

# WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2016 IN THE MERRY BELLS HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors: A Davies (Acting Chairman), J Carr, R Bell, R Harding, P Willmott, P Gregory, P Bignell, R Reilly, I Roberts, T Davies  
S Coleridge and G Stephens

Due to the indisposition of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr A Davies took the Chair

Officer: The clerk - Gareth Morris

Also present: County Councillor Anne Purse and 4 members of the public

**31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** had been received from Cllrs Hood, Newman and Walkey

**32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None

**33. UPDATE** from the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

- i) Minute 11(i) - Village Green Application –the clerk had written 3 times to try and find out the County Council’s decision. He had now learned that the decision would either be taken. by a committee or by officers. Due to officer leave it was unlikely that we would hear anything before the end of July.  
Cllrs Willmott and Stephens had met with the Headteacher, and representatives of the Diocese and Governors on the site. The Diocese would press the county council for a decision. The Chairman of Governors was keen for a group including Parish Councillors to look at the use of the field and its development e.g. an artificial pitch or new pavilion. It was agreed that 2 or 3 councillors should join this group. Cllrs Harding and Coleridge and Willmott (in the first instance) were asked to be on the group. The clerk would write to David Bendor – Samuel.
- ii) Minute 11(vi) – Vehicle Activated Signs – 3 locations had now been chosen, the county council had sent through maps of the utilities cabling and that had been sent on to MDMessagemaker.
- iii) Minute 17 – Report on the Village Celebrations for the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Cllr T Davies paid tribute to all the helpers on the day and to those who had collected donations eg Mrs Mary Blake and to those making donations direct. The event as a whole was a great success and the whole council thanked Cllr T Davies for organising the party.
- iv) Minute 18 – Rock fall in Church Road Recreation Ground. The terms and conditions of the appointment had been sent to the consultants with special mention of the trees at the top of the cliff.
- v) Minute 11(ii) – In reply to a question the clerk replied that he assumed that the second application to register The Railway Public House as an asset of community value with SODC had been accepted but he had not heard anything officially

- vi) Minute 11(iv) In reply to a question the clerk stated that he had heard nothing about when a start might be made on the housing development north of London Road.

**34. MINUTES** of the Extra Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council meeting Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 circulated with this Agenda were agreed as a correct and accurate record

**35. UPDATE** from the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016

- i) Minute 28 – Internal Control – computer password protection. In line with Parish Council Financial Regulations the clerk had given the Chairman a signed and sealed envelope with the passwords in. There was further discussion on password procedure etc. and it was agreed that the Standing Orders group could look at it.

**36. THE MINUTES** of the meetings of the **Planning Committee** held on the following dates were received

- i) Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 which had been circulated previously  
ii) Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 which had been circulated previously

**37. THE MINUTES** of the meeting of the **F&GP Committee** held on the following date were received

- i) Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 which had been circulated previously

**38. TO CONSIDER AN AUTOMATIC ENROLMENT PENSION SCHEME**

The Parish Council's "Staging Date" is 1<sup>st</sup> November but before then the council has to decide on a pension scheme to use. The clerk is in the OCC Pension Scheme, and the council has three other employees but it is unlikely that all three would qualify because of their age and/or earnings for enrolment. The OCC Pension Scheme advice is it would be easier if the council use the NEST (the National Employment Savings Trust). It was agreed that this could go to the Staffing Committee if it was formed under the next agenda item.

**39. TO CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF A STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Following discussion Cllr Stephens proposed and Cllr T Davies seconded the formation of a staffing committee. This was **Agreed**.

The committee would be comprised of Cllrs T Davies, Newman, Harding and Gregory plus the Chairman, G Stephens and Vice-Chairman, A Davies.

This was Agreed with one abstention.

The clerk would circulate the OALC booklet "Being a good employer. A guide for parish and town councillors" and he suggested that the first meeting of the committee it decides its terms of reference and standing orders.

**8.31pm The Chair declared the council out of session and asked for contributions from the floor**

**County Councillor Anne Purse**

The London Road resurfacing would take place after the gas main work had finished, as from 25<sup>th</sup> July

Also from 25<sup>th</sup> July there would be gas works along Holloway Road which would necessitate the one way stretch, from Church Road to High Street to be closed..

She has asked the County Council to put some measures at the Sun corner whilst Holloway Road was closed.

Maple Tree Children's' Centre – there would be a meeting the following week where issues such as rent would be discussed and trying to 'unpick' the centre away from Great Milton Primary School.

Roads – putting a road around north Oxford to Forest Hill seems now to be off the cards

Oxford to Cambridge expressway – from the A34 to junction 8 (or even Junction 7) on the M40. This still seems to be thought about which would take pressure of the A34 around Botley.

Unitary status – the city area is thought too small to be a unitary authority so they might wish to expand in Wheatley's direction.

She congratulated the village on its Queen's Birthday party event.

**Mr Roger Bettess** – Chairman of the Flood Group. The flood group were concerned about the number of times there was a discharge into the stream. Thames Water had installed monitoring equipment.

Thames Water have a licence from the Environment Agency and there is no evidence that Thames Water is in breach of the licence.

The Chairman suggested that the Flood Committee consider what they would like from the Parish Council and write to them.

At the west end of the village negotiations with Shotover seem to have broken down. Mr Bettess was trying to renew contacts with the estate.

**Mr John Fox** – Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Group. Spoke to his tabled report, Straw poll – they had a response rate of 27%

There would be help and advice from SODC officers in the future

Brooke's site – The neighbourhood plan group had been offered a new form of partnership with the developers and Brookes themselves. However the projected dates did not coincide.

He made the following requests:

Could the 'Neighbourhood Plan' be a regular item on the Parish Council meeting agenda?

Could the Parish Council publicise the consultation on the 13<sup>th</sup> and refurbish the noticeboards?

### **9.38pm - The chairman declared the Council back in session**

The Council thanked John Fox and the Neighbourhood Group for his and their hard work on the Neighbourhood Plan

It was agreed that an extra-ordinary meeting on the District Councils Local Plan 2032 would be held in early August

### **40. TO DECIDE ON PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING AT BROOKES RE THE WHEATLEY CAMPUS**

The Chairman had received an invitation from Oxford Brookes University to meet in September with Paul Large (Director of Infrastructure Investment) and Sue Holmes (Director of Estates) to discuss the future of the Wheatley Campus

Cllr Stephens proposed and Cllr Tin Davies seconded Cllr I Roberts

Cllr Stephens proposed and Cllr Gregory seconded Cllr P Bignell

It was agreed that Cllrs Roberts and Bignell would attend on behalf of the Parish Council

**41. TO CONSIDER THE PROCEDURES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

It was agreed to defer any discussion until after the group reviewing the Council's Standing Orders had reported

**42. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO WHEATLEY PARK SPORTSFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE WHEATLEY PLAYING FIELD TRUST**

- i) To receive the Income and Expenditure Account for the WPSFMC for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016. These had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Willmott explained that the OCC should be billed for £649 plus a further £6,200 for ground maintenance work.
- ii) Matters concerning the Wheatley Playing Field Trust
  - a) The report from Cllr Willmott had been circulated.

**43. TO ORGANISE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE TVP DAY OF ACTION ON SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2016.**

Parish Councillors were urged to sign up to the day and cover the area where they live.

**44. TO CONSIDER TRAINING COURSES OFFERED BY OALC - NOTED**

Roles and Responsibilities - the same course will be run on two separate dates Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October so that councillors that work can come  
The clerk asked for anyone wishing to attend either of these dates to let him know.

**45. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES - NOTED**

- i) The Merry Bells Management Committee – the works on the outside and roof were now complete
- ii) The Howe Trust – trying to get a closer relationship with the Allotment Association
- iii) Thames Valley Police –the latest newsletter had been tabled
- iv) Brookes University Resident Associations' meeting – Cllr Bell reported on the latest meeting. The car parking system at Wheatley was to be updated to try and reduce the parking on Waterperry Road. This to be operational from September.  
The second question asked was about the future of the site. At this meeting Mr Large said SODC might buy the site.
- v) Wheatley Windmill – due to rot in one of the spars securing the sails has meant that two sails have had to come off. The estimate for the repairs are around £10,000. Serious fundraising would have to be undertaken
- vi) SODC briefing on the 'Local Plan 2032' at Milton Park on 31st May. Already discussed
- vii) OCC 'Unitary Council Workshop' at Thame Town Hall on 6th June. The County Council was saying that they would be the better authority to undertake the unitary role.

**46. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS - NOTED**

- i) Planning Committee - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016 - 7.30pm
- ii) F&GP Committee - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016 - 7.30pm
- iii) Traffic and Roads Advisory Group – **to be advised**
- iv) Planning Committee – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016 – 7.30pm
- v) Parish Council Meeting – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September– 7.30 pm
- vi) Planning Committee – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 – 7.30pm
- vii) F&GP Committee - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016 - 7.30pm

**47. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION - None**

**The meeting closed at 10.12pm**