



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 3rd April @ 7.00pm** at the Parish Office

Attendance:

- Councillor Valerie Coltman (Chair)
- Councillor Shanti Maru (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Angela Arnold
- Councillor David Coltman
- Councillor Yessica Gould
- Councillor Ann Grant
- Councillor Chris Green
- Councillor Joan King
- Councillor Pam King
- Councillor Brendan O'Brien
- Councillor Alison Scarth

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Sean McCluskey

Non-Attendance: Councillor Ty Harris
Councillor Eric Bishop

155) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

156) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

None

157) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

South Oxhey Residents Association Chairperson had asked to speak on Agenda Item 164 premeeting

158) **POLICE MATTERS**

No representation from our local SNT. Cllrs briefly discussed the ASB issues at Delta Gain Shops including the smashed glass on the pavement and empties left in the "square"



159) **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**
The Full Council and Annual Parish Minutes of 6th March were noted & approved.

160) **TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING**
Station Approach – Agenda Item 47

Labour MEP visited the site but no update from Herts County Council

Village Green – Agenda Item 82

Herts County Council wrote to TRDC and we are awaiting an update

Police Matters – Agenda item 5 of the Annual parish Agenda

Trail Bikes opposite CP Garden Centre. The land being used is owned by a doctor in London. He has been written to asking whether confirmation has been given to these riders as they claim. Police hands are tied as trespass is a Civil matter really. Police can only proceed if the landowner says permission is not given. Council asked the Clerk to contact Three Rivers about the possibility of enforcing on the landowner to remove the littering. Also, the fly tips located next to the land used for riding.

Parking - Agenda item 7a of the Annual parish Agenda

TRDC sent over the Parking Enforcement officers' roads that they patrol after a Freedom of Information request. The Clerk to present the locations where tickets have been given out (TRDC sent later) and discuss the possibility of how we can suggest efficiencies, especially around the continued misuse of disabled bays and the poor parking around the leisure centre on Gosforth Lane whilst works are carried out.

Pavements - Agenda item 7b of the Annual parish Agenda

The Clerk wrote to the managing agents of the overgrown hedge St Andrews Terrace, Prestwick Road and they have cut the hedge back to make it safer.

I received this reply from TRDC after asking about wheelie bins on streets:

Thank you for your email regarding waste bins being left in the street after collection day. The residents are allowed to place bins out for collection on refuse day (including the night before) and should be removed by the residents after collections. We can still issue a section 46 notice EPA90 but as you say it has been decriminalised and has little teeth. This works in most cases but with some residents we have issued a CPW to remove the bins. This process does include talking to housing associations and in some cases they have carried out works to help with the storage of bins.

James is currently dealing with a number of cases regarding bins left in the street in the South Oxhey area following complaints. The time James spends on such cases has to be balanced with his other responsibilities across the district. With regards to parking issues I would direct you to Three Rivers Parking Services and they can be contacted on TRDC.Parkingservices@hertsmere.gov.uk or 0208 207 7422.

They followed up stating they have no powers to make Housing Associations build storage areas. The Clerk will write to Thrive Homes about possible solutions when workload permits.

Christmas Fun Day- Agenda item 7c of the Annual parish Agenda

Oxhey Wood School booked for the Xmas Fun Day. Indoor stalls in the Hall with a door way out onto



the playground for rides/bouncy castle is the plan.

AOB - Agenda item 7d of the Annual parish Agenda

Rubbish accumulating in the properties next to the alleyway between Bridlington Rd and Henbury Way

The Clerk wrote to Home Group and this rubbish has been cleared up.

Planning Applications – Agenda Item 148

The Clerk was asked to work out why 19/0366/FUL was put in (The Pavillion, Green Lane.)

Essentially, it was because a condition for opening times and seating outside was placed on the application and the lease owner was seeking to overturn this.

Finance & Administration – Agenda Item 151c

The approved contractor Signmaker were approached to discuss the fixings of our name being double sided tape. He stated that the tape used had a very heavy-duty adhesive but a fixing (like a rawl plug) was another option that would be likely to be longer lasting. We asked for a quote and he came back and said the quote would remain the same. Signage will be installed imminently.

161) **COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES/REPORTS**

- a) Events Committee 4th February 2019 – minutes noted & approved
- b) Events Committee 4th March 2019 – minutes noted & approved
- c) Events Committee 18th March 2019 – minutes noted & approved
- d) F&A Committee 20th March 2019 – minutes noted & approved
 - i) Recommendation for the Clerk to look into quotes for the work outlined by the Surveyors report on the Parish Building and Grounds. Unanimously Agreed.
RESOLVED
 - ii) Recommendation to allow planning applications to be discussed at the F&A committee meeting and “called in” if necessary. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
 - iii) Recommendation to remove the Planning Committee as is. Unanimously Agreed.
RESOLVED
 - iv) Recommendation to place information about what planning applications will be viewed on the agenda. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
 - v) Recommendation that all new members to receive training in the planning process. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
 - vi) Recommendation that no planning applications to be discussed on the phone or by email unless already previously “called in” by committee. Unanimously Agreed.
RESOLVED
- e) Other recommendations were undertaken under Agenda Item 167 – EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC due to their sensitive nature.

162) **TO CONSIDER PLANNING/LICENCE APPLICATIONS**

The Clerk was asked to look into if 19/0417/FUL was ok as it was a joint application between neighbours.

163) **SOUTH OXHEY INITIATIVE**

Next meeting is on the 29th April at the parish Hall
 Countryside have officially moved their Marketing Suite to Station Approach
 Station approach still not finished – awaiting lights and the taxi shelter still

164) **BUSINESS FAIR/BUSINESS AWARD SCHEME**

A representation was made by the Chairperson of SORA who wanted councillors to look into the possibility of promoting all the local businesses operating within the Parish. Currently, local traders are allowed stalls at the fun day at £10. Anyone wishing to simply hand out cards/leaflets/chat about their work will be allowed to free of charge. The Clerk to publicise this fact before the fun day. The Clerk to find out how many spaces are available. An award scheme was not discussed.

165) **CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER**

- a) Grant Request – Anna Kennedy Online – Autism Charity
 Proposed by Cllr. A. Scarth. Seconded by Cllr C. Green to award £1000. Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**
- b) Hertfordshire Police – Discuss request for additional PCSO funding
 Proposed by Cllr J. King. Seconded by Cllr P. King to agree to the increase in PCSO Funding for 2019-2020. Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**
- c) Discuss Email from TRDC CEO regarding CIL matters
 The Clerk was asked to look into acquiring CIL monies to assist with the dreadful state of Oxhey Drive verges, caused in part by the SOI development.

166) **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

- a) January Accounts – noted and approved
- b) February Accounts – noted and approved
- c) Community School Project – The Clerk gave feedback to his initial enquiry to local schools regarding the Councils wish to help families put their kids into the school clubs by way of subsidy
- d) ROSPA inspection report – The Clerk to undertake the suggested works relating to the care of timber.
- e) Elections
 - i) Cancellation of F&A committee for May. It was agreed to cancel the F&A Meeting due to the elections.
 - ii) The Next meeting date proposed is the 8th May.

167) **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC**

- a) Resolve to exclude the Press & Public under the provisions of **Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972** due to the confidential nature of the business transacted. Proposed by Cllr V. Coltman. Seconded by Cllr A. Scarth. Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**
- b) Expense Policy for Councillors. Proposed by Cllr. S. Maru. Seconded by Cllr. C. Green to agree to the recommended policy. Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**



- c) Expense Policy for Staff. Proposed by Cllr. S. Maru. Seconded by Cllr. C. Green to agree to the recommended policy. Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**
- d) Proposed by Cllr B. O'Brien. Seconded by Cllr D. Coltman to take forward option 1) from the confidential report with regards to the Pottery Teachers Request for redundancy. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

168) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr J. King stated it was her pleasure to sit on this Council and thanked the Chairperson for her tenure and the staff for their hard work.

169) **CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Next meeting Wednesday 8th May @ 7.30pm