



RESTAURANT & BAR

ANTIQUE
CENTRE

TETSWORTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

Record of the AMP held on 25th APRIL 2023 at 7.30pm

in Tetsworth Memorial Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors: Paul Carr – Chair
Seb Mossop
Kim Bhagat
Sue Rufus
Chris Thompson
Sean Whitehead

Meeting Clerk: Lin Freeth

In Attendance: Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC)

Members of the public: 20 (including representatives of village organisations)

1. Welcome – Paul Carr

The Chairman welcomed all attending and explained that the Annual Meeting of the Parish was not like other formal meetings of Tetsworth Parish Council, as it is an opportunity for all registered electors to hear about and question community activities within the village. The Parish Council are required to convene, chair and make a record the meeting.

2. Tetsworth Parish Council – Paul Carr

The Councillors and Clerk (appointed May 2022) of Tetsworth Parish Council were introduced to those present. All six Councillors put themselves forward for re-election on May 6th and, with no other candidates standing and so being an uncontested election, they were duly re-elected. Whilst TPC names will not appear on the ballot papers, elections to our other Local Authorities will take place so attendees were encouraged to exercise their right to vote and reminded that photo ID will be required.

Following public consultation TPC have applied for a 20mph speed limit on the A40 through the village. This is not likely to be implemented until the latter part of 2024 due to the number of applications throughout Oxfordshire.

Speed and safety surveys to assess the viability of a Pedestrian Crossing between the Tetsworth Memorial Hall and The Patch have been completed. They demonstrated a need for more than just a basic crossing, which would be prohibitively expensive. TPC will consult the Highways Department again to see what effect a 20mph limit might have and consider finance options then.

Wicket Gates should soon be installed at the entrance to the village from the Milton Common end. Options at the other end of the village are being discussed as installation at the current boundary markers would obstruct the view of traffic at the Stoke Talmage Road junction.

Resurfacing of the Marsh End footpath has now been completed by SOHA, with OCC having done the other half some while ago.

There are now appointed Footpath Wardens based in Thame and so any problems can be reported to TPC or via 'Fix My Street'. Kissing gates to replace 2 of the stiles on the Oxfordshire Way (top of Parkers Hill & at the Stoke Talmage Road crossing) should be installed soon.

The new Tetsworth Primary School carpark continues to be delayed by the processes that must be completed between OCC and Croudace, the developer. Whilst not a TPC responsibility, the Council has been lobbying our OCC Councillors to press for a resolution on behalf of us all for 3 years or so. Changes to personnel on both sides have added to delays but the relevant Cabinet member has now been asked to assist.

TPC has been pleased to make a contribution towards the school's project to refurbish its Trim Trail.

The bench by the War Memorial has been replaced and the old metal bench on the Jitty will also soon be replaced.

Two more dog bins have been provided at the A40 ends of Judds Lane and the bridleway across the Common and all bins are emptied fortnightly.

On the green TPC is hoping to resurface at least part of the play area, The Patch, as the bark that is currently used is becoming harder to source at a reasonable price, and degrades quickly. The skate ramp was refurbished last Autumn and a spate of graffiti that had appeared was cleaned and covered. An outdoor exercise bike will join the row of adult gym equipment later this Summer. It is sad to note that 3-4 fence slats from around the park are being broken off and discarded each week! Hopefully this trend will die out.

TPC would like to thank Devey Tree Care for replacing the diseased Rowan tree, that had to be removed from the Green, with two new redwoods that have joined the row by the A40. The Council is looking to make temporary accommodation on the Green for a village Christmas Tree in time for this year's festive season.

As part of the Nationwide Warm Spaces initiative TPC provided funds to allow the Old Red Lion to provide free tea and coffee to those making use of the Warm Space there, and to allow TSSC to provide a Warm Space when the pub was closed over Christmas and the New Year. Blankets were also available to anyone to take away.

TPC, with support from our neighbouring Parish Councils, made representation to SODC at its meeting on 5th December 2022 to urge it to implement a policy to ensure the even distribution of Solar Farms across the District. This was prompted by the fourth application for a sizable farm along the short stretch of M40 between Lewknor and Milton Common. SODC has since passed a motion to include such a policy in the Local Plan that is currently being drafted.

Tetsworth Parish Council did not take part in the consultation on the proposal for the development site known as Harrington. The format of the consultation presumed that the development would go ahead and to have taken part would have suggested approval of the plans. TPC considers that the Harrington new-town proposal has no merit. It would not respond to demonstrated need, would be in an inappropriate rural location and would impose unacceptable and irreversible environmental harm on the countryside and neighbouring villages. It would also be contrary to planning policies in the Tetsworth NDP. Accordingly, TPC urged SODC and VoWH DC to dismiss the Harrington proposal from inclusion as a strategic development site in their Joint Local Plan 2041.

John Gilbert will be speaking more about the Tetsworth NDP later on.

Finally, TPC wrote twice to HM the King on behalf of the village, firstly to express our condolences on the passing of the late Queen and secondly to congratulate him on his accession to the throne. We received a heartfelt reply in gratitude for our sympathy.

3. St Giles Church – Carolyn Carr

St Giles Church is part of a Benefice of six villages, with Adwell, Lewknor, South Weston, Stoke Talmage and Wheatfield, all of which are the responsibility of the Team Vicar the Revd Peter Waterson, The congregation at St Giles' Church remains small but continues to flourish. We have a regular pattern of services at 10.30 throughout the year, with only few exceptions. Revd Waterson officiates at communion services on the first and fourth Sundays of each month and at the special services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance. We have a Morning Worship service on the second Sunday of the month, led by Jeneva Paul, and a more informal service on the third Sunday led by members of the

congregation. Where there are five Sundays in a month we do not have a service but you can attend a service in one of the other Churches in the team. In addition, St Giles' Church hosts a number of Marriage, Baptisms and Funeral Services together with services, assemblies and special facilities for Tetsworth School.

The average attendance at our services is still low (generally around 10-12) but the sense of community is strong. We share tea or coffee and cake at the end of the service which is an important part of our time together each Sunday, except during Lent. In October we held a flower festival in Church with brilliant support from companies in the village. In combination with the Harvest Festival service, we raised £830 which we gave to the Trussell Trust which supports food banks across the country and to Street Child which aims to see all children are safe, in school and learning especially in low resource areas and emergencies, such as in Somalia, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Financially, the contributions from the Friends of Saint Giles' continues to cover the cost of the insurance, with a small surplus to pay for minor repairs, and the weekly collection pays the parish share and other bills for the day-to-day running.

In conclusion, the congregation of the Church is strong and supportive and we welcome any who wishes to join us on a Sunday.

4. Cozens Bequest – Carolyn Carr

The Cozens Bequest was founded in 1923 to provide pensions to poor widows and spinsters of good character professing the Protestant religion and living in Tetsworth or adjacent parishes, which comprise Thame, Great Haseley, Stoke Talmage, Wheatfield, Adwell, South Weston, Lewknor and Aston Rowant. In 1991, the scope of the Charity was extended to relieving, either generally or individually, persons resident in the area of benefit who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need hardship or distress of such persons.

The Trustees of the Charity are myself as Chair, Steve Lingard as Treasurer, the Reverend Peter Waterson, Sue Rufus and Martin Paul. In past years we have provided funds to support school trips, for the Forest School and play parks, for the provision of the defibrillator on the Village Hall and for individuals in need. However, we are not allowed to use the charity's assets to replace or make up shortfalls where a statutory body has the funding responsibility. Request for funds should be made to any of the trustees.

5. Tetsworth Sports and Social Club / Warm Space – Tony Bottone

It has been another eventful year at Tetsworth sports and social club (TSSC).

Our sports teams all had successful seasons.

Both cricket teams won their respective leagues and the men's football team finished 9th in their league.

We were delighted to welcome two new sports teams, a darts team the finished 7th in their league and a girls under 16's football team that finished 6th. We are hoping to host children's hockey training over the summer which is another first for us. We have purchased tennis and badminton equipment and we are developing an all-weather table tennis area. Hopefully we will be able to host a pool team in the near future.

In December the club house had a flood caused by a burst water pipe that could have had catastrophic consequences if we had not had the amazing level of support from our community. People rallied to help us and the time we were closed was limited to one day. We would especially like to thank Lee Wanstall and Glenn Marriott for their speedy repairs.

We have made several improvements to the club house including purchasing an additional screen so we can show a greater number of sports fixtures.

We were pleased to help with the Warm Spaces project over the Christmas holidays. We have also enjoyed working with the local Primary school in providing facilities for their matches and events on the village green.

Due to the ongoing increases in expenditure our financial position has been weakened. We have had to raise our membership prices to £20. Thames Water have agreed to make a weekly donation in return for their vehicles using our parking area.

Our jubilee celebrations were a great success and we are hopeful that our coronation celebrations will be just as successful. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the organising committee and the parish council for their assistance with this and many other matters over the past year. We would also like to thank Adrian Hope and David Nixey for their ongoing support.

The TSSC AGM is on 3rd May at 7:30

6. The Old Red Lion – Warm Space

As part of the Warm Spaces provision several people used the facility to call in to warm and have a chat. Thanks were extended to TPC and those involved.

7. Tetsworth Memorial Hall – Caroline Cann (unable to attend – information shared by P Carr)

This is a well-used and supported facility with the Main Hall in regular use and enjoying many regular hire bookings. Meetings of Tetsworth Parish Council are held in the small hall.

8. TOLC – Heather Ashton (unable to attend – information shared by P Carr)

The site attracts a lot of interest for use and is a well-used and enjoyed facility. Groups as well as individuals are keen to use the site with insurance requirements to be agreed.

9. Tetsworth Primary School – Anna Bowden (Head of School) & Paul Hankey (Executive Head Teacher – John Hampden & Tetsworth Schools Federation)

The past 12 months:

Successes / Achievements

- Nursery is oversubscribed due to so many families recognising the success of the school – this will boost numbers over the next few years
- Went to the South West of England Football finals in Bristol after winning the Oxfordshire Small School Football Finals
- Came third in the County for Y5/6 in Cross Country
- Attended the Women's Football Euros in Brighton
- We went to the O2 Arena to sing at Young Voices in May.
- We continue to welcome back alumni to talk to the children what they have been up to since they left Tetsworth
- New Senior Leadership Team at the school since September – looking to refresh and renew the school offer

Difficulties

- Staff recruitment - it has been tricky to recruit TAs to support in class
- Budget constraints means that we have to consider every purchase for the children

Assistance required

- Budget is incredibly tight
 - Resources are a priority for the children
 - EYFS outdoor area to be renewed
 - Continue to support the school to increase space and capacity

10. Senior Citizens' Christmas Party – Paul Silver (unable to attend – report shared by Paul Carr)

We're pleased that we were able to hold the Christmas Party in December of 2022, returning to December for the first time since the start of the pandemic, and returning to the village hall.

The older children from Tetsworth Primary School made a visit and kindly gave presents made by the school children.

Martin Paul played festive songs on the keyboard for everyone to sing to, and get into the festive spirit.

Thank you to Linda, the community life champion from Asda, who helped us in the afternoon and donated some mince pies.

We would like to thank the Jubilee committee for their donation to last years party, and Lyn Redman for her donation in January this year towards the 2023 party.

We aim to hold this years party in December, with invites being sent to everyone that's eligible and requested to be invited, in early November. Anyone that's eligible (a senior citizen living in Tetsworth & their partner), and would like to be added to the invite list, please contact a committee member, via the link on our website, facebook page or email tetsworthsccp@outlook.com Also the church, village hall, & Parish Council can direct you to our contact details.

Volunteers to help at the party and at fundraising events would be very welcome.

Tetsworth SCCP Committee

Julia Adamson, Jenny Cann, Jacqui Moore, Heather Moore, Paul Silver & Lin Smith.

11. Thames Valley Police (PC Matt Eldridge unable to attend – report shared by Paul Carr)

The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) for Tetsworth comes under the team based at Thame. The Thame NHPT cover 110 square miles, covering Thame, Chinnor, Wheatley, Chalgrove, Watlington, Tetsworth and surrounding villages. Within the neighbourhood area, we cover 39 parishes, 26 schools and approximately 350 farms. Although we are based in Thame, we are mostly out in the community either on foot patrol, vehicles or bikes, responding to incidents, and engaging with the community.

The current team consists of:

- Sergeant Tim Pavey,
- PC Matt Eldridge (myself)
- PC Aled Jones (joined team last month)
- PCSO Keogh
- PC Adam Hooley (set to join us in May)

A brief overview of incidents in Tetsworth between 01/01/2023 – 14/04/2023 - There have been 24 reports, not limited to, but including;

- 9 – Driving/Road Related incidents – includes 3 vehicle seizures, 3 RTCs and other traffic related incidents including a broken down vehicle.
- 6 – Assaults (4 relate to where parties are known to each other & 2 'Road Rage')
- 1 – Concern for Welfare
- 1 – Missing Person
- 6 – Domestic Related Reports
- 1 – Suspicious incident

Checks being correct, there are no reported incidents of Burglary, Criminal Damage or Theft.

A couple of useful resources: www.police.uk (crime stats, although this does cover the broader area of Thame, Chinnor and Watlington - not just Tetsworth) and www.crashmap.co.uk – provides collision stats (not provided by the Police but thought to be fairly accurate).

12. Tetsworth Through the Ages – John Gilbert

Tetsworth today is a thriving village community of around 850 residents located at the heart of a rural Oxfordshire parish. Approximately 350 households now living in Tetsworth appreciate its attractive character and setting and are generally able to enjoy an enviable standard of living, but may know little of its past. Like any settlement, its nature and heritage have been built up over many centuries of changing opportunities and expectations, and been shaped by the impact of both local events and national trends.

John Gilbert decided to investigate Tetsworth's history by personal research of numerous source records and conversations with Tetsworth residents. He has now been able to collate the evidence of what made Tetsworth the place it is today in his Tetsworth Through the Ages document. His comprehensive picture of the village's history is presented under the following themes:

- How Tetsworth Got its Name
- The Archaeological Record
- Land Ownership and Manorial Estates
- Population and Households by Numbers
- Local Administration and Services
- Highways, Byways and Roadmaps
- Architectural Heritage
- Agriculture and Farming
- Modes of Transport
- Civil War Encounters
- Churches, Chapels and Memorials
- Tetsworth Schools
- Trades and Businesses
- Village Inns and Public Houses
- Local Postal Services
- Sport and Leisure
- Utility Infrastructure

The Tetsworth Through the Ages document is not intended for formal publication, but is available as a free resource to those who share John Gilbert's interest in Tetsworth's heritage. Additionally, he is planning to offer a short series of talks on Tetsworth's history in the Memorial Hall later this spring.

13. Tetsworth neighbourhood Development Plan – John Gilbert

Tetsworth's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was supported by 94% of voters at a local referendum in May 2021 and became a formal part of SODC's Local Plan 2035 the following month. Its policies' statutory status in planning matters can have real influence on such issues as the extent, nature and location of future housing growth in the village, and protection of our heritage and rural village character.

In theory, the Tetsworth NDP will be valid until 2035. However, periodic review is required to keep it in step with the higher-level policies in the South Oxfordshire or any follow-on Local Plan. As many will know, SODC has already started to develop a new Joint Local Plan with the Vale of White Horse Council. The two District Councils currently anticipate that their Joint Local Plan 2041 will be adopted in late-2025.

Experience gained during the preparation of the Tetsworth NDP make it clear that the village community should aim to keep its NDP review in step with the Joint Local Plan timetable. Late-2025 might still seem a long way off, but this year is not too early to form a Tetsworth NDP Steering Group to work under the sponsorship of Tetsworth Parish Council and get the NDP review process underway.

If you think that you could contribute to the work of the Steering Group, please get in touch with Tetsworth Parish Clerk or discuss your possible participation with John Gilbert who led the original Tetsworth NDP Steering Group from its formation in 2016.

14. South Oxfordshire District Council – Cllr Caroline Newton

Council elections - Elections to SODC take place on Thursday 4 May. Please remember to take photo ID with you to the polling station in order to vote.

Planning - Chalgrove: at a meeting with local councillors in March, Homes England (HE) confirmed they are still determined to push ahead with the development of Chalgrove Airfield. However, in light of opposition from the Civil Aviation Authority, HE seem to have gone back to the drawing board. They gave very little indication of their outline strategy, mitigation of traffic etc

Joint Local Plan: Work continues on the SODC and Vale of the White Horse Joint Local Plan (JLP) 2041. SODC Full Council in March passed a motion (tabled by me) to require officers to devise policies for the JLP to prevent villages and rural areas being overwhelmed by a concentration of solar farms.

5 Year Housing Land Supply: During the determination of a planning appeal (in Moreton), the planning inspector found SODC's HLS to be 4.74 years (as opposed to SODC's calculation of 5.3). The inspector didn't consider the shortfall grave enough to override other planning considerations. The determination of an appeal on an application in Chalgrove is expected shortly. One of the main issues under scrutiny was the district's 5YHLS.

In this ward, there are a few applications which have been called in for consideration by the Planning Committee. Waiting times are long, however.

Housing - SODC has described the pressure on our housing services as a 'perfect storm' - with cost of living combining with a contraction in the private rental market, and the arrival of refugees from the Ukraine war to increase the competition for homes.

The most recent survey indicated there were 3 rough sleepers in South Oxfordshire, with new homelessness cases (or at risk of homelessness) rising to 40 households. 17 households were in emergency accommodation at the end of March. Of those 4 were Ukrainian households who could no longer be accommodated by their local hosts. To date, the SODC housing team have supported 139 Ukrainian families at risk of homelessness.

The most recent figures suggested there are currently 1283 households on our register.

In the meantime, discussions have begun with Oxford City Council about how residents on their housing register can apply for homes here in SODC. Oxford City residents can already apply to join the Vale of the White Horse District Council housing register.

The background to this is the legal requirement for neighbouring housing authorities to help address the need for social housing where one cannot identify enough land for their own residents. It was this "Duty to Cooperate" which led SODC to include an additional 4,000 houses to help Oxford meet their residents' need in the current South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035.

Work is underway in SODC to create policies to tackle homes left empty in this district, and to bring them into habitation. SODC's budget includes £1 million to purchase emergency accommodation. Two of the three homes this will fund have now been secured. A further £2 million was allocated to buy 5 homes for social housing.

SODC has decided to accept funding from the Dept for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (the "Local Authority Housing Fund"), grant funding to support the purchase of homes for use by Afghan or Ukrainian families. Officers are now investigating how this might be delivered in this district.

The council spent in full its Homelessness Prevention Grant and the top-up from government.

Nature - The Environment Act 2021 mandates the creation of spatial strategies to restore nature. In this area, ours will be known as the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. It will be established in April, and led by the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership on which SODC is represented.

In order to support pollinators and other wildlife, the council is following “No Mow May” and “Let it Bee June” - letting the grass grow at certain sites in those two months to increase biodiversity.

Grant Schemes - The Councillor Community Grant Scheme (£5000 for this ward) will open to bids 19 June - 6 Oct. The Capital Grant Scheme will open 11 Sept - 10 November

Electric Vehicles - EV infrastructure: Oxfordshire (OCC) has been awarded over £4 mill to provide charging infrastructure, and a county-wide approach will be submitted to central government by May. It's critical that this funding is not just used in the cities and large funds, but spread amongst the villages where many residents don't have dedicated parking spaces/EV charging points.

EV Car Pool Club: A year-long trial of three EV cars has started - in Thame, Henley and Wallingford.

Waste - DEFRA figures indicate that South Oxfordshire had the second highest recycling rate in the country, with 62.7%

I will not be seeking re-selection in May, so will cease to be your councillor on Monday 8 May. It has been a privilege to represent Haseley Brook at SODC for the last 6 years.

15. Oxfordshire County Council – Cllr Kate Gregory – Cllr Nigel Champken-Woods (apologies sent)

OCC saves £5m with new NHS deal: OCC pools resources with the NHS in order to deliver social care and mental health services in a coordinated way. However, a review of how costs are apportioned to each organisation has meant OCC will reduce its liabilities in the agreement. The agreement will OCC to focus funding on its responsibilities while also allowing OCC and the NHS to continue to cooperate into the future.

Suite of cost of living measures agreed for 23/24: A range of measures, totalling £9.5m, to support residents with the cost of living was agreed by cabinet for 2023/2024. The measures are funded mostly through national grants, but with £2.3m contribution from OCC. National government funding does not cover the full range of measures that councils are encouraged to take. The measures include, council tax support, practical support for those leaving hospital, and significant funding for children in receipt of free school meals during schools holidays. A new Local Crisis Fund (administered by district councils) has also been established, which will support people during periods of financial crisis.

Boundary review: OCC has submitted to the boundary commission its suggestions for new county division boundaries (passed unanimously at Full Council). The Commission's consultation will close 9 May. The Commission will then develop its recommendations and consult on draft proposals 1 Aug- 9 Oct

Gigahubs: The project to install broadband to community hubs is 50% complete.

Future generations: A motion was passed at full council, asking the council to include in its decision-making processes consideration of the impact for future generations

£6.4m to help low-income households tackle energy inefficiency: OCC's climate team was successful in its application to the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2). The money will be used for whole-house retrofit installations to at least 310 properties across Oxfordshire that are not heated by mains gas.

Sustainable Warmth Grants: Funding for residents without mains gas, and household incomes of less than £30,000 (or in receipt of means-tested benefits) is still available.

Grants for care workers: Cost of living grants remain available for care workers, available from the Care Workers' hardship grant

Land adoption Judd's Lane - OCC Property carried out a feasibility study in 2022 with the Head and governors to explore the potential of constructing a school hall on the additional land and the likely cost. As soon as we have a clear timescale for the transfer of the land the next step is to meet with the Head and governors to update them on the land, review the hall proposals to ensure this is still the preferred use of the land/s106. Additional funding would need to be identified to deliver the project which could potentially be the opportunity to bid for CIL funding. Technical Approval is still to be determined, OCC have made comments and are awaiting an update from the developer.

Bledlow Ridge Recycling Centre - Bledlow Ridge Recycling Centre has reopened and costs for Oxfordshire residents range from £22.34 to £387.60 per visit depending what type of vehicle and waste you have. Conversations with officers are still ongoing to try and find a solution.

16. Any other comments / questions

Further discussion of the land earmarked for expansion of the school – feasibility study and money available. Meeting to be held in 2 weeks.

Note made of the potential need for cleaning of the War Memorial.

Meeting Closed at 8.30pm. Drinks were then provided.



Lin Freeth
Meeting Clerk