



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 4th December @ 7.30pm Parish Hall**

Attendance: Councillor Angela Arnold
Councillor Valerie Coltman
Councillor Hrithik Dattani
Councillor Mashkoor Khan
Councillor Joan King (Chair) 1
Councillor Stephen King
Councillor Sean McCluskey
Councillor Alison Scarth
Councillor Jason St John
Councillor Joanna Walker
NB One Vacant Seat

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

Non-Attendance: Councillor William Waite

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

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- 2425/93 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were noted and accepted.

 - 2425/94 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**
None

 - 2425/95 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None

 - 2425/96 POLICE MATTERS**
Sgt Blackwood attended and gave a report on local issues and initiatives.

 - 2425/97 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES COUNCIL MEETINGS ON**
The minutes from the Full Council Meeting on November 6th 2024 were noted & agreed.

 - 2425/98 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE LAST FULL COUNCIL MEETING AND DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING**

Agenda Item 2425/19- FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – Stairlift
Stairlift seat has now been fixed to allow the swivel to accommodate users more easily.



Agenda Item 2425/73 - SOUTH OXHEY REDEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The Clerk is pleased to say that Countryside agreed to undertake remedial action to make the steps usable and safe for all. However, since that was agreed, they have ignored emails asking for timelines. HCC have promised that officers will investigate the other matters of unsafe steps and missing tactile paving near the central retail unit. They have also promised to address the Lidl's lorry turning issue and the poor visibility coming out of the car park when they do their Road Safety Audit. They too are ignoring requests to know when this date is.

The issues, that the poor markings in Station Approach are causing disabled drivers, remain. HCC stated they were happy to leave as is. Upon researching, the Clerk found that this section of Station Approach had not been built to the defined plans in the original Planning application 16/0005/FUL. Therefore, he logged a breach of planning notice on the developer. The Clerk met with TRDC enforcement officer who agreed that this was a breach, and he would serve notice on them to make amendments and provide clear, safety markings too.

In addition, one of the conditions placed upon the developer was to provide an electronic parking sign for the Car park at Station Approach. This has not been done so the Clerk logged a further breach of Planning Notice. This too was agreed by TRDC enforcement, and they will ask the developer to install.

Unfortunately, the Clerk has not had time to visit all the residents of the block that may be being affected by the anti-social hours that the Lidl's lorries are turning up. He will do when workload allows.

Agenda Item 2425/84 c) COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER

The Clerk has liaised with the family experiencing poor living conditions. Due to ill health, he has been unable to visit the property at the time of writing. An external inspection of the property has highlighted concerns about the standard of service maintenance though, so evidence to get some action may be stronger

Agenda Item 2425/85 – PLANNING – 24/1659/FUL – 45 Hillcroft Crescent

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

Agenda Item 2425/87 – VILLAGE GREEN STATUS

We are waiting on a further meeting on this, but TRDC are also minded to amend the location boundaries to include all areas that fall outside the scope of possible income revenue (i.e. the top and middle sections). Whether HCC will allow an amendment is not known at this point.

Agenda Item 2425/89 – RENTAL OFFICE, OXHEY DRIVE

Despite constant requests, TRDC are still not providing information to allow us to plan anything with regards to this property. That said, the Foodbank are now going to be located at the Methodist Church on Prestwick Road, though other community uses could be applied, should a favourable outcome still be met. The issues with South Oxhey Radio Taxis remain. TRDC have not supplied the contested bills for the Clerk to investigate, nor have they supplied any information on their investigation.

Allegedly, there is a meeting on the 13th December with the Property & Investment Board, so we may find out more soon.

Other Items of Note

- Council wrote to Thrive Homes about a flooded entranceway at 26-29 Gleneagles Close. They have made the area provisionally safe until burst pipe issues have been allocated ownership between themselves and Affinity Water.
- The Clerk contacted TRDC Leisure team to ask them to start collecting dog waste from the bins they have on their parkland (south Oxhey playing Fields & Oulton Wat Park). Why we collect from their land when they have employees there daily, emptying litter bins and dog waste in the case of SO playing fields, has never been established, nor makes any logical sense. To keep the red tape to a minimum we proposed swapping ones on the highway which would keep a logical route for our waste collectors.



- TRDC confirmed we could not retrospectively apply for CIL funds for the Adult Play equipment
- Christmas Lights switched on 28th November. Lovely tree this year!
- TRDC have confirmed they will do the Parish Council election count at our Parish Building

2425/99 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) **Licence Consultation South Oxhey News** – No Objection with the granting of this licence
- b) **Licence Consultation Premier Food & Wine** – No Objection with the granting of this licence
- c) Watford & Three Rivers Trust Charity asked if we could host a community event for free. Proposal: To offer the hall free on dates that are available, and to match fund any costs associated from the Chairpersons allowance. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/100 PLANNING

24/1830/FUL – Cllr St John declared an interest. Council asked the Clerk to clarify updated application for this address. He explained a slight difference between designs, but all reasons discussed previously remained so WRPC’s agreed position at the last meeting remained.

2425/101 MARKET

- a) The Clerk gave an update on current situation. TRDC have come back with no offer of a discount to the Market Trader Permits, nor the proposed Traffic Regulation Order. Some Operators have asked for the tender to be sent ASAP.
- b) Potential deal could be made with a local School to allow parking on their grounds. Potential legal costs for a licence being covered by WRPC were requested. Proposal: If an agreement can be reached, that WRPC covers the school’s legal fees in drawing up the usage licence. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
Proposal: The Clerk to continue discussions and alert TRDC when and if we do not need their involvement at the earliest opportunity. Once we have a concrete decision, to amend the tender and send out immediately. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/102 GREENFIELD AVENUE PARK - WORKS

The council were made aware of the dissatisfaction of residents to the proposed Gym Equipment. The chosen supplier had drawn up plans for it to be located on the upper plateau of the land. Additional costs to create a pathway were prohibitive and the location was deemed too isolated. Proposal: To not go ahead with the installation of gym equipment and to seek alternative locations in the future should they become available. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/103 ALTHAM WAY MEADOW

A meeting took place with Herts County Council officers to discuss this parcel of land situated beneath the Oxhey Jets playing field. They asked if our Council was interested in looking after this parcel of land. In addition, if we would also take over



the parcel containing Oxhey Jets Pitch & Clubhouse. Proposal: Council agrees in principle, to take over management of the land and to sub lease to Oxhey Jets, if all parties agree in the future. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

The Clerk to work out any potential costs and add it to the Budget workings for discussion in January's meeting.

2425/104 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) October 2024 Payments and Receipts were noted and approved.
- b) Internal Audit Mid year Report was noted. The Chair and cllrs thanked the staff for their efforts
- c) The Clerk read through the prepared report. Highlighted that a predicted storm may lead to the cancellation of the funfair rides.

2425/105 BUDGET PLANNING

Council went through the recommendations. To finalise in January upon receipt of the Council Tax Base from Three Rivers District Council.

2425/106 EARMARKED RESERVES

Council discussed potential projects. Proposal: Earmarked Reserves to be set at £188,000. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/107 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting finished at 9.25pm. Next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 @7.30pm