

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th June 2014 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

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

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mr Ted Wilcox attended the meeting together with Mr Bruce Usher of the Real Estate Company Bloombridge LLP. He was the owner of land behind Harley Davidson and wished to put an alternative proposal to the development in the Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan 2031 Part 1. Mr Usher outlined the proposal which he said would be less visually intrusive than the East Wootton site. Cllr Fysh said that he was opposed to the SMA Report and development in the Green Belt – development should be in brownfield sites. Cllr Parker said that the proposed site would still affect residents' view over Boars Hill and appeared to be simply moving the problem further along. Cllr Shaw questioned the need for building houses on agricultural land. The Green Belt needed looking at and there should be a full County-wide review; current policy is being challenged. There was also concern about the proposed size of developments. Cllr Fysh said that the proposal would change the character of the area and increase traffic. Mr Wilcox thanked the Council for its comments.

Mr Warwick Clifton and Ms Carol Trower attended the meeting to discuss the allotments. They were ready to submit a planning application for the sheds. The application would be for a standard shed on each plot which plot holders could then choose to install or not. They requested that the planning application be submitted through the Parish Council. Mr Clifton confirmed that a maintenance policy would be set up and that plot holders would have to remove sheds at the end of their tenure or arrange to pass them on to a new plot holder. Sheds would not be placed on a concrete base. Cllr Mann proposed that it would be acceptable for the application to be submitted by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Fysh and approved unanimously. It was agreed that Mr Clifton would forward the papers to the Clerk when they were ready for submission. The question of plots that were not being maintained was discussed and it was resolved that the Allotments Committee could give notice to plot holders who were neglecting their plots without referring each case to the Parish Council. It was agreed, however, that if any significant contentious issues arose the Council would be informed through the Clerk.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Berrill, Carter and Langley, County Cllr Bob Johnston and PCSO Andrew McCormack.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None

4. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Cllr Bob Johnston sent the following report

“1. I have awarded £300 to the Wootton Allotments for their project.

2. It is rather quiet on the County, but they are consulting on their latest transport plans. I believe that as present set out they are hopelessly aspirational with monorails and all that. The latter are very expensive to install and maintain and of low capacity. My Group will be putting forward an innovative possible solution at full Council next month.

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3. I am worried that the new road works on the Oxford bypass, which will result in improvements, does not make enough allowance for cyclists and pedestrians in the meantime. I am in a dialogue with the Officers over the matter.

4. The Officers have found a new pot to for Councillors to spend on roads in their patches. I have I believe up to £16,000 to spend thus! This year I am majoring on refreshing white lines, many of which have faded to near invisibility and therefore dangerous. Could the Parish nominate a large road, or several small ones which would benefit from such treatment?"

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6th MAY 2014

The minutes of the meeting of 6th May were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Centre - Para 11(a)

Cllr Fysh said that problems still remained with the Football Club in particular with equipment. The Football Club still owed the Community Centre money for electricity and had demanded a significant sum of money for the equipment. He had e-mailed the Club suggesting that the debt be written off and that the equipment be held by the Community Centre for use by a successor club. The Community Centre had had several enquiries about using the facilities but had not been able to rent out the pitch with the present situation unresolved. It transpired, however, that much of the equipment including the goal posts and mower had been removed. The Board were also experiencing problems with the policy on dogs with some members wanting to restrict access to guide dogs and hearing dogs and other wanting to include assist dogs which were not obliged to wear identifying coats and maintain that their use is covered by the Disabilities Discrimination Act. A request was made for sponsorship of Wadstock initially in the form of sponsoring a barrel of beer, following discussion and comments from a member of the public present it was resolved to offer £100 towards programme costs.

b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 11(b)

The request to Oxfordshire Highways to clear the Orchard Lane/Old Boars Hill footpath has been acknowledged but action is still awaited. The footpath north of Deerhurst Park needs clearing.

c) Highways – Para 11(c)

The OCC grass cutting programme was late this year but there were indications that it was beginning. County Cllrs now had funds to use on roads in their area. The Council had been asked to identify proposals, such as refreshing white lines

d) Allotments – Para 11(d)

In addition to the points raised in Paragraph 1a) above the Allotments Committee had sent the following report to the Council on dogs -

“The allotment association introduced a 6 month trial allowing dogs onto the allotment provided they were on a lead and remained on their own plots. The trial has been running now since September and was reviewed at the April committee meeting. Although there had only been one report of suspected fouling it was agreed that running the trial during the winter months when few people were on the allotment was not a fair process and therefore the trial was extended until the end of the summer when it will be reviewed again. At that stage we will report back to the Parish Council on our decision.”

e) Neighbourhood Policing/Vandalism – Para 11(e)

The following email had been sent to Superintendent Andy Boyle in response to his message on crime statistics -

“Wootton Parish Council is grateful for your letter of 11th April and welcomes the reduction of crime in the Thames Valley area as demonstrated by the statistics. The Parish Council would, however, like to draw to your attention the increase of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the parish over the past few months. We appreciate that such activity fluctuated over time as new groups of young people come together, but we do think that the visibility of Thames Valley

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Police officers in the parish can do much to reduce the level of such behaviour. We understand that the shift timings of your officers have changed which means that they have to leave the parish by 9.30pm; this is probably around the time that many of the problems start. In addition we have heard that neighbourhood team officers are being re-deployed to Abingdon, particularly on Saturday evenings. We appreciate that at a time of limited funding it is often necessary to deploy resources to the area of greatest need, but we do attach considerable importance to neighbourhood police presence being maintained in the village environment. We raised this issue at the recent NAG meeting and were interested to note that there was a strong resonance with the views of the representatives of the other parish councils at the meeting.”

f) Cricket Club and Recreation Ground - Para 11(g)

The ROSPA inspection of the playground was scheduled for July. The playground was in poor condition due to a weed infestation. Mr Steve Thatcher had been asked to try and improve the situation before the inspection. Consideration was given to closing the playground with a view to redevelopment. It was resolved to try and keep it in operation during the summer and close it for redevelopment in the winter.

g) Deerhurst Park Playground – Para 11(h)

Discussion on the Deerhurst Park Playground was deferred until next meeting when Deerhurst Park Councillors would be present.

h) Community website and newsletter – Para 5(i)

The website working group would meet on the 16th June. The website would be launched in the July newsletter. Cllr Fysh said that the Community Centre were considering purchasing or renting a photocopier with collation and stapling facilities to produce the newsletter.

i) Speed limits – Para 5(j)

A meeting had been arranged with Adam Barrett of Oxfordshire County Council on Thursday 12 June at 9.30 to finalise location of signs.

j) Community Governance Review - Para 5(k)

The Vale of White Horse District Council would take a final decision on the Community Governance Review at its meeting on 16th July.

k) Broadband – Para 5(l)

The BT cabinet outside Community Centre had now been installed. Gigaclear now had representatives going from door to door. Gigaclear had offered to provide broadband to the Community Centre free of charge. However this benefit could not be acquired until Gigaclear reached its 400 sign-ups to make installation in the parish viable. There was also problem with the electricity phasing at the Community Centre which would need to be resolved if the offer were accepted.

l) Vale of White Horse District Council; Local Plan (including Neighbourhood Plan) – Para 5(m)

It was resolved that the Parish Council’s response to the VWHDC should be placed in the July newsletter. It was resolved that the Parish Council should consider again the possibility of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan which would give better control of where housing is built. It was resolved that the Chairman should discuss with the Chairman of St Helen Without Parish Council the possibility of doing a joint plan which would reduce costs and give access to more help from local residents

m) Defibrillator - Para 1(a)

The Chairman had made contact with the supplier. The defibrillator would be put in a vandal proof box to the left of the front door of the Community Centre. It was resolved that £1,000 could be vired from the street lighting reserve and £1,000 from the general reserves.

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7. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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

P14/V0705/HH 15.4.2014	Demolition of existing green houses and erection of new pool building and associated landscape works Boars Hill Health, Jarn Way, Boars Hill OX1 5JF Mr Alex Hong	No objection
P14/V0663/HH 10.4.2014	Retention and completion of a raised patio and means of enclosure 6 Beech Close. Wootton OX13 6DQ Mr R Coughlan	No objection
P14/V0748/FUL 10.4.2014	Demolition of existing dwelling, Erection of new 4 bedroom dwelling 123 Whitecross, Wootton OX1 5LB Mr Myers	No objection
P14/V0812/FUL 22.4.2014	Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of replacement dwelling and associated outbuilding and landscaping Agents Cottage, White Barn, Boars Hill OX1 5HH Mrs Laura Watts	No objection but bats should be re-housed
P14/V0907/HH 6.5.2014	Erection of a single storey side extension Hollydene, The Ridgeway, Boars Hill OX1 5EX Mr P Thompson	No objection
P14/V0894/FUL 7.5.2014	Demolition of existing dwelling: Erection of a replacement dwelling Foxgloves, Fox Lane. Boars Hill OX1 5DP Mr F Geekie	No objection
P14/V0970/HH 13.5.2014	Alterations to roof, dormers and gable endings. Internal alterations to plan and side extension. Windy Ridge, Old Boars Hill OX15JJ Mr S Kam	No objections
P14/V0990/HH 13.5.2014	Proposed new vehicular and pedestrian access Wootton House, Wootton Village, OX1 5HP Mr & Mrs Duxbury	No objections
P14/V0918/FUL 13.5.2014	Construction of a 2 bed bungalow and garage 172 Cumnor Road, Wootton OX15JS Mr Appleton	No objections

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

b) Decisions of the Local Planning Authority

P14/V0356/LB 6.3.2014	Proposed internal alterations, replace single rooflight with conservation rooflight, rebuild rotten dormer	No objections	LBC 24.4.2014
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	structures and repair window frames and casements. Manor Farm, 6 Wootton Village OX15JL		
P14/V0207/HH 13.3.2014	Erection of ground and first floor extension. Greenways, Lamborough Hill, Wootton OX13 6BY Mrs Keri Young	No objections	Permit 7.5.2014
P14/V0569/HH 27.3.2014	Proposed two single storey extensions Broom Hill, Lincombe Lane, Boars Hill OX1 5DX Mr P Smallcombe	No objection	Permit 2.5.2014
P14/V0565/HH 27.3.2014	Removal of existing UPVC sunroom and lean to WC and rear porch. Erection of a two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front porch with two integrated bay windows. Conversion of a single detached garage into sun room and addition of French doors to the south elevation 17 Cumnor Road, Boars Hill OX1 5JP Mrs Dorothy Herbert	The planning increase appears to be far in excess of the permitted 30% - although no objection in principle this might suggest refusal	Permit 16.5.2014
P14/V0748/FUL 10.4.2014	Demolition of existing dwelling, Erection of new 4 bedroom dwelling 123 Whitecross, Wootton OX1 5LB Mr Myers	No objection	Permit 29.5.2014

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions

8. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- Cllr Rayner raised the problem of foliage on Lamborough Hill blocking the footpath
- Cllr Mann said the potholes at the north entrance to Mathews Way still needed repairing.
- Cllr White said that the hedge belonging to the house opposite the school needed cutting back.
- Cllr Shaw said that the trees at the top of Old Boars Hill needed cutting back

9. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) Approval of the 2013/14 Accounts

The 2013/14 Accounts had been circulated to Councillors for comment. They had been submitted to Internal Audit and received no significant comments. Cllr Fysh proposed that the 2013/14 Accounts be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Shaw and approved unanimously. Section 1 of the External Audit form was signed by the Chairman and Section 2 read through before being signed by the Chairman.

b) June 2014 Accounts for approval

Clerk Salary June	£434.48
Clerk Expenses June	£112.16
Advent Solutions: playground inspections April	£60.00

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ST Grounds Maintenance; litter picking and grass cutting May	£576.00
Mr Walter Jacob – funding for band World War 1 event	£100.00
Frances Dix – advance for food World War 1 event	£200.00
Ian Bristow – website charges	£11.97
Sue Srawley – replacement cheque No 680 for website	£11.99
It was <u>resolved</u> that the May 2014 invoices be approved for payment.	

c) Applications for grants

None

10. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- i. OALC Update for Members – May
- ii. Wootton Allotments – report on dogs
- iii. Advent solutions – playground inspection 3.5.2014
- iv. Thames Valley Alert – TVP ‘Have Your Say’ meetings
- v. AOLC – Training Update
- vi. Extracts from Vale News
- vii. Invitation to Connecting Oxford – a transport vision for the future
- viii. LCR – Summer 2014

It was resolved to note the communications received

11. COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None

12. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 1st July 2014 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

Chairman.....

Date