



# Watford Rural Parish Council

## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September @ 7.35pm Parish Hall**

**Attendance:** Councillor Angela Arnold  
Councillor Valerie Coltman  
Councillor Hrithik Dattani  
Councillor Mashkoor Khan  
Councillor Joan King (Chair)  
Councillor Stephen King  
Councillor Sean McCluskey  
Councillor Clare Leahy (V-Chair)  
Councillor Alison Scarth  
Councillor Sakhana Uthayakumar

**Apologies:** Councillor Joanna Walker

**Non-Attendance:** Councillor Ronan MacManus  
Councillor Jason St John  
Councillor William Waite

**Officer:** Gareth Williams (Clerk)

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- 2425/49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Apologies were noted and accepted.
  
  - 2425/50 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**  
None
  
  - 2425/51 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
None
  
  - 2425/52 POLICE MATTERS**  
No officers attended. The Clerk read out a report produced by PC Zost
  
  - 2425/53 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES COUNCIL MEETINGS ON**  
Full Council July 15th, 2024 - Noted and Agreed with one amendment to change the text from Agenda Item 37 to read. "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.”

2425/54

**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 still 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 the county cllr for an update

**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. No update as of yet. Clerk will chase once the 16 week period stated to hear has gone.

**Agenda Item 2425/15- COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER**

**a) GP health Equipment Donation**

Allegedly the Health Kiosk will be in situ Mid-September. Date yet to be confirmed. The Chair may be away, so perhaps the Vice-Chair may be able to take on the duties. The Clerk has designed the plaque – just awaiting confirmation of the date.

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

Stairlift install has been problematic as the original install was poorly undertaken. They have agreed to replace the carpet which was damaged and sort out some other issues. Spicers carpets are coming into quote. That said, we now have a working stair lift for public use.

**Agenda Item 2425/26 – TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON ACTION. Re. Clothes Bin – Delta Gain**

Still in situ, causing consternation to the residents with the detritus left all around the bin. The Clerk contacted Orbit Management with details of a firm who specialise in removing the bins. As they hadn't contacted them, the clerk spoke to them directly and we have an agreement in principle to remove immediately. The management company has been made aware and passed on their thanks.

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

Allegedly, the appellant has stated they are continuing to challenge. Awaiting official confirmation from TRDC and the tribunal.

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

The Clerk tried unsuccessfully to get Watford Observer involved with this issue. They also tried unsuccessfully to arrange another Development Board meeting to see if we can get Countryside to fix the issues with the steps. (as well as others issues), the clerk has met with the Redevelopment Project Manager and walked around going through all the issues that we have raised as still being an issue. It was a very productive meeting, and they have agreed, in principle to rebuild the steps so that they are not barriered off and that they will be safe for the visually impaired.



**Agenda Item 2425/41 – Planning**

The Clerk wrote objections, as resolved by Council, for the Mobile Mast installation at Gosforth Lane, and the Kebbell House redevelopment in Carpenders Park

**Agenda Item 2425/42 – Market**

The Clerk has not approached the previous Market Consultant currently, as we have several outstanding issues with TRDC to determine. The tender will be updated once we have the decision from TRDC re. the TRO and Parking permits. The Chair can speak more about her meeting with TRDC under the later agenda item

**Other items of note:**

- Had a resident from CP claim that subsidence is being caused by our land maintenance at Greenfield Ave Park. The Clerk visited in person and explained that we are not at fault for groundwater running downhill. The Clerk stated that she should get a proper surveyor’s report done and then submit a claim from her insurers that our insurers can then undertake verification. A further claim that our vegetation is pulling down her fence. There is some credence to this, so the clerk will arrange for some vegetation to be cleared.

**2425/55**

**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 Ascend (part of Watford & Three Rivers Trust) £2500 for Regular social activities. Proposal: to give £2500 towards their Mingle on a Monday Activity program. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
- b) Emails from Insurers re. claim Greenfield Ave Park. Insurers have put the blame for subsidence clearly in TRDC’s court. Therefore, Council advised to wait and see what the outcome of their claim is before acting on anything our end regarding tree removal.
- c) Offer from Nova Planning to speak to Council re. Kebbell House redevelopment. The Council are happy to speak with them. Clerk to liaise with them to organise.

**2425/56**

**PLANNING**

24/1292/FUL – Proposal: The Clerk to look at the application and work with Carpenders Park cllrs on our response. Concerns raised about flooding. Delegated authority from Council to object if required. Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

24/1267/PDND - The Clerk to contact the landlord to see if there are any plans to utilise this land post demolition of buildings.

**2425/57**

**MARKET**

The Chair gave an update from a meeting with TRDC relating to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and Market Trader parking permits. TRDC are demanding we pay the whole fee for the TRO, whereas previously they had said they would deal with it. The Chair asked them to pay, and we would contribute. They are going to ask senior officers/members and come back to us. With regards to the permits: TRDC have asked for a fee of £300. WRPC stated that this is prohibitive to traders and won’t help relaunch the market at all. Again, they are going away to ask for a revised



figure and will come back to us.

The Clerk stated that the TRO needs a public consultation and there is a possibility that, if the public don't want to lose Henbury Way Car Park on a Sunday, they may vote against it, which may mean that the Market venture may fail, and asked if Council should wait for this decision before going to tender. Council decided to push ahead. The Clerk to send the tender to our chosen market consultant for checking/comment, then we can send out to interested Operators once its finalised.

**2425/58**

**INCLUSIVE PLAY**

Council discussed the quotes Proposal: to accept the The School Renovation company as their chosen supplier for the path and swing equipment at Greenfield Avenue Park. To also agree to utilise them for the Adult Play equipment, should a chosen location be structurally acceptable and the quote agreeable (to be decided at the October meeting). Unanimously agreed. **RESOLVED**

**2425/59**

**RENTAL OFFICE, OXHEY DRIVE**

The Chair and Finance Committee Chair had a meeting with TRDC to discuss possible use of the building next door. TRDC are not willing to offer a long lease and are reluctant to offer peppercorn rent. In addition, they also want WRPC to spend £60/70k to refurbish the building. The Council unanimously agreed that these costs were prohibitive unless they offer us a significantly longer lease. The Clerk to ask for a breakdown of these purported costs before any further meetings take place.

**2425/60**

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

- a) June 2024 Payments and Receipts were noted and approved.
- b) July 2024 Payments and Receipts were noted and approved.

**2425/61**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Clerk stated we had passed the External Audit with no issues. Paragliding incidents were brought up. The Clerk volunteered to find legislation.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm. Next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 @7.30pm