



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 6th November @ 7.30pm 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 Alison Scarth
 Councillor Jason St John
 Councillor Joanna Walker

Apologies: Councillor Sakhana Uthayakumar
 Councillor Clare Leahy (V-Chair)

Non-Attendance: Councillor William Waite

NB One Vacant Seat

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

- 2425/78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were noted and accepted.
- 2425/79 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**
Cllr St John declared a non-pecuniary Interest on one of the Planning Items
- 2425/80 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None
- 2425/81 POLICE MATTERS**
Sgt Blackwood attended and gave a report on local issues and initiatives. Cllrs asked for advice on illegal parking, recent burglaries in the area, electric scooter dangers to pedestrians.
- 2425/82 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES COUNCIL MEETINGS ON**
The minutes from the Full Council Meeting on October 2nd 2024 were noted & agreed.
- 2425/83 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING AND DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING**



Agenda Item 2425/15- COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER a)

GP health Equipment Donation

Cllrs attended a presentation and opening of the Health Kiosk at Manor View Practice. Posted on Social Media once the clerk had got confirmation of the post details from the surgery.

Agenda Item 2425/19- FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – Stairlift

Stairlift seat still has to have a bespoke fitting mechanism built. Awaiting confirmation of date.

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

Pleased to say that the three illegal clothes banks have no been removed from the Parish. The Clerk spoke to the owner of the charity and gave advice about placing bins without permission from the landowner. We also now have a company in place that will remove the bins if they are placed illegally in the future.

Agenda Item 2425/70 – PLANNING – 24/154/FUL

The Clerk wrote in objecting to this application as agreed by Council

Agenda Item 2425/73 - SOUTH OXHEY REDEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The Clerk wrote to our local MP Gagan Mohindra asking for help overturning the decision to leave the steps at Station Approach. Sadly, no response was received to this initial email or the emails he was subsequently cc'd in.

Other Items of Note

- HCC have asked for a meeting relating to the land situated below Oxhey Jets Pitch
- Activities poster created for our classes next year. We are talking to “social prescribers” from the GP surgeries, The CAB, Home Start and Active Watford & Three Rivers, to get the classes filled with people who really need them.
- Land at the Mead has been rotivated for seeds

2425/84

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 from Oxhey Safer Neighbourhood team for their Mini-Police schools project. Proposal: To fund the £500 requested. Unanimously Agreed.

RESOLVED

b) Mobile mast consultation, Pearkes House, South Oxhey. Cllrs had a full and frank discussion. It was decided that no comment would be made.

c) Cllrs discussed an email from a resident who’s daughter is struggling in poor living conditions. The clerk was asked to write to the Housing Association and the relevant departments of TRDC to express concerns.

[9pm – Cllr St John left the room]

2425/85

PLANNING

24/1659/FUL - Council asked the clerk to investigate this application, concerns about loss of light, call it in if warranted, to object if not.



[9.07pm – Cllr St John entered the room]

2425/86

MARKET

a) The Clerk gave an update on current situation. We are being stonewalled by TRDC regarding any updates on the Traffic Regulation order for Henbury Way Car Park, and for the Market Trader Parking fees, despite numerous emails and phone call attempts. The Clerk has contacted one of the local schools to ask if we could hire their grounds for trader parking. Awaiting any update.
b) The revised tender document sent by our consultant was examined by Council. Proposal: To accept all the revisions and proposed timetable for the tender document. In addition, to agree to purchase 30 (WRPC branded) gazebos circa £30k. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/87

VILLAGE GREEN STATUS – OXHEY PLAYING FIELDS

TRDC’s legal team have not been convinced by the evidence put forward by the clerk that they can continue their existing income stream if the application goes ahead. The council are minded to agree that that risk is not acceptable, and was not our intention when we petitioned TRDC to undertake this. Should TRDC not be happy in its current form, going forward we will ask TRDC to omit the area used for income generation, and go ahead with the remaining area. Hopefully HCC will allow an amendment.

2425/88

SOUTH OXHEY REDEVELOPMENT ISSUES

HCC met Countryside to discuss our concerns. Allegedly, Countryside have now agreed to remove the Station Approach barriers and rebuild the steps to make them safe for ALL users. The other issues with steps and paving around the central retail outlet will be looked at by a HCC snagging team. The issues with Lidl’s lorries blocking the road and difficult exiting from the car park will be covered by a HCC road safety Audit in the new year. Hopefully, Countryside will be asked to restructure to allow an articulated lorry more turning room.

The issues with deliveries at unsocial hours will be looked at by the Clerk. He will try to get all the affected residents into a group and go to TRDC environmental Health to enforce on Lidl’s to cease these deliveries. (should be 7am to 7pm)

2425/89

RENTAL OFFICE, OXHEY DRIVE

Once again, TRDC are stonewalling. No information about the proposed lease has been provided, despite promises. The Clerk to continue chasing.

South Oxhey Radio Taxis lease issues are still ongoing.

[9.28pm - Proposal: to suspend Standing Orders and have another 10 mins to finish the Agenda. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**]

2425/90

GREENFIELD AVENUE PARK - WORKS

Council discussed the revised quote on extending the path (alongside the inclusive swing), the addition of adult gym equipment, and the resurfacing and repainting of the basketball area.



Proposal: To accept the quotes and get all the works done together. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/91

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) September 2024 Payments and Receipts were noted and approved.
- b) NJC pay scale 2024-2025 was noted and agreed.
- c) Utilities Contract Renewal. Proposal: To choose Scottish Power from the three quotes provided. 3 Year contract for Gas & Electric. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
- d) Kitchen CCTV – Proposal: Agree for a CCTV camera to be installed in the kitchen for security purposes. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
- e) Christmas Closing Dates. Proposal: To close the office from December 21st to Jan 1st. Staff do not have to take this as leave. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
- f) Election date for the vacant South Oxhey Ward is Thursday December 12th

2425/92

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllrs chose the winners of the School Christmas Funday Poster competition

The meeting finished at 9.38pm. Next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th December 2024 @7.30pm