

# Wheatley Parish Council Virtual Meeting Minutes

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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

**Officer:** Michelle Legg, Clerk to the Parish Council (Clerk)

**Members of Public:** 2

The meeting started at 7.40pm

**No Item**

**21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Harrison, A Shepherd

**22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Lamont Wheatley Playing Field Trust, Cllr Willmott Wheatley Playing Field Trust and Wheatley Rugby Club,

**23. TO RECEIVE MINUTES** - Parish Council meeting on Monday 1st June 2020 were signed by the chair as a true record of the meeting

**OUTSTANDING ACTIONS** - none

**24. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER**  
Cllr Bearder provided an update on OCC's bid to improve cycle ways in the area. Leader of OCC has made a suggestion to postpone elections to 2022, this is being challenged.

It was raised that OBU s106 agreement is being challenged. The council and working group would like to have more information on this as it is working with all parties.

The Chair was upset that a photo had been used for promotional campaigns without permission.

**25. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SODC DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CLLR ALEXANDRINE KANTOR** – previously circulated  
Cllr Newman asked whether there was a date for the reopening of The Park Sports Centre – this will be updated in line with government guidance.

**26. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK**

- i) Post installation inspection of basket swing being undertaken by Rospa, who will undertake the annual play area inspections at the same time.
- ii) Play area inspections – 3 sites arranged as above
- iii) Open Spaces areas tackled recently include Village Square, Footpath between Station Rd and Farm Close Road. Thanks to Wheatley Wanderers who carried out work on Farm Close Patio.
- iv) Website accessibility and voluntary support. A volunteer has come forward to help with assessment of our website, in line with Website Accessibility Guidelines that come into effect from September. The volunteer has offered to use their screen reader to review samples of pages and to identify any pages or documents that may not be compliant. This will be voluntary, but they are asking if recognition and a donation made to Oxfordshire Association for Blind. Agreed to proceed and delegated powers to the chair of the finance committee and council to agree a donation, but not in excess of previous grants. **Clerk to contact volunteers**
- v) Numerous FixmyStreet issues reported to OCC/Skanska. Some have been dealt with, others added to a list for consideration.

**Clerk**

27. **TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY BUS PROJECT** – report previously circulated which discussed engaging with potential volunteers in order to progress the project. Some additional funding may also be available from OCC on top of s106 funds. The council agreed for a meeting to take place where potential volunteers will be invited to discuss volunteer opportunities. It was suggested that volunteers from other successful scheme should be invited to share their experiences. **Clerk and TB to arrange this**

Clerk/TB

28. **TO DISCUSS UNREGISTERED FOOTPATH ALONG LITTLEWORTH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND ADJACENT TO FOOTPATH 407/1**  
Member of public is working with several other residents to try and get the footpath added to the definitive map. Ownership appears to include several people or organisations.  
Councillors were asked to support the application and whether individual councillors were able to provide witness statements. This was approved. Member of public to share relevant paperwork with the Clerk so that it is shared with councillors.  
OCC & SODC councillors added their support.  
Councillors agreed to walk the route.

29. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM WHEATLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**  
report previously circulated.

**The meeting was opened to the public at 20:17**

**Resident** - Added personal support to Item 28

30. **TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM CLLR COXON ON TRAFFIC ISSUES ON CHURCH RD** - report previously circulated.  
It was felt that Church Road is one of many roads in the village that is suffering from congestion. Traffic surveys were last carried out in 2014. Enforcement was an issue that would need to be addressed, parking issues will remain until SODC resolve their civil parking agreements.  
It was agreed that the results of the 2014 surveys will be reviewed over the summer recess and discussed again at the next council meeting.
31. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM WHEATLEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP**  
- none
32. **TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDITOR** - received and noted
33. **TO APPROVE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR 2019-2020**  
vi) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement - approved  
vii) Section 2 - Accounting Statements - approved
34. **TO AGREE RESPONSE TO NALC CODE OF CONDUCT CONSULTATION**  
Cllr Lamont proposed, seconded by Cllr Sercombe that these were approved, and a response made on behalf of the council. **Clerk to action**
35. **TO CONSIDER REOPENING OF PLAY AREAS FOLLOWING RELAXING OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS** - Report previously circulated and was discussed by councillors.  
Cllr Newman proposed that the council put up appropriate signage and seek a quote for spraying once every 2-3 weeks, this was approved. Clerk to action this with delegated powers to Chair and Vice-Chair providing final approval.
36. **TO CONSIDER REINSTATING PARISH SURGERIES** - Agreed to reinstate surgeries from August 2020, providing measures are in place. Outside surgeries

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

will be preferred, weather permitting

- 37. TO CONSIDER INVESTMENTS AND STRATEGY FOR 2020-21** - on hold once further information is available

**38. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES**

- i) Finance Committee
- ii) Planning Committee - noted 2a Littleworth was refused but anticipate an appeal
- iii) Open Spaces Committee - meeting in two weeks, and will be seeking to appoint a chair. Any agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk.

**The council asked members of the public were asked to leave whilst the council discussed matters of a confidential nature**

- iv) Staffing Committee - update on recent meeting was shared.

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

- i) Brookes Development Working Group - continuing to meet and update given WPFT have issues with s106 agreement that does not reflect the mitigation issues.
- ii) Expressway Action Group - nothing to report, project 'on pause'
- iii) Howe Trust -
- iv) Littleworth Playing Fields Working Group
- v) Maple Tree Centre – report circulated
- vi) Merry Bells - remains closed until September.
- vii) Neighbourhood Action Group – nothing to report
- viii) Oxford Brookes Residents Association – nothing to report
- ix) Wheatley Charities – educational grants available
- x) Wheatley Playing Field Trust -  
Field remains shut, other than for sports clubs that have sessions booked. One toilet is available with socially distancing measures and sanitisation available. Sports clubs are working within guidance from governing bodies. Maintenance has continued despite no income. Floodlights have been installed and are working. Wheatley FC are expanding, and new pitches will be available and are requesting a container. This will require further researching. User agreement signed with Rugby Club and similar discussions and agreements with school and football club are ongoing. This will aid funding opportunities.
- xi) Wheatley Windmill – Cllr Lamont offered to represent the council on the group.

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

(previously circulated)

- i) SODC – various correspondence regarding COVID-19 and supporting community and businesses, Virtual meetings, Contaminated bins
- ii) Merry Bells - halls and facilities remain closed until September
- iii) OALC – Training opportunities circulated
- iv) Email concerning illegal camp on Mrs Tombs Field - advised to contact SODC regarding antisocial behaviour. Chair offered to communicate with the landowner regarding this.
- v) TVP – press release following incident in Reading

**41. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** - none

**Meeting closed at 9.45pm  
DATE OF NEXT MEETING 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**