

Wheatley Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Monday 3rd July in Merry Bells at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Bell (RB), Carr (JC), A Davies (AD) (Chair), T Davies (TD), Gregory (PG), Harding (RH), Hood (PH), Roberts (IR), Stephens (GS), Willmott (PW) and County Councillor Johnson (KJ).

Officer: Michelle Legg (ML), Clerk to the Parish Council

Members of the Public: approx. 18

- | No | Item | Action |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 58. | APOLOGIES for Absence - Cllrs Bignell, Coleridge, Foster, Lamont, Newman | |
| 59. | DECLARATIONS of Interest
Cllr Willmott – Wheatley Playing Fields Trust and Littleworth Playing Fields
Cllr A Davies - Wheatley Playing Fields Trust | |
| 60. | MINUTES from previous meeting held on 20th June
i.) Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 20 th June – previously circulated with agenda were signed as correct and accurate. | |
| 61. | ACTIONS from
i) Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 20 th June
Chair to follow up with Cllr Coleridge in relation to Castle Farm
ii) Parish Council Meeting Mon 5 th June
All actions had been carried out | AD |
| 7:35pm The Chair declared the Council out of session and invites questions from the floor. | | |
| 62. | TO RECEIVE A REPORT from County Councillor Kirsten Johnson
Cllr Johnson reported that Broadband had been installed into part of the village. At a recent meeting with Keith Stenning they identified the need for a dropped kerb in Church Rd/Friday lane. The bollards in High St – raised by Cllr Roberts- have been added to OCC schedule of works. Keith Stenning asked for further bollard or similar issues to be reported to fixmystreet.co.uk
HGVs along the High St - should any residents be concerned about these Cllr Johnson urged them to report this to OCC, the more complaints the greater the chance of action being taken.
OCC locality grant now available (£25,000) to support community services which are no longer delivered by OCC. The deadline is December. Anyone interested in applying are advised to do so promptly.
Oxford Community Foundation grants available for a range of projects.
Cllr Bell asked about the weeds in kerbstones and gullies. The Clerk has contacted SODC and the drains will be checked, however there is no funding available for clearing the weeds from kerbsides.
Cllr Carr asked Cllr Johnson to focus on the number of large vehicles travelling along Crown Rd rather than turning in Crown Sq. Cllr Johnson asked Cllr Carr to email her about this. Cllr Carr to email Cllr Johnson
Cllr T Davies raised the suggestion of stopping traffic before it got to the village as beyond Horspath there is no signage for lorries stating that there are narrow lanes in | JC |

the village. Those that are in place are not deterring vehicles. Cllr Johnson is happy to raise this with OCC but under guidance from the Parish Council. Lizzie Tully gave an example of a school bus causing issues around the village after it took a wrong turn.

63. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOBY NEWMAN - no report available.

64. TO RECEIVE A REPORT/PRESENTATION FROM THE MAPLE TREE CENTRE
Vicky Job and Chris Sewell, gave an update of their progress and achievements so far.

The centre are close to signing a lease and have been accepted for an OCC transitional grant and the business plan has been approved. They are also awaiting approval for their charitable status.

They thanked WPC and councillors for their support.

Cllr Carr asked about their financial support and commitments Chris confirmed that a total of £13,500 has been promised but are awaiting responses from other parish councils.

Applications to businesses and charities will be made once Charitable status has been granted. Funds will be raised through donations, investigating subscription payments and events/fundraisers.

There will be no rent payable from OCC in the first year and operations planned to start in September.

Costs incurred so far include legal assistance and building surveys.

Cllr Carr remained concerned over the shortfall of funds.

Staffing costs in the first year will be reduced with appointments of 2, not 3 staff and the wages have been adjusted in line with other charity providers.

Cllr Roberts asked the centre to clarify their expenditure - £500 for building survey.

Chris confirmed their funds are in negative equity until the OCC grant is paid.

Cllr T Davies supported Cllr Roberts comments and asked whether the 'the cost per child rate' identified in the business plan should be reiterated with other parish councils within the centre's catchment area.

Cllr Gregory asked whether the centre has started to plan themes or sessions.

Vicky confirmed this would be discussed with appointed Manager, when they are in post but will also respond to the needs of the children, to support their learning and creativity.

Cllr Hood advised looking at bringing in income based on the facilities in the village, e.g. outdoor learning activities which are not freely available.

The centre welcomed further comments, ideas and suggestions.

Cllr Willmott asked when the submission to Charity Commission had been made.

Chris confirmed this had been submitted two weeks earlier.

The commitment to support the Centre had already been agreed, but Cllr Davies proposed that the first payment be made, all voted in favour of releasing the first payment.

Clerk to arrange for the first instalment to be signed and sent to The Maple Tree Clerk Treasurer

65. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM WHEATLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Update previously circulated by Clerk and shared by John Fox. Responses to public consultation will be completed by the committee w/c 3rd July.

Cllr Bell asked for clarification on SODC consultation as SODC had extended their consultation by an extra 28 days. John Fox continues to liaise with SODC.

Cllr Roberts asked whether there is an obligation to accept the terms of the NP and these will take priority over other/future planning decisions made by district/unitary councils.

In relation to Brookes site (600 homes) WNP list 300 homes but there is also talk of a bid from an overseas institute. John Fox clarified that Oxford Brookes have the right and a financial commitment to sell the site to whoever they want to.

Not everyone has accessed the website or social media, Cllr Roberts and asked what is the strategy for accessing the remainder? John Fox responded that the WNP has worked as hard as possible to engage with the whole community.

66. TO RECEIVE THE FINDINGS OF THE HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

An updated report had been previously circulated. Cllr T Davies asked for acknowledgement to the whole group who have worked on the project, then provide an update on the project's progress and achievements.

Georgina Roberts provided a summary on the 'greening of the village centre'.

Cllr Carr commented that she would have liked time to have read all the reports prior to the meeting. Cllr T Davies responded to say the majority of the content of the report had been circulated at previous meetings.

Cllr Hood had been passed a copy of a letter she had received from a resident. The Clerk provided an update on the response to the original letter and subsequent visit from Cllr T Davies as Chair of HSIG to the correspondent.

Cllr Hood asked for the letter sent by to be circulated to all.

Clerk to circulate the letter.

Clerk

John Fox informed the committee that David Harverson and David Mancy had carried out a parking survey, it just so happens that they are members of the WNP too.

Ian Germain presented a proposal from the retailers group, which included additional parking, improved disabled parking, as well as trees, planting and new signage.

One of the outcomes from the group is a proposed 'Wheatley Traders Association'.

Cllr T Davies has circulated 6 bound copies of the report with several available in the parish office. Funding opportunities and land ownership were highlighted.

Cllr Stephens commented that access to the shops by car is not the only method of transport available.

Cllr Roberts asked for clarification on the next steps, a discussion took place and it was felt that time was needed to review the content of the report

Cllr Gregory wanted reassurance on the article in the recent newsletter, Cllr T Davies circulated the article to HSIG, but without any response he submitted the report on their behalf.

Cllr Roberts did not endorse the report.

Mary Blake felt that Cllr Roberts should have declared an interest in the HSIG at the beginning of the meeting.

Cllr Bell asked for the topic to be discussed at the Open Spaces meeting which was agreed. All councillors were urged to read and put forward their comments. A full discussion will take place at the next Parish Council meeting in September.

Clerk to add this to both agendas

Clerk

Chair declared the meeting back in session at 9:05pm.

67. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE/MINUTES AND ACTIONS from

i) Open Spaces Committee - update provided by the Chair which had previously been circulated by the Clerk.

ii) Finance Committee 19th June - previously circulated.

The Clerk to forward LGPS emails to Cllrs and to raise at the next meeting

Clerk to action

Clerk

iii) Planning Committee 14th June – previously circulated. Cllr Bell updated the committee on the appeal approval of 95 High St.

68. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM:

- i) Wheatley Playing fields Trust
No update on the lease. Meeting has taken place with OCB.
- ii) Littleworth Playing Fields Group
Meeting taking place on Thu 13th July.
- iii) Pavilion Working Group - meeting takes place Tuesday 11th July
- iv) Flood Advisory Group takes place next Wednesday 12th July

69. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL BODIES

- i) Merry Bells Committee – no update available from Cllr Foster.
- ii) The Howe Trust – Cllr Gregory reported that the next meeting is in early September.
- iii) Thames Valley Police – an update had been previously been circulated by PCSO Dollery. Cllr Gregory informed the committee that there will be a reduction in numbers from the Neighbourhood Team from August 1st.
Cllr A Davies asked for an invite to be sent to Area Sergeant. **Clerk to Action**
- iv) Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society – Cllr Stephens updated that the windmill is working well but the roof to the shed has collapsed.
- v) Neighbourhood Action Group – No update/minutes available as group meet quarterly.
- vi) Wheatley Charities - no update provided despite email being sent to the group.

Clerk

70. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO RUNNING FREE CONSULTATION (PARK RUN)

Discussion took place over the consultation document.

Cllr A Davies agreed to compose a response and circulate it to all Cllrs before it is submitted on Wed 3rd July.

AD

71. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO PARISH BURIAL GROUND

Clerk shared correspondence from Rev'd Hawkes. Cllr Carr raised the urgency of this matter.

Cllr Hood asked if the WPC did not agree with the land designation within the WNP can a group investigate alternatives, the councillors were in agreement with this and Cllr Hood & Cllr Gregory offered to undertake this with support from the Clerk.

Clerk to circulate the correspondence.

Clerk

72. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

To propose that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph X of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, namely private contractual and employment matters

73. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE/MINUTES AND ACTIONS from the Staffing Committee
Draft Terms of Reference for the standing committee were proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Stephens.

A proposal for Cllr Harding to continue the role of Chair of the Staffing committee was made by Cllr T Davies and seconded by Cllr A Davies. All voted in favour
The minutes, previously circulated, were shared by Cllr Harding.
Employment law has changed and WPC are seeking advice on sole employer and tax regulations.

A brief discussion took place about clerking/minute taking for the Merry Bells Committee.

Clerk to approach Assistant Clerk

Clerk

74. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK

- work to clear Ambrose Rise Ditch has been complete
- quote for tree work at Crown Rd & Farm Close Road Rec. Awaiting a response back from tree surveyor re Church Rd Rec. Quotes received for crown lift for Ambrose Rise and Farm Close Rec.
- Gulley's added to OCC programme but does not include kerbstone weeds
- Good news stories in partnership with OCC bench and dropped kerb
- Clerk asked for two authorised signatories to sign the cheques.

75. CORRESPONDENCE

- i.) TPO for Mulberry Drive received. No issues were raised.
- ii) Email from Sonning Common Parish Council, which was discussed and agreed that this was not for WPC to support
- iii) OALC June newsletter which had been circulated. Clerk to contact OALC for Financial advice.

Clerk

76. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) Wheatley Wanderers - Cllr Stephens provided an update on the groups work to develop a nature reserve near the Littleworth entrance to the railway tunnel.
- ii) Cllr T Davies attended the Community Bus meeting, one council has set up their own bus service. If people are interested in investigating this for Littleworth, Cllr T Davies will approach the chair of the group and invite them to a future meeting.

77. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 4th September

Meeting Closed: 21.45pm