident also suggested that the village needed a new School and asked whether this could be included in the review of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman advised that education was a responsibility of the County Council not the Parish Council.

A resident asked whether the value engineering which had taken place, to reduce the costs down to circa £1.2m, was for the building only or for the whole project. The Chairman advised that this was for the whole project.

The Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, Oliver Ighani thanked the Chairman for the 41 years of work as a Parish Councillor and many years also as Chairman and asked the meeting for a round of applause to show their appreciation.

The Chairman's full report was available on the Parish Council web site. [www.adderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.adderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**04/25 Parish Council Accounts 2024/2025** - The Clerk presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the financial report for 2024/2025. The figures had been subject to internal audit and gave an accurate picture of the activities of the year.

The Chairman advised that this concerned a legal agreement and information could not be published. There were no restrictions on how the funds could be spent.

A resident asked for the costs of the grass cutting on the Milton Road field. The Clerk advised that grass cutting was a single budget heading and included the costs for all grass cutting in the village.

The accounts for 2024/2025 were available on the Parish Council web site. [www.adderburypc.co.uk](http://www.adderburypc.co.uk)

**05/25 County and District Councillors Reports** – There was no report from County Councillor Arash Fatemian.

Councillor David Hingley addressed the meeting and reported that he had been a District Councillor for Adderbury for almost three years. Following the elections in May 2024, there had been a change of administration, and the Liberal Democrats had formed an administration with the Green Party and the Independent Alliance and there was no overall control of the Council. Therefore, as the Leader of the largest political party, Councillor Hingley had been appointed Leader of Cherwell District Council and it was a pleasure to represent communities in that role.

The Administration had produced a balanced budget for 2025/2026, without any cuts to public services.

The Local Plan had completed the Regulation 19 Consultation and the public had commented on housing for the District. Housing numbers had been allocated and 75 had been allocated to Adderbury. This figure was lower

than it had been at the start of the process and would be reviewed by the Council before the Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. It was hoped the new Plan would come into force next year.

A reorganisation of Local Government was being undertaken and the Government hoped to have Unity Councils all over the Country. Interim proposals for Oxfordshire had been submitted to the Government and final proposals would be submitted later in the year.

The council offices had now been relocated to Castle Quay in Banbury town centre.

Councillor Hingley had supported the Parish Council with its Neighbourhood Plan and thanked the Chairman for all her work on the flooding issues in the village.

A resident asked Councillor Hingley about the plans for Bodicote House now that the staff had moved into Castle Quay. Councillor Hingley reported that plans were currently being secured and the Council was liaising with various parties about who would take ownership. The resident advised that when Bodicote House was built, it had been designed to be sold in parts, although some of the building was listed.

Councillor Rob Pattenden reported that he had been working with the Parish Council and supporting the Milton Road Community and Sports Centre project. Over the previous 12 months, there had been a lot of work undertaken on the project, but there had been a number bumps in the road. Councillor Pattenden understood the frustration which residents had with the project because they could not see all the work which was being undertaken in the background.

Councillor Pattenden advised that he was a member of Cherwell District Council's Executive and was the Portfolio Holder for Health and Communities. He was also involved with arts and healthy living and was a Trustee on the board for The Mill and Banbury Museum. There had been severe flooding at The Mill recently which had been addressed and the facility was now open again. Work was also ongoing to secure the future of The Mill.

The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day was on 8 May 2025 and there were a number of events being held in Banbury and around the District. Banbury Town Council had arranged an event on 8 May 2025 at Banbury Town Hall at 11am. Cherwell District Council was also supporting local events by waiving the fees for road closures where street parties were being held.

A resident asked about housing provision in the Local Plan and was aware that people who were living in large houses in the village, wished to downsize but there were no suitable properties in Adderbury, such as bungalows. Councillor Hingley agreed that there was a need for more bungalows in Adderbury.

The Chairman thanked the District Councillors for their reports and support over the last 12 months.

## **06/25 Question of Residents**

A resident felt that any new housing developments in the village should be on the outskirts of the village, such as the corner of Berry Hill Road and Oxford Road. The Chairman advised that sites for housing would be allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan and any suggested sites for the 75 houses, would all have to be evaluated. The Parish Council was receiving advice on potential sites and Cherwell District Council had conducted its own review of sites in the village in its HELAA report.

A resident asked whether the agendas for the Parish Council meetings could be printed off on A4 sheets when and displayed on the noticeboards. The Clerk agreed to do this in future. **Action TG**

A resident asked about flooding on Horn Hill Road and why it had been such an issue. The Chairman advised that the ditch runs underneath a house on Horn Hill Road and there were blockages under the road. The County Council was due to clear the blockages a couple of months ago which would help the situation next time there was heavy rainfall. The main issue was that the drainage system was Victorian infrastructure and the pipe in the ditch running under the Horn Hill Road property, was too small. However, the County Council would be addressing these issues and the Chairman was also applying for grant funding.

The Chairman advised that during the recent floods, the infiltration attenuation pond on the Milton Road field did not overflow and was working properly, as it should do.

Residents were thanked for attending and invited them to stay for refreshments.

(The meeting closed at 8.50pm)

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Chairman  
21 April 2026