

Wheatley Parish Council Virtual Meeting Minutes

Monday 12th April 2021

Present: R Barrett (RB), P Bignell (PB), M Booth (MB), 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), L Tully (LT), P Willmott (PW). OCC Cllr T Bearder (TB), SODC Cllr A Kantor (AK)
Cllr Coxon joined the meeting at 19.36

Officer: Michelle Legg, Clerk to the Parish Council (Clerk) **Members of Public:** approx. 6

In an act of remembrance for HRH Prince Philip Cllr Sercombe led a minute silence before the start of the meeting. The meeting opened at 19:31 and closed at 22:01

No	Item	Action
173.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Street,	
174.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Lamont Wheatley Playing Field Trust, Cllr Willmott - Wheatley Playing Field Trust and Wheatley Rugby Club	
175.	TO RECEIVE MINUTES from Parish Council meeting on Monday 1 st March 2021. The minutes were approved by the council and were signed by the Chairman, as a true record of the meeting.	

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Item 159 Cllr Newman's report to be circulated to the officers ahead of next planning committee

Item 162ii No comments were lodged with the Clerk or the Chair, so no response was made.

176.	TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TIM BEARER Clerk had previously circulated annual report to councillors. Cllr Newman raised questions regarding content of reports and literature posted to residents. Cllr Bearder, who subsequently gave an update on the Adult Social Care system, parking contracts and confirmed that the final full council meetings had been held and mentioned the roads-trial in Wallingford which will be a blue-print for the rest of the county. Cllr Cooper and Cllr Booth asked for further clarification on the Eastern Arc that seems to be open for development, following the decision to stop the Oxford Cambridge Expressway. Cllr Booth raised questions on Cllr Bearders decision to stand as a SODC candidate. Cllr Tully raised an issue of ditches along London Rd. The Clerk had already raised this with Cllr Bearder and asked him to progress this with officers. Cllr Lamont questioned the need to improve the county's roads and infrastructure.	TB
177.	TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SODC DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CLLR ALEXANDRINE KANTOR Confirmed that her Cllr Community Grant funds were shared with a diverse range of organisations within Wheatley. She continues to support neurodiversity and SODC approved motion to support Universal funding. SODC meetings to return to face-to-face meetings after 6 th May 2021.	

The meeting was opened-up to the public at 20:10

RESIDENT – Damage to SODC car park off Church Rd. Clerk confirmed that this has already been reported to SODC.

They also questioned communications regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum. The Clerk gave an update on the second polling cards which SODC will be distributing with information on the referendum.

The meeting was taken back into session at 20:15

178. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK

- i) Planning application has been approved for interpretation board in memorial garden. Order has been placed and grounds staff will install.
- ii) Some of the tree work in Farm Close Road Rec has been carried out,
- iii) Internal Auditor visit taking place on 20th May 2021
- iv) AGAR has been issued from Moore, deadlines revert to normal schedule.
- v) Update on virtual meeting legislation and implications of period of mourning were discussed and Chair of the Council and Committee Chairs to confirm revised meeting dates. Information and summons to be issued as required.
- vi) Update on Annual Parish Meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday 27th April.
- vii) Park Hill bus shelter repairs being undertaken by OCC contractors in the coming weeks
- viii) Search for Grounds Maintenance storage facility to begin and Cllrs asked to help in the search
- ix) April-May edition of newsletter produced and circulated
- x) Horspath Bridge-HRE/OCC have agreed to undertake repairs. This will include a road closure. Dates to be confirmed.
- xi) Cllr Gregory raised the ongoing issue of trees at Kimber Close/Kelham Hall Drive. Contractors have been on site, but if issue remains **Cllr Gregory asked to send images and the Clerk will chase this.**

PG/Clerk

179. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM WNP COMMITTEE – no further update although Referendum will take place on 6th May.

180. TO APPROVE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WELLBEING COMMITTEE – Approved unanimously.

181. TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING

- i) NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day – councillors supported this initiative and were happy to share information and allow residents to mark this in their own way. **This to be developed between the Clerk and Cllrs Booth and Coxon.**
- ii) Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) for Wheatley. A report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and one of the leaders of this spoke about this initiative to tackle loneliness. Councillors approved supporting this scheme and working with them through the Wellbeing Committee. Discussions took place on how information could be included in the Wheatley Newsletter and shared with the community. **Clerk and members of GNS to work together to look at communications and incorporate them within council information on Wellbeing committee.**
- iii) VE day 8th May 2021 – Council approved purchase of 5 figures for display in the village. 4 on the approach village signs and one for the memorial garden or other location. **Clerk to purchase**
- iv) Bioabundance CIC – Councillors did not wish to support this initiative.

**Clerk/
MB/CC**

**Clerk
GNS**

182. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FLOODING ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE

Chair of Floods and Drainage Working Group gave an update on the site meeting with OCC officers, who were keen to solve the issue. Tankers and large equipment would be required which means that access issues need to be resolved. Landowners at the upstream sections has been identified and it is hoped that machinery can gain access via the Littleworth fields.

Pumping station is still causing an issue and the open channel between Car Sales area and ASDA. This issue still needs to be resolved and is only allowing a quarter of the flow that it should have. **Clerk and Chair to draft letter.**

Clerk/AS

- 183. TO CONSIDER RENT REVIEW FROM MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** – Approved new lease at £5,000 per annum with 1% increase each year for three years, with subsequent reviews every 3 years. **Clerk and Chair to sign** Clerk/AS
- 184. TO DISCUSS RECENT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN VILLAGE**
 Cllr Gregory raised the impact of recent criminal activity (catalytic converter, and number plate theft are some examples).
 Cllr Sercombe confirmed that some of these issues are being reviewed in collaboration with city centre teams.
 PC Matt French is the villages' Neighbourhood supervisor and has been updating the Chair with action over other criminal activities.
 Cllr Gregory asked whether there are plans to restart the monthly updates that the council used to receive. **Cllr Sercombe to liaise with TVP to see if these can be reinstated.** AS
- 185. TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPIONS**
- i) OALC membership (£854.46) -
 - ii) CFO membership (£ 70)
 - iii) OPFA (membership)
 - iv) CloudyIT IT support for next 3 years (£2407.68 pa)
 - v) White Earth Website hosting (£543.60)
 - vi) ICO (£40)
- All of these items were approved by the council. **Clerk to arrange payments** Clerk
- 186. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN & ACTION PLAN** - noted
- 187. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**
- i) Finance Committee – next meeting date to be arranged following period of mourning.
 - ii) Planning Committee – minutes circulated, next meeting 14th April.
 - iii) Open Spaces Committee – minutes circulated from both recent meetings. Some trees in Cullum Rd Rec have been vandalised.
 - iv) Staffing Committee – minutes from meeting on 25th March have been circulated. Grounds Maintenance Officer has been appointed permanently.
 - v) Brookes Development Working Group – update circulated
 - vi) Community Emergency Plan – meeting took place and actions still to be completed
 - vii) Holton Pavilion Project – The project team were frustrated with the procurement legislation contained in the Financial Regulations, surrounding this expenditure. A formal resolution is to be made at the next meeting. The Clerk suggested that further research and advice is sought to ensure that the council is following appropriate procedures. **An update to be presented to the Finance Committee.** Clerk
 - viii) Littleworth Playing Fields Working Group – next meeting in two weeks' time.
 - ix) Littleworth Traffic Working Group Appointment with Head Teacher to discuss traffic issues around the school
 - x) Youth Council & Youth Club – nothing to update since last meeting.
- 188. TO RECEIVE UPDATES/REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL PARTNERS**
- i) Expressway Action Group – Expressway has been cancelled.
 - ii) Howe Trust – NGS plan to present a plaque to the trust to celebrate the opening of the raised beds. Litter remains to be of concern.
 - iii) Maple Tree Centre – report circulated ahead of meeting. A programme of activities has been issued, ahead of reopening.
 - iv) Merry Bells – bookings restarted
 - v) Neighbourhood Action Group – to be removed from agenda and renamed under TVP.

- vi) Oxford Brookes Residents Association – representative did not attend the last meeting, but an update circulated.
- vii) Wheatley Charities – nothing to report.
- viii) Wheatley Playing Field Trust – Clubs have returned to training. Trust have approached the school to see if the clubhouse could be accessed during school time, to facilitate social activities/sport.
- ix) Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society. Chair re-elected. Planning permission has been sought but awaiting decision from SODC.

189. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION

(previously circulated)

- i) SODC – various updates; joint local plan, support for businesses and GLL, elections, COVID-19 support, Councillor grant awards,
- ii) OCC – COVID-19 updates, road closures
- iii) OALC – March update circulated, updates on period of mourning
- iv) NALC – updates circulated. Clerk and Chair attended recent session, and tickets for other sessions have been booked for AS & LT
- v) Pulse – funding opportunities and updates
- vi) Police & Crime Commissioner updates
- vii) OCVA – training opportunities some Cllrs are booked on upcoming sessions
- viii) Freedom of information request – tree work
- ix) Correspondence following tree work

190. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION - none

DATE OF NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021