



## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Present:** Cllr Ken Newland, Cllr Seona Turtle, Cllr Janet Cannon, Cllr Janet Rogers, Cllr Aaron Plume, Cllr Richard Fenny, Cllr Nicholas Martin, Katy Hughes (Clerk), Sharon Way (Assistant Clerk) and 21 residents.

**Apologies:** Received from Cllr Paul Stephens and Lesley Foxwell and Mrs Tina McKenzie Boyle.

### **1. Welcome by Chairman of Wokingham Without Parish Council, Councillor Ken Newland**

Cllr Newland welcomed attendees and thanked them for joining us via Zoom.

### **2. Presentation from residents on a plan for a Men's Shed for Wokingham Without**

Mr Peter Keigan and Mr Phil Hart gave a presentation on a proposal and progress with setting up a Men's Shed for the Wokingham Without and Crowthorne parish areas.

Mr Keigan gave a brief history of the 'National Men's Institute' (NMI), a group established by himself and some friends locally to provide social opportunities, outings and exercise. He reported that the group had been very successful and were now looking to progress to become a Men's Shed, with a base where craft and DIY type activities could be carried out.

Mr Keigan reported on discussions with Wokingham Without Parish Council about the potential of converting the storage shed at the St Sebastian's Memorial Hall into a shed.

Mr Keigan gave some insights from the national Men's Shed organisation about the benefits that Men's Sheds group can provide in terms of improvements to mental wellbeing and reductions in loneliness and isolation.

Following the presentation, the following questions were asked:

#### **1. What hours would the shed be open and who would hold keys?**

Peter reported that these were details that would need to be established once a shed was further progressed, but that it would likely start with one day and week and build from there, as demand dictates, to potentially being open seven days a week.

#### **2. The shed at the memorial hall is currently used to store items for the art group. What will happen to these?**

The Clerk confirmed that work is currently underway to submit a planning application to Wokingham Borough Council to create storage at Pinewood, and that if successful, the art group would be offered the opportunity for their display stands currently held at the Memorial Hall, to be stored there.

### **3. Wokingham Without 2020-21 Annual Report**

Cllr Newland gave a report on the activities of the council over the 2020-21 civic year to date. He reported that it had been a challenging year, but despite the challenges that the pandemic has created, the council have continued to be proactive. A copy of the chairman's annual report can be found on the website: [www.wokinghamwithout-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wokinghamwithout-pc.gov.uk)

#### **4. Open Forum**

Following the presentation of the annual report, the following questions were asked:

1. Mr McHale asked about a cycle route into Bracknell.  
Cllr Newland noted that whilst the parish council are very keen to improve cycling facilities, it is only in a position to do this within Wokingham Without, and that requests for improvements to cycle route provision in Bracknell would need to be directed to Bracknell Forest Council.
2. Mr Wilson asked about improvements to pedestrian and cyclist safety on Oaklands Lane, by providing a safe crossing point between Leith Close and Keats Way cut-through, as this is a well-used route for residents of The Conifers and The Brackens, as well as a well-used route to the school.  
The Clerk reported that discussion with the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Public Rights of Way (PROW) Officer recently had included Oaklands Lane, and the Clerk noted that WBC were aware that the works carried out in 2019 had shortfalls. Following a call from residents for further action, WBC had scheduled a public consultation event in late March 2020 at Hatch Ride School, but that this had been postponed by the onset of the pandemic and the lockdown restrictions introduced, and that there had not yet been an opportunity to safely hold this sort of event.

B/Cllr Ross noted that, given the timeframe since the proposed consultation event, he would liaise with the PROW Officer to determine whether another form of consultation to progress improvements to Oaklands Lane could be considered.

Mr Wilson noted that there was mixed feeling about the improvements and that he did not advocate tarmacking the whole route, but if a 'sleeping policeman' style raised crossing was provided it would improve safety and could act as a deterrent to the vehicles that use the road as a cut through.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm