

# Wheatley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016 IN THE MERRY BELLS COFFEE ROOM AT 7.30PM

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

**OFFICER:** The Clerk: Gareth Morris

**Also Present:** 3 members of the public

**Cllr Gregory vacated the Chair for personal reasons and the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Hood, chaired the meeting**

**86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - none

**87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Willmott and Davies as members of the Wheatley Playing Field Trust

**88. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016** which had been circulated with the Agenda were signed as a correct and accurate record

**89. UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

**i) Minute 26(i)** – Bench in the Memorial Gardens – This should be installed in the next ten days

**ii) Minute 36(ii)** – Application for Grant Aid from SODC for noticeboards and seats. Planning Permission for the noticeboard at the Triangle has been applied for. The application for grant funding from SODC had been unsuccessful.

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

The clerk reported that he had informed the Parish Council's solicitor that the Council had agreed the draft lease and asked the solicitor to tidy the lease up and send it to the Trust's solicitor.

At the last F&GP meeting it had been agreed to pay for the rubbish skips and supply & fitting of a fire door. A credit note for the invoice had since been sent through. It was Agreed that the Standing Order payable to the Trust of £833.33 should now be stopped.

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

It was hoped that these would be installed in the next few weeks

## **92. TO CONSIDER A REVISED BUDGET FOR 2016/17 AND THE BUDGET FOR 2017/2018**

Expenditure and Income amounts to the end of September had been circulated with the Agenda along with a forecast of expenditure for 2016/17. At the moment it was forecast that the drawdown from reserves could be £30,000 (a drawdown of £38,000 had been agreed when the budget for 2016/17 was agreed in January 2016).

It was likely that the expenditure forecast would be brought down further in the coming months.

Noticeboards. The Parish Council's application for grant funding had been unsuccessful. The two noticeboards at the east and west end of the village were in a very state of repair. It was **Agreed** that the noticeboards on Littleworth Green and outside the Vets on Roman Road should be replaced at a cost of around £2,500 plus installation.

## **93. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM NALC TO RESPOND TO A DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DCLG) TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT INCLUDING PROPOSALS REGARDING COUNCIL TAX REFERENDUM PRINCIPLES FOR LOCAL AND TOWN COUNCILS. (See enclosed papers).**

We are asked to respond to the questions below:

- Question 4: Do you agree that referendum principles should be extended to larger, higher spending town and parish councils in 2017/18 as set out in paragraphs 3.3.3 to 3.3.4?
- Question 5: Do you agree with the proposed approach to take account of the transfer of responsibilities to town and parish councils as outlined in paragraph 3.3.5?
- Question 6: Do you agree with the suggestion that referendum principles may be extended to all local precepting authorities as set out in paragraph 3.3.6? If so what level of principle should be set?
- Question 7: Do you have views on the practical implications of a possible extension of referendum principles to all local precepting authorities as set out in paragraph 3.3.7?

NALC will be responding to this consultation in the strongest possible terms, setting out its opposition to these proposals as well as calling for the removal of the Secretary of State's powers on council tax referendums in the Localism Act 2011.

**OALC will be responding and we hope individual councils will too.**

It was pointed that the deadline for responses had passed (21<sup>st</sup> October) so no response was discussed.

*[The response to NALC was 21<sup>st</sup> October but the deadline to respond to the Government Department was 28<sup>th</sup> October, so there would have been time to respond. Clerk]*

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

The clerk had spoken to Mr Cobb at GWP Consultants and had been told to expect the report by the end of the month.

## **95. GRANTS, LICENCES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- i) Grant for Wheatley Park School Prizing Giving – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – (2015/16 £250) (Section 137) – **Agreed £250**
- ii) Grant for Oxfordshire Association for the Blind (Section 137) – (2015/16 - £250)  
The Association had confirmed that there were 16 clients and 7 carers from the Wheatley area – **Agreed £250**
- iii) Grant to Royal British Legion for Wreath (Section 137) – **Agreed £50**

## **96. TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A SEAT BY THE BUS STOP ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHURCH ROAD TO THE WEST OF FRIDAY LANE**

It was Agreed to provide a bench in his location provided that OCC Highways gave permission

## **97. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION OF THE MAPLE TREE CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

A business plan from the Children's Centre group had been circulated via e-mail and hard copies were available at the meeting. It was Agreed that this would be presented to November Parish Council meeting

## **98. CLERK UPDATE**

- i) To report on the recent safety inspection of the recreation areas and the resulting urgent repairs. The clerk had contacted Safe and Sound Playgrounds and a representative had visited and would carry out repairs. The 'drop off' at the bottom of the slide was, under new regulations, too high and was the most urgent.
- ii) To report on correspondence from Oxford Brooks University and the PCSOs on student parking on Waterperry Road. Complaints had been made to the police about the student parking on Waterperry Road. The police had replied that "as no vehicles were parked in an overly dangerous matter (sic) and there was enough room for 2 vehicles to get passed (sic). With there being no parking restrictions on this stretch of road we are able to take action." (*Shouldn't that be "not able" – clerk*)
- iii) To purchase Christmas tree – cost approximately **Agreed** ask City of Oxford Silver Band to play carols at switching on - £50 – **Agreed** (LGA 1972s144&145)

## **99. TO RECEIVE A BUDGET FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP**

An up-to-date budget from the Neighbourhood Plan Group

Cllr T Davies said he didn't think there was enough money for phases three to five leading up to the referendum. He was worried about the Parish Council having to make up the shortfall

When reporting to the Parish Council meeting could the Chairman of group address the matter of finance? What is in the pipeline?

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

Items 14 &15 were discussed together

Cllr Carr felt that the grass cutting in the village was inadequate. Perhaps the council could employ somebody and purchase the necessary machinery. Maybe a group of councillors could look at the issue.

Cllr T Davies suggested that the grass cutting contractors be invited to the village and visit the areas where the Parish Council thinks the cutting could be improved.

Cllr Newman suggested that the costings remain the same for 2017/18 but that delivery mechanisms were reviewed.

## 101. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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

### b) Balances

After the cheques below have been paid the balances on the council's accounts as at 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 would be as follows:

Community	£1,663.98
Tracker	£133,624.96
Treasury	£61,030.96

## 102. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AUTHORISED

Cheque no.	Payee	Payment details	Amount
	<b>Cheques paid</b>		
106653,06653-60	GM/SW/JF/AR/OCC/HMR&C	September sals/wages/Paye/NIC	4,580.24
106661	SODC	Planning app for noticeboard	97.50
106662	MD Messagemaker	VASs half payment	8,825.40
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,503.14</b>
	<b>Cheques to Pay</b>		
106663	Merry Bells	Hall Hire	204.00
106663	Merry Bells	Hall Hire for Neighbourhood Plan	78.00
106663	Merry Bells	Gas recharge 13/06/16-15/09/16	9.94
106664	Universal Access	Fence panels Church Rd Rec Sept hire	308.45
106664	Universal Access	Fence panels Church Rd Rec Oct hire	337.82
106665	Green Scythe	Recreation areas –cut 11/8/16	237.60
106666	Stanton Hope	Round Up weedkiller	327.54
106667	Grzegorz Zasuwa	Office window cleaning	5.00
106668	Mainstream Digital	Line rental, calls, phone book entry	75.69
106669	Parchments of Oxford	Oct/Nov Newsletter	1,995.65
106670	Anette Richards	Oct/Nov Newsletter	680.00
106671	Lyreco UK Ltd	Paper and office equipment	123.44
106672	Swift Digital Ltd	Photocopies 16/07/16 to 17/10/16	302.02
106674	Berinsfield Community Business	Verges sept cut	608.33
106675	Green Scythe	2 x Recs cut September	475.20
106676	Merry Bells Man. Committee	Office Rental Sept-Dec 2016	1,147.93
106677	The Post Office	Stamps	110.00
	GM/SW/JF/AR/OCC/HMR&C	September sals/wages/Paye/NIC	4,500.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,519.61</b>

## INCOME RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING

Income details	Amount
2 <sup>nd</sup> half precept	54,711.50
Newsletter Advertising	870.00
Allotments	20.00
Treasury Bill Interest	32.64
Tracker Account interest	14.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>£55,648.33</b>

### 103. PUBLICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & NOTED

- i) The Haseleys - October 2016\*
- ii) Little Milton Newsletter – October 2016\* -
- iii) Great Milton Bulletin –October2016\*
- iv) URC Newsletter – October 2016\*
- v) Tiddington with Albury and Milton Common –October/November 2016\*
- vi) TVP Neighbourhood Policing – October 2016 newsletter\*
- vii) From Stanton St John Parish Clerk – resurfacing of A40 and noise reduction.  
Would the Parish Council help in looking for road defects so that resurfacing could be pushed for – No interest in taking action
- viii) Holton, Waterperry and Waterstock news October 2016\*

\* On display in Parish Office

### 104. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 - NOTED

### 105. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- From the clerk:  
Holloway Road (south) would be closed for one day on 13<sup>th</sup> November for cabling work  
Oxford Brookes Residents Meeting - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Gypsy Lane Campus  
A resident had suggested a new tree for the High Street – would be sent on to Cllr T Davies  
From Heyfordian – bus routes through Horspath were being discontinued from December. Cllr T Davies (as Transport Representative) had organised a meeting for Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October for concerned residents from Wheatley and surrounding affected villages.
- Cllr Coleridge raised the matter of the contractors reducing the height of the wall on the site of the London Road development. Cllr Newman said that the SODC Enforcement officer had paid a visit and told them not to reduce the height of the wall.
- Cllr Newman reported that the Worminghall /Waterperry Road would be closed overnight of 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> November
- He also reported that the Railway Public House had been put up for sale by Fullers Brewery
- Cllr Gregory moved a vote of thanks from the committee to Cllr Stephens and the clerk for the work they had done during their periods of office. This was **Agreed**.