

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th December 2014 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

Present: Councillors Ludlow (Chair), Berrill, Carter, Fysh, Langley, Shaw, Werrell 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 their interest in the VWHDC Local Plan and Green Belt Review (Mr & Mrs Harrison, Mr Lane, Mr & Mrs Lyford, Mr & Mrs Selby, Mr & Mrs Studds, Mr & Mrs Weston and Ms Woods). Residents sought clarification of the VWHDC plans in relation to the three sites listed in the Green Belt Review for removal from the Green Belt. The views expressed were in favour of preserving the Green Belt.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mann, Parker, Rayner and Westell and County Cllr Bob Johnston

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None

4. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

District Cllr Shaw said that South Oxfordshire had topped the league table for recycling and the Vale of White Horse had come third.

The following report was received after the meeting from County Councillor Bob Johnston

“1. The road works on the Oxford bypass are now almost complete, the contra-flow has been removed and everything will be finished by the 19th of December, a slippage of some three weeks due to bad weather which prevented the surfaces to the bridges from being resealed. There will now be yellow hatched boxes on the exits from the Hinksey Hill roundabout to try to prevent it from getting snarled up in future.

2. I have authorised the works you request in Honeybottom Lane.

3. The budget is now a little clearer. The net cuts look like being about £22 million pounds, of which all but £4 million has been identified or found from balances. Cuts to grass cutting, road maintenance and bus subsidies look inevitable if the draft Tory budget is passed. That might now be problematic as the Conservative/Independent Alliance has had a couple of wobbles and they have been losing some votes. There will be three draft budgets tables, one from each of the three main parties. The end result might be something of an amalgam. One thing that also looks as if it will happen is that some road repairs are now to be paid for out of capital (capitalised repairs). We have been asking for this for years as it takes pressure off the revenue budget, a touch of the Damascus Road! The thing that will create uncertainty right up to the end is the fact that the final settlement from Government will not be known until well into February.”

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 4th NOVEMBER 2014

The minutes of the meeting of 4th November were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. VALE OF WHITE HORSE LOCAL PLAN: GREEN BELT REVIEW

The following draft response from Wootton Parish Council was considered

“Wootton Parish Council warmly welcomes the District Council’s decision to removal the proposed inappropriate development for 200 houses (Wootton East) on Lamborough Hill just south of Home Close.

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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 for 64 properties at Wootton Business Park was supported, in principle, by the Parish Council.

The Green Belt Review

The Parish Council continues to have concerns about the release of land from the Green Belt without having undertaken a full review of the Oxfordshire Green Belt.

The Green Belt Review in the Local Plan considers three sites under “Wootton.”

Site 9

This area lies behind Wootton Village and was considered inappropriate for development in the previous draft of the Plan as it contributes to the wider Green Belt. The land lies behind existing properties and access would be difficult. Access onto Wootton Village would have serious consequences for traffic on the road.

Site 10

This is the East Wootton site which has been recognised as inappropriate for development particularly as it is a site of highest visual amenity.

Wootton Parish Council considers that removing sites 9 and 10 from the Green Belt despite recognition that they are unsuitable for development would be likely to stimulate a series of planning applications in the future which would have a detrimental impact on the village.

Site 23

Site 23 mainly falls in the Parish of St Helen Without rather than Wootton apart from the area which is part of the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre which is in Wootton. The southern two thirds of the site consists of the recreation ground which is protected by Fields in Trust. The northern third is the land on which the Community Centre is built.

Infrastructure

As previously stated 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 is an overused B road as it provides a main route for through traffic from Oxford (Botley) and the A420 (Swindon, Faringdon) to Abingdon and to the A34.”

The draft was approved and it was resolved that the response should be sent to the VWHDC.

7. 2015/16 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

It was resolved to refer the 2015/16 Budget and Precept to the FGPC Meeting on 16th December at 7.30pm. The FGPC recommendations would be considered at the Parish Council Meeting on 6th January 2015

8. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Centre - Para 6(a)

The Board had decided to accept the offer from Gigaclear to install broadband in the Community Centre

b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 6(b)

The footpath between Orchard Lane and Old Boars Hill needed substantial work to make it passable.

c) Highways – Para 6(c)

There continues to be a drainage problem which causes flooding after rain at the Deerhurst Park roundabout. The area on Wootton Village near the Church continues to flood. It was resolved that this should be reported to Highways.

d) No 4 Bus Review Para 6(f)

Responses were sent to Oxfordshire County Council on the consultation on the No 4 Bus subsidy from Wootton, St Helen Without, Cumnor, Dalton Barracks, district and county councillors and

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

both MPs. A group from Wootton & St Helen Without Parish Councils and Dalton Barracks called on Phil Southall, Operation Manager, Oxford Bus Company. The meeting was useful and OBC will be carrying out a separate review of the No 4 bus service and have promised to take into account the parishes' views.

e) Cricket Club and Recreation Ground - Para 6(g)

Work had been carried out on the playground to meet the comments in the ROSPA report. The Clerk would be meeting the insurers on 9th December to discuss the accident claim.

f) Deerhurst Park Playground – Para 6(h)

A response was still awaited from the VWHDC Property Department.

g) Community website and newsletter – Para 6(i)

The Community Centre had sought quotes for printing the newsletter to include collating and possibly colour. It was hoped that agreement could be reached in time for the February issue.

h) Broadband – Para 6(j)

Progress had been made with both the Gigaclear and BT fibre optic broadband in Wootton.

i) Christmas lights – para 6(k)

The event was very successful. The Bystander made big efforts with goody bags for children in addition to usual mince pies and mulled wine. A vote of thanks was passed thanking Stroud Electrics, George Casserley for the cherry picker and the Bystander for their contributions to the event.

9. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

Applications received from the District Council for consultation and consideration by

P14/V2350/HH 23.10.2014	Proposed alteration and extension of existing outbuildings Windy Ridge, Old Boars Hill OX15JJ Mr & Mrs S Kam	No objection in principle but strong concern was expressed that this could be the first step to introducing a dwelling.
P14/V2382/HH 27.10.2014	Single storey rear extension and part garage conversion 2 Parsons Close, Wootton OX13 6FE Mrs Kay Lyon	No objection
P14/V2434/HH 3.11.2014	Removal of existing garage and erection of replacement garage 210 Cumnor Road, Boars Hill OX1 5JS Mr Graham Bowsher	No objection

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

a) **Decisions of the Local Planning Authority**

None

10. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Langley suggested that information on smart water be published in the newsletter and on the website.

11. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) **2015/16 Risk Assessment and Inventory**

Referred to the FGPC

b) **Payments made between meetings**

AWBS Ltd – bark for playground £963.74

c) **December 2014 Accounts for approval**

Clerk Expenses December £162.16

Clerk Salary December £436.22

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Advent Solutions – playground inspection October 2014	£60.00
ST Grounds Maintenance litter picking November	£300.00
Greenfields Garden Services – removal of fitness trail	£570.00
SAB Kidd – refurbishment of play area (precise cost to be confirmed)	£850.00
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – pavilion water 17.7 – 21.10.2014	£142.25
Post Office Ltd – Southern Electric- electricity pavilion 27.8-1.12	£238.43

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

d) Applications for grants

None

12. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- i. Better Broadband for Oxfordshire
- ii. Update on new voter registration system
- iii. Planning Policy: Local Plan Consultation
- iv. Press Release: local Plan
- v. NALC Update for Members: November 2014
- vi. Clerks and Councils Direct – November 2014
- vii. Rural Services Network – Rural Opportunities Bureau
- viii. High Sheriff of Oxfordshire’s Annual Awards
- ix. Advent Solutions – inspection report November

It was resolved to note the communications received

13. COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

It was agreed that smart water should be included in the next agenda

14. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 3rd February 2015 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

Chairman.....Date