



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

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

Attendance: Councillor Angela Arnold
Councillor Kirsty Barnes
Councillor Donna Duncan
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 Alison Scarth
Councillor Mandy Shumake
Councillor William Waite

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

Apologies:

Non-Attendance:

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- 148) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were noted and accepted
- 149) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**
Cllr S. King, Cllr M. Revan & Cllr A. Scarth are on, or substitute for, the Three Rivers Planning Committee
- 150) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None
- 151) **POLICE MATTERS**
No one in attendance
- 152) **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**
a) Full Council 5th February – Minutes were noted and agreed
b) Events committee 12th February – Minutes were noted & agreed



Discussion had about VE day. It was agreed that Council will not put on any specific event but would look to see if any other groups would like assistance. Cllr McCluskey to contact the Head of Ascend to see if they are doing anything. Cllr P King to see if Age Concern are.

- i) To determine which Risk assessment provider to use to 1) determine if Marketplace can be a location option for Council Funday and 2) to provide an all-encompassing risk assessment guideline template for any future events/markets held there. (2 quotes at time of writing)

Before the two quotes from professional risk assessors were discussed Cllr Waite proposed himself as an option as he had done undertaken risk assessments in his role as scout leader previously.

Caution was advised by the Clerk to councillors on taking this route re. concerns about litigation. His recommendation was to use a qualified experienced risk assessor.

Proposed by Cllr Kelly. Seconded by Cllr McCluskey. Proposal for Cllr Waite to undertake the risk assessment of the Marketplace as a Funday Location.

For:	Against:
JK	AS
BK	AG
SMc	AA
PK	MR
WW	DD
SK	KB
MS	RMac

As Chair, JK had Casting vote FOR the proposal. **RESOLVED**

Discussion had over the suitability of the site then took place. Proposal put forward by Cllr Shumake to hold both Summer & Winter Fundays at the Market Place. Seconded by Cllr Macmanus. Amended proposal put forward by Cllr Scarth to continue using Oxhey Wood School for the Winter Funday. Seconded by Cllr Duncan.

Amended Proposal voted for first

For:	Against:	Abstained
JK	AS	KB
BK	AG	
SMc	AA	
PK	MR	
WW	DD	
SK		
MS		
RMac		

Amended Proposal not carried.



Initial Proposal then voted for:

For:	Against:	Abstained
JK	AS	KB
BK	AG	
SMc	AA	
PK	MR	
WW	DD	
SK		
MS		
RMac		

Initial Proposal carried. **RESOLVED**

NB Delayed till after Agenda item 153 discussed

153) **TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING AND DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING**

Trail Bikers – Agenda Item 59

TRDC ASB Officer is liaising with landowners to install signage and strengthen boundary. Police have already given warnings.

Wildflower Meadow – Agenda Item 80

Contractor doing stage 1 (tilling and reseeding) on March 16th 2020

Finance & admin – Agenda Item 109b

Clerk still to finalise wood degradation issue on our play equipment

Finance & admin – Agenda Item 109c

Will send Insurance Claim for Building crack asap

AOB – Agenda Item 129

Had a call from NHS Herts Valleys Trust. Most information is confidential, but they confirmed they are in talks to find floor space for a surgery. Clerk mentioned our Councils desire to help if there were any obstacles, which she noted. Clerk has her details and will chase if they don't hear anymore.

Correspondence to consider – Agenda item 138a

Clerk asked HCC to send information about potholes and their parameters for fixing which I emailed cllrs.

Correspondence to consider – Agenda item 138b

Freedom of Information request sent to all Herts Councils asking about their abandoned vehicle policy and the actions taken forward for the past 3 years. No information at present but will bring to Council when all have been received.

Planning – Agenda Item 139

Cllr McCluskey mentioned issues with Station Approach last meeting. Clerk sent a final email to RNIB cc'ing the CEO and I got a response. They are due to meet with HCCs Strategy manager with two of our visually impaired residents to highlight the issues. They have asked me to see if any other residents with disabilities are having issues with the area. Clerk has contacted Ascend to see if they can help.

Parking Issues/Enforcement – Agenda Item 142

I spoke to the ASB officer at TRDC who stated that she is the only one enforcing that



PSPO in Mill End for one morning a week. Traffic Wardens do not enforce them for some reason. She has no more time due to workload to undertake any more so likely costs are involved. At last week's Joint Parish meeting the other Parishes do not have PSPO's and have no plans to look into putting any in. General feeling was that they are too hard to enforce effectively. Clerk was asked to look into these signs near Oxhey Wood. If we were to purchase 2 per school then the cost would be £2260 (Oxhey wood have purchased 4 so do not need them)

Discussion had about what's best for school signage. Clerk was asked to contact school to determine if there is a need and to purchase accordingly based on the ones on Oxhey Drive

Finance & admin – Agenda Item 143b

Cllrs will receive their new emails and passwords after the meeting

154) CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER/COMMUNITY MATTERS

None received

155) TO CONSIDER PLANNING/LICENCE APPLICATIONS

Cllr S. King, Cllr M. Revan & Cllr Scarth left the hall as they are on/or substitute for TRDC Planning committee.

- a) Cllr Arnold spoke about her concerns regarding the new legislation which effectively allows landlords to overlook electrical safety. She will contact her local MP to garner his thoughts. The Clerk to write to the Minister of Housing outlining our concerns.
- b) The Clerk asked to evaluate 20/0238/FUL and call it in if there are issues with parking allocation.
20/0321/RSP – large HMO – The Clerk to write in and object about concerns over parking allocation.

156) SOUTH OXHEY INTIATIVE

Meeting took place on 10th February. Cllr P King report. Notably:
Cllrs & SO initiative board members invited to see flats - 2 bed flats seem small & confined
Murals aren't to be saved as previously promised
Station Approach has issues with its steps. HCC asking for them to be changed as they are deemed to be dangerous. Dangerous steps around Coffee bar are their responsibility now.
4 Bedroom property still required for one family, currently in temp housing in Watford.
Poorly designed Taxi Rank at Station Approach. On wrong side of the road to pick up wheelchair users.
Station approach – Shop owners park allegedly there all day.
Lidl's request for community toilets still not resolved despite Countryside promising to speak to them for over a year.
Some Shop owners struggling to pay rates.
Still Looking for a location for a cash machine

Concerns raised over new marketplace being safe for the visually impaired. Clerk will ask RNIB for comment when they meet.
Station approach disabled parking spaces being used so nowhere for taxis to pick up – Cllr S



King will talk to TRDC licensing about the belief that Firms might not be picking up wheelchair users because of the difficulties faced.
No effective parking enforcement being undertaken to deal with the issue.
TRDC cllrs will ask TRDC planning committee to visit before phase3 application finalised.

157) **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

- a) January Accounts noted and approved
- b) Asset Register 2019-2020. Proposal to accept the register. Unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

- c) LCRS Risk Assessment 2019-2020. Proposal to accept the RA. Unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

158) **CHAIRPERSONS REPORT**

Nothing to report

159) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Furze school land being prepared for another care home application
Annual meeting 18th March 2020
SORA Chairman and Secretary have resigned.
Tesco's becoming gridlocked due to people parking illegally. Clerk to speak to manager to see if markings can be changed.
Cash machine gone from Off license in Carpenders park.
Partridge pub currently shut down

160) **CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

Next meeting Wednesday 18th March @ 7.30pm Annual Meeting
Next Full Council Wednesday April 1st @7.30pm