

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st April 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.

Mr Joe Frost of Gigaclear attended the meeting and updated the Council on their plans for broadband in Wootton. Local groups had been sent up and Facebook page opened. Two community representatives were being recruited and the work to sign up 30% of residents would take place over the next 60-90 days; some 40 residents had already signed up. A presentation day would be held in May at Dry Sandford Primary School. The Gigaclear proposals would not go south of Harley Davidson. The OCC/BT rollout programme would not be affected.

Mr Ian Bristow also attended the meeting – see item 5h)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Westell and County Cllr Bob Johnston

3. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Councillor Bob Johnston sent the following report

“It is now rather quiet on the County after all the fuss over the budget. There are two points to make. Firstly today’s meeting is at Cherwell. The meeting is being held at Bodicote House just outside Banbury at Cherwell DC’s HQ. This is so that the meeting can be recorded on a webcam. This is an experiment so that the County Council can decide whether it wishes to invest in similar equipment with a view to recording future meetings in the same way. Watch this space. A little bit of good news. It would appear that the "Big Society" fund has not disappeared altogether. I have just been informed that I have a budget of £5,000 for the coming year, good causes please apply.”

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 4th MARCH 2014

The phrase “as an hourly service it would not be cut” at the final sentence of paragraph 5f) was deemed to be inaccurate as the No 4 bus service included evening and weekend services. Following its deletion the minutes of 4 March were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Centre - Para 5(a)

Cllr Fysh said there had been a good response to the advert for a new minutes secretary and the employment of a caretaker. A small interview board was being set up for the caretaker. It was important to run the Community Centre as a business. Efforts were being made to attract organisations to use the Centre for small meetings during the day. It was planned to use a Honeycomb cell structure system to increase the area of the car park; the fitness trail was currently being assessed

b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 5(b)

The tree adjacent to the entrance to the Air Cadets site had been cut down by MOD.

c) Highways – Para 5(c)

Cllrs Langley and Parker together with the Clerk had held discussions with Mr Lee Turner of Oxfordshire County Council and PC Keith Morton of Thames Valley Police about parking in Hawkins Way and Deerhurst Park. There were no easy solutions to parking on the verges in Hawkins Way; reinforcing the verges would be the best solution but this would be costly. OCC were prepared to provide bollards at residents’ expense. This would also be an option for Old

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Boars Hill and Cllr Shaw agreed to discuss it with residents there. Bollards in Hawkins Way would be likely to solve one problem but create another. In Deerhurst Park OCC had agreed to provide white lines 3 metres from the roundabout. It was also suggested that white lines could be put on dangerous corners in the estate, but this would require the agreement of the occupants adjacent to the corners. Consideration could be given to double yellow lines, but this was a costly alternative involving about £2000 up front and £5000 for implementation. It had been agreed to try white lines first. It was noted that yellow lines should be included in the plans for Wootton Business Park.

There were two large potholes at the north entrance of Matthews Way.

d) Allotments – Para 5(d)

The water bill had been passed to the Allotments Committee to refund the Parish Council. The Allotments Committee would be contesting the bill as it included drainage which was not required.

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

A meeting was held with PCSO Andrew McCormack. There has been a reduction in resources with the PCSOs being redeployed to Abingdon and finishing work at 9:30. It was resolved to send a letter to Inspector Money on this issue. Cllr Westell had reported that there had been vandalism near the Bystander.

f) Bus stops and services – Para 5(f)

Cllr Langley said that an e-mail had been received from Oxford Bus Company saying that they would not be able to carry out the requested improvements to the No 4 bus service as costs had to be kept within the present budget.

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

The Cricket Club was doing well and now fielding three teams. The pavilion was being used every day and the social area was proving to be too small. It was proposed to extend the pavilion by moving the kitchen area into the garage thus enlarging the social area. A proposal would be drawn up and submitted to the Parish Council.

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

Mr Bristow said he had done some work on the system but was waiting for a meeting with Mrs Sue Srawley who was familiar with the software to update the URL and the banner on top of the website. The Council recorded a vote of thanks to Mr Bristow for the help that he had given in developing the site.

i) Speed limits – Para 5(j)

A response had been sent to OCC before the 21 March deadline. The proposals will go to the Cabinet Committee on 24th April. Thames Valley Police had indicated that they were not in favour of reducing the limit throughout Old Boars Hill.

j) Community Governance Review - Para 5(k)

A response was required to the VWHDC by 31 May; as resolved at the meeting of 4th March the Parish Council would reiterate its previous response. It was resolved that there was no objection to St Helen without PC including the following bullet point in its letter to residents -

- Potential plans for the further enhancement of the Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground would likely be given a lower priority by the Wootton Parish Council, given that it has several other local projects to fund.

k) Broadband – Para 5(l)

A letter had been received from Mr David Carter regarding the position of Wootton Parish Council on the proposal by Gigaclear to provide superfast broadband in the parish in particular to Boars Hill which was not covered by the BT/OCC roll out programme. The Parish Council had taken the view that the interests of the majority of residents would be best served if both the Gigaclear and BT/OCC services went ahead but considered that it could be counterproductive if it actively promoted one of the two options.

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

l) Vale of White Horse District Council; Local Plan – Para 6

Cllr Ludlow proposed that the draft response below be sent to the VWHDC as Wootton Parish Council's comments on the Local Plan 2031 Part 1. This was seconded by Cllr Fysh and approved unanimously.

“Wootton Parish Council has considered the radically changed Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan 2031 Part 1 in the very short consultation time available (it should be noted that a parish council's ability to assess the proposal is made almost impossible by the daunting task of reviewing thousands of pages of on-line material of which only a small percentage is relevant to the specific proposal). The Plan envisages a major development of 200 houses (Wootton East) on Lamborough Hill just south of Home Close.

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 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 open to the community. This is borne out by the Vale of White Horse District Council's own landscape assessment in the site study which states that the site is not suitable for more than 50 properties which would need to be in the North West corner of the site. The Landscape visual sensitivity report points out that there would be a loss of the panoramic view from Lamborough Hill to Boars Hill and rates visual sensitivity as Medium/High. A single development of such size in this location would seriously impact on the rural nature 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. Examples of this from the sites analysed in Appendix 26 would be WOOT 08 – Land West of Cumnor Road and WOOT 13 - Land North of Honeybottom Lane which together would produce the same number of properties as WOOT 14 Wootton East.

Green Belt

The Parish Council has concerns about the release of land from the Green Belt. The detailed review only appears to have been carried out on three sites two of which were deemed unsuitable for development (although still apparently released from the Green Belt) leaving the third site the only remaining option. The third site Wootton East being the site of highest visual amenity. Other sites on scrub land do not appear to have been assessed. The Parish Council has concerns about the methodology used in cherry picking individual sites of high visual beauty and understands there may be grounds for considering the review to be legally flawed.

Infrastructure

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 proposed location of the site would require access from the B4017 near a known accident blackspot identified by the presence of a speed camera. Additionally there is an existing dangerous junction on the B4017 between Fox Lane/Honeybottom Lane in close proximity to the proposed site. These considerations would require considerable mitigation. Diluting any development throughout the village would assist in distributing any additional traffic generated throughout the village rather than concentrating it all at one known problem area.

Flood Risk

There have been several incidents of homes being flooded in the village. One of the locations where this has occurred is alongside the B4017 and was largely due to excessive run-off from Boars Hill after intensive rain. The proposed site suffers from run-off in a similar way. Housing

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

development on the scale proposed is likely to exacerbate the problem; mitigation of this risk would again be considerable.

Conclusion

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.”

6. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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

P14/V0095/HH 30.1.2014	Erection of ground and first floor extensions to rear of property to increase kitchen/living space, increase rear first floor bedroom to include ensuite bathroom. 41 Home Close, Wootton OX13 6DD Mr Nigel Moss	No objection
P14/V0058/HH 8.2.2014	The proposed works include a two storey extension over an existing single storey indoor swimming pool structure to the west elevation. A single storey plant room extension to the west elevation. A single storey garden room extension to the south elevation. The proposals also include internal alterations and refurbishment. Bishops Oak. Jarn Way, Boars Hill OX15JF Mrs Lisa Prestedge	No objection
P14/V0248/HH 19.2.2014	Proposed rear extension and raise the roof to create new first floor accommodation 129 Whitecross OX13 6BP Mr Adrian Timms	No objection
P14/V0288/HH 18.2.2014	Proposed loft conversion with hip to gable conversion and full width rear roof extension. Erection of a single storey rear extension. 174 Cumnor Road, OX1 5JS Ms Marion Firm	No objection

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee’s action

b) Decisions of the Local Planning Authority

P13/V1944/FUL 6.9.2013	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new 2-bed dwelling with 2 parking spaces Orchard Hill Cottage, Orchard Lane, Boars Hill OX1 5JH Aldworth Holdings	Object The modern design is not in keeping with the area especially as it would be sited between two old cottages	Refused 5.3.2014
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	Refuse as being out of character with the area	Refused 5.3.2014

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

	certificate D) Orchard Hill Cottage, Orchard Lane, Boars Hill OX1 5JH Aldworth Holdings		
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	Permit 12.3.2014

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- a) Cllr Langley said that a request, copied to Cllr Shaw, should be sent to the VWHDC District Council asking them to put a notice in the Deerhurst Park playground saying that it was for use was restricted to children under 12.
- b) Cllr Carter said that speeding in Whitecross continued to be a problem and that consideration should be given to road calming measures.
- c) Cllr Berrill drew attention to the retrospective planning application in Beech Close which should be received for comments shortly.

8. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) April 2014 Accounts for approval

Clerk Salary April	£434.48
Clerk Expenses April	£112.16
Post Office Ltd – HMRC – PAYE & NI	£903.93
Post Office Ltd – southern Electric electricity Pavilion	£552.73
Advent Solutions; playground inspection February	£70.50
Thames Water Utilities Ltd; Allotments water (to be reclaimed)	£43.65
ST Grounds Maintenance	£375.00

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

b) Applications for grants

None

9. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- i. LCR Spring 2014
- ii. Advent Solutions – Report 28.2.2014
- iii. Clerks and Councils Direct; March 2014
- iv. Cllr Matthew Barber – Oxford Garden City
- v. CPRE; feedback on larger villages meeting
- vi. OCC Speed Limit Order
- vii. Notes on Parish Transport Representatives Meeting
- viii. National Playing Fields Association Conference
- ix. NALC; would your council like a Twitter or Facebook account
- x. Letter Mr David Carter; Boars Hill Broadband
- xi. OALC Update March

It was resolved to note the communications received

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th May 2014 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre. It was agreed that the June meeting would be held on 10th June instead of 3rd June.

Chairman.....

Date