



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 14th January 2024 @ 7.30pm Parish Hall**

Attendance: Councillor Angela Arnold
Councillor Valerie Coltman
Councillor Hrithik Dattani
Councillor Joan King (Chair)
Councillor Stephen King
Councillor Ronan MacManus
Councillor Sean McCluskey
Councillor Alison Scarth
Councillor Sakhana Uthayakumar
Councillor William Waite (V-Chair)
Councillor Joanna Walker

Apologies: Councillor Clare Leahy
Councillor Mashkoor Khan
Councillor Steven Palmer

Non-Attendance:

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

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- 2324/108 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were noted and accepted.

 - 2324/109 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**
None

 - 2324/110 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None

 - 2324/111 POLICE MATTERS**
No officers were able to attend. The Chair read out a prepared report. Concerns regarding the level of burglaries in Carpenders Park. A resident meeting to be held at CP community Hall.



2324/112 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES COUNCIL MEETINGS ON
Full Council January 10th, 2024 - Noted and Agreed.

2324/113 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING AND
DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING

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

Herts County Cllr Alley and a HCC Highways senior officer have been chased for an update on the following below. Unfortunately, most of these points are from December 2023

- When the pathway edging work outside our building will be undertaken? If it isn't being done, can you please give reasons why this was signed off? You agreed not to as we both looked at it and clearly wasn't up to standard and comparing to other sections of the path that also had trees nearby that were done, there was no viable reason why this section was not done also.
- When the extra two barriers will be reinstalled at the Dick Whittington roundabout please?
- We have had an email from HCC stating that the bus shelter on Oxhey Drive near Lidl's will be "upgraded" (see attached). I have asked the officer if the actual shelter is being upgraded (as it's ours & impacts our Asset Register) and whether the works also include the installation of Kassell kerbing that we have been chasing to be done. If you are able, can confirm this please as I haven't had a reply back as yet. She also mentions "Live feed" in her email – does this mean it will have an electronic timetable or is it just down to concerns re. cabling at that location?
- You mentioned having written to TRDC parking enforcement about the parking issues along Oxhey Drive near Lidl. Did they propose any solution?
- You were trying to get your Development Management Implementation team to meet up with Countryside before Christmas to review the issues around Lidl, including reviewing the TRO's. Did you manage to meet up with them? Any solutions put forward by them?
- You were waiting on the DM team to give you a date for the planned safety Audit of stage 3 of the redevelopment. Do you have a date in the diary yet?

Agenda Item 2023/78a – FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – NEW ACCOUNTS

Three accounts have been opened and funds are in. The CCLA account has not been confirmed yet for some reason though they have the documents. 2 step accounting also set up for CO-OP ongoing

Agenda Item 2324/104b – ASCEND BUILDING LEASE

Our solicitors were written to officially cancel any lease work as requested. They have not acknowledged or replied to this as yet.

Other items of note:

- Decorating has been completed. We had a complication with timings on reinstallation of the audio loop. This has now been delayed as the electrician cannot come in for several weeks. Clerks' recommendation is to get a professional installer in to quote for a permanent solution for those that are hard of hearing to be able to access the system when meetings/forums are held. NB We have a mobile solution with 2 microphones but it is 20 years old and only used sparingly when hall hirers



have speakers. NB We do have obligations as a public building to do this properly under Equalities Act and Build regulations. The Clerk asked to investigate this aspect and bring to the next meeting.

- Landscaping is being done currently.
- Festive Lights. Countryside have still not done the appropriate works to enable festive lights to be installed. According to our Lights supplier, Ringway, the Contractor for Herts County Council are becoming more stringent and he believes that, if they uphold all their installation regulations then, even if Countryside do their work, they will not have enough room for all the necessary items needed to comply. An alternative solution will need to be found. Council was very unhappy and frustrated with this new issue. The Chair to address this at the next South Oxhey Initiative Board Meeting.
- Roofing has been completed. Solar Panel installation quotes to come.

2324/114

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) Consultation for a Primary Support Base run by Warrendell School
Proposal: Clerk to write into the consultation and give our backing for this scheme. Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

b) Request from TBS Hygiene (Dog Waste Removal) to use our logo on their website
Proposal: to allow TBS Hygiene to sue our logo on their website. Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

c) Potential Funding available from Herts County Council for Over 55's activities
The Council agreed for the clerk to explore this funding to undertake activities for the over 55's.

d) Funding Health screening equipment – Manor View Practice, Oxhey Drive
Council discussed the matter and have asked for the Clerk to gather more information from TRDC. To be decided at the next Full Council Meeting

2324/115

PLANNING

a) 24/0055/PDNT | Permitted Development Notice Telecommunications: The installation of a 20m monopole Land Opposite 1-16 Catherine House And Adjacent To 132A Gosforth Lane Watford London WD19 7BX

Proposal: The Clerk to write in objecting to this application on the grounds that it will adversely affect the street scene. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

b) 24/0140/CLPD, 24/0124/FUL, 24/0110/FUL, 24/0109/NMA, 24/0104/PDE, 24/0102/FUL, 24/0026/FUL, 23/2153/FUL

Proposal: Cllr Coltman will speak to the Clerk in relation to 55 Penrose Avenue, if there are grounds for an objection, Council agreed for the Clerk to do so. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2324/116

MARKET

The Clerk stated that two market operators have now expressed an interest. Meeting them in the next couple of weeks with Cllr J. King & S. King.



2324/117 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) December 2023 Payments and Receipts were noted and approved.
- b) Cllr Home Address publication on website/publications etc
Councillors to let the Clerk know if they wish for their home address to be omitted
- c) Main Noticeboard installation outside.
Due to the changed layout caused by the fire hydrant the choices had changed.
Proposal: Council agreed for the clerk to spend up to £2,000 on the most suitable for Council Needs. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2324/118 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) Earmarked Reserves - an additional £10,000 added for a stair lift to make the upstairs meeting room accessible for disabled/elderly/infirm residents. Proposal: Earmarked Reserves to be set at £199,000. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2324/1019 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting finished at 8.55pm. Next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th March 2024 @7.30pm or following the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 7pm

DRAFT