

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF THE PARISH OF WRAYSBURY
HELD IN WRAYSBURY VILLAGE HALL
ON Monday 27th MARCH 2017**

Present

Councillor Mrs M Lenton, Chairman of the Parish Council, in the Chair. The Clerk and sixteen Registered Electors of the Parish.

(Cllr P Lord, Cllr Mrs D Hughes, Cllr Ms S Nicholls, Cllr Andy Moran, Cllr Mike Williams, Cllr Ewan Larcombe along with 3 members of the Parish)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillors J Lenton and C Rayner along with Cllr Mrs L Andrew, Cllr A Davies, Cllr G Sinclair and Mr H Perez.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2016 were circulated at the meeting. They were agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly.

3. Presentation By Guest Speaker

The Chairman advised that the Environment Agency had been invited to speak on the proposed deployment of temporary flood defences but were unable to attend on this occasion. They are however intending to put on an exhibition of the Lower River Thames Scheme in June or July.

The local Police Force were also invited but due to the recent events in London are occupied reviewing security measures.

4. Chairman's Report

The Neighbourhood Plan

- The Neighbourhood Plan for Horton and Wraysbury is near completion and will hopefully be submitted to the Borough shortly. The Plan has been severely constricted by the Green Belt and the Flood Plain.
- Once submitted the Steering Group will be replaced by a Review Committee to assess the effectiveness of the Plan especially in light of future proposals such as the additional runway at Heathrow and the River Thames Scheme.
- Cllr Mrs M Lenton wished to thank the Steering Group, Mr F Parson, Mrs L Holden and Ms D Funnell along with Mr J Slater, the consultant for all their efforts in the production of the Plan.

Wraysbury Railway Bridge

Cllr Mrs Lenton reported that works were near completion on the bridge.

The 305 Bus Service

Following the withdrawal of funding from both Slough and Staines the 305 bus route RBWM has agreed to subsidise the route until 31st August to allow time for a solution to the problem to be sought. An extension of the Maidenhead 'Hop On Hop Off' scheme may be considered.

The Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr Mrs M Lenton advised that NAG has been revived with Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury meeting with the Local Police Force to discuss issues affecting the 3 Villages.

The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

The celebrations in Wraysbury and Horton for the Queen's 90th Birthday had been a great success and has led to the formation of the History Project Group, supported by Mrs D Hughes. They hope to publish a book of 'Village Memories'.

The Centenary of Armistice Day

Cllr Mrs M Lenton advised that Wraysbury is to take part with the second national beacon being lit on the Memorial Ground. This is to be followed by an exhibition of artefacts and a tea party.

Social Media

Cllr Mrs M Lenton expressed her concerns how Facebook was being used to report on Parish Council Meeting often in an inaccurate manor. Both she and Cllr A Moran had been subject to false accusations calling their personal and professional integrity into question. The Parish Council are currently looking into ways of recording the meeting by means of video or audio.

Wraysbury Parish Council Accounts

The audited accounts for the year 2015-16 were made available for inspection by those present. The accounts for 2016-17 would be made available following the end of the financial year and the audit inspection. The budget for 2017-18 has resulted in a precept rise of 9.82% this is partially due to the Parish Council deciding it needed to operate with a neutral rather than deficit budget as had been the case for several years. This resulted in a rise of £2.92 pa in the Band D Council Tax from £31.01 to £33.93; still one of the lowest in the Borough with neighbouring Parishes of Horton at £52.76 and Datchet at £76.50.

Parochial Charities Accounts

The audited accounts were made available for inspection by those present.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Mrs M Lenton wish to express her gratitude to her fellow Councillors for their commitment and hard work throughout the year.

5. Vice Chairman's Report

Cllr P Lord stated that following criticism he could confirm that all Parish Councillors had be elected but not all had been voted in as some applications had been unopposed.

He also stated that the right to free speech has to be kept within the confines of the rule of law. So whilst debate on social media is fine, libellous comments are not.

The Parish Council has also recently been accused of being remote. Cllr Lord has therefore set up a trial Parish Surgery on a Wednesday afternoon in the mobile Library. In the past 3 weeks several members of the public have raised issues with Cllr Lord. The initiative is to continue.

6. Introduction To Lead Members

Properties.

Cllr Moran described his duties as Lead Member for properties along with a list of properties owned by the Parish. The main issues that Cllr Moran has been dealing with this year have been;

- The Football Club – the club has not been managed correctly for many years, not holding minuted meetings, producing audited accounts or meeting its financial commitments. A notice to quit has been served but the Parish Council would very much like to see football in the Village. There is to be a meeting on 6th April where it is hoped that a new committee will be set up. The current Manager, who is to resign at the end of the season, has received a prison sentence for fraud. Cllr Moran expressed his concerns that considerable grants and sponsorship monies that have been awarded to the club in the past are unaccounted for.
- The Shoppers' Car Park – Cllr Moran is in discussions with RK Leisure concerning a new licence for the car park. It is hoped that the barrier at the rear of the car park could be relocated at the front to prevent large vans from using it.

Mr P Knott asked if all the land owned by the Parish is registered with Land Registry. Cllr Moran stated that the bunded land along Welley Road before the tanning shop was not registered but it is believed to be owned by the Parish as a request to carry out works was received from a cable laying company. Cllr Moran explained that there was no legal requirement for land to be registered. He is currently working on an asset register.

Greens

Cllr M Williams gave a brief outline of his duties as Lead Member for Greens; scheduling the maintenance of green spaces, shrubberies and verges along with one off situations such as fallen trees. The cost of unscheduled tasks this year had been considerable. The extended growing season of the last 3 years had a major impact on amounts of work required. Approximately ¼ of the annual budget was spent on 'Greens'.

Waterways

Cllr G Sinclair was unfortunately not able to attend the meeting however, Cllr Mrs M Lenton stated that the Parish Council is still pursuing public access to the Queensmead Lake.

Although the Borough has spent £160,000 on clearing the Wraysbury Drain further works are required. The Parish has expressed its concerns over the time taken and way in which the works so far have been managed. There is a remaining budget of £25,000 to complete the works.

Planning

Cllr Mrs Hughes stated that the National Planning Policy prevents vulnerable development in areas that are at risk of flooding. Where ever possible such development should be placed outside Flood Zones 2 and 3. The need to identify possible areas for development outside the flood plain is complicated by the constraints of the Green Belt.

Policy F1 of the adopted Local Plan allows for replacement of a property on a floor space to floor space basis, but also allow for an extension of no more than 30m². A similar limit applies to extensions needing planning permission.

New development can be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the levels of the site are above the level of water in the 1 in 100-year flood event; these are known as dry islands. However a safe exit route must be demonstrated. Existing properties generally still have permitted development rights.

Cllr Mrs Hughes also stated that she is a tree warden and as such can offer advice on tree species and diseases.

7. Questions from the Public

- Mr Urwin asked who was responsible in cases where trees on private land were overhanging public space. It was explained that the land owner is responsible for the maintenance of any trees on their property. The Council can request that a land owner tends to overhanging trees and if the request is not complied with the Council can take action and invoice the owner accordingly.
- Mr P Knott advised that the Parochial Charities had not spent all the monies available to them. He asked if the Parish Councillors knew of any worthy causes that would benefit from a donation. He particularly wanted to hear of causes within the younger sector of the community as historically much of the funding has been directed towards the elderly in the Village. Cllr Mrs M Lenton suggested the Football Club whose new committee are intending to set up a youth team. Mr Knott stated that this would not be considered until the club was properly constituted. The Charity could not consider events such as 'Fun in the Sun' which are financed by the Parish Council. The Colts section of the Cricket Club was also suggested. Age concern have suggested that they are in need of a new bus but a Village Community Bus may be more appropriate and available to a wider section of the community.
- Cllr E Larcombe reported that the River Thames Scheme is still progressing and he and Cllr Hughes expressed their concerns that, should the scheme proceed, it would split the Village in two. The scheme is to be presented to Government next January for funding. The EA is to carry out enabling works for the proposed temporary flood barriers. Cllr Mrs M Lenton suggested that it was better to try something than do nothing.
- Cllr J Lenton arrived at the meeting to advise that a proposed elective hospital is to replace Heatherwood Hospital in Ascot. Also he expected to be able make positive announcement on the 305 bus route within the next two weeks.

..... Chairman Date