

At a Meeting of the
COUNCIL for the **PARISH of WRAYSBURY**
held in the Village Hall at 7.00pm on
Tuesday 22nd July 2014

Present: Councillors Mrs M Lenton (Chairman), A Davies, Mrs D Hughes, J Lenton, P Lord, D Martin, A Moran, G Sinclair, M Smith, M Williams and the Clerk.
Forty members of the public were present.
Environment Agency – Graham Croucher, Mike Piotrowski and Malcolm Smith.

At the commencement of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Cllr Andrew Moran to his first meeting.

14/98 **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

Prior to the main business of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed the Environment Agency representatives to Wraysbury.

During their presentation the following points were made by the EA:

- Rainfall over the winter was significantly above average.
- Both fluvial and groundwater flooding had been caused.
- The Agency were working on ways to reduce flood risk from Datchet to Teddington.
- They were working with local councils on their Major Flood Plans and were reviewing the deployment of innovative solutions, such as the “Chertsey Sausage”.
- In relation to planning, it was hoped that more work could be done on where people developed, and how they developed.
- It was hoped that a more tailored flood warning system could be developed.
- Two hundred and eighteen properties had been identified as suitable for property level protection.
- The River Thames Scheme would involve weir capacity works, a diversion channel at Datchet, and two further diversion channels. It was noted that average levels at Black Potts and Bell Weir would be reduced by 0.9metres.
- As the Community Engagement Lead, Mr Piotrowski would be promoting the development of Personal Flood Plans. He would also be happy to work with the Parish Council on the development of a Local Community Flood Plan.
- It was hoped that the EA could engage with local landowners to maintain some of the smaller water courses.
- It was noted that although the uptake of the flood warning system was high in Wraysbury, it could be higher.

Written Questions from the Parish Council

It was noted that four written questions had been submitted by the Parish Council, in advance of the meeting.

Appropriate enforcement action to lead to the re-instatement of flood banks on private properties

EA – Residents were likely to need planning permission to carry out such works. If it was within 8metres of a significant water course a higher level of permission, known as “flood defence consent” was required. The EA could only act towards enforcement if provided with the information. The EA inspected its own assets annually, it was not practical to carry out total inspections of all channels. If the EA were informed, they could provide appropriate assistance to the resident.

Publication of the County Ditch Survey, which had previously been promised, but not yet delivered

The EA advised that a number of surveys were available in the archive. There was confusion as to what was being asked for. It was agreed that the EA would supply the (cross-sectional) channel surveys from around four years ago and 1990. Clerk to submit an emailed request.

Action by the EA so that it treated the village of Wraysbury as a single entity, rather than being partly in the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and partly in the London Borough of Staines, which was misleading and concerning to residents

It was agreed that this concern would be fed back to the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum and the Royal Borough. The matter should also be built into the Local Community Flood Plan. There was nothing to stop residents registering for both flood warning systems.

Action by the EA to further raise awareness amongst residents that there is also a risk to many of them from the groundwater rising, and not just physical breaches of the water courses

The EA acknowledged the need to promote all forms of risk to residents. In relation to Thames Water, it was noted that it was their responsibility to maintain their own flood resilience. The River Thames Scheme would not only protect domestic properties, but would also assist businesses and infrastructure, such as the sewage system.

Questions to the EA

The meeting was opened up to public questions. During the discussion, the following comments were made:

- Discussion took place on the selling off of dredgers in the past, the economic viability of dredging and bathometric surveys. There was disagreement on the effectiveness of dredging, and the effect of ‘self-

scouring'. The Chairman reflected on the Prime Minister's promise of dredging. The EA agreed to supply a copy of the Halcrow report. Clerk to email request. Bathometric surveys from Old Windsor to Reading would commence in October 2014. The data from the surveys from Old Windsor to Teddington was currently being analysed.

- Economic viability was based on comparison of each project. The EA had finite resources, and they had to judge how best these should be spent.
- A resident commented on the adequacy of a 200khz echo-sounder. In response it was confirmed that the device was not used to locate the true river bed, but rather to observe trends.
- There was a need to unblock the backwaters as several of them were blocked solid and there was a need to increase capacity in the main channels. The EA commented that their legal obligation was to maintain the central third of the Thames, for navigation purposes.
- A resident commented that his small craft was damaged by the build up of sediment. He offered the EA officers a tour of the local area on his craft to observe pinch points and places where it appeared that important flood banks had been removed by residents.
- The Head Flood Warden advised the meeting that he had worked in Bronze Command and that during that period the EA appeared to have incorrect data. He encouraged the EA to employ and retain local staff, and to work with local residents who had extensive local knowledge. The EA agreed that working with locals was important and would do more to facilitate this in the future. They had also built up more knowledge on the effectiveness of a range of temporary structures which could be deployed.
- The Head Flood Warden also advised that there were concerns about planning applications. He queried why local residents were having to pay for and produce their own Flood Risk Assessments. The EA advised they did not have the manpower or financial resources to produce FRAs.
- Residents raised concerns about the Wraysbury Drain. Despite the amount of water around Wraysbury throughout the year, it had dried up every summer for the last four or five years, which was detrimental to wildlife, as well as its visual amenity.
- A resident encouraged the surveyors engaged by the Borough and the EA to work together to share knowledge, rather than just duplicate effort. There appeared to be two sets of surveyors working along the Wraysbury Drain.
- A resident observed that the EA's funding was being cut. Residents should do all they could to encourage the Government to give adequate funding to the EA.
- The Property Level Protection and the Repair and Renew Grants operated separately and therefore had two separate application processes. There was also confusion as to where some residents were

located by the official process, Surrey or Berkshire. It was agreed that the EA, Royal Borough and Mrs Burrows could meet to progress the matter.

- Residents expressed concern about the operation of the Jubilee River. It was suggested that those living upstream of Wraysbury should be exposed to more of the water. The EA disagreed with the suggestion that the operation of the JR affected Wraysbury.
- An elderly resident commented that he moved to his house in the 1970s. He did not flood in 2003 but did flood in 2014. He wondered if he would ever see his house again.
- A couple of residents raised concerns which were specific to their properties. The EA Officers agreed to discuss these matters personally with the residents, outside of the public meeting.
- River bank maintenance and repair was the responsibility of the riparian owners.
- Councillors and residents both stated that the River Thames Scheme was too expensive for local government to part-fund. There was a need to continue to lobby Government so that the EA was provided with adequate funds to progress the scheme.
- The Chairman advised that she was involved in some work with the Audit Commission on the activities of the EA during the floods. Key emerging themes from this work were improved communications, increased dredging and the construction of the River Thames Scheme.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chairman thanked the EA officers for their attendance at the meeting. She looked forward to working with Mr Piotrowski in the future.

14/99 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Collins.

14/100 WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLOR – ANDREW MORAN

The Chairman formally welcomed new Councillor Andrew Moran.

14/101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lord declared an interest in planning application 14/01889, as the application site was close to his home.

All Councillors present declared an interest in planning application 14/01918, as they were acquainted with the Head Flood Warden, and it was his mother's planning application.

14/102 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

14/103 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 the discussions.*

14/01880 PERDITA, FRIARY ISLAND, OLD FERRY DRIVE, WRAYSBURY

Erection of a two storey side and rear extension, following demolition of existing garden office, garage, porch and decking.

No objection provided it was in compliance with local policies.

14/02044 LAND ADJACENT STAINES ROAD, WRAYSBURY

Construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm including security fencing, inverter and transformer stations, below ground cabling, CCTV, substations, internal access road, and landscaping.

No objection provided it was in compliance with local policies.

14/02121 KIAWANA, 4 FRIARY ISLAND, FRIARY ROAD, WRAYSBURY

Erection of a two storey raised dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling.

No objection provided it was in compliance with local policies.

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

14/01889 48 WRAYSBURY ROAD

Erection of first floor rear and part single storey side/rear extension.

No objection subject to compliance with current polices, provided that the development did not result in overdevelopment when previous extensions were taken into account.

(Councillor Lord declared an interest in the item and took no part in the discussion, as the application site was located in close proximity to his home)

14/01908 TANSLEY, FRIARY ISLAND, OLD FERRY DRIVE, WRAYSBURY

Replacement mooring.

No objection provided it was in compliance with local policies.

14/01918 48 FRIARY ROAD, WRAYSBURY

Construction of new two storey detached house, following demolition of detached bungalow.

No objection provided it was in compliance with local policies.

Notices of results as detailed on the agenda were noted.

14/104 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th June 2014 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

14/105 MATTERS ARISING

The following matters arising were discussed:

- Playpark – grant applications were being investigated.
- The bollards on the High Street had now been installed.
- Overgrown trees and shrubs on Ouseley and Wharf Roads – RBWM had been informed.
- Health matters – these would now be picked up via the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Parish Flood Liaison Group – Cllr Davies and Cllr Moran were officially appointed as the Council's representatives. Clerk to notify relevant persons.

14/106 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman advised of her work with the Audit Commission on the response provided by the EA during the flooding. It was expected that the matter would be discussed at a Parliamentary Select Committee in the Autumn.

The Clerk advised of email correspondence regarding the potential blockage of a footpath to the south end of Ferry Lane. Cllr Sinclair reflected on his own use of the route for very many years. He agreed to walk the route and report his findings to Councillors.

14/107 REPORTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

It was noted that the Clerk had circulated Cllr J Lenton's report in advance of the meeting. This covered:

- Fire Authority strikes and associated contingency measures.
- Additional traveller pitches, approved by planning for Mill Place, Datchet, had been put into abeyance by central government whilst some High Court judgements were awaited.
- Repairs to flood damaged road surfaces.
- Out of hours services were set to be extended to further services.
- Secondary School provision in the Borough was being reviewed.
- Additional use of telecare had delivered savings in the Adult Social Care budget.

14/108 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Properties

Cllr Smith reported that he was working with a play equipment provider on possible sources of grant funding. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Borough to ascertain the monies available for equipment via Section 106 contributions. Cllr Smith's written report, previously circulated, covered:

- Cricket Club – insurance had just approved the repair works.
- Football Club – Committee now in place, a revised lease was being drawn up and agreement to pay the outstanding insurance contribution had been secured.
- Playpark – working with a play equipment supplier on possible grant funding opportunities.

Greens

No items to report.

Watercourses and Flooding

No items to report.

14/109 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL GROUP MEMBERS

Magna Carta

Members noted the content of Cllr Mrs Lenton's written report circulated in advance of the meeting. This included a host of planned events, and various meetings, including those planned with the Vicar of Odiham's husband and Sir Robert Worcester.

14/110 FINANCE

(a) Accounts for Payment

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

Cheque No.	Payee	Budget	Nett	VAT	Gross.
679	Wraysbury News	Section 137	175.00		175.00
680	M Kiely	Office	328.33	65.67	394.00
681	Cllr Mrs Lenton	Chair expen Q1	50.00		50.00
682	Cllr Mrs Hughes	Chair expen Q1	50.00		50.00
683	Cllr Smith	Chair expen Q1	50.00		50.00
684	Cllr M Williams	Chair expen Q1	50.00		50.00
685	Garden Designs	Grass cutting	1,258.30	251.66	1,509.96
685	Garden Designs	Maintenance	255.00	51.00	306.00
685	Garden Designs	Ditch (grants)	1,795.00	359.00	2,154.00
686	SDK Environment	Dog waste bins	250.56	50.11	300.67
687	Metrosigns	Noticeboard	62.50	12.50	75.00
685	Garden Designs	Grass cutting	664.15	132.83	796.98
688	M Kiely	Expenses	158.70		158.70
689	HMRC	Tax and NI	108.84		108.84
690	R Colgate	Salary	206.67		206.77
691	E Marlow	Salary	172.20		172.20
692	M Kiely	Salary	744.55		744.55
693	E Marlow	Expenses	112.03		112.03
694	Wraysbury Village Halls	Repair fund	2,300.00		2,300.00
695	St Andrew's Church	Maintenance	1,200.00		1,200.00
TOTAL			9,991.83	922.77	10,914.70

(b) To consider a Section 137 Grant Application

A grant application had been received from the Chairman of Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury Neighbourhood Action Group (Mrs Marlow). The amount sought was £250, and it would be used to help fund a post which would share key crime data to identify trends, increase cross boundary and force intelligence, arrests and prosecutions. It was unanimously resolved to award the grant. Clerk to raise cheque for payment.

14/111 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Plan would be promoted via a stand at the Wraysbury Garden Party. Mr Parsons had done a lot of work on the plan and the promotion of the upcoming questionnaire. The questionnaire could be completed online (via Survey Monkey), online with the assistance of Cllr Lord (who would enter the data for the resident), and in certain circumstances hard copies would be acceptable. The Village Club offered the use of its computer, for those that needed it. A leaflet to promote the questionnaire would be distributed in August. A professional would be hired to write the actual plan.

14/112 MEMORIAL PLAQUE FOR PAST CLERKS AND CHAIRMEN

Plans for a plaque were ongoing.

14/113 MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE MEETING

None.

14/114 ITEMS FOR PLACEMENT UPON FUTURE AGENDAS

- 1) Pedestrian Safety on Road Bridge at Wraysbury Station.
- 2) Ferry Lane – potential blockage of a pedestrian access to the weir bridge.
- 3) Vodafone scheme to improve services in 100 rural communities.

14/115 ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

14/116 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Cllr Davies that the press and the public be excluded from the next item on the agenda as the business to be discussed (minutes, Parish Administration) was of a confidential nature and would be prejudicially affected by public interest. This proposal was made in accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meeting) Act 1960. LGA 1972 ss 100 and 106. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Hughes and agreed without dissension.

..... Chairman

..... Date