

Wheatley Parish Council Virtual Meeting Minutes

Monday 7th September 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,(DLa) A Sercombe (AS), A Shepherd (Ash), 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:** 6 approx

The meeting started at 7.34pm

No Item

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Harrison, Newman. The council approved Cllr Harrison on-going apologies, due to shielding and access to meetings, this will remain in place until we are able to meet face-to-face.

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

44. TO RECEIVE MINUTES and ACTIONS from Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th July 2020, were accepted and approved and to be signed by the Chair.

45. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER
Has been focussing on speeding and reported concerns over the VAS on London Rd. Clerk has reported this to the company.
Toilets at A40 remain closed and is causing a health concern due to human waste being deposited there. Cllrs were in support of sharing their views on re-opening and cleaning the toilets.

46. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SODC DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CLLR ALEXANDRINE KANTOR
Report previously shared and references the planning inspectors report on the local plan.
Cllr Willmott asked whether SODC were able to support organisations affected by the recent traveller incursions. It was confirmed that it would not be able to do this for Wheatley.

47. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK

- i) ROSPA inspections carried out and report noted and actioned by OSC. Thanks to Chairman for assisting with weeding and filling of chip bark. Weekly inspections have continued with staff carrying these out. Thanks to the Chairman for stepping in whilst staff were away.
- ii) Recruitment launched for Grounds and Maintenance Operative launched in August and closing date has passed.
- iii) Work to begin at Farm Close Road Rec on 14th September
- iv) Thanks to Wheatley Wanderers, the extended team and donor in their efforts to improve access to the Old Road-Littleworth Footpath.
- v) Bench, kindly donated from Merry Bells has been re-sited at Farm Close Road, replacing dilapidated bench.
- vi) Clerk has been looking at options for a new internal auditor for 2020-21. An update will be given at the next meeting.
- vii) Other items raised included:
 - Trees at Kelham Drive – **Clerk to chase tree surgeon**
 - Bus Shelter awaiting to meet contractor to discuss repairs. **Clerk to chase**

Clerk
Clerk

48. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON COMMUNITY BUS PROJECT AND PUBLIC MEETING

Public meeting took place and was well attended. Notes had been circulated. Information from the 'Barton Bus' was interesting and helpful and gave an idea on the next steps, which included a Management Committee and involving volunteers. It was agreed that information would be shared within the newsletter and throughout the village.

49. TO CONSIDER TRAFFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE VILLAGE

Cllr Coxon's detailed report has been circulated ahead of the meeting but was clarified for those that were present. Some councillors felt that more evidence was needed before further action is taken, as it may just move the problem to other roads and residents. Safety concerns were raised over changes in priorities and traffic backing up, especially into the centre of the village. Parking issues continue within the village and may well increase. There is currently a limited budget allocated for the current year and further information will be required to allocate funds for any future project. The chair sought comments from the public that were in attendance.

Representatives from Wheatley Primary School gave an overview of the changes to car park access, which is currently having an impact on Littleworth Rd and some thoughts they had on access/parking improvements and were opened to suggestions

Members of the public offered to get involved in any project and further copies of the report will be circulated to those that requested it. HGV misuse and state of signage was raised, along with outstanding OCC repairs to bollards. The clerk confirmed that these had been reported to OCC.

The Chair offered to assist with collecting vehicle data that would help provide evidence on traffic flow.

The meeting was opened to the public at 20:50 and closed at 20:53

Chair of Floods and Drainage Chair - Items raised covered Item 50.

50. TO CONSIDER APPROACHING SODC'S 'THAMES CHAMPION' TO ADDRESS THAMES WATER SEWAGE ISSUES INTO RIVER THAME

SODC Cllr Jo Rob wants to address water quality and biodiversity of the River Thames and Chair of Floods and Drainage Committee wanted to clarify whether the parish council would like to be involved in request for the River Thame to be included in this, as the river is a main tributary into the River Thames. A response was approved. Clerk and Chair to liaise with Chair of Floods and Drainage Committee.

51. TO RECIVE AN UPDATE ON TRAVELLERS ON HOLTON PLAYING FIELDS

Report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and clarified by Cllr Willmott. Costs were higher than anticipated due to TVP arriving later than anticipated. Wheatley Playing Field Trust (WPFT) have encased the padlocks and made some security improvements. Further improvements that were suggested included new anti-ram bollards and 30 steel or concrete bollards around the car park, replacing the wooden bollards that are currently there. Cllr Willmott confirmed that the WPFT would bear these costs. This was approved.

Cllr Willmott felt that a procedure should be in place to help address any future incursions and gave information about local parish council's successful removal of travellers.

Cllr Gregory was frustrated with the lack of support from OCC and TVP.

- 52. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY**
- i) Review of website accessibility
 - ii) To approve Website Accessibility Statement - approved
- 53. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON STRATEGIC PLAN & ACTION PLAN**
Noted
- 54. TO REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**
- i) Learning and development policy - approved
 - ii) Lone working policy - approved
 - iii) Social Media policy - approved
- 55. TO CONSIDER INVESTMENTS AND STRATEGY FOR 2020-21**
Approved and **Clerk to implement.** **Clerk**
- 56. TO APPROVE REINSTATING PARISH SURGERIES**
Approved and **Clerk to implement** **Clerk**
- 57. TO APPROVE RECEIPT OF ANY CIL MONIES FROM SODC**
Approved and **Clerk to confirm that the council will accept CIL contributions.** **Clerk**
- 58. TO APPROVE LETTER OF AUTHORITY TO UTILITY AID**
Approved and **Clerk to sign and return to company.** **Clerk**
- 59. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES**
- i) Finance Committee – next meeting 19th October 2020. Clerk asked for all councillors to think about future projects for inclusion in budget setting process.
 - ii) Planning Committee – next meeting 9th September 2020
 - iii) Open Spaces Committee – next meeting 21st September 2020 and hope to have a more detailed plan on project to improve Village Square.
 - iv) Staffing Committee – interviews to take place in next two weeks. Cllr Sercombe welcomed new committee members and asked all Cllrs to consider their own personal development in relation to the council and training opportunities available.
- 60. TO RECEIVE UPDATES/REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL PARTNERS**
- i) Brookes Development Working Group – nothing to report
 - ii) Expressway Action Group – nothing to report. Expressway is ‘paused’
 - iii) Howe Trust – new treasurer and clerk appointed
 - iv) Littleworth Playing Fields Working Group – meeting took place to discuss security of the field and ODST have been pushed to get their charity application in.
 - v) Maple Tree Centre – planning to re-open with restrictions. Centre Manager post is being advertised.
 - vi) Merry Bells – site to begin to re-open
 - vii) Neighbourhood Action Group – nothing
 - viii) Oxford Brookes Residents Association – no information on Wheatley campus
 - ix) Wheatley Charities – deadline has passed for grants
 - x) Wheatley Playing Field Trust – security cameras installed around club house and lights have been installed around some of the tennis courts. Users are starting to return whilst following strict C-19 guidelines.
- 61. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION**
(previously circulated)
- i) SODC – various correspondence regarding COVID-19 and supporting community and businesses, Virtual meetings, planning,

- ii) John Howell MP – response from Chair re Travellers. Chair to follow this up in near future.
- iii) Emails relating to Travellers at Littleworth Playing Fields
- iv) Red Rose introducing Saturday Service from 5th Sept
- v) Community First Oxfordshire – 2020 Report circulated
- vi) OALC update

62. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION - None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 5TH OCTOBER 2020