

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th October 2016 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

Present: Councillors Ludlow (Chair), Bristow, Carter, Fysh, Langley, Parker, Rayner, Shaw, Werrell, Westell and White and PCSO Richard Osborne.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Thames Valley Police

PCSO Richard Osborne attended the meeting. The recent problems at the Youth Club with youths setting off fireworks, which had been concerning parents with children attending the Youth Club, had been looked at and the perpetrators spoken to. The recent use of fireworks to cause nuisance on the housing estate was an issue and the perpetrators could be in breach of the tenancy agreements with Sovereign Vale. Anti-social behaviour had, however, reduced by 30% in the last 12 months. PCSO Osborne confirmed that a second speed camera on Whitecross to reduce speeding was unlikely to be an option. Parking on the pavements was also discussed. Councillors thanked PCSO Osborne for attending the meeting and very much welcomed the opportunity to discuss local issues with him on a regular basis.

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

Four residents of Boars Hill attended the meeting to discuss the future of Foxcombe Hall, the Open University site, which is up for sale. The 16.17 Acre site is in a prime location and local residents are concerned at the possible implications of the sale. Mr Nigel Jones who is leading the residents' group is in contact with the sales agents Carter Jones. It was agreed that the Parish Council and the residents would continue to monitor the situation and compare notes as further information emerges. Cllr Shaw agreed to see if she could obtain Land Registry copies of the site.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mann and County Cllr Bob 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 –

“1. In response to a question from myself the Cabinet member for transport confirmed that in 2017 grass cutting will start in May and that there should be a schedule so that we can see in what order the various areas are to be cut.

2. The unitary issue rumbles on. At a further briefing County Councillors have been told that in the Autumn statement two tier local authorities will be “incentivised” to find a unitary solution. It has also been confirmed that the Minister has the power to impose a solution of no local agreement is forthcoming.

3. There have been further discussions in respect of the Children’s Centres. I am not yet in a position to disclose the substance of those discussions. The matter is to be discussed further at the meeting of the Abingdon area County Councillors on the 19th of October. I am quite hopeful that the ultimate outcome will be positive, though it is most unlikely that outside the core of 8 (including one at Stratton Way in Abingdon) that the present full range of services will be maintained. The strategy of myself and my Group is to keep as wide a range of buildings and facilities in being, so that if times get better, services can again be expanded.”

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5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6th SEPTEMBER 2016

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

6. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Centre - Para 6(a)

Cllr Fysh said that he was awaiting an approach from the OCC Property and Legal Departments to set up a meeting on the future of the Children's Centre. A meeting was also being arranged with Inspector Margaret Turner to discuss the Police Office. The circuit board on the heating system had been repaired.

b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 6(b)

Cllr Mann has spoken to OCC Countryside Service and they are looking at the various footpath issues. The hedge next to Whitecross Metals needs cutting back.

c) Highways Para 6(c)

Oxfordshire Highways have looked into the question of providing dropped kerbs across the private road on the north side of Mathews Way. Their initial response was that it could only be done if paid for by the Parish Council at a cost of £2,500. They subsequently agreed to add it to the list of works but without any immediate prospect of the work being done in the near future. They pointed out that it is possible to go along the southern side of the road and use the existing dropped kerbs across Mathews Way. Oxfordshire Highways commented that efforts are being made to progress the road re-surfacing on Hawkins Way.

d) Transport/No 4 Bus Review – Para 6(d)

The public meeting to meet the management of Oxford Bus Company had been arranged for 11th October at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Volunteers were required for serving tea and coffee and setting up chairs. Tea and coffee would be served from 7.15pm followed by a panel discussion and questions and answers. In addition to the managers from Oxford Bus Company the panel would consist of representatives of the two parish councils and Dalton Barracks.

e) Playgrounds – Para 6(f)/Playing fields

Cllr Bristow said that the application to WREN had been postponed as a second quote would be required and possibly planning permission. This also applied to the Vale of White Horse District Council grant. It was resolved to set up a meeting with Whitehorse Contractors to discuss drainage and the removal of the existing playground. It was resolved that the swings should stay. Cllr Westell said that the Cricket Club should be reminded to repair the roof tiles to avoid leakage and make the usual winter preparations to avoid freezing in the water pipes.

f) Community website and newsletter - Para 6(g)

The community newsletter was now looking very good.

g) OCC: Transmissions of Responsibilities to Parish Councils – Para 6(h)

Efforts were still being made to arrange a meeting with Mr Ben Grinstead of BGG Garden & Tree Care to discuss an estimate for the second cut in 2017. This information will be required for preparing the 2017/18 budget and Precept.

h) Wootton Business Park – Para 6(j)

Cllr Parker and the Clerk met Ms Joanne Churchill of Hartwell to discuss having a bus turning circle in the entrance area of Wootton Business Park. The suggestion was positively received and Ms Churchill asked for more detailed information on what would be necessary; this will need to be requested from Oxford Bus Company.

7. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The switching on of the Christmas lights had been agreed for Sunday 27th November at 7pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies at the Bystander. This had been agreed with the Vicar, Stroud Electrics, Wootton Players and the new management at the Bystander.

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8. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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

P16/V1531/HH 16.8.2016	Demolition of single storey extension and erection of 2 storey extension Amendment no 1 107 Willow Cottage, Wootton Village OX15HW Mr Roger Wiggins	No objection
P16/V1996/HH 9.8.2016	Proposed two storey extension to rear elevation Bailiffs Cottage white Barn, Sandy Lane. Boars Hill Oxford OX15HH Mr Ashley Trice	No objection
P16/V2097/HH 24.8.2016	Proposed alterations to existing outbuilding. Orchard Farm, 224 Wootton Village, OX1 5HW Mr & Mrs B Morton	No objections
P16/V2253/O 7.9.2016	Demolition of existing 2 storey building and garage and erection of new building consisting of 10 apartments and related works 6-8 Cumnor Road, Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5JP A & H Rock	Objects; the potential number of cars exceeds the parking provision which is likely to exacerbate the existing parking problems in the vicinity. The height of the building is greater than the adjacent buildings leading to overlooking and loss of light as well as the office block appearance being out of keeping with the area.
P16/V2251/HH 12.9.2016	Removal of conservatory and replacement with single storey extension along the back of existing house Picketts Heath Farmhouse, Youlbury, Boars Hill, OX1 5HD Twist & Ryall	No objections
P16/V2258/FUL 12.9.2016	Proposed new chalet style 2 bedroom dwelling in the existing garden (resubmission of P16/V1221/FUL- <i>withdrawn following 'no objection' from PC</i>) 68 Besselsleigh Road, Wootton OX13 6DX Mr & Mrs Viner	No objection

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

b) Decisions of the Local Planning Authority

P16/V0290/RM 16.2.2016	Outline Application for demolition of existing building and erection of up to 64 dwellings and associated	Full response	Approved by Committee
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Including amendments 1 & 2	car parking and landscaping Land at Besselsleigh Road, Wootton OX136DX Oakhill Group		9.9.2016
P16/V1684/FUL 5.7.2016	Replacement of existing dwelling with new two storey, four bed house with detached garage and landscaping. Woodland, Bedwells Heath, Boars Hill OX1 5JE	No objection	Permit 19.9.2016
P16/V1996/HH 9.8.2016	Proposed two storey extension to rear elevation Bailiffs Cottage white Barn, Sandy Lane. Boars Hill Oxford OX15HH Mr Ashley Trice	No objection	Permit 26.9.2016

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

As discussed at the September meeting Cllr Carter had gone through the VWHDC Local Plan Part 1 modifications. He said that he considered that the Parish Council had missed a trick by not having prepared a Neighbourhood Plan. Following discussions it was resolved to consider the matter further possibly in the context of the VWHDC Local Plan Part 2.

Cllr Shaw asked about the taxi business being run at the corner of Lamborough Hill and The Old Pound; this is being investigated by Planning Enforcement.

10. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) October 2016 Accounts for approval

Clerk Salary October	£561.75
Clerk Expenses October	£121.63
Post Office Ltd – HMRC PAYE & NI July-September	£1,227.93
St Grounds Maintenance	£474.00

It was resolved that the October invoices be approved for payment.

b) Applications for grants

An application had been made for a grant by South & Vale Carers Centre. The Parish Council currently give a grant of £200. The charity supports two carers in Wootton and the grant will be reviewed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee in December.

11. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

OALC Newsletter – September 2016

Community First Oxfordshire (previously ORCC) AGM 27 October

Oxfordshire South and Vale AGM – 18 October

Dignity in Care awards

Community minibus fund

OALC – consultation on referenda relating to Precepts – 28 October

Capping proposals for larger councils could be extended to all – NALC will be opposing. Could be introduced in 2017/18 though probably only on larger councils.

OCC Update – unity government

Decision of OCC to support single Council proposal for whole of Oxfordshire – no reference to Oxford City Council situation

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Vale of White Horse DC – Matthew Barber monthly newsletter

New number for reporting power failures 105; to be put on the website

Neighbourhood Planning Bill

Further promotion of Neighbourhood Plans strengthening their impact on where development takes place, making them come into effect immediately after the approving referendum and simplifying the process for modifications.

VWHDC – property name change

Local Plan Part 1 Modifications

It was resolved to note the communications received

1. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None

2. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 1st November 2016 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre.

Chairman.....

Date