



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 2nd October @ 7.30pm Parish Hall**

Attendance: Councillor Angela Arnold
 Councillor Valerie Coltman
 Councillor Hrithik Dattani
 Councillor Joan King (Chair)
 Councillor Stephen King
 Councillor Alison Scarth
 Councillor Sakhana Uthayakumar

Apologies: Councillor Mashkoor Khan
 Councillor Clare Leahy (V-Chair)
 Councillor Sean McCluskey
 Councillor Jason St John
 Councillor William Waite
 Councillor Joanna Walker

Non-Attendance:

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

- 2425/62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were noted and accepted.
- 2425/63 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**
None
- 2425/64 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None
- 2425/65 POLICE MATTERS**
No officers could attend
- 2425/66 PRESENTATION FROM WATFORD & THREE RIVERS TRUST CHARITY**
Cllrs were shown what this charity is currently doing in our Parish and discussed ways we can work together in the future.
- 2425/67 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES COUNCIL MEETINGS ON**
The following minutes were noted & agreed:
 - a) Full Council Meeting on September 4th 2024
 - b) Events Committee on September 4th 2024



c) Amended minutes from July 15th 2024

2425/68

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

Allegedly the Health Kiosk will be in situ October Now. Date yet to be confirmed. Plaque has been designed and ordered as per last meetings design.

Agenda Item 2425/19- FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – Stairlift

Stairs have been recarpeted after damage caused by the install. The stairlift company have agreed to pay the costs of the carpet. Swivel mechanism being refitted in the future.

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

Still in situ, causing consternation to the residents with the detritus left all around the bin. The Clerk contacted the owner of the Charity responsible. They have been asked to remove within 14 days or we will ask for a removal firm to remove them free of charge.

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

Still heard nothing from TRDC on whether the appeal was successful. We must now assume that is the end of it.

Agenda Item 2425/56 – PLANNING

24/1292/FUL – 2, The Mead

The Clerk wrote in objecting to this planning application as requested by Cllr Coltman. Concerns about flooding and highways issues being the main planning aspects of concern.

24/1267/PDND – Oxhey Driving Range

The Clerk left a message with the landowner’s surveyor to discuss this land. They did return the call but subsequent attempts to contact them have failed. The Clerk will continue to chase.

Agenda Item 2425/61 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Para-gliding legislation

The Clerk found guidelines that flyers must follow and sent them to Cllrs via email

Other Items of Note

- We are now set up for selling excess electricity, generated by our Solar Panels to Scottish Power.
- The Clerk was contacted by the GP surgery on Oxhey Drive and two residents about not being able to get Disabled Car Parking Spaces. Despite numerous requests, TRDC have not sent any policy or process document to allow any challenges or follow ups. A freedom of Information request has been sent, which they have acknowledged. They are now awaiting Watford Borough Council to send their process, as they deal with these requests. The clerk will then try and help get some allocated.
- New double noticeboard (WRPC one side, TRDC the other) has been installed in the middle block of the South Oxhey redevelopment. Countryside have funded.
- TRDC have finally got around to sorting out the Monolith Signage for CP and SO. This one has been selected. It was decided not to include individual shops, but to signpost places of interest, as well as have an illustrated map of the locale and the wider area, with walking times included. They are checking install permissions and sending through designs.
- Successful Over 55’s Activity grant bid from National Lottery. £17500 to provide free activities. To start in 2025



2425/69 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 The Consulting Rooms (GP surgery Oxhey Drive) £7000 for medical diagnosis equipment to help the community. Proposal: to give £7000 towards the medical equipment. The clerk to organise a plaque to commemorate. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

b) The letter of thanks from Carpenders Park Community Hall Association, for our grant for their hall, was noted and appreciated.

2425/70 PLANNING

24/154/FUL - Council asked the clerk to object to this HMO application, mainly due to their concerns about parking that this may bring.

2425/71 MARKET

The Chair & Clerk gave an update on current situation. We are still waiting on TRDC to come back the Council regarding the Traffic Regulation order for Henbury Way Car Park, and for the Market Trader Parking fees. Poor communication on when these decisions will be made. The clerk had received a quote for our chosen market consultant to undertake work on the tender and application process. Proposal: To accept the fees laid out in the market consultant's email. Unanimously Agreed.

RESOLVED

2425/72 VILLAGE GREEN STATUS – OXHEY PLAYING FIELDS

TRDC have explained that if they go ahead with the application, there is a good chance they will lose the right to generate income from hiring out the area as football pitches and for events etc. If this is the case then Council agreed unanimously that they would support TRDC and pull the application, but to first try, if allowed, to remove the lower plateau from the application, and leave the remainder. The Clerk is still chasing the Open Space Society and the Campaign to Protect Rural England for definitive advice, but the officers who deal with these are on leave and the deadline is looming.

2425/73 SOUTH OXHEY REDEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The Clerk met with HCC Highways: A positive meeting, with agreement on both sides that the safety issues at Station Approach need fixing, the disabled bays need remarking, the issues with Lidl's lorries blocking the road to name but a few. However, since then, they have refused to communicate with the Clerk, despite chasing. Council asked for the clerk to write to the local MP Gagan Mohindra to ask for his help, and to also post the issues on Social Media to see if the community can give some impetus to change.

2425/74 RENTAL OFFICE, OXHEY DRIVE

TRDC have now stated that they do not have a breakdown of costs for the alleged £60-80k. They state this is how much it will take to get the rent office leasable, which they expect us to pay. They have a Property Investment Board (PIB) making the decision to take on our request to lease it for a peppercorn rent for an ideal timeline



of 30 years, (but 10 was proposed by them). TRDC have not replied as to who is part of this PIB, or when they are meeting. South Oxhey Radio Taxis are still in dispute over leasing matters with TRDC, which the Clerk has offered to help with sorting. Proposal: To allow the Clerk to work on South Oxhey Radio Taxis behalf to resolve this matter. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/75

ADULT GYM EQUIPMENT – GREENFIELD AVENUE PLAY AREA

Council discussed the partial quote and were keen to progress the work based on the indicated design. There were concerns raised about the drainage system installed in that area, which we are awaiting feedback on. Proposal: Should the full quote follow the indicative pricing given for the 6 pieces of equipment (10 in total), Council delegate authority to the Clerk to agree to go ahead with the install of Adult Gym Equipment. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

The clerk raised that the tarmac around the basketball hoop was now a trip hazard and needed to be fixed. Proposal: The clerk delegated power to agree the quote, once it arrives, so that the chosen supplier can undertake this work whilst on site for the other agreed projects here. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/76

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) August 2024 Payments and Receipts were noted and approved.
- b) External Audit report. Noted and agreed. The Chair thanked the Clerk and staff for receiving a clean bill of health.
- c) Pre budget discussion about any future projects that Council wishes to achieve. This item was postponed to the following meeting.
- d) Winter Warm Hubs. Discussion held about whether our Council continue to support local charities and churches for promoting these spaces. Proposal. To once again donate £500 to those groups running Warm Hubs over Winter to help those in need. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
- e) New dog bin – Birkdale Gdns, South Oxhey. Proposal: Should the landowner (believed to be TRDC) agree, to install, and arrange collection for, a new dog bin at Birkdale Gardens. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
- f) Councillor Vacancy. Due to the resignation of a ‘Councillor recently, the Clerk went through the process. A vacancy notice has been placed on noticeboards and our website. Should anyone wish to call an election, the clerk showed the costs (based on 2023 invoices from TRDC). Interest in calling an election has been shown. This would take place before the end of January. If no election called, Council will follow the Co-option policy in place.

2425/77

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting finished at 9.30pm. Next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th November 2024 @7.30pm