

# Wheatley Parish Council Minutes Monday 4th July 2022

**Present:** F Burnett, (FB), A Cooper (AC), P Gregory (PG), R Harding (RH), D Lawrence (DL), T Newman (TN), P Ramsdale (PR), A Sercombe (AS) (Chair), R Street (RS), P Willmott (PW) and OCC Cllr T Bearder and SODC Cllr A Kantor. Cllr Heath joined the council after his co-option.

**Officer:** Michelle Legg, Clerk to the Parish Council (Clerk) **Members of Public:** approx. 60

**Meeting started at 19:30 and closed at 22:10**

- | <b>No</b> | <b>Item</b>   | <b>Action</b> |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| 42.       | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> – Cllr Bignell’s apologies were accepted and approved.   |               |
| 43.       | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> – Cllr Tully Item 51.<br>Non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Willmott and Cllr Ramsdale- Wheatley Playing Field Trust and Wheatley Rugby Club.  |               |
| 44.       | <b>TO RECEIVE MINUTES</b> from Parish Council meeting on Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022, were approved, and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.   |               |
| 45.       | <b>TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ACTIONS</b> from Parish Council Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022<br><b>Item 180/21-22</b> – Cllr Kantor had circulated an update.  |               |
| 46.       | <b>TO CO-OPT ONE COUNCILLOR INTO CASUAL VACANCY</b><br>Four candidates came forward for the casual vacancy, who each gave a brief presentation about themselves, and answered questions posed by councillors. A vote was cast and J Heath, who received the highest number of votes, was co-opted to the role of councillor.<br>After signing his declaration of acceptance of office, Cllr Heath joined the council table.   |               |
| 47        | <b>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER</b><br>Cllr Bearder gave his view on parking restrictions on the High Street. Cllrs Ramsdale and Newman asked questions to clarify the costs and funding of permit scheme. Cllr Heath asked for clarification about businesses permits and multiple resident permits, it was confirmed that businesses would not be eligible for permits but restrictions on the number of permits per households could be implemented. Cllr Lawrence asked for confirmation on costs for removal of restrictions and possibility of reinstalling if needed. Cllr Bearder confirmed that each option would have a cost implication.<br>Cllr Harding asked whether OCC are obliged to consider the parish council’s recommendation. This was confirmed as correct, but confirmed that OCC do not have the budget to make any changes to High St.<br>Resident asked Cllr Bearder for an update on ANPR in Wheatley. This is being progressed. |               |
| 48.       | <b>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALEXANDRINE KANTOR</b><br>EV charging is coming to South Oxfordshire, but not currently in Wheatley. Further projects are being developed with Oxfordshire County Council.<br>Cllr Kantor reminded the audience that SODC are offering financial assistance to those who are struggling financially. Cllr grants are now available. Cllr Kantor will be holding her surgery on Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> July.   |               |

**The meeting was opened up to the public at 20:07.**

**Business representative**– ‘changing’ parking would cause an issue to business  
**Business representative/resident** – concerns over having to move car during the day and threats made if move car to Farm Close Rd.

**Resident** – supported permit scheme

**Resident** – displacement of vehicles was a concern, and wanted provision for blue badge holders

**Resident** – thanked the working group on the report and felt that businesses should have permits.

**Resident** – concern of impact on surrounding roads

**Business representative** – worried about parking and access to business

**Resident** – questioned for Cllr Bearder about enforcement

**Resident** – concerns over accessing vehicle in emergency

**Resident** – questioned purpose of buildouts.

**Resident** – thanked those involved in the working group and shared concerns of any changes

**Resident** – supported parking permits

**Resident** – confirmed that they would be willing to fund any permit scheme

**Resident** – working from home makes it harder to move cars during the day.

**Business representative** – concerns over access for customers

**Resident** – felt sad that things had to change.

**Resident** – concerns over park and riders

**Resident** – felt parking restrictions would harm economic

**Business representative** – threatened to block village roads

#### **Public session closed at 20:37**

#### **49. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK**

- i) External Audit and intermediate review submitted
- ii) Outstanding work for Village Square and play areas has been carried out, and invoices paid.
- iii) Cuppa, Cake and Chat event, held earlier in the day
- iv) Zero tolerance posters displayed in office, following incidents against staff and councillors.

#### **50. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON WHEATLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

- i) Consultation runs until 22nd July and Vice Chairman of the committee reminded the audience of the opportunity to respond during the consultation. A residents asked for a summary of the plan; however, it was confirmed that SODC have recommended that a summary should not be published at this time.
- ii) Feedback from recent public meetings will be used to update the review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **51. TO CONSIDER MOTION FROM HIGH ST TRAFFIC WORKING GROUP**

Cllr Heath declared a pecuniary interest for this item, given this and Cllr Tully’s prior declaration they both left the meeting room, whilst this item was discussed.

As Chairman of the working group, the Chairman of the council stepped away from the role of Chairman to present the report. Cllr Newman as Vice Chairman of the council took on the role of the chairman for this item.

Cllr Sercombe gave a precis of the work of the High St Working Group and presented the report compiled by the working group.

Cllr Sercombe proposed the motion “to retain and enforce existing restrictions, and to review this in 12 months”. This was seconded by Cllr Willmott, who spoke in support of the report and motion. Councillors raised questions and discussed concerns during the debate. Some questions were raised with Cllr Bearder, as

representative of Oxfordshire County Council, who clarified points regarding parking enforcement.

Cllr Newman put forward an amendment to the motion, “to retain and enforce the existing restrictions on the High Street and a request to be made to Oxfordshire County Council to perform an immediate official review of parking with a view to introducing permit parking in Wheatley as our High Street residents are raising concerns regarding impending enforcement of areas where they have become used to parking without enforcement. Wheatley Parish Council request OCC officers to work with us on a complete review of Wheatley High Street looking at making it safer and more attractive and safer for walkers, mobility scooters and cycling”. This amendment was seconded by Cllr Willmott. This was also debated by the council and a vote was cast, with 10 in favour of the motion and 1 abstention. This became the substantive motion. A vote was cast with 11 votes in favour and 1 against. The motion was carried.

At the conclusion of this item Cllr Sercombe took her place back as Chairman of the council.

**52. TO CONSIDER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT**

Cllr Sercombe presented a report supporting the initiative. The council approved the report and delegated powers to the Clerk and Chairman to plan the event during the council recess. Councillors were invited to join a small working group.

**All**

**53. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PLAY & ACTIVITY DAY ON 16TH JULY**

Report noted. Councillors were asked to come and support the event and to let the Clerk know if they were able to attend the event.

**All**

**54. TO APPROVE CORE DOCUMENTS**

- i) Grant documentation - approved
- ii) Update on Strategic Plan & Action Plan – noted

**55. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

- i) Finance Committee – meeting took place on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Council approved Terms of Reference for the committee.  
Cllr Newman confirmed that he was happy to take on the role of Vice Chairman.
- ii) Planning Committee – minutes circulated, next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July
- iii) Open Spaces Committee – next meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Councillors were asked to share any agenda item requests.  
Overgrown hedges were raised as an issue. Any details should be passed to the Clerk.
- iv) Staffing Committee – no meeting scheduled
- v) Wellbeing Committee – meeting minutes circulated.
- vi) Brookes Development Working Group – no update
- vii) High St Parking Working Group - covered in Item 51
- viii) Holton Pavilion Project – funding meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July.
- ix) Community Emergency Plan
- x) Littleworth Playing Fields Working Group
- xi) 90<sup>th</sup> Working Group - tba
- xii) Traffic Working Group – Meeting took place with stakeholders
- xiii) Youth Council – no update

**56. TO RECEIVE UPDATES/REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL PARTNERS**

- i) Community Larder – 2-3 cars are going each week, busy at start of session and finishing at 4pm.
- ii) Good Neighbour Scheme – have a joint meeting with Wheatley Society. Group are seeking more volunteers
- iii) Howe Trust – committee meeting on Wednesdays. Representatives will be attending. Volunteers are always welcome to help out.
- iv) Maple Tree Centre – fundraising runners raised over £4,000 and fundraising events have been well supported.

**Council agreed to suspend standing orders at 10:02 in order to conclude the meeting**

- v) Merry Bells Management Committee – meeting in the week
- vi) Oxford Brookes Residents Association – no update
- vii) Thames Valley Police – Have your say meeting took place in the parish office.
- viii) Wheatley Charities – Educational Grant information shared
- ix) Wheatley Playing Field Trust – Wheatley FC tournament was a huge success, as was Wheatley Oaks event.  
Cllr Willmott gave an update regarding the withdrawal of services for fencing repairs. The council asked the clerk to go out to tender on this item.
- x) Wheatley Ukraine Refugee Group – 12 families now in the village and surrounding districts.
- xi) Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society - Open days continuing.

**57. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION**

(previously circulated)

- i) SODC – various updates; Local Plan Consultation, funding, climate action, code of conduct, garden cities, street cleaning, support for struggling families
- ii) OCC – road closures, fix my street updates, travellers update
- iii) OALC – Updates circulated.
- iv) NALC – events
- v) OCVA – training opportunities
- vi) TVP/PCC – monthly update, ASB support, have your say events
- vii) Various - village newsletters – available from parish office
- viii) Various - residents regarding High St Parking report
- ix) Various - residents regarding trees, hedging and plants
- x) Various – updates to Wheatley Directory
- xi) Community Oxford – subscription for 2022-23 (£70). Council approved the expenditure.

**58. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**