



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 10th January 2024 @ 7.30pm Parish Hall**

Attendance: Councillor Valerie Coltman
Councillor Stephen King
Councillor Clare Leahy
Councillor Sean McCluskey
Councillor Alison Scarth
Councillor Sakhana Uthayakumar
Councillor William Waite (V-Chair)
Councillor Joanna Walker

Apologies: Councillor Angela Arnold
Councillor Hrithik Dattani
Councillor Mashkoor Khan
Councillor Joan King (Chair)
Councillor Steven Palmer

Non-Attendance: Councillor Ronan MacManus

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

In the absence of the Chairman J King, Vice-Chairman Waite chaired the meeting.

- 2324/95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were noted and accepted.

- 2324/96 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**
None

- 2324/97 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None

- 2324/98 POLICE MATTERS**
Sgt Blackwood & PCSO Huegdon attended
Notable Points
ASB figures are comparatively the lowest in Herts. Any calls of this nature are mainly nuisance neighbour issues.



Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) will now be known as Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT).

Increase in back garden entry for criminal purposes. Advice being given via Herts Police and OWL messaging to counter this.

PCSO are going into schools to speak about Police work and teaching schoolchildren about all manner of subjects to keep them safe. Personal Online Safety being a main priority.

Police asked to see if they can help get HCC to fix the numerous lamp posts down along Green Lane (Highlands side)

Police gave an update on the theft at the cemetery – police are patrolling there more regularly.

2324/99

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES COUNCIL MEETINGS ON

Full Council December 6th, 2324 - Noted and Agreed.

2324/100

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

Agenda Item 141b (2022/23) HERTS COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

Still Awaiting updates from HCC on

- Why they only installed 2 barriers at the Dick Whittington roundabout
- What they are doing to fix the boundary pavement edging outside our building
- When exactly they are replacing the kerbing at the bust stop on Oxhey Drive near Seacroft Gdns NB they confirmed it will be done this financial year i.e. before April 2024
- Whether they met with Countryside to discuss the safety issues at Lidl's with exiting the car park and the articulated lorries blocking the road when reversing in the cargo area
- the future plans for the Step Up building on Oxhey Drive

Agenda Item 154 (2022/23) - ALLOTMENTS TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

The Clerk contacted the local association, but they did not wish to let us know the details of their lease. Their email implied that they are happy with the status quo now and no longer need our help. Proposal: Council will cease any ambition to get TRDC to transfer ownership over to WRPC until further notice. Unanimously Agreed.

RESOLVED

Agenda Item 2324/24a COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER – Monoliths

TRDC have come back after chasing what's happening and are now going to offer more choices for signage. Council were ok to take a look at the different offerings. Not been sent at the time of the meeting though.

Agenda Item 2324/76 -COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER To receive any questions from local community organisations. To consider any written correspondence. NB in relation to our powers.

Agenda Item 2324/78a – FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – NEW ACCOUNTS

Forms all been signed. The Clerk will proceed with setting these up.

Agenda Item 2324/90 - PLANNING

Local Plan consultation answered based on previous consultation remarks



Agenda Item 2324/91 - WINTER FUNDAY DECEMBER 2nd 2324 DEBRIEF

After some threats, the supplier of the faulty game refunded the fee of £250

Other items of note:

Roofing will be undertaken w/c 15th Jan. Decorating soon after
Statutory Treework will be undertaken in February.

2324/101 COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER

To receive any questions from local community organisations. To consider any written correspondence. NB in relation to our powers.

a) Appeal for funding from Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

Proposal: To donate the sum of £1500 to support the work they do for our local community. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

b) D-Day celebrations. Council agreed for the Clerk to purchase a Lamp of Peace. Event details to be decided at the next Full Council Meeting.

2324/102 PLANNING

23/2180/PDE, 23/2188/NMA, 23/2111/FUL, 23/2018/FUL

No Comments

2324/102 MARKET

The Clerk gave an update on where we are trying to recruit a Market Operator. Noone has expressed an interest in running our Market. He will write to them individually to see if there is anyone willing to run one. Alternative strategies were discussed briefly but nothing can be finalised. General Agreement that if WRPC must run it that it would be on a Sunday and Once a month to begin with. Possible options: Contact specialist markets to come in or local Traders/Entrepreneurs will be sought from local Facebook groups and local media.

2324/103 COMMUNITY TRAVEL SCHEME

a) Consider increasing Vouchers per person to £50 due to the recent increase in Black Cab fees. Proposal: To increase the vouchers received per customer to £50. Keeping the number at 200 on a first come, first serve basis. Budget raised accordingly. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

b) Minibus Scheme. Discussion around the pros and cons. General Agreement at this stage is that the Taxi Voucher scheme is the way to continue supporting the ledlry and disabled at this point. A review after the first quarter of the next financial year to see how things are going was suggested and unanimously agreed as the best way to proceed.

2324/104 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

a) November 2024 Payments and Receipts were noted and approved.

2324/104 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) Ascend Charity – Due to new circumstances, Ascend do not need the use of our building. The Clerk to cease Lease creation.

[9.25pm] Chair proposed to suspend STANDING ORDERS and extend the meeting for another 15 minutes. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

- c) Precept 2324-2024
Proposal to set Precept at £291,995, An increase to the local taxpayers of 0.0%. Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

As part of the financial discussions, a proposal was made for the Community Wardens salary: To raise their final salary pay scale point (NJC) to 9 from 5. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

- d) Earmarked reserves Postponed. To be finalised at the next meeting due to the lateness of the meeting

2324/105

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting finished at 9.35pm. Next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 @7.30pm

DRAFT