

Wheatley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2017 IN THE MERRY BELLS HALL AT 7:30PM

PRESENT: Councillors Paul Gregory (Chairman), Anne Davies, Tim Davies, Paul Willmott, Toby Newman, Sarah Coleridge, Paula Hood (Minutes)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Janet Carr
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Paul Willmott & Anne Davies (Agenda item 5 – Wheatley Playing Field Trust)
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 23RD JANUARY 2017 WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATED WITH THE AGENDA** were agreed as an accurate record.
4. **UPDATE ON THE ITEMS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2017:**
 - i) **Minute 154(i)** – bench in the memorial gardens - Roger Bell reported that he had asked Richard Taylor to put some grass seed on the soil underneath the bench to ensure it looked neat.
 - ii) **Minute 154(v)** Rock fall – tenders had been sent out with a closing date of 1st March. Councillor Willmott had been advised the Parish Council could purchase Harris Fencing from Greenford for approximately £15 each rather than paying £300 per month. Councillor Stevens proposed and Councillor Davies seconded that this be undertaken. This was **AGREED.**
 - iii) **Minute 154 (vi)** the seat by the bus stop on Church Road at the top of Friday Lane had been ordered and would be delivered within 15 weeks.
5. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WHEATLEY PLAYING FIELD TRUST AND THE HOLTON PLAYING FIELDS:**

Councillor Willmott reported that the tree work had been completed and M Watts would submit invoices to the Assistant Clerk for payment. The fire alarm work would also be completed. The Rugby Club had successfully applied to *Rugby Source* for funding and planned to spend £2000 on the pitch. The head groundsman from Twickenham had agreed to come and advise what needed to be done. Councillor P Willmott had contacted the head groundsman at the university who had agreed to come and advise what should be done to improve the cricket pitch. The lease was still in progress due to the change in the Trust's solicitors. Councillors Willmott and Newman would meet on 21st Feb to finalise proposals.

6. TO CONSIDER GIVING PERMISSION TO FUSION TO HOLD THEIR ST GEORGE'S FUNDAY IN THE CHURCH ROAD RECREATION GROUND ON 22ND APRIL 2017 AND THE REQUEST FOR A FUNDING GRANT :

Permission to use Church Road Rec and a grant for funding of £400 under section 142 (2a) LGA 1972. was **Agreed**.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION OF THE MAPLE TREE CHILDREN'S CENTRE:

The group's request for funding from Oxfordshire County Council had been successful and they would receive £30,000 over the next three years. They were also awarded one year rent free.

8. CLERK UPDATE:

- i) Noticeboards in Littleworth and Roman Road – had been installed
- ii) Replacement bollards for High Street Square – had been delivered and would be installed shortly
- iii) Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) – condensation had been found in the VAS on Ladder Hill near Farm Close Road – it had been reported to the installers and a service engineer had fitted a new gland and advised that the water would evaporate over time.
- iv) Great British Spring Clean 3-5 March 2017 – WPC had received a letter from a resident who had volunteered to organise this. Councillor Stephens would follow this up. Councillor Willmott had contacted Wheatley Park School who would liaise with WPC. There had been contact from other residents who were interested in undertaking this regularly.

9. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET FROM WHEATLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP:

The budget was received by WPC. John Fox would arrange a joint meeting with WPC and Holton Parish Council to launch the Neighbourhood Plan.

10. TO RECEIVE A PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE HIGH STREET ADVISORY GROUP:

Councillor T Davies advised the presentation on Saturday 18th February had been well attended and footfall had been in the mid 200's. The group had received extremely positive feedback. They were now busy analysing the completed information sheets and would present their findings at a future date.

11. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:

The F&GP Committee recommended that papers for all future meetings be sent via email rather than post. Councillors who require hard copies were to advise Clerk to make available at the meeting. **Agreed**

The F&GP Committee agreed to pay the contractor responsible for maintaining the trees for work to date and scheduled. It was recommended that the work be put out to tender to ensure best pricing.

Agreed

The F&GP Committee recommended that debtors to be chased by the Assistant Clerk.

Agreed

12. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS:

The schedule of payments and bank balances were received and agreed by the F&GP Committee.

13. PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Various publications & correspondence were received by the F&GP Committee and were available for further inspection in the parish office.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next F&GP meeting would take place on 20th March at 7:30pm in the Merry Bells Coffee Room.

15. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Beechcroft had arranged an exhibition of their proposed retirement development in the Merry Bells on Thursday 23rd February

Councillors Harding and Stephens were attending the meeting One Oxfordshire Unitary Council Proposal

Councillor Newman was meeting residents regarding the proposed care home development on Park Hill

A multi-million pound sports facility would be built at Horspath Road

WPC audit was due shortly and Councillor Newman would assist the Assistant Clerk with preparation of the accounts, etc.

Councillors Wilmott, Harding, Coleridge and Hood were meeting with Wheatley Primary School to discuss the Littleworth Playing Field

Councillor A Davies asked if anybody could attend the Chalgrove Neighbourhood Action Group meeting on Wednesday 22nd February in her place

The meeting closed at 8:30pm