

**Wokingham Without Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Monday 6th July 2020**

Via Zoom Video Conference

Commencing 7:30pm and concluding at 9:05pm

- Present:** Councillors J Cannon, D Dye, R Fenny, D Latimer, N Martin, C Lancaster
K Newland, A Plume, J Rogers, P Stephens and S Turtle. Katy Hughes - Clerk, Sharon Way –
Assistant Clerk.
- Apologies:** Councillors B Gough and L Foxwell. Borough Councillors A Ross, P Helliar-Symons and C
Bowring.

At the time of this meeting both NALC and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) have asked local councils to stop holding any physical meetings or gatherings. This includes full council, committee meetings, annual parish or council meetings. In order to comply with NALC guidance, this meeting was undertaken using Zoom video conferencing.

In line with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meeting) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, Part 2, item 5: 5.—(1) A reference in any enactment to a meeting of a local authority is not limited to a meeting of persons all of whom, or any of whom, are present in the same place and any reference to a “place” where a meeting is held, or to be held, includes reference to more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.

20/33 WELCOME

Cllr Newland welcomed everyone to the meeting.

20/34 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Gough and Foxwell. Borough Councillors Ross, Helliar-Symons and Bowring.

20/35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/36 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a) Cllr Newland invited comments on the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 1st June 2020. No comments were made.

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

RESOLVED: Minutes of Monday 1st June were AGREED

- b) Matters arising from the minutes of the above meeting.

Cllr Fenny raised the matter of one outstanding enforcement item. The Clerk noted that WBC had opened a case, were currently investigating, and would revert to the Clerk when this was complete. Cllr Fenny asked whether any response had been received from Cllr Ross. The Clerk had not received any more information this month. Cllr Newland expressed his frustration with the situation and emphasised the need to continue to push and challenge WBC to fulfil their responsibilities. Cllr Newland instructed the Clerk to write to WBC, detailing the areas of a

potential breach of planning, and seek a response.

20/37 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

20/38 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS BRIEFING

None.

20/39 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk updated members on the issues at Bigshotte Park. Complaints have been received from many residents regarding antisocial behaviour. The matter has been raised with the WBC Antisocial Behaviour Team, plus the localities team. WBC are considering a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and various other measures to support residents impacted by the issues. A meeting will be held on 8th July with Mel Saville (CPC Clerk) and the local PCSO to discuss issues. Cllr Newland noted that the PSPO was a feasible approach that allowed police to fine those breaking the order. There are also issues with drainage, general parking, and the use of side streets as a 'race track'. The public do not feel Wokingham Borough Council are providing an adequate response. These issues have been raised with Cllr Ross, who has encouraged WWPC to lobby WBC on behalf of local residents. Cllr Stephens noted that at the Bucklers Park meeting the issue of antisocial behaviour was raised and the PCSO was not in favour of issuing fines. He suggested that WWPC should write to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley police. Cllr Fenny agreed with this approach and also to raise it with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Cllr Newland suggested that the dynamics at Bucklers Park needed to change to make it less attractive to groups of youths. The Clerk wished to pursue matters with CPC and the PCSO before taking further action.

The concrete base for the cycle shelter has been installed and the cycle shelter should arrive Mid-July (flat pack) for installation.

Regarding the Toddler Play Area, rubber mulch has been installed around the slide area and quotes have been received for fencing.

Regarding the speeding issue on the Old Wokingham Road, the Clerk and the CPC Clerk have been liaising and BFC has agreed to undertake some new monitoring of traffic and speeds on OWR once traffic levels return to normal.

Regarding CIL prioritisation, the Clerk thanked members who have returned their scoring and encouraged others to complete these forms, and provide feedback to the Clerk. The Clerk has received a request from Loddon Valley Ramblers for funding and support to replace some stiles with kissing gates.

Regarding one enforcement matter, the Clerk has raised the issue of advertising boards and queried with planning enforcement whether work being carried out is in line with planning consent.

Risk assessments for the playground re-opening have been carried out and reviewed by Cllr Turtle, and shared with members. Signage has been created, for display at playground entrances. Following numerous conversations with other Clerks and with WBC the proposed approach is that use of the playground is at the public's own risk. Hand sanitiser will not be provided, nor will equipment be sanitised. Infographic laminated posters will be placed at the entrances to the play areas. The Clerk requested feedback from members on the risk assessment. Following a request from Cllr Newland, members approved the risk assessment.

Regarding the Memorial Hall, guidelines currently permit maximum of two households to mix at this type of location. The Clerk has contacted all regular hirers of the hall. None of the respondents for the memorial hall are keen to return and are looking at circa September to return. The Clerk proposed that the hall remains closed until social distancing measures are relaxed to a sufficient extent to make it economically viable.

The Playgroup at Pinewood Hall have been operating on Tuesdays and Thursdays since 9th June. They are the only group using the hall and are taking their own responsibility for cleaning. WWPC staff are not entering the hall.

Regarding installation of the picnic benches, an auger must be hired to drill the installation holes. The playgrounds and Memorial Hall re-opening have been prioritised and the picnic bench work will follow in due course.

20/40 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE / OTHER MEETINGS

- A) CIL prioritisation workshop. Discussed under Clerk's Report.
- B) Public Spaces and Amenities Working Group 08 June 2020 and 30 June 2020. Cllr Plume noted the reports circulated with the Agenda, Appendix 8B and 8C. With respect to Appendix 8C item 2, Cllr Plume noted that there would be a working group meeting on 8th July to finalise the fencing. Regarding Appendix 8C, item 4 – the pond – the Working Group has decided that the dredging work should be completed prior to the ecological survey.

20/41 HEATHLAKE CAR PARK RESURFACING

Cllr Newland noted that a decision paper had been included as Appendix 9 to the Agenda. Cllr Newland asked whether WBC had agreed to provide funding over and above the amount proposed from WWPC, should it be required. The Clerk stated that guarantees had not been obtained from WBC that they would meet any costs exceeding the budget. Cllr Newland stated that it should be a condition of the WWPC funding that any additional sums were met by WBC.

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

RESOLVED: The decision paper was AGREED.

20/42 PINWOOD RENTAL – QUARTER 2 2020-21: AUGUST 2020

The Clerk updated members on the current situation regarding clubs at Pinewood. Some outdoor activities are starting to commence, but indoor activities are still very limited.

Cllr Plume supported waiving rents for August. Members will have a clearer idea of the situation when children go back to school in September.

Cllr Newland suggested that a phased rental increase may be required. Following a discussion about reintroducing rent, the Clerk was asked to put together a discussion paper for the next meeting.

Cllr Newland requested data to understand the effect of loss of rental income on WWPC finances. The Clerk will be able to present this information at the next meeting.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that the rents would be waived for the month of August.

20/43 TREE WORKS – TODDLER PLAYGROUND

Cllr Newland noted that a decision paper had been included as Appendix 11 to the Agenda, and noted that it appeared clear that the work needed to be done.

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

RESOLVED: The quote for tree works in the toddler playground at Pinewood was AGREED.

20/44 REQUEST FOR A COVERED SHELTER FOR THE PINEWOOD BAR AND CAFÉ OUTSIDE SPACE

Cllr Newland noted that a paper had been included in Appendix 12 of the Agenda providing details of a request for permission to install a covered outdoor shelter over the decked area outside the Pinewood Bar and Café, and summarised the proposals. Cllr Newland noted that any permission was conditional on WWPC seeing final plans and the level of agreement from WBC. Comments from members were invited. No comments were made.

Following a proposal from Cllr Latimer and seconded by Cllr Dye it was:

RESOLVED: The request for permission to install a covered outdoor shelter was AGREED.

20/45 PLANNING

The content of Appendix 13 of the Agenda was noted.

20/46 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr Newland gave an update on the current positions with regard to the subleases and noted the strong support being received from Cllr Ross.

20/47 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS:

None.

20/48 MEETING CLOSED AT 9:05 PM

Date of next meeting – Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd August 2020

Signed:

Date: 3rd August 2020