

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th September 2016 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

Present: Councillors Ludlow (Chair), Bristow, Carter, Fysh, Mann, Langley, Parker, Shaw, Werrell, Westell and White.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Three residents of Huxley Close attended the meeting to discuss parking on the grass verges in the Close and on Mathews Way and the need for dropped kerbs across the private road at the north of Mathews Way. Parking was a general problem in the village and action could only be taken where footpaths were being obstructed which is an offence. It was resolved to raise the question of the dropped kerbs with Oxfordshire Highways.

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 Councillor Bob Johnston had sent the following report -

“1. The time since the last meeting has almost entirely been taken up with the question of a unitary authority for the County of Oxfordshire. It would appear that a couple of weeks ago the Leaders of all the Districts and the County Council met. They had before them both the PCW report (from the Districts) and the Grant Thornton report from the County. In essence they both concluded that because of the savings (some 22 million p/a within three years) only a county wide unitary made any sense. At that point it appeared that they signed an agreement to progress that. However, hardly had the ink dried when Bob Price from Oxford City repudiated the agreement and stated that only something which preserved the City of Oxford as a separate entity would satisfy him. He knows (as do we all) that the present situation is not sustainable, and that an independent City is not financially viable. Having spoken to people in the City it would appear that they now regard themselves as a very beleaguered little blob of red, the only one between Slough and Coventry and are not prepared to surrender that. This in my view is misguided because in the present political climate (and has been the case since much of the time since 1985), the County could probably have no overall control. In such a scenario a County Labour Group could be expected to have some influence. Failing consensus we now learn that the new Secretary of State has the power to impose a settlement. This is what happened in Wiltshire a few years ago and which most people think has worked quite well. In Wiltshire the Districts were overruled, but Salisbury was given extra powers over and above that of a town council. Personally I think that this could work for Oxfordshire.

2. The situation of the Children's Centres still is not settled. I am clear that the one at Wootton will almost certainly remain in some form, but exactly how has not been decided. I shall be attending a meeting on the 15th of September at which I hope to learn more.

3. I have obtained an assurance from the Officers that in 2017 grass cutting will commence much earlier, and that there should be a schedule indicating the order in which areas will be cut. As a former professional biologist I pointed out that the grass and cow parsley usually reached flowering height by mid May, and therefore there was no need to wait to the end of June before starting.”

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Cllr Fysh said that he would inform County Cllr Johnston of the discussions on the Children's Centre that had been held with OCC.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 5th JULY 2016

The minutes of the meeting of 5th July were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Centre - Para 6(a)

Cllr Fysh said that football was now back at the Community Centre and the teams were also recruiting from Wootton. £1,400 had been spent on a heating and ventilation exchange unit. A programme of redecoration has been agreed. A new Booking Clerk had been appointed. WADS-Stock had yielded £4,500 which was split between the Community Centre and the Air Ambulance. Discussions were being held with OCC on the Children's Centre and the Police Office with Thames Valley Police.

b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 6(b)

Cllr Mann was in contact with OCC Countryside Service about the gate installed on the public highway on Sandy Lane. He had also raised with them the condition of the footpaths between Orchard Lane and Old Boars Hill and Jarn Way.

c) Highways Para 6(c)

OCC had consulted on the installation of a disabled parking place in Amey Crescent; it was resolved not to object. Cllr Fysh raised the accident in Whitecross where a car had narrowly missed him before colliding with a parked car. It was resolved to check whether a second speed camera would be worth considering. It was resolved that the Parish Council did not wish to participate in the purchase of a speed gun with Marcham. St Helen Without Parish Council had received a request from a resident to reduce the speed limit on Honeybottom Lane from 40mph to 30mph. As none of the properties were in Wootton it was resolved to leave the matter with St Helen Without.

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

The public meeting with Oxford Bus Company would be held on 11 October jointly hosted by the two Parish Councils; the meeting had been publicised in the newsletter, on the website and with posters. A PTR meeting had been held on 6th September but Cllr Langley had been unable to attend. A poster on the Oxfordshire Comet had been put on Boars Hill noticeboard.

e) Cricket Club and Recreation Ground

A meeting had been held between Mr Dave Parker and the Clerk to discuss the pavilion and playing fields. There were no particular problems and the Cricket Club were dealing with maintenance issues including investigating drainage problems.

f) Playgrounds/ROSPA Report)

The next VWHDC grant round had been delayed until mid-September when funding is known. Applications can be for up to 50% of the cost, however planning permission is required before an application can be made and two quotes are required. Accessible equipment for disabled people helps with the application. The application to WREN would also be delayed. It was resolved to obtain quotes for the removal of the existing playground following the ROSPA report. A revised quote was being provided by Playground Services.

g) Community website and newsletter - Para 6(g)

Nothing to report

h) OCC: Transmissions of Responsibilities to Parish Councils

The first grass cut had now been completed by OCC. Given that this had been done so late in the year, it was resolved that a second cut in 2016 was not necessary. OCC would carry out the first cut in 2017 much earlier in the year and it was resolved that a quote should be obtained from BGG Garden and Tree Care for the second cut to be paid for by the Parish Council.

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i) Wootton Business Park

Planning permission had been given for Wootton Business Park although this had not yet appeared on the website. OCC have still to produce the feasibility study and costing for a roundabout. It was resolved to hold a meeting with Hartwell to discuss options including adapting the entrance to allow the No 4 bus to turn round.

j) Wootton Neighbourhood Plan – Para 6(l)

It was resolved to await details of the VWHDC Local Plan Part 2 before deciding whether to pursue a Wootton Neighbourhood Plan

k) VWHDC Local Plan /Part 1 & Part 2

The draft statements of Community Involvement on the Local Plan Part 1 had been circulated for comments. These showed the modifications to the Local Plan. Reference was made to Wootton in Appendix 1; Map Proposed alterations to the Green Belt – Strategic Housing Allocations MM81 Page 59 and Page 24 where it stated that Wootton was included in the list where development will be permitted in settlements which are inset in the Green Belt where the proposed development is within the existing built area of the village and in accordance with Core Policies 3 and 4.

7. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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

P16/V1531/HH 27.6.2016	Demolition of single storey extension and erection of 2 storey extension 107 Willow Cottage, Wootton Village OX15HW Mr Roger Wiggins	No objection
P16/V1684/FUL 5.7.2016	Replacement of existing dwelling with new two storey, four bed house with detached garage and landscaping. Woodland, Bedwells Heath, Boars Hill OX1 5JE	No objection

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

b) Decisions of the Local Planning Authority

P16/V1053/HH 12.05.2016	Removal of two hips, addition of obscure bathroom window, addition of rear facing Velux window. 101 Whitecross, Wootton OX136BS Mr Daniel Milham	No objection	Permit 24/6/2016
P16/V0880/HH 12.5.2016	Erection of a detached double garage (As amended by plan numbers 04RevA and additional car parking plan dated 12.05.2016 re-configuring parking within the garage and car parking spaces on the driveway). Winterbourne, 56 Wootton Village, Boars Hill OX1 5HP Mr & Mrs Towle-Jones	Object – the majority view is that the proposed garage is out of keeping with and too close to the main building and the roof is too high and dominant.	Permit 15/8/2016

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P16/V1221/FUL 25.5.2016	Proposed new chalet style 2 bedroom dwelling in the existing garden 68 Besselsleigh Road, Wootton OX13 6DX Mr & Mrs Viner	No objection	Withdrawn 4/7/2016
P16/1317/HH 10.6.2016	Erection of single storey extension to rear. Internal work to convert garage to entrance hallway 99 Whitecross, Wootton OX13 6BS Mr Steve Diamond	No objection; reservations to garage being turned into an entrance hall.	Permit 14/7/2016
P16/V1505/FUL 24.6.2016	Erection of 2 bed semi-detached on land adjoining and adjacent to No 10 St Peters Close. Associated amenity space, parking and bin storage. Single storey rear extension to No 10. 10 St Peters Close, Wootton OX13 6LD Ms Simona Southouse		Permit 17/8/2016
P16/V1504/HH 21.6.2016	First floor extension to add two bedrooms and two bathrooms 35 Home Close, Wootton OX13 6DD Mrs Sharon Barney	No objection	Permit 8/8/2016

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions.

8. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Westell raised the question of litter on the B4017.

Cllr Werrell said that trees on the B4017 opposite Home Close impeded the Highway.

Cllr Ludlow said that he would be representing the Parish Council at the Freedom of the Vale Parade on 1st October.

9. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) 2016/17 Audit

External Audit had approved the 2016/17 Audit return whilst drawing to the Council's attention that the dates on the Notice of Electors Rights should not include the two days before the Audit was approved by the Council and should not have been extended by two days to ensure that the statutory period was covered after the approval. Cllr Langley proposed that the External Audit report be noted. This was seconded by cllr Ludlow and it was so resolved.

b) Cheques signed between meetings

Clerk Salary August	£560.85
Clerk Expenses August including postage and stationery	£145.07
Thames Valley Copiers – contract 2016/7	£210.83
Thames Water Utilities – water pavilion 28.4.2016 – 18.7.2016	£52.20
VWHDC – dog bin servicing April 2016-June 2016	£80.38
ST Grounds Maintenance – litter picking and grass cutting June 2016	£592.14

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Advent Solutions – playground inspections June £65.00

c) September 2016 Accounts for approval

Clerk Salary September	£560.85
Clerk Expenses September including bus posters/stationery	£155.86
Playsafety Annual ROSPA Inspection	£79.80
ST Grounds Maintenance litter picking and grass cutting July & August 2016	£1025.00
SSE – electricity pavilion 7.6.2016-24.8.2016	£227.70
Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre – room hire April – June	£78.00
OALC Planning Course fee – 3 November - £35+VAT	£42.00
David Stanford – Internal Audit fee	£82.50
BDO LLP – External Audit fee	£240.00
WADS Community Centre – rental – April-June 2016	£78.00
Day & Bell – noticeboard fee 2016/7	£2.00
Advent Solutions – playground inspection August	£65.00

It was resolved that the payments made between meetings be noted and that the September invoices be approved for payment.

d) Applications for grants

None

10. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

Advent Solutions – playground inspection August
OALC Update August
Advent Solutions – playground inspection July
Disability parking place Amey Crescent
VWHDC Town & Parish Forum 10 November
Draft Statements of Community Involvement; modifications to the Local Plan Part 1
PTR Meeting 6th September
Speed limit Honeybottom Lane
Playground planning permission
The Oxfordshire Comet – bus service
OCC – new liaison service for Parish Councils
Planning application approval – 57 Wootton Village - - note penultimate paragraph on delegation
Vale News July
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 Council will be held on Tuesday 4th October 2016 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre.

Chairman.....

Date