

At a Meeting of the
COUNCIL for the **PARISH of WRAYSBURY**
held in the Colne Room of the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on
Monday 27th JANUARY 2014

Present: Councillors A. Davies (Chairman), C. Collins, Mrs D. Hughes, J. Lenton, Mrs M. Lenton, P. Lord, D. Martin, G. Sinclair, M. Smith, M. Williams, the Acting Clerk and the Deputy Clerk.

13/196 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

13/197 **FLOODING**

Although not on the published agenda, the Chairman introduced the item as a matter of urgency, due to the level of public concern.

On behalf of the Parish Council he expressed deep sympathy to all residents in the Parish who had been adversely affected by flooding.

The Chairman placed on record his thanks to the large number of people who came to the aid of the community. These included:

- The two Flood Wardens and Mr Oliver Francis for their extremely hard work over many days.
- The Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service for their assistance despite the access issues that confronted them.
- The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, in particular the Operations Team, for the delivery of a significant number of sandbags.
- The two Ward Councillors, Councillor Colin Rayner and Councillor John Lenton, for all of their practical work and support throughout the period.
- St Andrews and Wraysbury Baptist Churches, who provided practical and spiritual support to the whole community.
- The large number of residents who had demonstrated a wonderful community spirit, gave up their time and gave much appreciated practical help. Those named included Paul Williams, Nicky Morris, Glynn Larcombe and Olly Saunders.

The Chairman concluded his statement by stating that with the benefit of hindsight, a lot had been learned and there was a need to put measures in place for the future, which would help reduce the impacts of flooding.

In a general discussion, which included members of the public, the following comments were made:

- Individual householders still needed to do more to protect themselves.
- Cars and other vehicles could be moved to safe locations. Care should be taken that they are not located in such a way that would be detrimental to access by emergency and other services.
- Sight seers were observed, and this was not welcomed.
- Improvements were needed to the flood defence measures for the Parish. This included the dredging of the Wraysbury Drain, something proposed by the Royal Borough in 2003 (as owners), but not yet actioned.
- There was a need to accept that some areas of the Parish would always be liable to flooding.
- The Chairman of the Parish Council advised that he was also the Chairman of the District Association of Local Councils, which covered the whole of the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Seven member parishes had flooded this time. He advised that he would be writing, as Chairman of DALC, to the Environment Agency, to press for dredging of the River Thames. He also hoped to participate in the next meeting of the Royal Borough's Flood Forum.
- The public needed to be better educated in what to do before and during a flood.
- The Environment Agency could do more to provide quality information, in a timely fashion. There was little or no evidence of personal visits by EA officers.
- More could be done to identify and assist the elderly and infirm.
- The Royal Borough could be petitioned to offer more assistance to Wraysbury. At least 1,000 signatures were required. Questions could also be asked at full Council meetings.
- Immediately prior to the date of this meeting, Thames Water issued a statement. Residents stated that much of the content was factually incorrect. Concern was also expressed that only two engineers were available to clear and/or repair over 100 individual pumps. Several pieces of equipment had failed owing to the electrics being low enough to be impacted by the flooding.
- Media coverage of events in Wraysbury had generally been very fair.
- The EA's Lower Thames Strategy could benefit Wraysbury residents, but progress was slow. It was suggested that the Parish and the Borough should press for progress.
- A resident suggested that the digging of a temporary ditch would reduce standing water and surface flooding in the area of the Village Green. A number of residents supported this suggestion and sought to obtain the consent of the Parish Council to undertake same. The Chairman responded, making it very clear that the Council had no powers to grant the requested consent or accept any associated liability if such actions were undertaken. Residents responded that they would 'do it themselves'. The Chairman responded that by doing so they would be personally accepting any associated liability.

The Chairman concluded the discussion by highlighting the urgency of the matters being discussed. The Parish Council's Flooding Committee would meet as a matter of urgency. It would formulate a report that would then be considered at a full Parish Council meeting. It was expected that this would take place before the end of March 2014. The membership of the Flooding Committee was confirmed as Councillors G. Sinclair, C. Collins, D. Martin, J. Lenton and M Williams. The Flooding Committee would be free to call upon the expertise of Mr Ewan Larcombe.

13/198 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

13/199 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

The Parish Council discussed the following applications and made representation to the Local Authority as shown. *Being a Member of the Development Control Panel, Councillor J. Lenton took no part in discussions.*

14/00010 WRAYSBURY FINANCIAL SERVICES, 27
WINDSOR ROAD, WRAYSBURY (FULL)

Change of use from B1 (office) to A1 (retail and alterations to shop fronts as approved under planning permission 13/00354/FULL without complying with condition 4 (car parking spaces) so that the condition is removed. Objection - insufficient parking places for both staff and customers and no room for manoeuvring on this cramped site. Builder to rear of site requires access for a number of large vehicles, including 40 ton trucks. Poor access and limited space for turning could result in vehicles having to reverse out of the site, endangering pedestrians and other road users. The proposal would also result in shoppers and delivery vehicles parking along the main road if they cannot get into the car park and this will create a severe obstruction so close to a bend on a busy road.

14/00073 35 FAIRFIELD APPROACH, WRAYSBURY
(FULL)

Erection of replacement dwelling with integral garage following the demolition of existing dwelling. No objection - subject to meeting current policies, and adherence to all conditions relating to flooding.

14/00077 5A, THE AVENUE, WRAYSBURY (FULL)

Single storey side extension. No objection - subject to meeting current policies.

The following items were considered under delegated authority due to time constraints. They were included on the agenda for the benefit of public interest.

13/03682 36, STATION ROAD, WRAYSBURY (FULL)
Replacement dwelling including integral garage. No objection - subject to meeting current policies.

13/03585 PATSCROFT MANOR, 36 MAGNA CARTA LANE, WRAYSBURY (FULL)
Conversion of timber framed outbuilding to two-bedroom annexe, ancillary to the main dwelling, with associated works. Objection – overdevelopment in the Green Belt and in an area liable to flood.

Planning applications 13/03505, 13/03583, 13/03318 and 13/02209 were considered at the last meeting (16th December 2013). The Parish Council's recommendations were minuted in that meeting.

Notices of results as detailed on the agenda were noted.

13/200 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th December 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly, subject to one amendment. Item 13/189 – Councillor D Martin deleted, and corrected to read Councillor J. Lenton.

13/201 MATTERS ARISING

High Street Car Park

Councillor M. Smith and the Chairman had both visited the car park. They reported that on each occasion five cars had remained in place over a period of several hours. It was agreed that some form of laminated note would be created, for placing on the windscreens of repeat offenders.

Highway Safety Survey of Staines Road/Feathers Lane Junction

It was noted that very short stays near the junction, e.g. to use the shop, were very difficult to enforce. If lengthier stays were being made, then photos should be taken to demonstrate this, and forwarded to the Police.

Wooden Bridge over the Splash

The item was deferred until the next meeting.

Street Light in the High Street Car Park

The Acting Clerk had reported the defect, through the Borough website. The Chairman reported that he had observed the repair being completed by

the Borough's contractor. There was a need to ensure the light was included on the Borough's list of lights that it owned and maintained. It was agreed that as tenants of the car park, the Parish had the authority to progress this.

Other matters

There were no other matters arising.

13/202 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairmanship of DALC

The Chairman reported that as Chairman of DALC he looked forward to being consulted on the agenda for the next Parish Conference. His view was that the parishes should be setting the agendas.

Wraysbury Action Group

The Chairman advised that he had received a request for £3,500 of funding from the Wraysbury Action Group. The funding would be towards the cost of an oral hearing, prior to a possible Judicial Review. Councillors considered that they had already provided money and support to the Action Group. In a motion proposed by Councillor M Smith and seconded by Councillor Mrs M. Lenton it was unanimously resolved that, with regret, the budgetary constraints in which the Council worked meant that it was not possible to provide any further funding.

13/203 **REPORTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

Councillor J. Lenton advised that he had nothing to report.

13/204 **REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN OF STANDING SUB-COMMITTEES**

a) Greens

Nothing to report.

b) Properties

Councillor D Martin advised that the cricket club building had been damaged by the floods. It was agreed that the Acting Clerk would alert this to the insurance company.

A light had been vandalised. It was agreed that a formal estimate would be sought to install a vandal proof light on a suitable lighting pole.

c) Watercourses

Councillor G Sinclair advised that the flooding had knock-on effects. Sewage was present on roads and gardens. Large lorries working during the floods had impacted gas pipes. The loss of worms, voles and insects during the floods would impact the availability of food for birds and other wild animals.

13/205 REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL GROUP MEMBERS

a) Magna Carta

Councillor Mrs M. Lenton reported that the Magna Carta Committee was scheduled to meet in Wraysbury, in March 2014.

13/206 FINANCE

(a) The following accounts were notified to members of the Parish Council, recommended for payment and cheques issued and signed accordingly:

PAYMENTS			NET	VAT	GROSS
592	Wraysbury Village Halls	VAT REFUND	540.83		540.83
593	E.Marlow	Clerk	516.60		516.6
594	M.Kiely	Clerk	719.19		719.19
595	R.Colgate	Labour	238.20		238.2
596	A.Davies	Capital Equip	431.26	86.23	517.49
597	HMR&C	PAYE	168.17		168.17
598	SDK	Open space	244.80	48.96	293.76
599	Garden Design	Recharge RBWM	276.00	55.20	331.20
600	ditto	Grass	215.00	43.00	258.00
601	ditto	Groundwork	1,335.00	267.00	1602.00
602	E.Marlow	Office	133.00	9.00	142.00
603	M.Kiely	Office	104.25		194.25
604	D. Frances	Floods	189.00	37.80	226.80
	TOTAL		5,111.30	547.19	5748.49
	Garden Design	Replacement	384.00		

(b) Receipt of the verbal recommendations of the Finance Committee and to Set the Parish Precept for the Next Financial Year

All Councillors present were provided with a copy of the proposed budget, the up-to-date management accounts and associated background papers.

The Chairman reflected on the discussion which had taken place at the Finance Committee meeting. He indicated that there were constraints on budgets and he thanked the budget holders for their scrutiny of all

spending. He expressed a hope that the reduction to the hanging basket budget could be met by a village charity.

Taking account of the budgetary constraints, and the proposed budget for 2014-2015, the Chairman advised that the Finance Committee had concluded that a precept increase of 3.5% should be recommended to the Parish Council. In a motion proposed by Councillor Mrs D. Hughes and seconded by Councillor G. Sinclair, it was unanimously resolved that the precept be increased by 3.5%.

In a separate matter, proposed funding for membership of Colne Valley Park CIC was discussed. Positive comments were made about the works they had completed, and the merits of membership were agreed. In a motion proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor M. Smith, it was unanimously resolved that membership fees be paid for another year.

13/207 RBWM SECTION 106 AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CONSULTATION

Councillors noted the content of the consultation. They resolved that the list of suggested projects for funding should remain unchanged.

13/208 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

a) Update on the Horton and Wraysbury Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman advised that the steering group had held a plenary meeting in mid-January. It received the paper prepared by Councillor D Martin on transport issues. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would circulate the paper to all Councillors.

The Chairman commented on the quality of the support provided by Charlie Fulcher and Gordon Oliver from the Royal Borough. He was pleased to advise that a new website would be designed by Councillor P. Lord. Design and layout ideas would be borrowed from similar websites. The web address was likely to be www.handwnp.org.uk

The next steering group meeting was scheduled to take place on 26th February 2014. It was likely to receive four papers, on Planning, Business, Community and Environment

b) Update on the Borough's Local Plan

The Borough's Local Plan had identified the need to build more housing, to meet Government targets. Five areas in the Parish had been identified as having potential for development. There was an eight week consultation period, scheduled to end on 7th March 2014.

The importance of a Parish response was highlighted. Consideration could be given to proposed developments upstream of Wraysbury. Four Councillors had agreed to be members of a sub-committee. These were Councillors Mrs D. Hughes, P. Lord, M. Williams and D. Martin. In a motion proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor M. Smith, it was unanimously resolved that the sub-committee be established to formulate a response.

13/209 **THE LAKES**

Councillor J. Lenton advised that he had met with RK Leisure. The proposal for Wraysbury 1 was an upmarket fishing lake, redevelopment of the former sailing club, a bait shop, staff accommodation and a toilet block. Access to the site was an issue, it was likely that it would be key operated. For Wraysbury 2 there was a lot of detail yet to be agreed. It was suggested that the Parish could assist them. Natural England were involved, due to the presence of a rare duck.

It was agreed that RK Leisure should be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

13/210 **HEATHROW EXPANSION**

The Chairman expressed relief that the South-west option for Heathrow expansion was now off the table. However, three options remained, namely the North-west Option, Heathrow Hub and expansion at Gatwick.

It was noted that the Borough was opposed to all options and that the Parish would favour expansion at Gatwick. Both Heathrow options would be detrimental to Wraysbury, particularly the resulting pressure on infrastructure.

13/211 **MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE MEETING**

There were no written motions submitted to the meeting.

13/212 **ITEMS FOR PLACEMENT UPON FUTURE AGENDAS**

The following items were agreed for future agenda:

Invitation to RK Leisure to present their Lakes proposals to the Council.

13/213 **ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no further questions from the public.

13/214 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Two items of correspondence had been received.

The first was from a student from Royal Holloway. Funding was sought towards a charitable trip to assist a charity in Cambodia. Due to the Council's financial constraints, with regret, the funding request was declined. An offer had also been made to sell biscuits/cakes at any local events.

The second was from Wraysbury Parochial Charities. A new Trustee was sought following the resignation of Mr T Rooks. In a motion proposed by Councillor M. Smith and seconded by Councillor Mrs M. Lenton, it was unanimously resolved that Simon Carter be approached for the role.

13/215 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor D Martin that the press and public be excluded from the meeting as the business to be discussed (Parish Administration) was of a confidential nature and would be prejudicially affected by public interest. The proposal was made in accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meeting) Act 1960 LGA 1972 ss 100 and 106. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs. M Lenton and agreed without dissension.

..... Chairman

..... Date