

Wheatley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2016 IN THE MERRY BELLS COFFEE ROOM AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Councillors P Gregory (Chairman), P Hood, P Willmott, A Davies,
T Newman, T Davies, R J Reilly, S Coleridge & G Stephens

OFFICER: The Clerk: Gareth Morris

Also Present: Cllrs Bell & Walkey

106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE had been received from Cllr Carr

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Coleridge – Agenda item 8 – TPOs on Park Hill

Cllrs Willmott and Davies – Agenda item 5 – Wheatley Playing Field Trust

Cllr Gregory – Agenda item 12- New alcohol licence for Ochre Café

108. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 24th OCTOBER 2016 which had been circulated previously were signed as a correct and accurate record

109. UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 24th OCTOBER 2016

i) Minute 89(i) – Bench in the Memorial Gardens – The bench has been installed. But there needs to be paving slabs put in front of the seat and the ground levelled off in front. Cllr Bell/clerk to raise with Richard Taylor

ii) Minute 98(i) – Playground Health and Safety inspection. The repairs were being undertaken. It was agreed that more play bark be put at the foot of the slide to raise the level.

110. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WHEATLEY PLAYING FIELD TRUST AND THE HOLTON PLAYING FIELDS

The clerk reported that the lease had been sent by Mr Eden to the Trust's solicitors. There was the issue of registering the land with the Land Registry as we only had a copy of the conveyance. Cllr Stephens would ask Shotover Estate if they had a copy. A valuation of the land had been obtained from Carter Jonas (at a cost of £500). The land had been valued at £30,000 per acre, giving an overall value £467,500.

The sub group set to look at the various reports that had been undertaken and a list of urgent items of work to be done had met. A list had been drawn up and the total cost was £40,725.

From the list provided works totalling £5,650 would be needed to be carried out as soon as possible. Cllr T Davies proposed and Cllr Reilly seconded that these works be undertaken. This was **AGREED**

111. TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE INSTALLATION OF THE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS.

The clerk had contacted MDMessageMaker and had been told that installation would take place when the posts and screens were available at the same time

112. TO CONSIDER A REVISED BUDGET FOR 2016/17 AND THE BUDGET FOR 2017/2018

A draft budget to the end of the 2016-17 financial year and a budget for 2017-2018 had been circulated with the Agenda. The general feeling seemed to be that savings should be tried to be made in next year's budget but that a small increase in the precept might be acceptable

113. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO SODC'S PROPOSAL TO PLACE TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS ON THE TREES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF NOS 1,3,5 & 7 PARK HILL

AGREED – No Strong Views

114. TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS ON DEALING WITH ROCK FALL FROM THE CLIFF IN CHURCH ROAD RECREATION GROUND

The consultant's report had been circulated to all councillors.

It was agreed to ask the consultants to give the council 2 or 3 contractors who could be asked to tender for the work.

A planning application should be lodged with SODC.

The clerk asked that the council be aware that if a road way was constructed across the recreation ground it avoids the location for the May Pole on May Day Bank Holiday

115. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO OCC HIGHWAYS AFTER A RESIDENT HAS OBJECTED TO THE PROPOSAL TO PUT A 'PUFFIN CROSSING OPPOSITE THE DEVELOPMENT ON LONDON ROAD

St Mary's Action Group had proposed that the crossing be moved and OCC did not seem to answer why the suggested alteration was not acceptable.

It was **AGREED** that the clerk should write to the Highways Department supporting the suggestion made by St Mary's Action Group.

116. GRANTS, LICENCES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

i) Thame CAB Section 142 (2a) LGA 1972

Cllr Coleridge proposed **£500** and Cllr Stephens seconded. This was **AGREED**

117. TO CONSIDER A NEW ALCOHOL LICENCE AND EVENING AND WEEKEND OPENING APPLICATION TO SODC FROM OCHRE CAFÉ

It was felt that the benefits to the village of the licence would outweigh the inconvenience.

Cllr Stephens proposed and Cllr A Davies seconded that the committee supports the application. This was **AGREED**.

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

The task was now to 'beef up' the business plan and to go out to other bodies for funding.

119. CLERK UPDATE

i) To report on the recent safety inspection of the recreation areas and the resulting urgent repairs. These repairs were about to be undertaken

ii) BT consultation to remove some of the public payphones with the village

- Church Rd
- Littleworth Road
- Junction Roman Road/The Avenue

No objection to the removal

- iii) Glass smashed in Park Hill bus shelter the clerk has contacted the police and will now contact the manufacturers and the insurance company
- iv) Two bollards have rotted and been removed from the boundary of the old SODC toilet block allowing cars to park on the Parish Council's land. The clerk will organise replacement

120. TO RECEIVE A BUDGET FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP

The current budget had been circulated.
 A bill for £2,874 from Community First Oxfordshire (Oxfordshire Rural Community Council as was) for the Housing survey had been received and £2,276 had been received from 'Groundwork' (Central Government).
 The Neighbourhood Plan would be putting in a further bid to Central Government.

121. TO CONSIDER THE GENERAL TIDINESS OF THE VILLAGE INCLUDING TREES AND FOOTPATHS AND THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING ACROSS THE VILLAGE

Mark Williams (Berinsfield Community Business) who is responsible for the cutting of the verges is willing to come out and discuss our grass cutting requirements with us. It was reported that the hedge at no 1 Crown Road was still causing problems. Far side of Wheatley Bridge, Greenford Ltd had kept a sign there following their repair of the bridge parapet. The clerk to try to get it removed.
 Green Scythe had been asked to cut and remove the grass by the Ambrose Rise stream.

122. TO REQUEST A PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE HIGH STREET ADVISORY GROUP WITH AN INDICATION OF HOW THE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE FUNDED

The committee was meeting every three weeks. There was a group looking at car parking. The retailers were meeting as a group and had put forward various suggestions. At the moment an exhibition was planned, tentatively, for February..

9.30 Suspension of Standing Orders for 20 minutes in order to finish the Agenda – This was AGREED

123. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- a) Budget up to end of October 2016 was discussed. A completed copy of reconciled bank statement signed by the Chairman & RFO

The clerk reported that the Assistant clerk was working on getting the debtors figure down. The long term debtors was now down to £3,500

- b) **Balances**

After the cheques below have been paid the balances on the council's accounts as at 16th November 2016 would be as follows:

Community	£2,380.52
Tracker	£127,624.28
Treasury	£61,030.96

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AUTHORISED

Cheque no.	Payee	Payment details	Amount
	Cheques paid		
106678;82-87	GM/SW/JF/AR/OCC/HMR&C	October sals/wages/Paye/NIC	5,079.32
106679	Oxford Association of the Blind	Grant Aid (section 137)	250.00
106680	Royal British Legion	Donation for wreath (section 137)	50.00
106681	Wheatley Park School	Prize giving Grant (section 137)	250.00
		Total	£5,629.32
	Cheques to Pay		
106688	Taylor Landscapes	Install bench in Memorial gardens	180.00
106689	Corido via RBS Invoice Finance	Bench in Memorial Gardens	367.49
106690	M Aitkin	Planter by Costcutter	68.00
106691	Mainstream Digital Ltd	Telephone calls October 2016	3.04
106692	Berinsfield Community Business	Verge cutting – October 2016	608.33
106693	Green Scythe Ltd	Recs cutting Oct	237.60
106694	Safe and Sound Playgrounds	Repairs following safety inspection	506.40
106696	Community First Oxfordshire	NP Housing Survey	2,874.48
106697	HMRC (VAT)	VAT repayment (Aug-Oct 2016)	313.11
106699	Berinsfield Community Business	Verges Oct cut	608.33
106700	Oxon South & Vale Cit Advice	Grant Aid 2016-17	500.00
106695	Carter Jonas	Valuation for Holton Playing Fields	600.00
	GM/SW/JF/AR/OCC/HMR&C	October sals/wages/Paye/NIC	4,500.00
		Total	£11,367.78

INCOME RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING

Income details	Amount
Newsletter Advertising	3,765.00
Allotments	40.00
Newsletter subscriptions	25.00
Total	£3,830.00

125. PUBLICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - NOTED

- i) The Haseleys - November 2016*
- ii) Little Milton Newsletter – November 2016*
- iii) Great Milton Bulletin –November 2016*
- iv) URC Newsletter – November 2016*
- v) TVP Neighbourhood Policing – October 2016 newsletter*
- vi) Clerks and Councils Direct – November 2016
- vii) Holton, Waterperry and Waterstock news November 2016*
- viii) CPRE Oxfordshire Voice Autumn 2016*

* On display in Parish Office

126. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 19th DECEMBER 2016 - NOTED

127. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Christmas Fayre – Friday 2nd December in the High Street organised by the retailers
- Cllr Newman reported that SODC, in the next financial year, were going to give their councillors a small sum of money for the councillors to fund projects in their villages
- Whole Parish Council training day on Saturday 14th January 2016