

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th June 2014 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

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

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mr and Mrs Osborne and Mr Craig Tucker attended the meeting to discuss planning application P14-V1184-FUL for Mr Tucker's property, 46 Cumnor Road, Wootton. Mr and Mrs Osborne expressed concern at the height of the proposed rebuilt property which they felt was too close to their boundary and resulted in overlooking and also the impact it would have on the access road. Mr Tucker explained that the height was in line with previously approved planning applications and work was being done on the access road to reduce noise. Councillors expressed the view that the distance of the development from the neighbour's boundary was within the planning rules but agreed to note Mr and Mrs Tucker's concerns when considering their response to the District Council.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Carter, Langley and Shaw and County Cllr Bob Johnston.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL

Cllr Ludlow said that he had noted a change in his job designation since completing the Registration of Interests form. He had previously been employed by BT and had now retired; the District Council had now been informed.

4. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Cllr Bob Johnston sent the following report -

It has gone fairly quiet on the surface on the County, but there is quite a lot bubbling up under the surface. The works to the Southern Oxford by-pass have started and I hope that the knock on effects for Wootton PC have not been too severe, as they do not start until 10.00 am. My main concern (which may affect some Wootton residents who cycle) is that the arrangements for pedestrians and cyclists to exit the bottom of Hinksey Hill to get access to the City are not adequate. I shall keep nagging on this one.

The County is proposing to outsource a number of back office functions to Hampshire CC, including payroll and human resources. This is obviously to save money, and is thought by the administration to be better than outsourcing to a private company. For some of us the worry is that the Hampshire people while knowledgeable about HR, will not have the local knowledge of Oxfordshire. Most of the Oxfordshire staff which will be offered relocation are likely to take redundancy instead. This is because there are plenty of payroll and HR jobs available locally. At least that is what we have been told!

Cllr Parker commented that HR was critical and it depended which parts were being transferred, however partnership arrangements which were taking place were a better option than outsourcing to a private company.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 10th JUNE 2014

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

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6. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Centre - Para 6(a)

The fitness trail had suffered serious criminal damage, three items had been broken. It was nearing the end of its useful life and it was resolved that quotes should be taken for repair and removal. Cllr Fysh said the vandalism was costing the Community Centre money. Panels had been removed from the MUGA three times and it has had to be closed, waste bins have been destroyed and extra CCTV will have to be considered. Cllr Ludlow said that he would remove the bushes alongside the MUGA.

b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 6(b)

The overgrown footpaths had been reported to Oxfordshire Highways and County Cllr Johnston was following up on the footpath to Henwood.

c) Highways – Para 6(c)

Some of the potholes at the north end of Mathews Way had been repaired and those at the south end had been reported. The grips in Wootton Village and Fox Lane needed attention.

d) Allotments – Para 6(d)

The AGM of the Allotment association will take place on 14th July. The planning application for the sheds has not yet been submitted to the VWHDC.

e) Neighbourhood Policing/Vandalism – Para 6(e)

Vandalism had occurred at the Community Centre – see Para 6a) above.

f) Cricket Club and Recreation Ground - Para 6(f)

The play area is badly affected by weed infestation and Steve Thatcher has been asked to try and improve it before the ROSPA inspection in July. The Clerk is meeting Wicksteed on 3rd July to obtain a quote for the play area,

g) Deerhurst Park Playground – Para 6(g)

It was resolved that the possibility of the Parish Council taking over the Deerhurst Park playground for a commuted sum should be explored with Wimpeys and the Vale of White Horse District Council. A date should be sought if possible to include Cllrs Berrill, Langley, Ludlow and Parker.

h) Community website and newsletter – Para 6(h)

The re-launch of the website had been advertised in the July newsletter

i) Speed limits – Para 6(i)

Cllr White and the Clerk met OCC on 12th June to discuss speed signs; these are going ahead. The occupant near the 30mph sign in Wootton Village was not enthusiastic about having a sign on the north side of the road outside his house but has not come with a formal objection.

j) Community Governance Review - Para 6(j)

Formal decisions will be made by the VWHDC on 16 July but it appears that the boundary with St Helen Without in Dry Sandford will remain unchanged and that Henwood would remain in Cumnor.

k) Broadband – Para 6(k)

More BT cabinets have been installed. Gigaclear is actively promoting its fibre optic network. Gigaclear has offered to provide the Community Centre with free broadband for a year. The CC Board had decided to await developments before making a decision.

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

It was resolved that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should discuss with their opposite numbers in St Helen Without Parish Council whether it is worth considering a joint Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Berrill said that he was not in favour of having a Neighbourhood Plan.

m) Defibrillator - Para 6(m)

Cllr Ludlow said that he was still waiting for a response on the defibrillator and would follow up with the supplier.

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7. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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

None

b) Decisions of the Local Planning Authority

P14/V0663/HH 10.4.2014	Retention and completion of a raised patio and means of enclosure 6 Beech Close. Wootton OX13 6DQ Mr R Coughlan	No objection	Permit 5.6.2014
P14/V0812/FUL 22.4.2014	Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of replacement dwelling and associated outbuilding and landscaping Agents Cottage, White Barn, Boars Hill OX1 5HH Mrs Laura Watts	No objection but bats should be re-housed	Permit 12.6.2014
P14/V0907/HH 6.5.2014	Erection of a single storey side extension Hollydene, The Ridgeway, Boars Hill OX1 5EX Mr P Thompson	No objection	Permit 20.6.2014

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions

8. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

It does appear that members of staff from Molly Maid in Wootton are parking in Deerhurst Park and being collected by a van to go to their duties although the company had said that they were not using the estate for parking. It was resolved to speak to the company again.

9. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) Account paid between meetings

Post Office Ltd – Southern Electric – electricity pavilion

b) July 2014 Accounts for approval

Clerk Salary July	£436.04
Clerk Expenses July	£112.16
Clerk Salary August	£434.87
Clerk Expenses August	£112.16
Post Office Ltd – HM R & C – PAYE & NI	£894.24
ST Grounds Maintenance	£651.00
Advent Solutions – Playground Inspection May	£60.00
Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre – Room rental Jan-March 2014	£104.00

It was resolved that the invoice paid between meetings be noted and that the July 2014 invoices be approved for payment.

c) Applications for grants

None

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10. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- i. OCC; Surface Dressing Programme – Summer 2014 Vale Area
- ii. South & Vale Chairman’s Community Awards Lunch
- iii. Winter Preparedness 2014/15
- iv. CPRE Update to Protect Rural Oxfordshire campaign
- v. OALC – Rural Affordable Housing
- vi. Rural Vulnerability Service
- vii. Advent Solutions Playground Inspection 2.6.2014
- viii. OALC Members Update June 2014
- ix. OCC Commemorating the centenary of the start of World War One
- x. OCC – Southern Bypass Improvements
- xi. Cumnor-Eynsham Road – road works
- xii. Greenfields Ltd - Report on Fitness Trail

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 2nd September 2014 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

Chairman.....

Date