

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th June 2016 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

Present: Councillors Ludlow (Chair), Bristow, Carter, Fysh, Mann, Langley, Parker, Shaw, Werrell, Westell and White

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) To receive any representations from any member of the public present.

Mrs Gwen Morgan attended the meeting to discuss the playground project as a member of the playground planning group. Cllr Bristow said a proposal and quotation had now been received from Playground Services. The quote was for just over £100,000 but could be reduced to about £80,000 by removing one or two items.

There was some discussion on the age range and the possibility of having equipment suitable for disabled children. On funding Cllr Bristow said that the deadline for a WREN application was 8 June, the next application period started in September. He agreed to look at the application to see if meeting the deadline was viable. It was resolved that Cllr Bristow should work with the planning group to develop the project and that, in principle, £80,000 should be the working budget.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Rayner and County Cllr Johnston

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None.

4. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Councillor Bob Johnston had sent the following report -

“The key issue is the emerging push for a unitary system of local government in Oxfordshire. The initial preferred District Council’s option for a 4 cross border system of unitaries including Cotswold and South Northamptonshire has collapsed. I always thought it was too complicated and so it has proved. This leaves the Districts with the options of 1,2 or 3 unitaries for Oxfordshire. They have commissioned PCW to produce a study for these three options with costs and savings. A 2 or 3 unitary option has to address the issue that Oxford City is too small to support the full range of Social Services for both adults and children because it would lack the resource to do so. A greatly expanded Oxford City which could potentially take in areas as far out as Wootton and Abingdon would in my view be very controversial. The County has commissioned Grant Thornton to do its study. The studies are expected to report later in the summer and most observers think that the more obvious options will be clear by November. It is worth noting that PCW is not on the list of HM government preferred contractors, but Grant Thornton is. I still prefer a new county wide unitary as this is the only one which potentially generates sufficient savings to safeguard services. We shall see.

The situation in respect of Children's Centres is still far from clear. The Cabinet has put the £2 million back into the Children's Services budget but not ring fenced to the Centres. I shall know more after a meeting on the 14th of June.

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

This is not strictly within my remit but as you should know the Vale is consulting on changes to the way planning is dealt with. If agreed it would require closer working between the Vale, the Town and Parish Councils and the local District Councillor. In the case of Wootton this could prove interesting!”

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 3 May 2016

Cllr Bob Johnston had asked for a minor amendment on Page 1 under his report that the Inspector ‘appeared to have deemed’ rather than ‘had deemed’. Following the amendment the minutes of the Annual General Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Centre - Para 11(a)

Cllr Fysh said the usage of the Community Centre was 40%. There had been 11 applicants for the post of Booking Clerk, all of whom would be interviewed. A reply had not yet been received from Oxfordshire County Council to the Board’s request for a detailed proposal. WADS-Stock would be held on 30 July.

b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 11(b)

An e-mail had been received from Mrs Srawley about the state of the footpath on Cunnor Road. The footpath was in a bad state and posed a health and safety risk to people using it, particularly the disabled and parents with young children. The vegetation also posed a problem almost forcing people onto the road among fast moving traffic. This is a longstanding problem and the footpath has been the subject of two unsuccessful reviews for resurfacing. It was resolved to pursue the matter again with Oxfordshire Highways. County Cllr Johnson had agreed to assist.

c) Highways - Para 11(c)

The visibility splays need cutting back; signs are also being covered by foliage. The potholes in Hawkins Way and Mathews Way continued to present a major problem.

d) Transport/No 4 Bus Review – Para 11(d)

A good meeting was held with Oxford Bus Company. Following the introduction of the improved service, usage in Wootton had increase to 150%, this had since fallen to 140%. It was agreed that efforts should continue to increase usage. At the suggestion of Oxford Bus Company it was agreed to hold a public meeting in Wootton in October. Cllr Shaw agreed to contact Sunningwell Cllr Miles to find out what action they were taking on the No 44 service which ceases in July.

e) Cricket Club and Recreation Ground - Para 11(e)

There had been further instances of vandalism at the cricket pavilion and this has been reported to Thames Valley Police.

f) Playgrounds – Para 11(f)

See above – Paragraph 1a)

g) Community website and newsletter - Para 11(g)

Nothing to report

h) OCC: Transmissions of Responsibilities to Parish Councils – Para 11(h)

The Area Steward has corrected the suggestion that Wootton had agreed to sign a Section 101 Agreement and has promised to carry out the first grass cut as soon as it can be fitted

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

into the contractor's programme. The maps of where OCC cut grass in Wootton had still not been received. A workshop will be held in Abingdon on 22 June.

i) Section 106 Funding – Para 11(j)

The Section 106 money for Wootton Business Park would be discussed at the meeting with OCC Highways on 8th June. The Section 106 money for the playground would be followed up as soon as an outline project is agreed.

j) Wootton Business Park – Para 11(k)

A meeting would be held with OCC Highways at Wootton Business Park on 8 June to discuss the possibility of installing a roundabout. The project was scheduled to go to the Planning Committee in July if outstanding issues can be resolved.

k) Litter – Paragraph 12

An item has been included in the community newsletter

l) Sunningwell Neighbourhood Plan – Paragraph 13

There will be a public consultation meeting on the Sunningwell Neighbourhood Plan on 16 June; Wootton Parish Council has been invited to attend.

7. WOOTTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

There had only been three volunteers so far from Wootton residents to participate in a Wootton Neighbourhood Plan.

8. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

a) Applications received from the District Council for consultation and consideration by the Planning Committee

P16/V0880/HH 14.4.2016	Erection of a detached double garage Winterbourne, 56 Wootton Village, Boars Hill OX1 5HP Mr & Mrs Towle-Jones <i>See e-mails from applicants attached</i>	Object; the design including the wood cladding is considered to be out of keeping with the neighbourhood and there are doubts about the proposed height of the property.
P16/V0899/FUL 26.4.2016	Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of a replacement dwelling (amendment to P15/V2906/FUL) Foxcombe Field, Fox Lane OX1 5DR Dr S Logan PC Comment on P15/2906/FUL <i>No objection provided it meets all planning criteria. Permit issued 1.2.2016</i>	No objection provided it meets all planning criteria
P16/V0969/HH 29.04.2016	Convert residential store building into granny annexe/studio flat Old Bakery House, 45 Wootton Village, OX15HP (Re-submission of withdrawn P16/V0336/HH – previously no objection)	No objection

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Mr & Mrs White	
P16/V0290/RM Amendment No 1 3.5.2016	Reserved matters application for demolition of existing building and erection of up to 64 dwellings and associated car parking and landscaping (As amended by plans and information accompanying agents – e-mail 3 May 2016) Land at Besselsleigh Road, Wootton OX136DX Oakhill Group	No objection to the changes in Amendment No 1 As original comments were not fully covered by amendment, these were re-submitted. Supplementary points submitted on water contamination.
P16/V1053/HH 12.05.2016	Removal of two hips, addition of obscure bathroom window, addition of rear facing Velux window. 101 Whitecross, Wootton OX136BS Mr Daniel Milham	No objection
P16/V0880/HH 12.5.2016	Erection of a detached double garage (As amended by plan numbers 04RevA and additional car parking plan dated 12.05.2016 re-configuring parking within the garage and car parking spaces on the driveway). Winterbourne, 56 Wootton Village, Boars Hill OX1 5HP Mr & Mrs Towle-Jones	Object – the majority view is that the proposed garage is out of keeping with and too close to the main building and the roof is too high and dominant.

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

b) Decisions of the Local Planning Authority

None

c) Changes in the VWHDC constitution

Proposals for changing the planning process will be tabled at the Town and Parish Forum on 7th July. These envisage a greater role for delegated decision making and the involvement of the District Councillor (a particular problem for Wootton as the District Councillor appears completely disinterested in being involved with the Parish). Parishes that raise objections will be encouraged to attend Planning Committee meetings to justify their comments. There will be a training session on 26th July.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Parker said that Home Close would be holding a street party to celebrate the 90th birthday of HM The Queen.

Cllr Carter outlined the issues regarding the planning application for 175 Whitecross.

Cllr Shaw informed the Council that Tessa Ward a former Wootton resident and District Councillor had died.

10. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) Approval of 2015/6 Accounts

i. Part 1: Annual Governance Statement

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman went through the Annual Governance Statement; The Statement was then approved and signed by the Chairman.

ii. Part 2:Accounting Statements for 2015/6

The Accounting Statements were considered by the Council and signed by the Clerk and the Chairman

iii. Internal Audit

The Accounts had been inspected by the Internal Auditor and passed without significant comment

iv. The Exercise of Public Rights

Notice had been put on the website and parish noticeboards setting out the arrangements and timing for residents to inspect the Accounts

v. Assets Register and Risk Assessment

These were referred to in Sections 1 and 2 of the Audit form and the approval made in January 2016 confirmed.

Approval of the Accounts and related documents was proposed by Cllr Fysh and seconded by Cllr Mann. This was approved unanimously and it was resolved to approve the Accounts.

b) National Pay Award and adjustment to expenses

There had been a national pay award of 1% for parish clerks with effect from 1.4.2016. The Clerk's expenses had been adjusted to take into account the increase in hours from 2 to 2.5 days a week.

c) Payments made between meetings

AON – premium 2016/7	£2,758.30
Thames Water Utilities water pavilion 22.10.2015 – 27.4.2016	£9.42

d) June 2016 Accounts for approval

Clerk Salary June	£794.07
Clerk Expenses June	£138.29
Advent Solutions – Playground inspection April/May 2016	£130.00
ST Grounds Maintenance – litter picking and grass cutting April/May	£1,119.39

It was resolved that the payments made between meetings be noted and the June 2016 invoices be approved for payment.

e) Applications for grants

None

11. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

Dalton Barracks Cocktail Party – 16 June

OCC – Mobile Library Service

OALC AGM – 4 July

Advent Solutions- inspection reports April/May – re-quote to exclude the Community Centre

Changes in the VWHDC Constitution; planning decisions – 7 July/26 July

OALC May update for members

Transition of Local Services – e-mail 27 May Tim Shickle

Transition of Local Services – e-mail 27 May Laura Hutchins

Transition of Local Services – draft schedules and draft Section 101 Agreement

E-mail Philomena Srawley – Cumnor Road pavement

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Oxfordshire County Council – unitary workshop – 22 June

Vandalism at the Cricket Pavilion

OCC – Service Reorganisation in Oxfordshire

The Wootton Village Well

VWHDC – Leader’s monthly newsletter

Sunningwell Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting – 16 June

It was resolved to note the communications received

12. COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Wootton Neighbourhood Plan.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 5th July 2016 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre.

Chairman.....

Date