

**Wokingham Without Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Monday 2nd December 2019**

In the Howard Palmer Room, St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride

Commencing 7:45pm and concluding at 21:03 pm

Present: Councillors D Dye, R Fenny, L Foxwell, B Gough, C Lancaster, D Latimer, N Martin, K Newland, A Plume, J Rogers and S Turtle. Katy Hughes - Clerk, Sharon Way – Assistant Clerk. Borough Councillor C Bowring. Joyce Stoner and one member of the public KO.

Apologies: Councillor P Stephens. Borough Councillors P Helliard-Symons and A Ross.

19/139 WELCOME

Cllr Newland welcomed everyone to the meeting.

19/140 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Stephens, and Borough Cllrs Helliard-Symons and Ross.

19/141 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

19/142 TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th November 2019

Cllr Newland invited comments from the floor. Following a proposal from Cllr Fenny and seconded by Cllr Foxwell it was:

RESOLVED: Minutes of the 4th November 2019 were AGREED and signed.

19/143 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 4th November 2019

None.

19/144 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

19/145 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS BRIEFING

Cllr Bowring provided a briefing. Wokingham Without Borough Councillors met with WBC officers to discuss Oaklands Lane. A traffic survey carried out in September found that traffic speeds are low therefore for legal reasons it will not be possible to provide speed limiters or block the road. Posts are being installed which provides some pedestrian refuge. The Clerk will contact Andrew Fletcher to obtain details. Cllr Plume reported that the first neighbourhood plan consultation had been held at Hatch Ride school and parents had stated that they wanted Oaklands Lane to be left as it is. Cllr Bowring welcomed any comments from members.

The Ravenswood planning application has been refused.

19/146 CLERKS REPORT

On 5th November the Clerk and Cllr Newland met with Blandy's to progress leases. The sublease Heads of Terms have been sent to tenants and WWPC is awaiting feedback from Herrington Carmichael.

The hedges and planting at Greenwood Road shops were trimmed back and our Litter Warden has cleared away some of the litter and waste within the planted area.

On 11th November the Clerk met with CPC and CROW to investigate joint working options for the council's green initiatives (e.g. recycling at Pinewood).

On 13th November the Clerk attended a Clerks' Forum.

On 15th November the Clerk met with the WBC Localities team to progress the community clean up initiative. There were suggestions of how to take this forward – the Clerk will contact members in due course.

On 21st and 26th November the Clerk met with the accountant to prepare year end budget forecasts and start to prepare the budget. The finance WG will meet on 10th December to review and make recommendations for the 2020-21 budget, which will be put to council at January's meeting.

The Clerk met the Fit for Life team to plan the 1 year anniversary event, which will be held on 22nd January.

The Clerk contacted the planning officer for the parish office extension, and it seems very likely that the application will be refused, based on the impact on the trees. A solution is being sought via a meeting with WBC's tree officer.

The Clerk noted that the SDL Forum meeting planned for 18th November had been postponed and requested Cllr Bowring's assistance to ensure that another community forum was organised in the near future to allow the Wokingham Without community to learn about the plans and ask questions, before all the planning applications have been determined.

19/147 VERBAL REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

- i) On 6th November Cllr Fenny attended a meeting with Judy Kelly re WBC traffic forecasting. The principal question - the contradiction between the 2026 traffic forecast in the Ravenswood application and WBC's assertion that the SDL forecast has not been completed - was not answered. The Clerk followed this up with an email to Judy Kelly and is awaiting a response.
- ii) On 7th November Cllr Plume attended the Connecting Communities in Berkshire AGM and training meeting. Various presentations were made by architects on energy saving solutions, which may be applicable to the community hub and other community venues.
- iii) On 12th November Cllrs Foxwell, Plume & Stephens attended the Car Park project meeting with Karl Grover of KPG Associates. A two part solution was agreed; in the long term the north gate area will be opened up, in the short term the issues addressed will comprise the speed humps, cycle parking, extra parking and widening the exit lane to two lanes. The Clerk confirmed that the proposals will be brought to the Working Group for Public Spaces and Amenities.
- iv) On 12th November the Clerk met with Sarah Squire, Squires Garden Centre
- v) On 13th November Cllrs Foxwell & Latimer visited the RE3 recycling centre, where waste is sorted and packaged. Cllr Foxwell noted that bottle tops should be left on

- and the bottle crushed or cut.
- vi) On 15th November the Clerk met David Hare of the WBC Localities Team, regarding the community clean-up of pavements and footpaths overgrown with vegetation and leaf mulch. The proposed date for this activity is 2nd February - refreshments will be provided. Promotion and advertising for volunteers will be undertaken.
 - vii) On 19th November Cllr Plume and the Clerk met with Romans regarding parking. Suggestions were received on ways in which Romans could be involved in the Pinewood car par project.
 - viii) Cllrs Plume and Lancaster attended the first Neighbourhood Plan Consultation on 23rd November. The community engagement was welcomed by the attending public and there was good sign-up to the WWPC Newsletter.
 - ix) Cllr Newland and the Clerk met with Blandy & Blandy on 5 November. Sublease Heads of Terms for all tenants were issued to Herrington Carmichael, who have responded back to Blandy & Blandy. Blandy & Blandy are working up the full subleases which are expected to be sent out by the end of the year. Blandy and Blandy have not yet commented back on the Head Lease with WBC.

19/148 FUEL CARD

Following a proposal from Cllr Rogers and seconded by Cllr Turtle it was:

RESOLVED: The application for a parish council fuel card, for purchasing fuel for the Kubota (as described in the Decision Paper included as Appendix 10 to the Agenda) was AGREED.

19/149 GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) To review and approve the recommendations for grants for 2019/20.

Following a proposal from Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Plume it was:

RESOLVED: The recommendations for grant applications 2019-20 included as Appendix 11a to the Agenda were AGREED.

- ii) To consider a request to match fund Sports awards

The Clerk outlined the decision paper submitted as Appendix 11b to the agenda. Following a proposal from Cllr Turtle and seconded by Cllr Foxwell it was:

RESOLVED: The proposal to match fund applications to the Wokingham Borough Sports Sponsorship Fund (WBSSF) included as Appendix 11b to the Agenda was AGREED.

- iii) To consider whether the grant programme be re-opened

The Clerk explained that the issue to be agreed was whether the grant programme should be re-opened to applicants in order to allow the possibility of spending any remaining grant budget. Cllr Newland proposed that if an application for funding was received this would be considered on its merits.

19/150 PINWOOD BANNER POLICY

Following a proposal from Cllr Plume and seconded by Cllr Turtle it was:

RESOLVED: The Pinewood Banner Policy included as Appendix 12 to the Agenda was AGREED.

19/151 FINANCIAL INFORMATION - papers circulated prior to meeting

- a) Report on outstanding balances was received and noted.

- b) Cheques for signature and payments both made and still to be made were approved and signed. No queries were raised.
- c) A detailed income and expenditure report and financial performance against budget report was received and noted.
- d) A report of total salary expenditure to date for the year was received and noted.
- e) A revised list of approved contractors and suppliers was received and approved.

19/152 PLANNING/LICENCE APPLICATIONS

No	Site	Comments
192827	53 Waterloo Crescent Wokingham RG40 3JJ	No comment.
192916	31 Marigold Close Wokingham RG45 6TY	No comment.
192692	62 New Wokingham Road Crowthorne RG45 6JJ	No comment.
192694	62 New Wokingham Road Crowthorne RG45 6JJ	No comment.
192756	1 The Hollies Old Wokingham Road Wokingham RG40 3BV	Wokingham Without Parish Council have no objection to this application provided the planning officer is satisfied there is adequate parking for a property of this size. Members noted that the plans state only a "possible parking" area by the barn.

- **SWDR Application (192928)**
See appendix 19/151a for comments.
- **BFC Revised Growth Strategy Consultation**
See appendix 19/151b for comments.

19/153 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr Newland expressed his thanks and appreciation of the work of WWPC members and officers over the last year which continues to do more and more to benefit the parish of Wokingham Without.

19/154 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS:

Cllr Gough requested that the following issues be raised at a future meeting

- Measures to prevent on-street parking.
- Possibility of grant funding to assist those sleeping rough on the streets.

19/155 MEETING CLOSED AT 21:03 PM

Date of next meeting – Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.15pm in the Howard Palmer Room on Monday 13th January 2020.

Signed:

Date: 13th January 2020

Wokingham Without Parish Council’s comments on the SWDR application - 192928

192928	Land South of Wokingham, East of Finchampstead Road, and West of Waterloo Road, Wokingham.	Full planning application for the construction of the South Wokingham Distributor Road (SWDR) and associated works between Finchampstead Road and Waterloo Road.
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Comments:

The main congestion currently occurs:

- a) At the Nine Mile Ride/Heathlands Road traffic lights during morning and evening busy periods.
- b) At the Heathlands Road/Easthampstead Road junction but primarily the northbound traffic.
- c) At the Waterloo Road/Easthampstead junction due to northbound traffic turning right into Waterloo Road.
- d) At the junction of Old Wokingham Road and Nine Mile Ride during the evening peak period where southbound traffic on Old Wokingham Road usually backs up beyond the Easthampstead Road junction.

(b) and (c) are greatly exacerbated by the railway level crossing on the Easthampstead Road which will become worse as the frequency of rail traffic increases.

The proposed distributor road will alleviate some of the congestion problems since it will facilitate traffic heading for the A329M along Easthampstead Road to turn right before the level crossing instead of along Waterloo Road. However, it is extremely likely that the proposed junction of the by-pass road and Easthampstead Road will continue to be blocked by traffic queueing to cross the railway crossing thereby preventing traffic intending to turn right onto the by-pass from doing so.

Given that we are not going to get a bridge over Starlane Crossing, which would alleviate the congestion at peak times. We would need to have traffic lights at the junction of EH Road and the “SD Road”. These would need to be timed in sequence with the railway crossing and for this to be effective there would need to be a right hand filter lane along Easthampstead Road all the way back to Heathlands Road.

With regard to Honey Hill Lane, the lane does not need any traffic calming measures. The winding, narrow nature of the lane already effectively calms traffic. It would be wrong to try and discourage traffic from using Honey Hill as an alternative to Easthampstead Road. It makes sense to try and spread the traffic along all available routes rather than try to force them to stick to one route which then becomes even more congested.

There is much concern regarding the likely growth of traffic on Heathlands Road and Nine Mile Ride going to and from the SWDR. We would question why it has been deemed that “no mitigation” is necessary for this particular junction. WWPC notes that Wokingham Borough Council’s own planning documentation states that the South Wokingham development should be ‘nil detriment’. With this in mind how can there be no mitigation for the Heathlands Road/Nine Mile Ride junction when congestion of such magnitude is forecast.

WWPC Comments:

Emerging Bracknell Forest Plan (2019-2036)

Revised Growth Strategy Consultation – Friday 25th October until Friday 6th December 2019.

Wokingham Without Parish Council have the following comments on sites in close proximity to our parish:

Beaufort Park

WWPC welcome the reinstatement of the Strategic Gap between Crowthorne and Bracknell, but are disappointed that the function of the gap has been downgraded to simply landscape character rather than to prevent the coalescence of settlements. This is contrary to the evidence base and suggestions can be provided as to how this could be improved.

Derby Fields

WWPC welcome the provision of additional parking at Crowthorne Rail Station but are disappointed that a comprehensive transport plan including bus service provision is not included in the current proposals. WWPC consider that careful provision must be made for traffic access from the development onto Dukes Ride and Wokingham Road. WWPC note that there is currently no SANG provision and suggest that the number of houses should be reduced to enable this on-site.

In general the Revised Growth strategy should consider the impact of the proposed developments on the air quality in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Beaufort Park is particularly close to the SPA and there will be, for example, an impact from the houses and traffic at an already congested junction (Golden Retriever).