

# WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre**

**Present:** Councillors Ludlow (Chair), Berrill, Carter, Fysh, Langley, Mann, Parker, Rayner, Shaw, Werrell, Westell, White and District Councillor Elizabeth Miles.

## **1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Mr Peter White attended the meeting to seek views on his proposal to develop his land on Lamborough Hill. A planning application had been turned down two or three years ago and Mr White now wished to submit an application for an additional two properties on the plot. Councillors drew attention to the VWHDC Planning Department's strict adherence to the planning rules in the Green Belt. Also while infilling was permitted back filling was not. The Parish Council was only able to comment once the application had been submitted.

PC Keith Morton and PCSO Andrew McCormack of Thames Valley Police attended the meeting to discuss the follow-up to the Parish Council Open Evening on Vandalism. The reduction of the height of the hedge had been helpful. The problem seemed to have moved to the land north of Deerhurst Park – Julie Brown of Hartwell was arranging for weekend security cover. The culprits for some of the activities have been identified.

District Cllr Miles confirmed that she would support the Parish Council in its efforts to retain the subsidy on the No 4 bus. She had received a complaint about the frequent use of the gate to the field where horses are being kept alongside Arthur Evans Close. Cllr Shaw was also aware of the issue and had been in touch with the planners, there appeared to be no planning infringement.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from County Cllr Bob Johnston.

## **3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

None

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

County Cllr Bob Johnston was unable to be present and had sent the following report -

“1. I am happy to report in respect of Cumnor Road pavement that the County Officers have prevailed on the landowner to flail the hedge, thus cutting it back to a reasonable thickness. In addition I have agreed to spend some £650 from my stewardship fund to have the pavement edged out. What that means is that the accumulation of soil, dead leaves and other detritus which has narrowed it to the point where buggies and the like find it difficult to pass will be removed. This will hopefully greatly increase its utility.

2. There have been problems in respect of the works on the Oxford bypass and the hamburgers. These were caused by the presence of historic utilities (mainly cables) which were not on anybody's plans. These have had to be removed as a precaution. The County Officers have assured me that extra resources have now been put into the project, and it is still hoped to complete it all by the November deadline.

3. The County budget preparations have now started, and I have had my first briefing. The broad picture is that more savings will have to be found of the order of £35 million gross, some £21 million will be found from reserves leaving a net saving of about £14 million pounds. Given previous cuts this will be challenging. My own Group will be

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seeking to maximise income and have already had preliminary discussions with the Officers.

4. I agree with what the Parish has said about possible cuts to the number 4 bus service. I shall be making similar representations myself.”

## 5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014

The minutes of the Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> September were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 6. MATTERS ARISING

### a) Community Centre - Para 7(a)

Following the Parish Council Open Evening to address vandalism Cllr Fysh said that two places on the Community Centre Board had been offered to youth members. The members would have to be under 21, living locally and approved by the Board. A Friday evening drop-in had been arranged for younger people supervised by one or two adults who had been CRB checked. The hedge had been cut to improve visibility from the road, the façade was being re-painted and shrubs removed from the fence round the MUGA. The shelter was being repaired and a small camera installed to read number plates of cars entering the car park and vandal-proof bins would be installed. There had been a 93% increase of usage of the Community Centre in the last year. An insurance claim was being looked at for repairing the surface of the MUGA.

### b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 7(b)

There had been some progress on footpath to Henwood; weed growth was being cut back to widen it.

### c) Highways – Para 7(c)

The manhole had been repaired in Wootton Village. There is a hole opposite Whitecross Metals that requires attention. There had been a letter from an Old Boars Hill resident welcoming the speed limit change but expressing concern about the narrowing of the road at the top of Old Boars Hill near the post box. There is no easy solution to the problem. Speed bumps were considered but they would have to be along the whole length of the road and the emergency services would object. The second white line at the entrance to Deerhurst Park still needs doing.

### d) Allotments – Para 7(d)

The Allotments Committee met on the 6<sup>th</sup> October. Dogs had not proved to be a problem and it was agreed to permit them with the stipulation that the Committee had the right to revoke the ruling if there were any problems. The Committee are working on the brambles; there is some doubt about the ownership of the fence although Mr Benson claims that it is the responsibility of the Parish Council. Consideration of providing water to the plots at the other end of the allotments is being given and an application for a further top up OCC grant may be made.

### e) Neighbourhood Policing/Vandalism/ Parish Council Open Evening – Para 6

The Open Evening was successful and it appears that there is a reduction in the problems of littering and vandalism; it remains to be seen whether this will be sustained.

### f) No 4 Bus Review – Para 10

There had been a good response to the petition but efforts still need to be made to add as many signatures as possible and to encourage people to e-mail Tim Darch direct. Dalton Barracks and Shippon have copies of the petition. Cllr Parker agreed to go round houses in Home Close. Posters are being put up round the village. A call on Oxford Bus Company is being arranged. An approach is being made to Martin Deans at the VWHDC for a meeting to discuss possible Section 106 funding. It was agreed that the Clerk would re-circulate the Section 106 wish list.

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

A group had been set up led by Cllr Parker to look at developing the play area opposite the Church. There had been an accident in the play area where a man had apparently tripped over the

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gate board; no details were yet available. The Cricket Club was doing well; both the first and second team had been promoted and 100 juniors had signed up.

h) Deerhurst Park Playground – Para 6(f)

There had still been no response from the VWHDC Property Section; this was being pursued.

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

The Community Centre had decided not to get a photocopier to produce the newsletter. Collating by the Printer (Dataprint) was being considered.

j) Broadband – Para 6(h)

Gigaclear was beginning installing their network in Dry Sandford; installing West of Manor Road depended on the number of sign-up. Home Close posed a problem as it was a private road and all residents would need to agree. OCC had confirmed that BT Cabinet 4 in Wootton and Cabinet 9 in Boars Hill were now live; Cabinet 13 would go live in November. Cabinet 10 had been delayed due to power connections and Cabinet 21 was at risk of being delayed. Cabinets 5 and 6 serving Boars Hill would not be done until the end of 2015.

k) Vale of White Horse District Council; Local Plan (including Neighbourhood Plan) – Para 6(i)

East Wootton had been deleted from the Plan and it appeared that no other sites in Wootton had been added. The revised draft Plan was due November which would confirm the details.

l) Defibrillator - Para 6(j)

Cllr Ludlow said that the external box had now been received. An estimate for the electrics was being obtained.

m) World War 1 Commemoration and Remembrance Day

Mr Wally Jacob had confirmed that they would not be approaching the Parish Council for funding for a Remembrance Day event.

n) Christmas lights

The Christmas lights would be switched on from 7pm on Sunday 30 November. Mr Ian Stroud was installing the LED lights (provisional estimate £200). The Bystander, Vicar and Wootton Players had all agreed to participate.

## 7. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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

P14/V1759/HH 5/8/2014	Erection of a single storey side extension Hollydene, The Ridgeway, Boars Hill OX15EX Mr P Thompson	No objection
P14/V1743/FUL 5.8.2018	Erection of one shed per allotment (total; of 25 sheds) The Allotments, Wootton Village Wootton Parish Council	The Parish Council fully supports this application. The Allotments are provided by the Parish Council and the PC agreed unanimously that sheds are necessary to allow the plots to function properly.
P14/V1950/PDH 29.8.2014	Rear extension 209 Whitecross, Abingdon OX136BW	Plans retained for neighbours
P14/V2052/HH 10.9.2014	Proposed two storey side extension 16 Hawkins Way. Wootton OX13 6LB Mr Stephen Jones	No objection

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

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### b) Decisions of the Local Planning Authority

P13/V0385/O 4.3.2013	Outline application for demolition of existing building and erection of up to 64 dwellings and associated car parking and landscaping Wootton Business Park, Besselsleigh Road, Wootton OX13 6DX Oakhill Group Ltd	Detailed response	Outline Permission  11.9.2014
P14-V1184/FUL 12.6.2014	Demolition of house and single garage and replacement with two new houses/garaging 46 Cumnor Road, Wootton OX1 5JP Mr Craig Tucker	No objections: neighbours have expressed concern about the height of the proposed development and the resulting overlooking and to the additional use of the access road.	Permit  11.9.2014
P14/V1554/LDP 15.7.2014	Demolition of one wooden garden shed and one wooden summer house in rear garden. Joining foundations of two demolished sheds with additional concrete foundations. Construction of new shed on foundations mentioned above. 148 Whitecross, Abingdon OX13 6BT Mr Diggory Gray	No objections	Permit  3.9.2014
P14/V1743/FUL 5.8.2018	Erection of one shed per allotment (total; of 25 sheds) The Allotments, Wootton Village Wootton Parish Council	The Parish Council fully supports this application. The Allotments are provided by the Parish Council and the PC agreed unanimously that sheds are necessary to allow the plots to function properly	Permit  19.9.2014

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions

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## 8. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Carter said that the Police had been carrying out speed checks in Whitecross the previous week.

## 9. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### a) October 2014 Accounts for approval

Clerk Salary October	£436.22
Clerk Expenses October (includes Open evening costs and No 4 bus stationery).	£158.20
Post Office Ltd – HMRC – PAYE & NI July – September 2014	£894.24
ST Grounds Maintenance – Grass cutting and litter picking - September 2014	£536.00
Warwick Clifton – fencing	£84.34
Vale of White Horse DC; dog bin servicing 1.4.2014-30.9.2014	£144.60

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

### b) Applications for grants

None

## 10. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- i. LCR Summer 2014
- ii. VWHDC Report of Town and Parish Forum; 17 June 2014
- iii. OCC Entry to Primary School; September 2015
- iv. South & Vale; Change of Property Name; Oxford House to Birch Cottage.
- v. Boars Hill Association; Letter Parish/Gigaclear
- vi. OCC; Mobile Library Review
- vii. NALC Update for Members; September
- viii. Vale News; October 2014
- ix. OCC Bus Service Review

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 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

Chairman.....

Date .....