**Salford Parish Council**

[*www.salfordvillage.org.uk*](http://www.salfordvillage.org.uk)

**Annual Parish Meeting 2024**

**Tuesday, 9th April 2024, at 6:30pm at Salford Village Hall**

**Minutes**

1. **To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting**

These were approved and signed

1. **Report of the Parish Council Chairman**

All Councilors were up for election in May.

Drainage and highways issues continue to feature regularly on Parish Council agendas.

A site visit was conducted with Highways and Andrew Beaney. Hopefully there will be an update soon on the issues

Unfortunately, the bad state of the road is a national problem. The Parish Council will continue to report the roads and push for re-surfacing in areas that are the worst.

Village Benches– all the benches around the village have been refurbished and are looking very good.

DCs Andrew Beaney, Alex Wilson & County Cllr. Geoff Saul were thanked for their continued work and support for the Parish during the past year.

Cllr. McBride thanked all his fellow Councillors for their dedication throughout the last year and to the clerk.

1. **Financial Statement of the Parish Council 2023/2024**

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| **Year Ended 31.03.24** |
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| **Receipts** | **£** |
| Balances brought forward | 7272 |
| Precept WODC | 6750 |
| Grass-cutting grant OCC | 462.07 |
| VAT refund | 141.36 |
| **Total Income** | **14625.43** |
|   |   |
| **Payments** | **£** |
| Bramble Removal | 30 |
| Information Commissioner fee | 35 |
| Tree Replacement | 63.99 |
| Village Hall hire | 73 |
| Clerk's expenses, stationery, mileage | 73.85 |
| RoSPA playground inspection | 90 |
| Internal auditor | 96 |
| HSBC charges | 96 |
| Moore External Auditors | 96 |
| OALC subscription | 156 |
| Mower service/repair | 159.59 |
| Website provider annual fee/compliance | 182.86 |
| Insurance | 399.39 |
| Donation Village Hall (S133) | 700 |
| Interest PAYE | 957.34 |
| Grass-cutting | 1081.24 |
| Clerk gross salary  | 3818.1 |
| **Total Expenditure** | **8108.36** |
| **Balance carried forward** | **6517.07** |
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| ICO = Information Commissioner’s Office OALC = Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils 133 indicate the Statutory Provision under which the payment is made  |

1. **Reports from the District Councillors**

District Councillor’s Report – DCs Alex Wilson & Andrew Beaney:-

DC Alex Wilson thanked the Parish Council for its support during the recent District Councillor elections.

WODC continues to be led by the Liberal Democrats in alliance with Labour and the Green Party.

The council tax has increased by £4.99 for a Band D property and the green bin license fee has increased from £45.00 to £50.00 per annum. • WODC’s land supply is 4.38 years which gives cause for concern regarding the plots at Cling Clang Lane.

The leisure centres around the District are being improved including the fixing of the roof at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre.

Improvements are being made concerning mental health.

Alex and Andrew thanked the Parish Council for all the work that they do for the community

1. **Report from the County Councillor**

CC Saul thanked the Parish Council for its continued hard work for the community.

The County Council passed a multiparty budget for 2024/2025 that adopted, in full, the budget proposals of the Labour & Co-operative Group. The following challenges include:- tackling the cost of living crisis through restoring £300,000 in annual support grants to local advice centres across Oxfordshire inequality; making services for children fit for the future to include £1.3 million for increased support for children with special educational needs and disabilities; £1.3 million for more family help social workers to stop children being taken into care; £6 million to build brand new children’s homes; highways - £5 million to fill more potholes and fix pavements (55,000 extra potholes filled); to bring buses back under public control; £6 million for projects to cut congestion; £6.5 million for safer walking and cycling infrastructure and routes across the County.

Council tax has been increased by the maximum allowed of 4.99 %. This includes the maximum increase of 2.99 % plus 2 % to cover adult social care. In 2010, council tax represented 28 per cent of council income; following a decade of Government cuts, the council tax now represents 58 per cent of council income.

Over 50 per cent of the budget is spent on statutory obligations surrounding adult and children’s social care.

There is a new 801 bus service running from Chipping Norton to Cheltenham.

The County Council administration has signed off on a lease of the triangle of land at Kidlington for a new Oxford United Football Stadium, subject to the grant of planning permission by Cherwell District Council.

1. **Report from the Village Hall Committee**

Salford Village Hall Chair’s Report 2023/24

I am pleased to report that the Village Hall is in good shape. Although running costs have gone up significantly, we have been able to cover these from the pick-up in bookings, while keeping hire costs the same as last year. This is due to the fact that we have a friendly, well-maintained, reasonably priced hall and, importantly, with adequate parking for hirers. Thanks to all who have helped to get the hall to where it is today from its beginnings in the 1960s. Like all buildings, parts of hall now need attention, and some fixtures are reaching the end of their useful life. Repainting of the hall exterior is nearing completion. Areas that need attention next include replacing the heating system, refurbishing the wooden floor, which is starting to splinter, resurfacing parts of the parking area, installing a loft ladder and recovering the flat roof areas, amongst others. Funds we have built up over the years will cover some of these costs, but we will need to raise more funds to cover all needs to ensure the hall continues to be a viable and valuable resource for the local community. Apart from committee members, we are very grateful to those who contribute so much towards the hall on a voluntary basis, the Parish Council for their donation to the Village Hall as well as their continued support, and to Steve & Nicki McBride for providing the Christmas tree.

1. **Report from the Church Wardens**

**St Mary’s Church Salford Report for 2023 - (March 2024)**

The rhythm of the liturgical year is gently comforting. Our services have been well attended and we get much pleasure from our fellowship of worshipping together.

The grass was subdued at last by our marvellous mowers. It was so good to see Ray Timms. The walls still need attention.

Danny Stevens cleared out the gutters and the tower roof, many thanks for that.

There was also clearing of ivy and other growth.

Centrepoint met every month and was delivered by many kind people. Sharon, the editor, deserves a medal.

Accounts have been done and bills paid. Now it’s all ladybirds and primroses.

Many many thanks to James Kennedy for finding us people to take our services every month and to our invaluable organists.

We remember those we have lost, Maurice Wallington, Janet Duncan, Julie Yates and Jean Harrison.

There was the happy occasion of Henry Colston’s baptism.

1. **Reports from other Local Organisations**

**Villager Bus**

I write to let you know, and through you your residents, that the Villager Bus V26 service to Witney has an amended timetable now in force. A copy is attached and is also available on our website www.villagerbus.co.uk.

The changes are relatively minor with departures a few minutes later or earlier than before. However, on the return journey, the bus will call at Combe only to drop passengers already on the bus or if requested in advance for one-way journeys from Combe to Chipping Norton.

Please also remind your residents that the service now runs on Thursdays as well as Monday, Tuesday and Friday giving access to the Thursday market in Witney. We are withdrawing our V4 Wednesday afternoon service from Salford to Chipping Norton with effect from 17 April. This service has been "on request" since last October but nobody has asked for it. This follows a year or more without any passengers when it was a routine stop. The Wednesday morning V2, which is regularly used, will continue as at present. You may want to let village residents know about this change.

Yours,

Keith Gowing

The Villager Bus

**Age UK**

You may have heard that the UK’s telephone network is being upgraded, which means that landline services are changing. People can still have a landline in their homes, but the technology that powers it will be different.

For most, switching over will be straightforward, but some people may need new equipment or support to make the changes.

Whilst people need to contact their telephone provider for more information on when this change will affect them, our aim is to provide some clarity on what is happening and why.

We have created an information sheet (attached), and we’d value your support in ensuring that older people in our local communities are aware of these changes, how they might be affected, and the steps they should take to be prepared.

Thank you for your support,

Age UK Oxfordshire.

1. **Report from Thames Valley Police**

We’ve had several keyless car thefts where thieves can clone your car key, our advice is.

1.    When at home keep your car key (and the spare) away from the car, doors and windows.

2.    Put your keys in a signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Box.

3.    Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.

4.    Use a steering wheel lock or car alarm.

Also, we’re encourage people to sign up to TVP alerts

1. **To consider suggestions from parishioners**

Parking remained a contentious issue the Village Hall had tried to relieve some of the parking when the hall was not in use at the weekend.

A parishioner requested a newsletter the Clerk would organise with Cllr McGlynn