

## Twyford Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Meeting held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.45 pm.

**Present:** Mr R Mantel (Chair), Mrs E Ashley, Mrs L Jarvis, Messrs M Boniface, D Fergusson, J Jarvis, C Smith & T Winchester.

**In attendance:** Mr Morris – for co-option, Mrs C Bulman - Ruscombe Parish and 1 member of the press.

1. **Public questions** – none.
2. **Apologies** – Mrs B Ditcham & Mr Wickenden.
3. **Co-option of a Councillor and decision on which committee he will serve.**  
A personal statement from Mr Morris had been circulated to councillors. Agreed to have a public vote, carried unanimously. Mr Morris was co-opted by a unanimous vote; he signed his declaration of acceptance and joined the meeting. Proposed that Mr R Morris serves on the Planning and Amenities Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – none.
5. **Dispensations** – none.
6. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015.** Proposed Mrs E Ashley, seconded Mrs L Jarvis, carried nem con.
7. **No matters arising.**
8. **Borough Council Matters.**  
Mr Jarvis reported. He spoke about plans for finalising the budget and the effect of the Housing Bill going through government. He reported that Wokingham will be severely hit by decisions made over housing stock. Wokingham are building 4 new roads in order to provide access to new developments and minimise traffic. Mr Ferris had given his apologies for the meeting. He reported by email that the Exec & Special Exec at WBC meetings will be held later this week where WBC's budget for 2016/17 will be outlined (finalised at WBC Full Council Meeting in Feb). WBC will lose just over 50% of its Rate Support Grant from the Government. (A reduction of £6M (i.e. RSG will fall from £12.5M for 2015/16 to £6.1M for 2016/17). He reported that it does not look like it will be a very good settlement for WBC. In addition all Councils will be able to raise the Council Tax by 2% to cover Adult Social Care. There is also to be a consultation on Libraries starting 1/2/16 and ending 1/4/16. Mr Jarvis reported that one option being considered for libraries is that they may be run by another body.
9. **Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council.** Mrs Bulman reported. Ruscombe had no planning applications this month. Discussions had taken place on the precept and the Council have extended their precept deadline so that they can invite WBC's David White to talk about the LED street lighting costs before finalising their precept. They are considering the need for a projector with the introduction of the WBC paperless plans initiative. The Healthwatch officer attended the meeting. The Council have agreed to submit the St James's Church plans to extend on their behalf. Mr Jarvis reported that a resident had attended the 'Meet your Councillor' session suggesting an avenue of Oak trees on the Ruscombe approach into Twyford (London Road). Mr Jarvis reported that there may be funding from WBC for this. Mrs Bulman will refer this suggestion to Ruscombe Parish Council.

## **10. Reports and to receive any recommendations from committees:**

**10.1 Planning and Amenities Committee 05.01.2016** Mr Smith reported from the minutes of the meeting. He highlighted item 10.3 - the Council still await the results of the CCTV drain survey on the Hurst Road and item 7.3 - the Council have put a hold on purchasing more LED lamps until further information on the WBC LED scheme is provided. Lamps will be repaired in the meantime.

Mrs Jarvis reported that the perimeter wall of the Twyford United Reformed Church which abuts the public highway on Waltham Road is dangerous and has the potential to fall down. This could be a danger / hazard to pedestrians. Agreed for the clerk to report this to WBC. (Email 27/01/16)

**10.2 Parish Lands Committee 12.01.2016** Mr Bowley reported from the minutes of the meeting. He highlighted item 4 - Network Rail will be planting a new hedge at Stanlake Meadow, item 5 – interest from the sports clubs in taking control of the pavilion building, item 6 – interest from The Colleton School in holding their after school club at the pavilion, item 10.3 – issues with the bins being emptied properly, 13.3 – looking to re-vamp the KGVR toddler area and 13.6 – consideration of plans for the Youth Centre to make changes to their building - more detailed plans were requested.

The committee **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to accept the quote at £498 to repair the entrance gate by the side of the tennis courts at KGVR. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr Morris reported the street light behind the Stanlake pavilion as an outage.

Mr Jarvis raised concern over the safety of children walking from The Colleton to the proposed after school club. He suggested a pedestrian crossing on the Waltham Road.

**10.3 Family Picnic sub committee 12.01.2016** Mr Boniface reported. He emphasised that the committee plan to keep this as a local Twyford event. Income generators were discussed and parking at a high charge may be considered. It was agreed to approach Castle Royle and Ellie of Barnes Fitness to request their involvement again.

**10.4 Finance and General Purposes Committee 19.01.2016** Mr Fergusson reported.

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting was changed to 27<sup>th</sup> April and the speaker has confirmed his availability for this date. The Expenditure against Budget statements and precept figures were circulated and Mr Fergusson talked through the figures.

The committee **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to accept the quote for copier at a cost of £480 and maintenance contract of £14 a quarter. Some discussion took place on the alternative option of purchasing a new printer/copier. Proposed Mr J Jarvis, seconded Mr M Boniface to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to put this recommendation back to the Finance committee. Motion carried 8 in favour, 2 against.

The committee **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to make a grant of £50 to the Link Visiting Scheme. Motion carried unanimously.

The committee **RECOMMEND to Full Council** a budget of £72,797.73. Some discussion took place in view of the £14,000 increase from last year's budget. The Council's income has decreased with the loss of rental income from the nursery. The Finance committee have forecast an income of £7,000 through pavilion rentals, this is £7000 less than was received in the last financial year. Other expenditure over and above last year was the family picnic at a cost of £5,000 and defibrillators budgeted at £4,000. Consideration was given to using the council's reserves to reduce the impact of the loss of income on the residents. The Council have projects in mind for the reserves such as a possible pavilion extension and the Community Hub.

Proposed Mr J Jarvis, seconded Mr M Boniface to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to reduce the budget by £5,000 (taken from the Council's capital) to a figure of £67,797.73. Motion carried 7 in favour, 3 against.

Agreed to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** the amended precept figure of £67,797.73.  
Motion carried 8 in favour, 2 against.

**10.4 Other Representatives reports.**

10.4.1 Borough Parish Liaison Forum (RM & JB) Mr Mantel and Mr Bowley summarised the meeting. They reported on a presentation by Francesca Hobson, WBC Flood Risk Manager on the Borough's Flood Action Groups and it was agreed for this item to be placed on the Planning & Amenities agenda. There was also a presentation on the five year housing land supply and strategic housing market assessment. The Borough will be reviewing usage of green belt land.

10.4.2 Meet your councillor session 09.01.16 Mr Jarvis and Mr Bedford attended. There was one visitor and the item had been discussed previously.

10.4.3 Community Hub meeting – Mr Bowley reported. There are no clear proposals on ownership or fundraising for the project. A solicitor had quoted £17,000 for drawing up the leases etc.

**11. Clerk's report** – no items to report.

**12. Councillor Questions** – no questions.

**13. Correspondence**

13.1 St Mary's Church community event to celebrate the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday – circulated by email. Noted.

13.2 Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service – public consultation. Refer to Planning & Amenities.

13.3 BBC Flog it! – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at Reading Town Hall. Noted.

13.4 Wokingham Half Marathon – 21.02.16. Noted.

13.5 WBC – Information for families and Care and support for adults. Noted.

**14. List of authorised payments** – list dated 26.01.2016 proposed Mr J Jarvis, seconded Mr D Fergusson, carried unanimously.

**15. Dates of meetings:**

TRCA AGM	26.01.16
Planning and Amenities Committee	02.02.16
Ruscombe Parish Council meeting (LJ)	03.02.16
Family Picnic sub committee (all welcome)	09.02.16 (7pm)
Parish Lands Committee	09.02.16
Finance Committee	16.02.16
Meet your councillor session	12.03.16 (Waitrose 3-4)
Mrs Ashley, Mrs L Jarvis & Mr Jarvis as reserve)	
Borough Wide litter pick	19.03.16 (10am)

The Chairman urged Councillors to support the litter pick if they can.

**16. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.**

**The meeting closed at 9.32 pm.**