



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 2nd September @ 7.30pm** at the Parish Hall

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

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Kirsty Barnes
Councillor Donna Duncan
Councillor Michael Revan
Councillor Alison Scarth
Councillor Mandy Shumake

Non-Attendance:

22) **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Joan King was re-elected Chairperson. No other nominations

23) **ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The Chairperson and the Proper Officer signed the Declaration of Office

24) **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

William Waite was elected Vice-Chairman. No other Nominations

The Chair and Cllrs thanked Cllr Kelly for all her hard work and wished her well for the future.

25) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were noted and accepted



26) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

27) **POLICE MATTERS**

Five members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team came to discuss their activity over the Summer. Numerous operations to combat ASB, Drugs, Knife crime, Theft of catalytic converters as well as proactive Speeding Ops and Knife amnesties. Cllrs asked about anti-social parking but officer stated that it is down to TRDC traffic enforcement (unless a severe obstruction). Cllrs raised concerns about the stories of children carrying knives and mugging other children. Officers are going into schools to speak to children and Stop and Search Ops are being carried out regularly.

28) **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**

Full Council 15th July – Minutes were noted and agreed. The Chair signed the minutes

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

Agenda Item 15 – Clerks report & Matters arising

Kitchen Refit

The refit has almost been finished. Need to do some tiling to make good and then it's done

Triple phase wiring board and associated work undertaken. EDF Energy (our current supplier) have been contacted to now install a triple phase meter. Awaiting a date.

Agenda Item 16a - COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER

Met with John Elliot of South Oxhey Jets to discuss the disabled access issues to the ground. A location was selected which should prove to be the safest option but also give the best value for money.

Proposal to accept the quote from local firm Boss installation, the clerk to seek disability grant funding, else council will pay in full. To be taken from Future Unspecified Projects Earmarked Reserves (£24,000)

Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

Agenda Item 16c - COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER

Myself and Cllr Arnold met with the manager of the care home. Some aspects were raised with regards to logistics and health and safety which we are waiting to hear back from. If assurances are given we can go ahead with helping fund the COVID meeting bubble at Fairway Care Home, Green Lane

Agenda Item 17b – COVID 19 MATTERS

Countryside are stating that they never promised to change the lampposts in Station Approach so it is likely this area will never have this style. Retail units have been asked if they are willing to place icicle lights on their buildings, but they have stated that the landlords conditions are prohibitive – we have asked Countryside for their thoughts. The first Christmas tree quote came in from last year's suppliers (£1450 ex VAT includes tree itself, installation and removal (not xmas lights)) – I thought this high so we sought another one which was £2150 ex VAT NB the lampposts in Market Place haven't been signed off and the license needed to be done by 31st Aug so it'll only be the Christmas tree this year again.

Proposal to accept the £1450 quote from realchristmastrees.co.uk. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

Agenda Item 17c – COVID 19 MATTERS

Celebrational/Memorial Bench

Council agreed in principle to fund the Bespoke Rainbow Bench design and asked the Clerk to look into



asking how much they would charge for two benches. The Second one perhaps using the murals from The Parade. Clerk will come back to Council with more information next meeting.

Agenda Item 17d – COVID 19 MATTERS

Play area equipment – It was all varnished over two days which was a fantastic effort by Glen and his able apprentice. It is now open with COVID safety advice on entrances.

Parish Building - Cllrs decided to leave the building closed for now to ensure staff safety.

Hall hire – Cllrs agreed to only use the hall for Full Council Meetings and for Meetings of a similar nature such as the South Oxhey Initiative Board meeting. A £20 surcharge for cleaning will be applied

Agenda Item 17e – COVID 19 MATTERS

Government Funding – TRDC CEO written to. Awaiting a reply

Agenda Item 17f – COVID 19 MATTERS

Bus safety concerns – Red rose promised to install screens on all their buses after concerns for resident's safety were raised.

All Arriva buses have screens so there was no need to write to them on this matter

30) **COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER**

- a) Pavillion Bowls Club Grant Application
Proposal to award Pavillion Bowls Club the £1500 requested. Unanimously agreed.
RESOLVED
- b) Carpenters Park Residents Association Grant Application
Proposal to award Carpenters Park Residents Association the £1500 requested.
Unanimously agreed. RESOLVED

31) **SOUTH OXHEY INITIATIVE**

The Chair gave a report from the South Oxhey Initiative Board meeting. Notable items:
Countryside donated to local groups-CAB, ASCEND & Foodbank
All families have moved out of the south block into their new flats.
Use of local labour at 26%
Supermarket, Barbers, Plumbing Merchants and Bookmakers al currently fitting out to open shortly
Next meeting due to be in October at the Parish Hall

32) **PLANNING**

- a) The ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government has issued a new consultation on planning. Cllrs have concerns about some of the potential repercussions that are being proposed though acknowledged some positive factors too. As Cllrs Steve and Joan King have significant planning experience, they will answer to some of Nalcs proposed questions and respond to the clerk
- b) 20/1677/FUL – Little Furze School - Concerns were raised about the historic flooding at this location. The Clerk to write in with our concerns regarding this aspect and the lack of affordable housing which is, once again, lower than TRDC's allocation in its policy.



33) **FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATION**

- a) June accounts were noted and approved
- b) July accounts were noted and approved
- c) Cllrs were asked to nominate local organisations for the £6k COVID grant allocation. Proposal to allocate £1500 to Citizens Advice Bureau, Ascend, South Oxhey Foodbank & Herts Air Ambulance. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

Chair proposed to suspend STANDING ORDERS and extend the meeting for another 10 minutes. Unanimously Agreed. RESOLVED

- d) This Item was postponed until next month's meeting. The Clerk to contact TRDC to ask if we are a consultee and when it is.
- e) Committees. Proposal to keep the committees the same as last year with one exception, that Cllr Waite comes into the F&A committee in place of Cllr Kelly.

34) **EXCLUSIONS 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. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
- b) Boundary Dispute
The Clerk updated the Council regarding the dispute

35) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Village Green – TRDC have now sent the form off the Herts County Council. We await their decision

36) **CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.42 pm

Next meeting Wed Oct 7th