

Wheatley Parish Council Meeting Minutes

4th March 2019

Present: Cllrs Bell (RB), P Bignell (PB), A Cooper (AC), R Harding (RH), P Harrison (PH), P Hood (PHo), D Lamont (DL, (Chair), T Newman (TN), A Sercombe (AS), R Street (RS), Lizzie Tully (LT), P Willmott (PW), OCC Cllr Bearder.

Officer: Michelle Legg, Clerk to the Parish Council (Clerk) **Members of Public:** Approx. 1

160. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Gregory

161. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Lamont, Wheatley Playing Field Trust. Cllr Willmott, Wheatley Playing Field Trust and Wheatley Rugby Club.

162. MINUTES from the Parish Council meeting on Monday 4th February 2019 were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.
ACTIONS – Still no formal response from SODC re disabled parking bays. Clerk has contacted estates team for an update.
Cllr Newman suggested Mark Stone - Chief Executive (cc Toby Newman)

163. TO CO-OPT ONE PARISH COUNCILLOR – no volunteers came forward.

164. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM OCC COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER
Cllr Bearder informed the council that he has been working with neighbouring Horspath parish council on height and weight restrictions provided by the bridge and they are looking to purchase the bridge.
He has also been approached by concerned residents about traffic issues along Church Rd. He is looking again at options with officers.
Cllrs reminded Cllr Bearder that they have looked at these issues previously. Bus companies will not change their routes.
Councillors are urging more support for policing the long term parking issues. SODC cannot decriminalise parking enforcement without the support of all other district councils in the county.
Cllr Bearder has committed his £15,000 Councillor fund to the Maple Tree Centre to help build up suitable reserves.
Cllr Harding asked whether OCC would consider reducing the rental costs for the centre. Cllr Bearder to raise this with officers.
Cllr Bignall mentioned that volunteers have come forward to assist with the building maintenance and have asked for a building survey from OCC.
Cllr Newman reminded Cllr Bearder that the parish council had already committed £10,000 for the same purpose.

165. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOBY NEWMAN
Almost 2,000 comments received from consultation on Local Plan which have been submitted to the Planning Expectorate.
Major income streams reducing from central government and SODC are allocating funds for 2 posts to help invest reserves to identify and deliver new income streams.
Capital grant pot will be reducing from £1,000,000 to £500,000.
Council tax increases based on Band D OCC 3%, PCC 13.17%, SODC 4.3%, WPC 2.5%.
£59,000 retained and carried forward again for flood alleviation in Wheatley.
Cllr Harding asked for clarification regarding 6 SODC Cllrs suspended from South Oxfordshire Conservative group to which Cllr Newman provided further details.

A proposal was made by Cllr Lamont seconded by Cllr Willmott to take the meeting out of session at 20:18. This was approved and the floor was opened up to the public.

Jane

Concerned about the Growth Board's objectives and asked for this to be clarified within the newsletter.

Cllr Lamont shared her concerns and asked her to comment on the Oxfordshire 2050 consultation.

Cllr Newman confirmed that SODC have agreed on the principle for infrastructure, but disagree on any routes that cuts through green open space.

Cllr Lamont closed the public session at 20:25

166. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM WHEATLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

John Fox had circulated an update to councillors and spoke to the council about developments. SODC have given the group the go ahead for public consultation on the draft neighbourhood plan.

The committee will contact as many organisations as possible to promote the consultation.

A housing needs survey will be carried out. This will be independent of OBU development.

Cllr Lamont asked clarification on the timescales and WPC involvement in the process.

Chair to contact Taylor Wimpey re column tops at Braeme Oak.

Chair

167. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK

- i) Internal audit checklist completed and to be returned to internal auditor
- ii) Perch bench delivered and to be installed outside Morland House
- iii) Review meeting arranged with newsletter editor 11th Mar. Deadline for content is Thu 14th March.
- iv) Meetings with play equipment companies for Farm Close Road Rec. are ongoing

Cllr Lamont was impressed with the new benches in Church Road

168. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM EXPRESSWAY ADVISORY GROUP

Many comments were received by the Expressway Advisory Group after notices were displayed and the newsletter article. The group is tracking updates from other groups and parish councils.

Public consultation on the preferred route may not start until the Autumn 2019.

169. TO DISCUSS RESPONSE TO OXFORDSHIRE 2050 CONSULTATION

Deadline for consultation is 25th March. Cllr Street was keen for the parish council to respond to the consultation. Councillors were urged to read the documentation and questions.

Cllr Lamont asked for individuals to respond to Clerk by 13th March with an EGM scheduled for Mon 18 Mar at 6.30pm

170. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON BURIAL GROUND PROJECT

The Clerk had produced an update for Councillors. Following the recent findings at the A40 site this included a request for an additional £3,000 to carry out further investigative surveys on the Old London Road site.

This was proposed by Cllr Newman, seconded by Cllr Lamont, and approved by councillors.

171. TO CONSIDER THE 2019 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Due to concerns over purdah dates for the event have had to be changed. From the potential dates given to councillors Thursday 16th May was agreed.

172. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON GREAT SPRING CLEAN

Events will take place during Fri 5th and Sun 7th April 2019. The Clerk is collating a list of areas and volunteers for each area/day. **The clerk would appreciate**

ALL

prompt responses. Members of the community will be welcome to join in one of these events or arrange their own.

The Clerk has requested additional items from SODC which will be delivered on Thu 4th April. Risk Assessments have also been completed and returned.

Posters will soon be displayed with session promoted on the website and social media.

173. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM ASYLUM/REFUGEE MEETING

Councillor Sercombe represented the parish council, along with Cllr Bell.

Cllr Sercombe felt it was difficult for Wheatley to identify how they could support residents who would prefer to be located within areas where there are others from similar countries and speaking the same language.

174. TO RECEIVE UPDATE/MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM

- i) Open Spaces Committee – next meeting 18th March.
- ii) Finance Committee – minutes circulated, next meeting 15th April
- iii) Planning Committee – minutes circulated, next meeting 13th March. Meeting will be considering WPC response to license extension from The New Club
- iv) Pavilion Working Group – feedback from meeting with planning officer regarding three issues. No further communication received from SODC.
- v) Village Square Working Group – Clerk has contacted SODC team again.
- vi) Community Bus Working Group – no update
- vii) Wheatley Play & Activity Day – minutes circulated and looking to be an exciting and engaging day.

175. RECEIVE UPDATES/REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL BODIES

- i) Merry Bells – next meeting 7th March
- ii) OALC – update circulated and Cllr Bell highlighted the elections and land registry. £770 membership subscription now payable and payment approved
Clerk reminded all councillors about training courses offered
- iii) Wheatley Playing Field Trust. Continue to improve grass areas. Wheatley FC are looking to create a mini football team.
Tennis will be available after Easter holidays. Free court use for Wheatley & Holton residents will continue. Registration forms will be available from the parish office. A netball club have shown an interest in using the courts too.
- iv) Howe Trust – nothing to update
- v) Neighbourhood Action Group – no update
- vi) The Maple Tree Centre will be receiving £15,000 from Cllr Bearder in 2019/20.
- vii) Littleworth Playing Fields Working Group – meeting postponed and likely to be 21st March.
- viii) Wheatley Charities – nothing to report
- ix) Oxford Brookes Residents Group – next meeting Wed 6th March. PB attending

176. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION

- i) You Said, We did feedback from OCC circulated
- ii) Election Key Dates:
26 March Publication of Notice of Election & Nominations Open. Purdah begins
3 April (4pm) Deadline for receipt of nomination papers – suggest hand delivery
4 April deadline for publication of Statement of Persons nominated
7 May current councillors retire and new councillors take office
Clerk has utilised NALC resources to recruit new councillors that will support an election rather than a co-option.
- iii) Oxfordshire Community First Subscription (£70) payment approved.
- iv) PCC are looking for a representative of St Mary's 2020 project. Cllr Newman offered assistance but may not be able to make the meetings.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 1ST APRIL 2019