



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 15th January @ 7.30pm Parish Hall**

Attendance: Councillor Angela Arnold
Councillor Valerie Coltman
Councillor Mashkoor Khan
Councillor Danielle King
Councillor Stephen King
Councillor Clare Leahy (V-Chair)
Councillor Sean McCluskey
Councillor Alison Scarth
Councillor Jason St John
Councillor Sakhana Uthayakumar
Councillor Joanna Walker
NB One Vacant Seat

Apologies: Councillor Hrithik Dattani
Councillor Joan King (Chair)

Non-Attendance:

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

Due to the Chairpersons absence, Cllr Leahy was proposed and unanimously agreed to Chair the meeting.

- 2425/108 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were noted and accepted.
- 2425/109 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**
None
- 2425/110 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None
- 2425/111 POLICE MATTERS**
No Police attended
- 2425/112 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES COUNCIL MEETINGS ON**
The minutes from the Full Council Meeting on December 4th 2024 were noted & agreed.
- 2425/113 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE LAST FULL COUNCIL MEETING AND DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING**



Agenda Item 2425/73 - SOUTH OXHEY REDEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Despite promising Station Approach barriers will be removed and the steps fixed, Countryside are ignoring the Clerks requests for updates and timelines on this and all the other outstanding issues reported. TRDC have confirmed they are officially enforcing, though not on Countryside, but the new owners of the land. The Clerk will clarify for the next meeting.so hopefully, this will sharpen their focus. The Clerk is also yet to hear from HCC when the Safety Audits are done. List includes:

Station Approach

- Making all the steps safe and usable
- Disabled space markings
- Electronic public parking (number of spaces) signage
- Lamp posts upgraded to allow festive lights

Other

- Incorrect signage Tom Lake Way
- Missing corrugated paving Tom Lake Way
- Lidls Cargo Bay and exit issues, Oxhey Drive
- X2 Bollards need replacing Market Square

Agenda Item 2425/84 c) COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER – poor living conditions

The Clerk left an open invitation to the resident to visit the property. No invite was forthcoming in December. They are now in communication with the local MP. The Clerk offered to help if they wanted it.

Other Items of Note

- The Clerk hasn't had a decision from TRDC Leisure team on our request for them to start collecting dog waste from the bins they have on their own parkland (South Oxhey playing Fields & Oulton Way Park).

2425/114 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) Abbots Langley PC Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

No comments were put forward

b) 107 Greenfield Avenue Insurance Claim update from our insurers

Our insurers have written back to the claimant and stated that they need to contact TRDC over the initial planning application being at fault. Council noted our insurers report

c) TRDC Licensing fee consultation

No comments were put forward

d) Invitation to have a meeting with GS8 regarding development on Oxhey Lane

Council agreed to an online video meeting. The Clerk to liaise about times & dates

2425/115 PLANNING

24/2026/FUL – Council resolved to object to this application, based on loss of parking



24/2031/FUL – Council resolved for the Clerk to object should the CP cllrs investigate and agree that it warrants it.

2425/116 MARKET

The Clerk gave an update on current situation. 4 of the 6 operators initially interested have confirmed receipt of the tender.
We will find out from Warren Dell Board of Governors if they accept our proposal for Market Trader Parking, at the end of January

2425/117 ALTHAM WAY MEADOW

The Clerk gave an update on the current situation. Herts County Council wanted a steer from Council as to what to do with some areas before any handover takes place. NB These actions will be undertaken by TRDC according to dialogue with HCC. Namely

To remove the damaged waste high fencing located in the centre of the land.
Remove the full length of fencing of the Artificial pitch, ask for the surface to be removed and re-grassed.

The pathway to the pitch to be repaired.

In addition to ask for:

The pathway through the woodland to be restored to original condition
Surveyor's reports to be undertaken on the land. There is significant flooding to the South East of the parcel as well as running water to the South.
Plans for the Day Care Centre and Residential Care Home

Furthermore:

To ask the owner of the Jets to come down to the next meeting to discuss the future relationship, should we agree to the whole parcel coming under us. Concerns were raised about the lack of parking for match days and events which may have to be part of Councils future plans.

Cllrs expressed concern that there are a lot of unanswered questions, and the deadline is looming. Agreement of the transfer/lease and the future use of the pitch area will be undertaken once all the information is at hand. If transferred, it was generally felt this may be a more acceptable risk.

2425/118 35/37 OXHEY DRIVE – BUILDING RENTAL

Council discussed TRDC's offer of a 3-year lease. As this was significantly less than the term we requested (minimum 10 year), Council unanimously felt they have no way forward to put this building to community use. The Clerk to inform TRDC

2425/119 SOUTH OXHEY PLAYING FIELDS – VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION

The Council discussed TRDC's amended plan for the South Oxhey Playing Fields to be given Village Green Status. Proposal: To accept the amended plan and go forward with the VG status application. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**



[9.30 pm] Chair proposed to suspend STANDING ORDERS and extend the meeting for another 10 minutes. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/120 FUNDAY EVENT

The review and recommendations of the staff were noted, and nothing was contested. Everyone agreed that the Market and the food were excellent additions to what we offer. The Clerk had to ask for a resolution to hire a professional Father Christmas and to agree to the length of hire as they are highly sought after . Proposal: to Hire a Professional Father Christmas for 2 hours for next year’s fun day. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED.**

Two Cllrs brought up if we could hold the summer event at Oxhey Wood School, but it was suggested by the Clerk, and agreed by Council to wait to make that decision until the Chairman (also Chair of the Events Committee) was in the next available meeting.

2425/121 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a) November 2024 Payments and Receipts were noted and approved.
- b) Councillor Vacancy. The Clerk confirmed the vacancy for the ward of Ashridge and that the vacancy notice had been posted.

[9.45pm] Chair proposed to extend the meeting until Precept was finalised. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2425/122 BUDGET PLANNING

Precept 2025-2026

The Precept was set and agreed in principle, but Council had concerns regarding the Band D tax base. It dropped significantly whereas the number of new properties must have increased considerably. The Clerk to seek clarification and information as to why.

It was agreed to place the Earmarked Reserves figures back on the agenda for the next meeting to address the potential takeover of the Land containing Oxhey Jets.

2425/123 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bus employees were caught idling by one of the cllrs, who will contact the bus company.

The meeting finished at 9.55pm. Next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th February 2025 @7.30pm, following the events committee at 7pm