



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 7th October @ 7.30pm** virtually via Zoom

Attendance: Councillor Angela Arnold
Councillor Ann Grant
Councillor Joan King (Chair)
Councillor Stephen King
Councillor Kirsty Barnes
Councillor Donna Duncan
Councillor Michael Revan
Councillor Mandy Shumake
Councillor William Waite (V-Chair)

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Pam King
Councillor Ronan MacManus
Councillor Sean McCluskey
Councillor Alison Scarth

Non-Attendance:

36) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were noted and accepted

37) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None

38) **POLICE MATTERS**
PCSO's Diaz & Hill & PC Williams attended. Reported that they are currently at full strength for PCSO's and that two experienced PC's have also joined the team to make 3 now. Another to rejoin after a 6 month secondment.

- Slight increase in theft of vehicles in the area
- Darker evenings likely to have an increase in burglaries. Police doing a lot of door knocking and giving security advice.
- Been working with British Transport Police around Moor Park and Carpenders Park and Watford train stations.



- Speeding Education Ops around Westbury Avenue, Hampermill Lane and Batchworth Lane. Cllrs asked for some speeding ops to be done along Harrow Way and Little Oxhey Lane Bridge. Officers who patrol that side will be asked to undertake some speeding ops.
- Officers asked about vans parking near junctions obstructing views. Call up and officers can take a look at particularly bad obstruction. Happening all over the Parish, Gosforth Lane particularly bad. Take photos as these can be uploaded online whilst Police call centre are making a report.
- Officers asked to increase the number of OWL messages being put out
- No street meets at present, will undertake more virtual OWL meetings

39) **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**
Full Council 2nd September – Minutes were noted and agreed. The Chair will sign the minutes at the earliest opportunity

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

Agenda Item 15 – Clerks report & Matters arising

Kitchen Refit

Patch Tiling being done 9th November

EDF Energy installing a triple phase meter 4th November

Agenda Item 16a - COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER

Boss installations have been given the go ahead for the job.

Agenda Item 16c - COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER

Care home COVID bubble – Barnes fencing cannot build a bespoke one until March. The Care home manager is looking for alternatives. Will contact the Clerk when he has something concrete.

Agenda Item 17c – COVID 19 MATTERS

Celebrational/Memorial Bench

Council agreed for design below but to take out the remembrance wording and replace with Council Logo



Carpenders Park Cllrs to suggest a suitable location for a bench

Agenda Item 17e – COVID 19 MATTERS

Government Funding – TRDC have transferred £10,000 for our loss of income

Agenda Item 32 – PLANNING

The Clerk wrote in a comprehensive letter to TRDC outlining our concerns on the Little Furze development 20/1677/FUL



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

a) 14th Bushey & Oxhey Sea Scouts Grant Application

Proposal to award the £2500 requested subject to the clerk asking for confirmation about how many will benefit from outside our Parish. If it is more than from within, then bring back to next council meeting for discussion. November 4th 2020. Unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

42) **HCC PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY AUTHORITY STATUS**

A discussion took place to explore our initial thoughts about the proposal. General agreement that it was too early to decide anything concrete but concerns were raised about a central single authority based in Hertford may have difficulties in looking after the needs that are specific to an area. If a unitary authority is deemed to be inevitable then we would likely support HCC splitting into two with TRDC, Watford, Dacorum, St Albans & Hertsmere grouped together.

43) **FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATION**

a) August accounts were noted and approved

b) September accounts were noted and approved

c) Hall Hire/Reception Opening. Due the increase in South Oxhey Covid cases the office will remain closed. To be reviewed next meeting.

d) Proposal to accept the COVID Building risk assessment. Unanimously Agreed.

RESOLVED

e) New Gas Boiler. Proposal to replace the old boiler with a new one taken from Emergency Repair Fund in Earmarked Reserves. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

44) **EXCLUSIONS OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC (NB took place after 45 & 46)**

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) Agree Staff Salaries

[The Clerk left the meeting 8.30pm] NALC salary scale 2020-2021 were noted and agreed. Proposal to move the clerk to SCP 50. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

45) **PLANNING**

No applications were discussed

46) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

47) **CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 8.40 pm

Next meeting Wednesday November 4th 2020