



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 4th September @ 7.30pm at the Parish Office

Attendance: Councillor Angela Arnold
Councillor Kirsty Barnes
Councillor Ann Grant
Councillor Brigid Kelly
Councillor Joan King
Councillor Pam King
Councillor Stephen King
Councillor Ronan MacManus
Councillor Sean McCluskey
Councillor Michael Revan
Councillor William Waite

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

Apologies:
Councillor Alison Scarth
Councillor Mandy Shumake

Non-Attendance:

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- 50) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were noted and accepted
 - 51) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None
 - 52) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**
Cllr S. King & Cllr M. Revan are on the Three Rivers Planning Committee
 - 53) **POLICE MATTERS**
No Police attended. The Clerk was asked to contact the Sgt for a report
 - 54) **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**
 - a) The Full Council Meeting minutes of 3rd June were noted and approved with the following amendment to Item 48. To include this final Sentence. "The Clerk was asked to find out parking enforcement information for the Parish between 1st April 2019 to current."
 - b) The F&A Committee Meeting minutes of the 18th July were noted and approved.



55) **TO RECEIVE A REPORT ABOUT AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING (NB Not covered by Agenda items)**

Village Green – Agenda Item 82(2018-2019)

TRDC officers are still not aware of the motion that was passed. Cllr Duncan offered to make enquiries to find out who is overseeing

Newsletter

Some councillors had not received them so the Clerk will take tis up with the distribution company.

Cllr Revan brought up concerns that the Clerk had written the newsletter in a political way favouring the Labour party. The Clerk did not agree.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for all his work putting it together.

Finance & Administration – Agenda Item 46 - Community School Project

Forms went out – 5 have been returned – those 5 have been paid their £4000. Haven't paid the 2 schools that haven't returned yet. The Clerk to chase again now schools are back.

Station Approach - Agenda Item 82(2018-2019)

The Clerk met with Royal National Institute for the Blind and an officer from Herts County Council to discuss the issues. HCC said all the right things, The Clerk chasing RNIB for an update.

56) **CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER**

Grant Application from Carpenders Park Community Hall Association Ltd was discussed. Proposal to award the £2,000 requested for the community toilets. Unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

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

Cllr S. King and Cllr Revan left the hall as they are on TRDC Planning committee.

The use of "South Oxhey Central" by Countryside in all the literature was confirmed to be just a marketing tool and that once they leave it will not be referenced again.

An application (19/1461/FUL) has come in for a Tattoo Parlour creating a lot of discussion on social media. The Clerk asked to look into the application to see if there are any grounds for concern.

58) **SOUTH OXHEY INTIATIVE**

a) **Wheelchair access**

Cllrs went around the roads in the precinct with the developer Countryside. Not much promised by Countryside who intimated most of the issues were for TRDC to rectify.

It was mentioned that the Police are turning a blind eye to the obstructive parking on Bridlington Rd. Cllr McCluskey spoke about his difficulties around the roads near the development, especially Fairfield Avenue as it has no safe way to cross due to the angle of the slope. Cllr Kelly to send the Clerk photos of some of the issues noted and include these in a letter to TRDC. Lost parking spaces was also mentioned for Fairfield and the Clerk was asked to include this in his letter.



b) **Henbury Way Car Park Consultation**

The Consultation provided over 600 responses from the community. An overwhelming 97% requested that the Car Park remain for the use of the local community. The Clerk to organise a meeting in the near future to take this forward.

c) **Christmas Lights**

Countryside have not managed to make the lampposts compatible for lights this year but are aiming to for next. Carpenders Park will have lights as normal and we are looking to have lights on the planned Christmas tree and to make an event out of it. Countryside have been asked to contribute to cost of lights and food/drink. The planned date for this is 30th November.

d) **Other updates**

Station Approach was brought up as workers have been witnessing drug deals take place. Cars are pulling in and doing deals before pulling off. This led to a further conversation about similar scenarios at Delta Gain, in addition to frequent shoplifting problems at the co-op. The Clerk to contact Sgt Amos to make him aware.

59) **TRAIL BIKERS, OXHEY LANE**

Cllr Arnold and the Clerk gave an update as to the constant use of land near the Garden Centre being used by Bikers who are extremely noisy and parking dangerously nearby. Police, WRPC and TRDC are working on tracking down the landowner to find a resolution.

60) **DELTA GAIN, SHOPPING AREA RENOVATION**

Update from Cllr Revan. Work is allegedly starting in October. The Clerk queried this as there has been no promised stakeholder meeting, designs have not been seen or ok'd by WRPC, Materials still to be chosen etc. Cllr Revan said that even a contract with landowner has not been signed yet. The Clerk to contact Peter Simons.

61) **POLICE COMMISSIONER VISIT**

Cllr Revan gave an update on the day. Main issues brought up by residents were parking. Police were promoting the ECHO tool – a way of communicating issues, views and opinions to Police.

62) **FLYPOSTING**

Concerns were expressed by Cllr Arnold in relation to the volume of fly posting around the Parish. There is only one “allowed” location by TRDC near the junction of Little Oxhey lane and Oxhey Lane. Each incident must be reported according to HCC. TRDC have stated they will take them down as and when. The Clerk to see if TRDC will allow WRPC to help.

63) **WILDFLOWER MEADOW**

The Clerk gave an update as to the current situation. Countryside have been removed from their project management duties due to a conflict of interests. The Clerk will liaise with the construction firm ongoing. He will insist that they re-roll the path as well as fix the seed sowing issues and work on the bulb planting schedule. If the construction firm refuse to re-roll or if, post rolling, the path remains an issue for wheelchair users, then Council will need to decide if 1) they pay the full invoiced amount to Countryside's project management and 2) whether they want to make the path a semi-permanent or permanent (at extra cost.) The Council agreed to the Clerks suggestion to allow the Community Warden to manage The Mead's maintenance ongoing until further notice.



The Chair brought up the possibility of entering “Britain in Bloom” in the near future. Cllr Barnes brought up the “best garden” competitions that communities used to take part in. The Clerk brought up an email that had been sent in by a local resident to see if we can plant 100 trees to help combat climate change and to involve school children to increase awareness.

64) **GOLF RANGE, PRESTWICK RD**

Cllr King wanted to discuss the possibility of trying to keep a golf range/pitch and putt at the location. Mainly to prevent any redevelopment and loss of leisure activity for the locals. Option to take over the lease from the leaseholder and get some form of Golfing activity going again. Other cllrs stated other leisure activities like 5-a-side pitches. Though Council acknowledged they were probably holding out for potential redevelopment profits, the Clerk was asked to contact the leaseholder to ask about the potential for leisure.

65) **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

- a) June Accounts noted and approved
- b) July Accounts noted and approved
- c) Air Conditioning Quotes – The Clerk was asked to look into the use/cost of extractor fans before Council decided the best option to take forward
- d) Kitchen Quotes – Further discussion to take place once three quotes are obtained.

66) **CHAIRPERSONS REPORT**

Most aspects were covered at previous items

67) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion on the current Pavillion situation. TRDC still trying to see if they can legally pursue a right of way claim for the Bowls club.
The possibility of mixing up the Cllrs pre-determined seating at meetings was discussed.
Litter Bin in the precinct was mentioned as overflowing.

68) **CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.28pm

Next meeting Wednesday 3rd October @ 7.30pm