CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR SOUTH LEIGH AND HIGH COGGES PARISH COUNCIL

2022/23

Welcome to Peter Grant who not only joined the village during the year but joined us on the Parish Council.

Annual Accounts

We put aside a certain amount of money each year in the hope that we might be able to recruit a Parish Council clerk (Ken Brooks temporarily holding this position but taking no salary)

As we didn’t fill this position last year it means we have a surplus in this

reporting year’s budget and therefore will be able to spend some more money on works in

the parish – more on that in our main meeting

The Parish Council’s accounts along with all the subcommittees’ accounts have been accepted by the external auditors and have been posted on the website – I don’t intend to take up peoples’ time by going through them line by line but please do ask any questions you may have at any time

Matters With Which We Have Benn been Involved with in the reporting year.

We have ongoing issues with Thames Water with regard to the amount of pollutants in the stream and also the number of times untreated sewage goes into the stream

We compiled an Parish Emergency Protocol and were successful in applying and installing a emergency generator in the village hall – now our designated Emergency Centre. This means we have a place where residents can come to be warm, cook food and charge phones etc in an emergency situation

A40/Access to Witney

The part of this scheme that most affects the parish is the dualling of the section of the A40 from Barnards Gate to Eynsham Park and Ride - we have been informed that this has been put on hold because of the increase in costs – the Park and Ride at Eynsham is still progressing as are the new bus lanes going in and out of Oxford.

Access to Witney Shores Green

We have been having some good detailed conversations with OCC about how this is going to affect the traffic through the village and a reasonably generous traffic calming scheme has been offered. We are in the process of consulting with the village and more details will follow

We have achieved some extra planting to try to screen the houses at High Cogges from noise and pollution.

We are told that the work on the Junction will start in late Spring 2024 and that the traffic calming will be in place before that.

Solar Farms x 2

We still have not had the community benefit money for the 12 Acre Site – which apparently 2 years later is still not up and running

The site at Tar Farm was given planning permission but we have been advised that the build out won’t be for at least 2 years because of a lack of the main infrastructure

An application for an anaerobic digester has been received and is in the process of going through the WODC’s planning department. The Parish Council has done a lot of work on this but we are so grateful to the group of residents who have put in a very detailed objection.

Conservation Area application

This is going forward slowly with a certain amount of opposition from the District Council.

Flooding at High Cogges

This is an ongoing on complicated matter involving several properties and OCC – Lysette has put in an incredible amount of hard work to try to resolve.

There have been other smaller planning applications within the parish that the council has been asked to comment on

The Village Hall continues to be a great asset for the village – we are so grateful to the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work.

Generally, I would like to thank the members of the Parish Council for their work over the past year but would like to add all our thanks to those that spend many hours making the village what it is

Martin Collett

Martin Spurrier

Darcy and Evadne as footpath officers

The monthly quiz setting team

And load of other people who just quietly get on with things