



Wheatley Parish Council Meeting

Minutes for Monday, December 4, 2023.

Present: Alison Sercombe, Toby Newman, Richard Street, Richard Barrett, Andrew Cooper, Paul Gregory, Paul Willmott, Anthony Shepherd, Lizzie Tully, Sophi Davis

Officer: Clerk

Members of the Public: Approx 7

The meeting opening at 19:30 and closed at 21:22

#115/2023-24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from SODC Cllr Kantor had been received.

#116/2023-24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Willmott declared an interest in Wheatley Playing Field Trust and Wheatley Rugby Club

#117/2023-24. TO RECEIVE MINUTES

The minutes from the parish council meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023 were approved by the council and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – SESSION OPENED AND CLOSED AT 19:33

#118/2023-24. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

- **#125/2023-24** Littleworth Footpath – Clerk has approached a local land surveyor and is waiting for a response.
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Chairman moved this item earlier in the meeting as representatives from committee and local residents were in attendance.

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Cllr Newman suggested an amendment to 'reference 12.6', which was unanimously approved by members. **Clerk/Chairman to action**

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#129/2023-24. TO CONSIDER POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- i. Biodiversity Plan - approved.
- ii. Play Area Inspections - approved.
- iii. Equalities Policy - approved.
- iv. Learning & Development Policy - approved
- v. Lone Working Policy - approved.
- vi. Social Media Policy - approved

#130/2023-24. TO APPROVE DISPOSAL OF ANCILLARY ITEMS

Agreed to dispose/recycle of items. Where possible the Clerk to sell on local sites.

#131/2023-24 TO RECEIVE UPDATE/MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM:

- i. Open Spaces – praise to the grounds team on their recent work
Member of public had reported to a Cllr of slippery step in memorial garden, Clerk to investigate whether there is anything that can be improved.
- ii. Planning meeting – To ensure meeting was quorate it was agreed to start the next planning committee at 18:30pm.
- iii. Staffing – awaiting availability from committee members.
- iv. Communications – no meeting planned.
- v. Holton Pavilion Project – nothing to report. Clerk to contact organisations and individuals regarding Gifted.
Littleworth Playing Field – a meeting took place recently. ODST have commissioned tree survey and surveyor to plot land boundaries.
EOI sent to COF which was successful (with comments) and link to apply. Clerk and Chairman felt that work was needed on the submission and suggested this was investigated in the new year, with a plan to submit late 2024. WPC have secured the in-kind services of a designer to provide plans of what the site could look lie.
SODC plan to carry out test digs in early 2024 whilst they wait for confirmation of EA funding for the flood alleviation pond.

- vi. Brookes development working group – met in November. Latest plans were shared ahead of submission to SODC in December. Number of homes has reduced. Parking provision has improved, providing improved security. No increase of size of pavilion but improved internal space.
- vii. Traffic working group – meeting scheduled for January.
- viii. Youth Club – delayed whilst OPA recruit another member of staff. Adverts have been placed in local newsletters and magazines.
- ix. Youth Council – no update

#132/2023-24. TO RECEIVE UPDATES/REPORTS FROM:

- i. Community Larder – experienced low levels of excess food
- ii. Good Neighbour Scheme – nothing to report.
- iii. Howe Trust – meetings and activities have taken place.
- iv. Maple Tree Centre –.
- v. Merry Bells Management Committee - Cllr Tully to report issues with heating Cllr Sercombe reported lack of parking availability.
- x. Oxford Brookes Residents Association – meeting notes had been circulated.
- vi. Thames Valley Police – updates circulated.
- vii. Wheatley Charities – nothing to report.
- viii. Wheatley Playing Field Trust – experiencing issues with Barclays bank, who have closed the account and not reopened a new one.
- ix. Wheatley Windmill Preservation Trust

#133/2023-24. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION - none

#134/2023-24. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION - none

#135/2023-24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 8th January 2024



Wheatley Parish Council Meeting

Minutes for Monday, December 4, 2023.

Present: Alison Sercombe, Toby Newman, Richard Street, Richard Barrett, Andrew Cooper, Paul Gregory, Paul Willmott, Anthony Shepherd, Lizzie Tully, Sophi Davis

Officer: Clerk

Members of the Public: Approx 7

The meeting opening at 19:30 and closed at 21:22

#115/2023-24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from SODC Cllr Kantor had been received.

#116/2023-24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Willmott declared an interest in Wheatley Playing Field Trust and Wheatley Rugby Club

#117/2023-24. TO RECEIVE MINUTES

The minutes from the parish council meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023 were approved by the council and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – SESSION OPENED AND CLOSED AT 19:33

#118/2023-24. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

- **#125/2023-24** Littleworth Footpath – Clerk has approached a local land surveyor and is waiting for a response.
- **#124/2023-24** Cllr Barrett has shared the comments and suggestions from the public meeting, with OCC officers

#122/2023-24 TO DISCUSS WHEATLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

Chairman moved this item earlier in the meeting as representatives from committee and local residents were in attendance.

- i. Result of referendum was acknowledged.
- ii. Chairman of the council thanked the Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Committee, led by J Fox and R Gordon for their hard work over the last eight years.
- iii. Next steps
 - a. The new plan is awaiting adoption by SODC. The documents still carry weight within the planning process. SODC Kantor will make the presentation to SODC.
 - b. SODC/VoWHDC Local Plan is in development and the council will need to review how the policies and strategic aims will impact on WNP. A further review may be required.
 - c. Green Route modification Cllr Sercombe proposed a non-material modification to remove the map (fig 12.6) of proposed green route in WNP review 2023. Wording and aspiration to remain as is written.
Cllr Newman suggested an amendment to 'reference 12.6', which was unanimously approved by members. **Clerk/Chairman to action**

- d. WPC oversight Confirmed that WNP will become a standing item of the planning committee. Work on aligning with SODC Local Plan may require a new working group (TBC). Clerk sought members thoughts on a briefing session to discuss WNP in more detail. Chairman suggested a Saturday morning Jan 2024. - Clerk to arrange.
A handover meeting with WNP committee to be arranged alongside transfer of documents and electronic files. **Clerk to arrange**

#119/2023-24. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK

Update given and no questions from members.

- i. SLCC National Conference notes
- ii. NALC Legal Briefing notes
- iii. WNP public meetings communications delivered, and events took place.
- iv. Remembrance service - Memorial Garden was given attention ahead of the event, that was attended by Cllr Sercombe and others.
- v. Request closure of Parish Office from Saturday 23 Dec until Tuesday 2 Jan 24.
- vi. Celebrating Volunteer Event 2023 - 16th December
- vii. Christmas Fair 2023 -
- viii. SODC Deep Clean
- ix. Interim Internal Audit complete

#120/2023-24. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Bearder was not present nor had supplied a report

#121/2023-24. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SODC DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Kantor had sent her apologies and was not in attendance. No report had been received.

#123/2023-24. TO RECEIVE A PROPOSAL AND PRESENTATION FROM FRESHWATER HABITATS TRUST -

The presentation had been postponed until January 2024.

#124/2023-24. TO CONSIDER GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE MAPLE TREE CENTRE FOR 2024.

A trustee attended the meeting to speak on behalf of the charity and apologised for the delay in submitting the grant request, this was partly due to a handover amongst retiring and new trustees.

Members agreed that the services of the Maple Tree were an asset to the village but acknowledged that its services are being utilised by many residing outside of the Wheatley.

Members continued to discuss the council's previous funding for the charity. Cllr Newman proposed a grant of £3,000 for 2024-25. This was approved unanimously.

#125/2023-24. TO APPROVE FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024-2025

Members reviewed the proposals submitted by the Clerk and approved the recommendations unanimously.

#126/2023-24. TO APPROVE BUDGET FOR 2024-25

Cllr Street gave a brief precis of the budget proposal following an in-depth review by the Finance Committee in November 2023. Members approved the budget proposal for 2024-25

#127/2023-24. TO APPROVE PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2024-25

Cllr Cooper raised concerns regarding precept increase on those struggling financially, these thoughts were shared by Cllr Newman, but he acknowledged that the increase would support the councils' activities and services for the community.

Members reviewed the precept proposal and approved the recommendation to increase precept of 7.5% to meet the council's expenditure and strategic plans for 2024-25. **Clerk to submit precept request to SODC.**

#128/2023-24 TO CONSIDER RESPONSES TO CURRENT CONSULTATION

- i. Primary Care Strategy – Members approved delegating this action to **Cllr Sercombe to respond.**
- ii. Joint Local Plan – Cllr Newman suggested that Cllrs respond personally. Cllr Newman agreed to write a summary for members to review on 8th Jan.

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#135/2023-24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 8th January 2024