

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6 October 2015 at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

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

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

None

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Carter, Parker and Shaw and County Cllr Johnston

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None

4. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Cllr Bob Johnston sent the following report -

“At its most recent meeting the County Council voted to approve the latest version of the transport plan (LTP4) by 2 votes. This includes the controversial proposals for the 1,600 place Park and Ride and 200 place lorry park at Lodge Hill. I voted against this proposal, because in their present form they are not acceptable. For example a lorry park is clearly needed, but it could be anywhere on the A34, and does not need to be in the Green Belt. I understand that the County will be arguing "exceptional circumstances" for their proposal. I am most concerned about the children's centre at Wootton. Myself and my Group will be fighting to retain as much of the infrastructure of the centres as possible, particularly Wootton, where they are purpose built. We believe that if they are kept in being, they can be expanded again when time improve. I can give you an update on the examination of the Vale's Local Plan if one is not forthcoming from your District Councillor, though that may have to await my return.”

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 1st SEPTEMBER 2015

The minutes of the meeting of 1st September were approved and signed by the Chairman

6. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Community Centre - Para 6(a)**

Cllr Fysh said that quotes had been received for the car park and the Multi-Games Area. Usage was up by 15%. It was planned to allow local artists to display pictures in Function Room 1

- b) Hedges and footpaths - Para 6(b)**

A note had been put in the newsletter asking residents not to park on the pavement.

- c) Highways/ Traffic Diversions – Para 6(c)**

The pothole in Wootton Village has been repaired. The Highways Inspector had inspected the road surface on Mathews Way and Hawkins Way and the roads were listed for improvement; in the meantime potholes were being repaired.

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

The public meeting on the 27th September was well attended by some 70 residents. Senior Management from Oxford Bus Company attended the meeting and noted the various points made by the audience both on the cost of tickets and the route. OBC said that usage had only increased

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by 7% and to reach full viability 100 additional passengers a day were required. Further meetings with OBC were expected in January.

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

Nothing to report

f) Playgrounds – Para 6(f)

A reply was awaited from the VWHDC on whether commuted funds from Deerhurst Park playground could be used for the playground opposite the Church. Ms Beth Elkins had sent information about outstanding Section 106 money accredited to the Parish; these need further investigation. The weeds in playground opposite Church continue to be a problem

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

It was noted that adverts were significantly outstripping content in the newsletter. The website is working well

h) Emergency Plan – Paragraph 6(h)

The annex covering weather including flooding and snow was approved by the Council. The Emergency Plan was due to review in early 2016 so it was resolved that copies would be sent to OCC and the VWHDC after the review.

i) Transparency – Paragraph 6(i)

The list of items relating to transparency needed to be checked to ensure that the Parish Council was complying.

j) Bollards, Wootton Village – Paragraph 7

A meeting was held with OCC on Wootton Village on 14th September to consider the placing of bollards outside 57 Wootton Village and the kerbs outside the 168 Wootton Village. It was resolved that the Parish Council would not object to the installation of the bollards. OCC have indicated that they are not prepared to carry out any work on the kerbing.

7. OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: TRANSMISSION OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO PARISH COUNCILS

a) The Children's Centre

Cllr Fysh reported on the meeting he attended with County Cllr Mark Gray who outlined a proposal for the Parish Council to take responsibility for the Wootton Children's Centre when 44 centres were closed and 9 youth centres were to be closed. The Parish Council would receive a grant of £5,000 a year with a view to setting up a community interest company and selecting its staff; nothing had, however, been put in writing. The Parish Council has sent the following response

“Further to the meeting on Thursday 24th September between County Cllr Mark Gray and Wootton Parish Cllr Mark Fysh at which Cllr Gray outlined broad proposals for the future of Children's Centres, including Wootton, Cllr Fysh has consulted two or three of his colleagues on Wootton Parish Council.

The proposal, as presented, would have significant consequences for the Parish Council, not only financially but legally and administratively. The Parish Council would not be able to consider such a proposal without receiving a detailed paper from Oxfordshire County Council outlining the precise terms of the proposal and identifying the financial, legal and staffing issues as well as setting out the statutory responsibilities of the County Council and the other services that would be affected.

The Parish Council is copying its response to Cllr Ian Hudspeth and should be grateful for his help in putting this matter on a more rational basis. It is also copying it to County Councillor Bob Johnston, District Councillor Henry Spencer and Nicola Blackwood MP. The Parish Council is sure that they will wish to be fully briefed on an issue which has such major consequences for their constituents.”

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b) Highways Services

Cllr Bristow attended a meeting at which proposals were outlined to transfer responsibilities to parish councils. He circulated the list of items which the Council considered as follows –

Urban grass cutting

Although we have some built up estates most of our grass cutting can be classed as rural.

Rural grass cutting

The Parish Council would like to receive full details of this proposal including the proposed size of the grant, the areas in Wootton currently being cut by OCC and the programmed dates of the statutory cuts. The Parish Council would like to know whether it is entitled to carry out work on these areas in addition to the statutory cuts without entering into an agreement. If no agreement is reached we assume that in addition to the two statutory cuts OCC Highways will remain responsible for cutting on request any areas which pose a hazard to users of the highway.

Weed control

Weeds on main footpaths continue to pose a problem particularly for disabled users. Over the past two years we were promised that our County Councillors Area Steward funding would be used to carry out this work but nothing transpired. No funding appears to be available so it is difficult to see how OCC are able to maintain its responsibility of ensuring the safety of pedestrians.

Vegetation cut backs

A regular problem in the rural area. No funding is on offer and Highways should retain its responsibilities for ensuring that the highway is free of hazards. As with grass cutting is the Parish Council entitled to supplement the statutory work if necessary without an agreement?

Serving of Section 154 notification letters

The Parish Council currently requests residents to cut back foliage that is impeding the pavement but it is useful to have the ability to refer such cases to OCC for Section 154 enforcement as a last resort.

Salt bin management

Salt bin management was changed three years ago leaving parish council responsible for re-filling bins. Please confirm that OCC will continue to fill bins at the beginning of the winter season. Is any additional funding available in the event of a very heavy winter apart from the offer of a free bulk delivery before the season starts which causes storage difficulties.

Public rights of way

The Parish Council aims to inform the Countryside Access Team of any problems and will continue to do so

School crossing patrols

None in Wootton

Footway siding

Another frequent problem in the rural area. No funding is on offer and OCC should continue its statutory responsibility to keep pedestrians safe

Epicormic/basal tree growth removal

A specialist service which should be continued by OCC; it would be of interest to know which trees in Wootton are listed for this service

Tree planting schemes

This would be considered on an ad hoc basis if such a scheme was considered beneficial

Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of highway street furniture

It is for OCC to continue with this project

Roundabout management and sponsorship

Not really applicable in Wootton; we have one small roundabout and OCC would be approached if it requires attention.

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Public highway inspection drainage notifications

This requires technical expertise and should remain with OCC.

8. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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

P15/V1582/HH 14.7.2015	Extension at ground floor level and new roof to create accommodation at first floor level. Erection of detached timber store. 237 Whitecross, Wootton OX13 6BW Mr & Mrs D Thomas	Object The timber store is very close to the boundary of No 1 Sunningwell Road and ground works suggest that it differs from the proposal in the application.
P15/V1509/HH 17.8.2015	Demolition of existing single storey rear extension. Erection of a two storey rear extension 18 Manor Road, Wootton OX13 6DG Mr & Mrs Roycroft	Object; this constitutes over-development and will also cause parking problems
P15/V1951/HH 27.8.2015	Pitched roof to existing (flat) and extension with pitched roof all at the rear 14 Cumnor Road, Wootton OX1 5JP Mr & Mrs Mundy	No objection
P15/V2011/FUL 9.9.2015	Removal of Condition 3 (Permitted Development Rights) of planning permission P01/V1249/FUL Erection of one house and garage block (demotion of existing house and outbuilding) Picketts Heath Farmhouse, Youlbury OX1 5HD Mr Nick Twist	No objection
P15/V1582/HH (Amended) 10.9.2015	Extension at ground floor level and new roof to create accommodation at first floor level. (removal of erection of detached timber store from application) 237 Whitecross, Wootton OX13 6BW Mr & Mrs D Thomas	No objection

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

b) Decisions of the Local Planning Authority

P15/V1509/HH 9.7.2015	Demolition of existing single storey rear extension. Erection of a two storey rear extension 18 Manor Road, Wootton OX13 6DG Mr & Mrs Roycroft	Object; the loss of the garage is likely to result in additional road parking inconveniencing	Permit 25/9/2015
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		the rest of the community.	
P15/V1222/HH 20.7.2015	Single storey side extension with a flat roof. 188 Cumnor Road, Boars Hill OX1 5JS Mr Paul Jordan	No objections	Permit 28/8/2015
P15/V1868/HH 17.8.2015	First floor side and single and two storey rear extensions, new porches and erection of a detached triple garage with room above/ - modifications to conditions on P15/V0355/HH Green Ridge, Lincombe Lane, Oxford OX1 5DZ Dr C & F Storey	No objection	Permit 9/9/2015
P15/V1746/PAR 3.8.2015	Prior approval for conversion of existing agricultural barn as a dwelling (Re-submission) Cattle Barn at Blagrove Farm, Wootton OX136DE Mr E Wilcox	Object Wootton Parish Council supports the views expressed by Sunningwell Parish Council that this application should be refused. It is a tin structure that would have to be re-built and is in the Green Belt	Agreed 22/9/2015

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

9. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Westell said that cars were using the Community Centre car park late at night and it was not clear what they were doing there. Cllr Ludlow said that there were plans to increase the security lighting

10. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) 2014/15 Audit Report

The Audit had passed with only a comment reminding the Council to reclaim VAT. The last claim was made in January 2014 up to 31.12 2013 within the 3 year window; the next claim must be before 31.12.2016. Cllr Mann proposed that the Audit Report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Fysh and approved unanimously.

b) October 2015 Accounts for approval

Clerk Salary October	£592.48
Clerk Expenses October (including bus meeting costs)	£128.50

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HMRC PAYE & NI July-September 2015	£26.11
Day & Bell rental notice board 2014/15 and 2015/6	£4.00
Advent Solutions Playground Inspection August 2015	£60.00
ST Grounds Maintenance litter picking and grass cutting August	£536.00
ST Grounds Maintenance litter picking and grass cutting September	£461.00
WADS Community Centre – extra cost of September newsletter	£180.00
BDO LLP – 2014/5 Audit fee	£240.00
Ian Bristow – website expenses	£55.42
OPFA – 2015/6 Subscription	£50.00

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

c) Applications for grants

None

11. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED - Clerk to report on correspondence to hand
Vale of White Horse DC; Autumn Town and Parish Forum
Wootton PC Response to OCC on Children's Centre
South & Vale – Interacting with the council on-line
VWHDC Newsletter from the Leader – September 2015
OALC Update – September 2015
VWHDC Chairman's Awards Lunch
Advent Solutions – inspection reports 1.9.2015
It was resolved to note the communication received

12. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at 7.30pm at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre.

Chairman.....Date