



# Watford Rural Parish Council

## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024 @ 7.30pm Parish Hall**

**Attendance:** Councillor Angela Arnold  
 Councillor Valerie Coltman  
 Councillor Mashkoor Khan  
 Councillor Joan King (Chair)  
 Councillor Stephen King  
 Councillor Sean McCluskey  
 Councillor Ronan MacManus  
 Councillor Clare Leahy (V-Chair)  
 Councillor Alison Scarth  
 Councillor Jason St John  
 Councillor William Waite  
 Councillor Joanna Walker

**Apologies:** Councillor Hrithik Dattani  
 Councillor Sakhana Uthayakumar

**Non-Attendance:**

**Officer:** Gareth Williams (Clerk)

**2425/34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
 Apologies were noted and accepted.

**2425/35 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**  
 None

**2425/36 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
 None

**2425/37 POLICE MATTERS**  
 PC Zost attended and gave a report on the latest Police activity. Things to note:  
 Crime figures down on the previous year. Officers continuing educational visits to schools. Off road bikers have been dealt with robustly. Anti-social behaviour reports down significantly on previous year.

**2425/38 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES COUNCIL MEETINGS ON**



Full Council June 6th, 2024 - Noted and Agreed with one amendment – the meeting date to be changed from April to June. The Chair signed the minutes.

2425/39

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

**Agenda Item 141b (2022/23) HERTS COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS – OPPOSITE LIDLs**

Sadly, the clerk has not heard from the County Councillor or the senior HCC officer who said they would look into it and get costs for a permanent remedy The Clerk has chased with yet another email, so hopefully may have an update at the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2324/114 - COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER c) Potential Funding available from Herts County Council for Over 55's activities**

We have placed a bid into National lottery for funding 2 years worth of free classes Seated Yoga, Seated dancing and Seated Pilates. Two taking place on Monday, with an hour socialising in between and one on Thursday morning. £17500 bid cost.

**Agenda Item 2425/15- COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER a) GP health Equipment Donation**

Am waiting to hear from Manor View practice on when we can do a photo opportunity for the Health Equipment funding. We will use our new blank cheque. Once we have a deadline, the clerk will design and purchase a suitable plaque

**Agenda Item 2425/19- FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – Stairlift**

Stairlift is being installed on the 15<sup>th</sup> July. Evac chair has been purchased as per Council decision last meeting.

The Clerk will inform Homegroup as they have expressed an interest in using the upstairs for residents’ meetings. This should benefit anyone with mobility issues they may have.

**Agenda Item 2425/26 – TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON ACTIONS.....**

The clerk wrote to Orbit management to ask them to contact the owner of the clothes bank at Delta Gain and get them to remove it. He replied

“Good afternoon, No there has been no request at all re the clothes bin and we have made a number of attempts to contact them for the removal. I have colleagues elsewhere with this same issue”

The Clerk then asked him for their details so they could contact TRDC to enforce on them for flytipping but although he stated he would, he never gave them.

**Agenda Item 2425/27 – CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER – ACV APPEAL**

The Clerk wrote to the BBC in response to the quote response as requested by Council. It wasn’t subsequently used as far as they could note.

**Agenda Item 2425/32 – FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – STATION APPROACH**

The Clerk did not contact Watford Observer as Countryside indicated they would be changing the steps to landscaping. That said, they have since gone quiet, despite chasing emails asking about that and a number of other items.

**Other items of note:**

- No further news of the insurance claim against us re. the removal of trees on Greenfield Avenue.



- A new fuseboard has been installed to facilitate the Solar panels electrics. The solar panel system should be installed by the time of the next meeting.
- Tom Lake naming ceremony went well. Thanks to all the cllrs who helped on the day.
- Annual flower planting has gone really well up at the Mead and opposite the Dick Whittington.

2425/40

**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) Grant application South Oxhey Bowls Club £300 for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Day. Proposal: to give £300 towards their Anniversary Open day. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
- b) Herts Help information on cold spaces. Proposal: On hot days, and if the hall is open & available, to offer a “cold space” for anyone who needs it. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
- c) TRDC EV charger proposal for Henbury Way Car Park. The council had no issue with the proposal.
- d) The clerk mentioned that developers had reached out to WPRC on a proposed development at the Watford End of Oxhey lane. Cllrs may wish to attend the consultation.

2425/41

**PLANNING**

Proposed Mobile Mast location discussed along Gosforth Lane. No perceived change to the previous application rejected by TRDC. Proposal: The clerk to write to the developer, objecting to the proposal. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

Proposed development Kebbell House. Proposal: Delegate powers to Carpenders Park Cllrs to liaise with the Clerk if they find any planning issues with the current proposal. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/42

**MARKET**

The Clerk gave an update on the current situation. TRDC now asking for fees to amend the Traffic Regulation Order to allow Market traders to park, despite promising the infrastructure for the past 8 years and never mentioning fees. Similarly, TRDC have set what WRPC, and operators believe to be a prohibitive fee for said parking permit. The Chair to mee with Officers with the Clerk should they not amend their stance. The Market will not be able to take place until this TRO has been agreed by TRDC in 6 months’ time, leading to further delays.

Council had no comment on the tender document produced by the Clerk so this will be taken forward and finalised at the September meeting. The Chair may call an EGM to discuss if necessary.

Previously the Council agreed to take advice from a market consultant which wasn’t taken forward due to the red tape involved. Proposal: To commission a consultant to oversee the tender process and make recommendation re: the chosen operator. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**



**2425/43 INCLUSIVE PLAY**

Discussion had about necessity of pathways. It was briefly agreed to cease the spend and research into this due to lack of public requirement being expressed. However, to build a more comprehensive picture. the Clerk was asked to get quotes from the three TRDC recommended Play Equipment providers to see how much they would cost to build an inclusive swing with appropriate pathway.

**2425/44 NEWSLETTER**

The clerk stated that, due to workload, it may be better to postpone the Newsletter. If possible, send them out before the Christmas Funday and Market for advertising purposes. This was unanimously agreed.

**2425/45 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Council reviewed the costs from our preferred Supplier. Proposal: To agree the fees outlined for the existing lights for the next three years. In addition, to agree the inspection and installation costs of appropriate works to allow the installation of lights at the shopping hubs in Little Oxhey lane, Hallowes Crescent and Prestwick Road. NB Should the developer sort out the lamp posts at Station Approach, these costs were also agreed, but looking unlikely currently. Unanimously Agreed.

**RESOLVED**

**2425/46 RENTAL OFFICE, OXHEY DRIVE**

The Clerk explained that he had had a discussion with TRDC about the potential to utilise the building next door to ours on Oxhey Drive. Essentially, it could be put to community use and the local Foodbank are also looking for a home. TRDC are looking to extract market rate rental, but the Clerk has asked them to go away and reconsider this as it is derelict and not of use to anyone currently. The Council unanimously agreed, in principle, for this to be explored further, with the aim to take over a lease, should costs be acceptable, and allow Charitable companies usage, as well as our own.

**2425/46 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

- a) May 2024 Payments and Receipts were noted and approved.
- b) Motion to go paperless. Some Councillors expressed an interest to go paperless ongoing (Cllrs HD, CL, RM, AS, JStJ, JW, SU. The Clerk noted these and will remove them from the paper pack production and delivery.
- c) ROSPA Report for Greenfield Play Area was noted and agreed.

**2425/47 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Clerk asked permission to have an 3 week break during August, which the Council agreed.

Cllr StJohn once again put forward a trip to the Houses of Parliament. He had not contacted the MP but Cllr Arnold, said she would ask on his behalf.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm. Next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 @7.30pm