

Wheatley Parish Council Virtual Meeting Minutes

Monday 1st March 2021

Present: R Barrett (RB), P Bignell (PB), M Booth (MB), C Coxon (CC), A Cooper (AC), P Gregory (PG), R Harding (RH), D Lamont (DL), D Lawrence (Dla), T Newman (TN), A Sercombe (AS), (Chair), A Shepherd (Ash), R Street (RS), L Tully (LT), P Willmott (PW).

Officer: Michelle Legg, Clerk to the Parish Council (Clerk) **Members of Public:** approx. 8.

No	Item	Action
152.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – SODC Cllr Kantor was not at the start of the meeting due to delays with SODC meeting (joined at 7.50pm). Cllr Shepherd joined the meeting at 7.45pm.	
153.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Lamont Wheatley Playing Field Trust, Cllr Willmott - Wheatley Playing Field Trust and Wheatley Rugby Club	
154.	TO RECEIVE MINUTES Parish Council meeting on Monday 1st February 2021 were signed by the chair, as a true record of the meeting.	
155.	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TIM BEARER Update on Horspath bridge was given, following Highways England action to remove the parapets, although there has been concerns that it may be demolished. Cllr Newman questioned whether planning permission was required for the demolition to take place. Cllr Bearder had investigated the flooding issues off Kelly's Rd that had been raised with him. OCC officers need to attend to help address this issue, although development on properties in the vicinity may not have helped. Cllr Bearder to liaise with OCC officers and to co-ordinate a site meeting when possible. Cllr Harding added to these comments that the issue may lie with the culvert/pipe access on OCC land. Cllr Booth asked whether Cllr Bearder will be standing to represent Holton constituency and whether he felt Wheatley residents were given enough time and would be given support, should he take on other responsibilities. OCC Bearder felt that his experience in Eastleigh was helpful to colleagues and communities in Oxfordshire and Wheatley, but ultimately the village would have the opportunity to judge him at the elections in May. Cllr Newman raised the topic of the Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan referendum and whether the committee and village has his support. This was confirmed by Cllr Bearder. A resident continued to raise the issue of flooding and asked for clarification for where the responsibility lies. Cllr Bearder suggested that this may be the responsibility of various landowners.</p>	TB
156.	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SODC DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CLLR ALEXANDRINE KANTOR – Report circulated ahead of the meeting, she also clarified that changes are to be implemented with car parking charges. Cllr Newman raised the topic of the Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan referendum and whether the committee and village has his support. This was confirmed by Cllr Kantor. Cllr Kantor approved a grant of £2,500 for tree replanting at Farm Close Rd. Cllr Harding asked for conformation whether SODC had a seat on Oxfordshire Growth Board but will need to clarify this for the Oxford/Cambridge Arc.</p>	

The meeting was opened to the public at 8.05pm

Resident – i) Horspath Bridge, a way to protect the bridge is to find a use for it will help preserve this

ii) Flooding in Littleworth, suggested creating some leaky dams, upstream from the footpath. which may help control water

Resident – Flooding in Littleworth boundaries of some properties have expanded over time and development has caused issues.

Resident - Flooding - water levels have been higher and flooding worse this year than in 20 or so years

Public session closed at 8.15pm

157. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK report previously circulated that covered:

- i) Update on tree work
- ii) WNP response
- iii) Community Larder
- iv) Handford PC feedback
- v) Clerk attended SLCC Virtual Practitioners Conference and OCVA Managing Impact seminar.
- vi) Update on remote/face-face meetings and C-19 Road map.
- vii) Review date for Annual Meeting of Parish Council – agreed Tues 4th May
- viii) Annual Parish Meeting dates to be agreed w/c 12th April, speakers confirmed

158. TO DISCUSS WHEATLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (WNP)

Cllr Newman gave a brief update on the plan, SODC consultation of inclusion of enhancements. Clarification is required on whether further inspection is required, or whether it can proceed to referendum in May.

159. TO DISCUSS FLOODING IN THE VILLAGE

- i) To discuss flooding concerns in village. R Bettess was invited to give an update to the council. He confirmed that the flooding in Littleworth needed investigation. First issue is the drainage upstream by the railway, emerging beyond the allotments. There is some history of flooding in adjacent gardens, but this has been in high rain fall
The second issue seems to be linked with housing developments and garden landscaping that have altered the drainage and water flows, by creating mini dams.
There are a group of volunteers that are keen to help clear the culvert.
The issue of encroachment issues may need to be explored with SODC.
Some suggestions to investigate are mini dams that could stave off high water flows and prevent flooding.
Other issues that have arisen during the wet weather is from the pumping station failure and sewage leaking out to the River Thames.
A similar issue arose in High Street.

Cllr Newman had been to the site and was concerned that the stream to the south may have been manipulated to flow back onto the allotments.
The holding pond on land further up over the tunnel may also be leaking or being drained, which may also be causing issues.
He confirmed any gardens being raised by 30cm does require planning permission and the new development next to the bridge further into Littleworth will only continue to cause issues.

It was agreed that Cllr Newman would compile a report for the next Planning Committee

TN

Cllr Willmott confirmed that the larger flood alleviation scheme is still in the pipeline, and has the backing of the school
 Cllr Gregory reiterated a point that has been raised before and that is the blocked road drains in the village.

- ii) Update from floods and drainage committee to take up a dialogue with Thames Water to address these issues, highlighted above. **Committee to take up the issue of blocked drains too.**

F&DC

160. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CYCLE RACKS IN VILLAGE

Council were happy to support this but did have concerns over blocking of footpaths and access, however the area at the rear of the village square may be an option. Cllr Booth suggested linking this with a bike marking. Cllr Newman suggested promoting on-line bike registration and that 15 bikes can be racked in one car parking space, and a thought could be to convert a parking space. **It was approved that possible locations are to be explored and presented to Open Spaces Committee.**

OSC

161. TO APPROVE CIL MONEY IN RECEIVED BY WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

It was approved that the council would accept their CIL allocation

162. TO CONSIDER RESPONSES TO CURRENT CONSULTATION

- i) SODC Taxi Licensing – Cllr Newman wished to support the Taxi Licensing, this was supported by the whole council and **a response to this effect will be made by the Clerk and the Chair.**
- ii) Local Transport and Connectivity Plan – **It was agreed that councillors would feed comments into the Clerk by 8th March and a formal response to be delegation between the Clerk and the Chair.**

As/Clerk

All

163. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON WELLBEING COMMITTEE AND APPROVE TERMS OF REFERENCE.

Terms of reference had been circulated ahead of the meeting and were summarised by the Clerk but with additional information identified in the village of other groups with similar objectives. Contact will be made, and an update provided back to the council. Clerk and Chair to contact representatives.

AS/PW/
Clerk

164. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM PAVILION PROJECT GROUP AND TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS.

A detailed report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The council approved that the tender process could begin, starting with the opportunity being advertised inline with Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the council's Financial Regulations. Cllr Gregory asked for clarification on how long the current stage will take, this will most likely take 3-6 months. Any loans would be levied onto the precept. The council approved the opportunity being promoted with contract finder. **Clerk to investigate this and make application**

Clerk

165. TO DISCUSS THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN & ACTION PLAN REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN has been uploaded onto the website. No further updates available.

166. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROLS

Noted and approved

167. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Discussed earlier in the meeting

168. TO APPROVE POLICIES AND CORE DOCUMENTS

- i) Equalities Policy - approved

- ii) Scheme of Delegation approved and to be implemented should the current legislation end on 6th May 2021.
- iii) Other protocols – noted.

169. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

- i) Finance Committee – minutes from meeting circulated **AS**
- ii) Planning Committee – minutes circulated from 13th February. **TN**
- iii) Open Spaces Committee – minutes circulated from last meeting and next meeting will take place on 15th March. **AC**
- iv) Staffing Committee – meeting minutes circulated. Appraisals were accepted. **AS**
- v) Brookes Development Working Group **AS**
- vi) Holton Pavilion Project – update given earlier in the meeting
- vii) Littleworth Playing Fields Working Group – progress continues to be slow. **PW**
- viii) Littleworth Traffic Working Group – waiting for surveys to restart once traffic. **CC**
- ix) Youth Council & Youth Club – no news on youth club funding application, hoping to move this forward once schools return. **TN/ML**

170. TO RECEIVE UPDATES/REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL PARTNERS

- i) Expressway Action Group – nothing to note **RH**
- ii) Howe Trust – further six raised beds have been taken up community. **PG/AS**
- iii) Maple Tree Centre – update circulated. **DL**
- iv) Merry Bells – nothing to report. **LT**
- v) Thames Valley Police – PW to meet with PC to provide advice on travellers. **AS**
- vi) Oxford Brookes Residents Association – nothing to report, meeting again in March **PB**
- vii) Wheatley Charities – nothing to report. **Clerk**
- viii) Wheatley Playing Field Trust – security measures have been completed. school will return on 8th March and organised sport will return in April. **PW**

171. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION

Clerk

(previously circulated)

- i) SODC – various updates; COVID-19 support for businesses and community, Climate Action, consultation opportunities, update on Garden Waste,
- ii) OCC – COVID-19 updates, laybys work, drainage issues, Winter Grant,
- iii) OALC training opportunities, updates, county protocols, C-19 advice
- iv) NALC – updates circulated
- v) OCVA – training opportunities.
- vi) Royal British Legion – Lead organiser is stepping down and looking for someone to take up the role.
- vii) Wheatley Village Archive Oxfordshire Preservation Trust award.

172. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) Shotover Estate looks to be closing a gate on the site, which will cause issues for those trying to cross the cattle grid. This is to be discussed at the Open Space Committee, later in the month.

Meeting closed at 21.53

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 12TH APRIL 2020