

# WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre**

**Present:** Councillors Ludlow (Chair), Berrill, Carter, Fysh, Langley, Mann, Parker, Rayner, Werrell, Westell and White

## **1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

A number of residents attended the meeting to express concern about the Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 1 and the proposed development of 200 houses on Lamborough Hill which also proposed to release three sites in the village from the Green Belt. The Chairman explained that there had been some misleading information circulated that tonight's meeting was a special meeting to discuss the Local Plan. This was not the case, the meeting was the regular Parish Council meeting and whilst residents were welcome to express their views on the Local Plan it would not be possible to devote the whole meeting to it. A number of concerns were raised about the proposed development including the effect on the B4017, the lack of school places, drainage and the loss of visual amenity. School places were calculated by a formula and places could be offered within a 3 mile radius. Mr Bristow agreed to put information on the website; this will include the Parish Council's response, but residents were encouraged to respond to the consultation individually and in groups.

Mr Ian Bristow attended the meeting to discuss any points on broadband provision. The Gigaclear group were working to sign up residents to the Gigaclear option some 400 were needed. It was understood that the money available under the OCC/BT rollout would not be changed. The best solution for Wotton would be if both options were available to residents. The Chairman emphasised that the Parish Council has no control over the Gigaclear and BT options.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Shaw and County Cllr Bob Johnston

## **3. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS**

County Councillor Bob Johnston sent the following report -

"Most of my report revolves around the budget setting meeting of the County Council on the 18th of February. We were led to believe initially that the ruling Conservative Independent Alliance would be 4 votes down, theoretically leaving them one vote short. In the event this was not so, they were only 3 down because one of their members who had been in hospital arose from her sick bed, and though far well still, she could still lift her right arm. Worse while the Liberal Democrat Group were at full strength (11), the Labour Group was 2 down. While one of their Group was known to be ill, we did not realise how ill she had become. The absence of the other Labour member was never explained. As a result the ruling budget was agreed by just 3 votes. This means amongst other things no more Big Society and Stewardship monies. Mercifully the Children's Centres including Wootton have been spared. As the County was able to increase Council Tax by 1.99% and not the feared 1.5% a further 3 million pounds of cuts (including highway maintenance) were not implemented. I hope to be with you in April."

## **4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

The minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING**

### **a) Community Centre - Para 5(a)**

Cllr Fysh said that the Community Centre had now advertised for a caretaker. A New Years party was planned and the Dreamers band had been booked. Bookings continued to rise and the

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point was being reached where potential clients would have to be turned away. The Rev Jon Williams had passed on a suggestion raised at a meeting of the Wootton St Peters Primary School Governors that an Internet café be set up in the Community Centre. It was agreed that whilst the idea was interesting it was a matter for the Community Centre Board and not the Parish Council.

### b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 5(b)

Jenks have completed their work and the complaint about the tree and foliage on Old Boars Hill appears to have been resolved. The tree blocking the footpath on Lamborough Hill has been removed. Cllr Werrell said that there was a tree leaning over the road next to the Air Cadets that was causing an obstruction to lorries.

### c) Highways – Para 5(c)

A number of potholes had been marked up but not repaired. OCC had explained that the contracting team were behind with their repairs due to the wet weather. The potholes in Wootton Village had been reported. Wimpey had been approached about the parking concerns in Deerhurst Park. It was resolved that the Parish Council should seek meetings with Wimpey, the VWHDC/OCC on adoption and the PCSO to look at better enforcement.

### d) Allotments – Para 5(d)

It was resolved that the stolen wire can be repaired by the Allotment Committee with the cost of the materials met by the Parish Council.

### e) Neighbourhood Policing/Vandalism – Para 5(e)

There has been several incidents of antisocial behaviour at Deerhurst Park. It was resolved to set up a meeting between councillors and the PCSO, Andrew McCormack to discuss the matter. It was suggested that an item could also be put in the newsletter. There had been no NAG meeting for some time but the organisers were trying to find a suitable date.

### f) Bus stops and services – Para 5(f)

Cllr Langley hosted a meeting with Paul Cross of Oxford Bus Company, together with Cllr Parker and the Clerk. The focus was on improving the existing service ideally to make it a half hourly service but if not to adjust the times during the rush hour in the morning and evening. Mr Cross said that there was no more money but undertook to raise the matter with Phil Southall the Operations Director. The question of zoning which affects price was also raised.

Cllr Langley attended the Parish Transport Representatives Meeting. There had been a reduction of £2million in the £4million bus subsidy budget. The No 4 bus would be reviewed in 2015; as an hourly service it would not be cut

### g) Cricket Club and Recreation Ground - Para 5(g)

£670.84 had been received from insurance company for the noticeboard; a quote for a new installed board had been requested.

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

Mr Ian Bristow explained that Mrs Sue Srawley had been very busy with the Wootton surgery campaign and had not yet been able to change the banner or the url, he had, however been able to do some updating. He was happy to help and as agreed at the working group meeting post material sent to him on the site. The Council expressed its gratitude to Mr Bristow for his most useful contribution.

### i) Speed limits – Para 5(j)

The formal notice for changes in speed limits on Old Boars Hill and the Sandy Lane end of Wootton Village has issued. Comments are required by 21<sup>st</sup> March and efforts need to be made to encourage residents to write to the OCC supporting the changes.

### j) Community Governance Review - Para 5(k)

St Helen Without Councillors attended the District Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February and put the case for retaining the status quo in Dry Sandford. E-mails were also sent to all District Councillors. It appears that the majority of Henwood residents would prefer to stay in Cumnor Parish. The date for consultation has been extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> May. It was resolved that Wootton Parish Council would respond to the consultation by reiterating its previous position.

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## k) Broadband – Para 5(l)

Cllr Ludlow and the Clerk met Peter Cowen of BT accompanied by his colleague Julia Watts. Cllr Ludlow was able to provide information about the Wootton cabinets that would improve the service to Wootton Village. It was agreed that efforts should be made to encourage OCC to provide more information to residents. Gigaclear had sent the Chairman a plan showing its proposed coverage in Wootton and Boars Hill.

## l) Flooding and Emergency Plan – Para 5(m)

Cllr Langley was updating the emergency plan. A second keyholder was required for the Community Centre. Cllr Ludlow agreed to take this on. Amendments to the Plan would be sent to the Clerk to update and circulate.

Cllr Berrill attended the Flood Forum. OCC and the Environment Agency gave details of schemes. The clearance of drains and ditches was a key point. The riparian ownership of ditches meant that there needed to be more support to, and education of, landowners. The major project for Oxford the Western Channel was hampered by lack of funds. There were also no funds for the Abingdon Marina.

## m) World War 1 Event

St Helen Without Parish Council has agreed to share in underwriting the cost of the food

## 6. VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL; LOCAL PLAN

The VWHDC had published its Local Plan Part 1 and comments were required by 4<sup>th</sup> April.

The following points were made -

- The Parish Council recognises the need for the VWHDC to identify sites for additional housing across the District and in principle has no objection to some development in Wootton to help meet this need; the proposed development at Wootton Business Park was supported, in principle, by the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council considers, however, that the site identified in the Plan is not the most suitable for development. The site embraces prime agricultural land overlooking probably the most scenic views in the village towards Boars Hill. Developing the site would damage the green space and the visual amenity open to the community. A single development of such a size in this location would seriously impact on the rural natural of the village.
- The Parish Council believes that there are other sites in the village of much lower visual and agricultural amenity that together could meet the VWHDC development target for Wootton.
- The Parish Council has concerns about the release of land from the Green Belt and believes that the methodology used may be legally flawed.
- Any further development in Wootton would need to be accompanied by significant improvements to the infrastructure. Wootton is served by an inadequate bus service, primary school places are limited and at a premium.
- The B4017 already poses a traffic problem and the proposed site is at an accident black spot.
- There is considerable opposition in the village to the proposed development and the Parish Council objects to the inclusion in the Plan of the development of this site and objects to the release of the three sites in Wootton from the Green Belt.

Cllr Berrill agreed to provide a suggested format for the response

## 7. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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

P13/V2610/FUL	Replacement of the existing Scouting	No objection but –
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2.1.2014	museum building to create a new accommodation lodge. The redevelopment of an existing toilet block and the refurbishment and extension of the existing activity barn. Youlbury Scout Activity Centre, Youlbury, Boars Hill The Scout Association	a) Construction traffic should not go through Wootton Village and there should be a construction traffic management plan b) Disabled facilities should be to the best modern standards for use by all
P13/V1944/FUL  Amend No 1 9.1.2014	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new 2-bed dwelling with 2 parking spaces (as amended by plan 399/02 and ownership certificate D) Orchard Hill Cottage, Orchard Lane, Boars Hill OX1 5JH Aldworth Holdings	Refuse as being out of character with the area
P14/V0103/HH  24.1.2014	Loft conversion including raising ridge height. First floor rear extension over existing flat roof. Ground floor infill to rear elevation and proposed porch and dormer windows to front elevation. 217 Whitecross, Wootton OX13 6BW Mr Adam Stacey	No objection

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

### b) Decisions of the Local Planning Authority

P13/V2637/FUL  16.12.2013	Demolition of existing dwelling and garage. Erection of a replacement dwelling and garage. Belvedere, Bedwells Heath. Boars Hill OX1 5JE Mr & Mrs J Oppen	No objections	Permit  5.2.2014
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It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions

## 8. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Werrell questioned the cost of membership of the OALC, but it was agreed that the services it provided were necessary.

## 9. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### a) March 2014 Accounts for approval

Clerk Salary March	£434.48
Clerk Expenses March	£106.66
Advent Solutions; playground inspection January	£60.00
Jenks Oxford Ltd – Tree surgery Cricket ground	£2,202.00
ST Grounds Maintenance; litter picking February	£300.00
OALC – 2014-15 Subscription	£520.80

It was resolved that the March 2014 invoices be approved for payment.

### b) Applications for grants

Enrich had requested a grant. It helps adults with disabilities one of whom is in Wootton Parish. It was resolved that this would be considered by the FGPC when it recommends on setting the budget in December.

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## c) Repeal of s.150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972

The repeal would allow Parish Councils to abandon the two signature rule on cheques provided other security measures were put in place. It was resolved to retain two signatures on cheques.

### 10. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- i. Advent Solutions Playground Inspection 14.1.2014
- ii. NALC Briefing; Repeal of s.150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972
- iii. Parish Transport Representatives Meeting
- iv. Oxfordshire County Council; Speed Limits Order
- v. VWHDC; Community Governance Review; Dry Sandford
- vi. VWHDC: Community Governance Review; Henwood
- vii. VWHDC Town and Parish Forum 2014
- viii. NALC Update for Members; February 2014
- ix. Carers Oxfordshire Monthly Update; February 2014
- x. NALC 2014 Events; Localism
- xi. Gigaclear

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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre and that it would be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm

Chairman.....

Date .....