

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th February 2017 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

Present: Bristow (Chair), Carter, Fysh, Langley, Parker, Rayner, Shaw, Werrell, Westell and White and County Cllr Bob Johnston.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

None

b) District/County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Johnston said that the County Council budget would be considered on 14th February, given the close political balance on the Council the decision will depend on who attends the meeting. The County Council's proposal for a Unitary Council had now been accepted by the Vale of White Horse District Council and the South Oxfordshire County Council. Cherwell is expected to agree and West Oxfordshire is still considering. Oxford City Council is continuing to object. This will now go to the Department of Communities and Local Government requesting an early decision for implementation in 2019. Cllr Johnston took the opportunity at a meeting with the Head of the VWHDC Planning Enforcement to raise the problems with Lamborough House and enforcement procedures have now been implemented.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ludlow and Mann.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 10th JANUARY 2017

The minutes of the meeting of 10th January were approved and signed by the Acting Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Centre - Para 6(a)

The Community Centre were still negotiating with Oxfordshire County Council on the future of the space occupied by the Children's Centre. No formal decision has been made on the future of the Police Office; the specialist equipment has been removed, the signage remains and the partial future use by Thames Valley Police has still to be decided. Discussions are ongoing with the Football club on the purchase, housing and use of a mower.

b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 6(b)

Councillors were requested to e-mail the Clerk with specific details of action that needed to be taken; this applies also to highways issues in Paragraph 5(c) below. Reports can also be made on the OCC website under "Fix My Street"

c) Highways Para 6(c)

See 5 (b) above

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

A message had been received from Mr Phil Southall, the Managing Director of the Oxford Bus Company in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan saying that the OBC Management are happy to engage on this and will provide any information requested. They are working hard to maintain the 30 minute No4/4b service and are hopeful of being able to continue doing so. They will aim to let the Parish Council know in good time if there are any changes. The bus shelters badly need cleaning

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e) Playgrounds – Para 6(e)

Cllr Bristow said that he was in the final stage of preparing the bid to WREN for funding; it has to be submitted by 22 February. The project is described as a ‘Public Park’ rather than just a playground in the application. The £15,000 Section 106 money is expected to be transferred into the Parish Council Bank Account during the week of 13th February.

f) Wootton Business Park – Para 6(g)

Mr John Robertson is preparing an architect’s drawing showing two options for a bus turning circle before he leaves Frankham on 22 February.

g) Joint Neighbourhood Plan – Para 2

The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) representing the two Parish Councils met on 6th January and decided whom to invite to join the Steering Committee; invitations are being prepared. Cllrs Bristow and Fysh will represent Wootton PC on the Steering Committee and the JMC and Cllrs Fitzgerald and Russell will represent St Helen Without PC. In addition, Cllrs Carter, Langley and Shaw will also be on the JMC and Cllrs Page and Parkin for St Helen Without. The JMC also decided on the designated area, which will include the whole area within the boundaries of the two parishes with the exclusion of the MOD operational areas (The Barracks and Airfield); this is being submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council. The Terms of Reference for the Joint Monitoring Committee and the Steering Committee are being prepared. Community First Oxfordshire options will also be discussed with them including the phasing of consultancy payments.

h) Waste bins

No response has yet been received regarding the policy of the Oxfordshire Heritage Trust on the waste bins removed from its land.

6. REVIEW OF EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Parker proposed that the revised Emergency Plan be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Fysh and approved unanimously. A copy of the revised plan would be sent to Oxfordshire County Council. A vote of thanks was passed thanking Cllr Langley for her work in revising the Plan.

7. OCC PROPOSAL FOR A UNITARY COUNCIL

It was resolved that the following response be sent to Oxfordshire County Council setting out the Parish Council’s views on its proposal for a single Unitary Council “A Fresh Start for Oxfordshire”.

“Wootton Parish Council welcomes, in principle, the potential administrative savings that are suggested in the County Council’s proposals for a single Oxfordshire Unitary Council. However, the Parish Council does have concerns about the funding arrangements that might result from the proposals. Under the current system the District Council has managed to both maintain the provision of services to parishes and to continue providing essential grants for community facilities. In contrast, the County Council has forced parishes to take on additional unfunded financial responsibilities under ‘the transition of public services’, has removed local bus subsidies and has also ceased to provide grant funding. At a time when the direction of travel is for greater local accountability and potentially the capping of precepts adequate funding arrangement for parishes are essential. It is not clear how the proposed Area Executive Boards would figure in the funding arrangement, but it seems unlikely that they would fully replace the financial role currently carried out by the District Council.

Whilst it is appreciated that the County Council has responsibility for demanding priority areas such as adult social care, Wootton Parish Council would not wish to see its own financial viability sacrificed at the altar of areas of higher priority to the proposed Unitary Council.

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The planning process for housing and the protection of the Green Belt, currently managed with close consultation between parish councils and district councils, are also areas where local needs might be subsumed into wider County-wide policy objectives.”

8. OXFORD GREEN BELT 10k RUN

It was resolved that the Parish Council should respond to the following message from Mr Nick Barwick saying that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposed route, explaining the precise status of The Ridgeway and Sandy Lane and suggesting that the organisers contact TRASLA and the Boars Hill Association.

“I'm writing to let Wootton PC know about an event that I'm co-organising on May 20th 2017. The event is a community 'fun-day' on the Louie Memorial upper field (Arnold's Way, Botley), and a 10k run, based at the 4th Oxford Scout hall on Arnold's Way. The event is taking place to raise funds for an Oxfordshire explorer-scout volunteering trip to Kenya in July/ August this year. I am in contact with North Hinksey Parish Council and Vale of WHDC regarding organisation of the 'Funday'.

The run is being billed as 'the friendliest 10k around'; most definitely a run, not a race... We hope to attract between 200 and 300 participants to enjoy the beautiful countryside we are so lucky to have on our doorstep, which, by May 20th will be bursting with new life and looking its spring-best! We will be urging our runners to both enjoy the challenge of the distance *and* to take time to appreciate this part of Oxford's greenbelt, while it lasts. From Berkeley Road, they will gaze down at Oxford's world-famous dreaming spires, but be reminded of the insistent pressure to urbanise and modernise by the towering cranes of the new 'West End' development...

You will see from the attached maps that a proportion of our proposed run route(s) crosses land under the 'jurisdiction' of Wootton PC. Two different routes are proposed to take account of the possibility that we may not be able to use two sections of private road. Of particular relevance to you is the small section of private road we hope to use - Ridgeway - that links Berkeley Road and Sandy Lane/ Youlbury.

It is my sincere hope that we can work together to facilitate this event in support of our efforts to raise funds for this good cause.

It is my intention at this point, therefore, to give you the opportunity to meet with me and/or to discuss any matters of concern before I make contact with all 'affected' residents and landowners to inform them of the event.

Time is of the essence - the sooner we have your go-ahead, the sooner we can publicise and begin to register participants...

Looking forward to hearing from you and working with you.”

9. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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

<p>P16/V3215/HH 23.12.2016</p>	<p>Side extension to increase living accommodation, rebuild bay window with gable over, gable and tiled roof over first floor window. Dingle Cottage, The Ridgeway, OX1 5EY Mr Craig Henry</p>	<p>No objections</p>
<p>P16/V3074/HH 22.12.2016</p>	<p>Demolition of conservatory & construction of bay window. Demolition of single storey structure & erection of two storey extension. Willow Cottage, 107 Wootton Village OX1 5HW</p>	<p>No objections</p>

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Mr Roger Wiggins

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

b) Decisions of the Local Planning Authority

None

10. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

None.

11. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- a) Cllr Langley proposed the following resolution, authorising the signatories of grant applications. This was seconded by Cllr Rayner and approved unanimously.

“It was resolved that applications for grants can be signed for and submitted on behalf of Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council by the Chairman, Cllr Ludlow, the Vice Chairman, Cllr Bristow, or the Clerk/RFO, George Edmonds-Brown”.

b) February 2017 Accounts for approval

Clerk Salary February	£1,009.53
Clerk Expenses February	£199.67
VWHDC – dog bin servicing – Oct-Dec 2016	£80.38
ST Grounds Maintenance – litter picking January	£390.00
Advent Solutions – playground inspection January	£65.00
South & Vale Carers – 2017 grant	£200.00
Wootton St Peter's Parochial Church Council – 2017 Grant	£450.00
WADS Pre-School – 2017 Grant	£300.00
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind – 2017 Grant	£100.00
Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice Bureau – 2017 Grant	£600.00

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

c) Applications for grants

None

12. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

VWHDC Council Leader's statement on Oxfordshire Unitary Council
Advent Solutions Playground Inspection – January
OALC Newsletter – December/January
South & Vale Business Breakfast
OCC Consultation; Modifications to Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan
The High Sheriff of Oxfordshire – Carers
OCC – Disabled Parking Places
Greenbelt 10K run
OCC – Unitary Council

It was resolved to note the communications received

13. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None

14. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 7th March 2017 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre.