

Wheatley Parish Council Virtual Meeting Minutes

Monday 7th December 2020

Present: Cllrs Barrett (RB), M Booth (MB), A Cooper (AC), C Coxon, (CC), P Gregory (PG), R Harding (RH), D Lamont (DL) (Chair), T Newman (TN), A Sercombe (AS), R Street (RS), L Tully (LT), P Willmott (PW) and OCC Cllr T Bearder

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

Members of Public: 1

The meeting started at 7.30pm

No	Item	Action
100.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllrs Lawrence, Shepherd and SODC Cllr Kantor (Joined meeting later in the session)	
101.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Lamont Wheatley Playing Field Trust, Cllr Willmott - Wheatley Playing Field Trust and Wheatley Rugby Club	
102.	TO RECEIVE MINUTES and ACTIONS from Parish Council meeting on Monday 2 nd November 2020 were signed as a true record of the meeting	
103.	TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR. Cllr Lamont had previously informed the council of his plans to step down as Chair of the council and from the Planning Committee at the end of the meeting. This was confirmed. Cllr Newman and Sercombe thanked Cllr Lamont for his leadership over the past few years. The council will appoint a new Chair at their January meeting.	
104.	TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TIM BEARER Has attended meetings about the Oxford Cambridge Arc. Cllr Harding questioned the Oxford Growth Board consultation. Flooding and drainage continue to be a seasonal issue in the village that he is addressing.	
105.	TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON COMMUNITY BUS PROJECTS Cllr Bearder gave an update on the new bus service (starting 4 th January) for Wheatley, Horspath to Cowley Centre, between 8 and 6pm, leaving on the hour. Thames Travel have been appointed as the operator and will be funded by government funding, with support from s106 funds and from Horspath's Stone Pit Trust. The service is for 12 months only and further work will be required to keep it running long term. Communication is expected from Thames Travel and will be promoted to the wider community when it becomes available Clerk and TB to action One member of the community has come forward as a potential volunteer for the Community Bus Scheme which will work in the background.	Clerk/ TB
106.	TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SODC DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CLLR ALEXANDRINE KANTOR – previously circulated and noted as Cllr Kantor was unable to attend the meeting at this point. Cllr Lamont highlighted the links included in the report. Cllr Kantor joined the meeting later in the evening and was able to answer questions on walking bus stops, vaccinations and updates on SODC Local Plan.	
107.	TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Internal auditor has accepted and been appointed ii) Contractor appointed for new basket swing in Cullum Rd Rec. iii) Allotment tenancy review – meeting took place and draft to be considered at January Open Space Committee iv) Emergency Plan - meeting date to be confirmed 	

- v) Update on New bus service – covered in Item 105.
- vi) Newsletter printed and distributed
- vii) Christmas Tree installed
- viii) Bus Shelter repairs scheduled for w/c 14th December

108. TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC ISSUES WITHIN THE VILLAGE

- i) to receive an update on traffic working group for the village. An update had been circulated to council ahead of the meeting, which included suggestions on making the parking easier. Part of this included a traffic count which started this week. It started well but volunteers have experienced intimidation and abuse, so it has been decided to postpone the sessions until further communication has been shared from the school.
- ii) to discuss supporting '20 is plenty' campaign for parts of the village. This was proposed by Cllr Lamont and seconded by Cllr Sercombe and supported by the council. Cllr Gregory did share a comment on enforcement, and this was supported by councillors. **Clerk to respond.**

Clerk

The meeting was opened to the public at 20:10

Resident raised the issue of cars mounting verges on Littleworth Rd. This is being addressed with the Traffic Working Group.

The meeting was taken back into session at 20:22

109. TO RECEIVE EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT FOR 2019-20

Was received and noted

110. TO AGREE AND APPROVE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2021-22

Considering the council's budget commitment and information supplied by the Clerk, Cllr Lamont proposed a precept increase of 7.5% (£138,954). Cllr Cooper raised his concerns about this increase on those who are unemployed or on low income. Whilst this is an issue that the council are concerned about, councillors felt that the budget continued to provide many services and support to the community and would help deliver its Strategic Plan. Cllr Lamont's proposal was fully supported by the council. **Clerk to complete Precept request form.**

Clerk

111. TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO SODC'S LICENSING CONSULTATION

Noted and no comment to be made.

112. TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO SEWAGE (INLAND WATERS) BILL

A draft letter to John Howell MP had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Cllr Newman asked for copies of the letters to be sent to MP's from surrounding constituencies. **Chair to sign and send**

Chair

113. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO OXFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD STRATEGIC VISION

First and only consultation that has taken place on the topic. Cllr Harding urged councillors to respond individually. The council decided not to collate a formal response.

114. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON STRATEGIC PLAN & ACTION PLAN

Updates were noted. Clerk wishes to undertake a more formal review of the plan and sought volunteers to help with this review. Cllrs Lamont, Newman, and Booth offered to assist.

**CI/TN/M
B**

115. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON COUNCIL OWNED TREES AND PLANNED WORKS

Clerk provided an update to the report presented to councillors. Communications will be circulated to those in Farm Close Road/Wren Close and Station Rd footpath. **Clerk**
Clerk to action

116. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

- i) Finance Committee – update from meeting on 19th October
- ii) Planning Committee – minutes circulated, next meeting 11th Nov and are expecting more applications from The Avenue.
- iii) Open Spaces Committee – next meeting 18th January 2020
- iv) Staffing Committee – no meeting has taken place
- v) Brookes Development Working Group – OBU have appointed a land agent to market the site
- vi) Holton Pavilion Project – still working on figures to give the group a clear financial picture and to work on a funding plan.
- vii) Littleworth Playing Fields Working Group – no meetings have taken place. Cllr Willmott has sent an email to all key stakeholders expressing his frustration on the lack of progress. Cllr Willmott offered to share a potted history of the site, which will help the newer councillors.
- viii) Traffic Working Group - covered in Item 108i
- ix) Youth Council – to be revisited in 2021.

117. TO RECEIVE UPDATES/REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL PARTNERS

- i) Expressway Action Group – Cllr Harding has been monitoring the Expressway Alliance, but the group have been quiet. Information on the Oxford Cambridge Arc has been referred to recently and there are comments on the Highways England website about improvements to the A34.
- ii) Howe Trust – supporting community through Christmas meal boxes. Anyone with access to commercial freezers was being sought.
- iii) Maple Tree Centre – report circulated
- iv) Merry Bells – new representative to be found following resignation
- v) Neighbourhood Action Group – nothing to report
- vi) Oxford Brookes Residents Association – covered in Item 116v.
- vii) Wheatley Charities – nothing to report
- viii) Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan – response to A Duffield re Local Plan
- ix) Wheatley Playing Field Trust – basic maintenance has been carried out. Clubs have started to return after the second lockdown. Discussions are taking place with another Netball Club on using the flood lit courts. Trust will be finalising its Annual Statement and financial Reports before submitting to the Charity Commission.

118. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION

(previously circulated)

- i) SODC – C-19 updates, Councillor grant info released, response to Chancellor's spending review,
- ii) Oxfordshire Plan update.
- iii) OALC update circulated and Cllrs reminded about development opportunities.
- iv) NALC – updates circulated
- v) Community Food Bank donations being collected by residents Wheatley Park School
- vi) TVP – community updates and Deputy P&CC
- vii) Shotover Preservation Society newsletter
- viii) Letter of Thanks from Be Free Young Carers

119. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- ix) Newsletter content deadline 16th January, distribution 1st Feb

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 4TH JANUARY 2021