

Twyford Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Meeting held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford on Tuesday 22nd November 2016 at 7.45 pm.

Present: Mr R Mantel (Chair), Mrs B Ditcham, Mrs L Jarvis, Mrs T Ramsden, Messrs M Bray, D Fergusson, R Morris, C Smith & C Wickenden.

In attendance: 1 member of the public & Mrs C Bulman (Ruscombe Parish Council).

1. **Public questions** Mick Yeates reported a misspelling of Cuincy in the Council minutes. Noted.
2. **Apologies** – Mrs E Ashley, Messrs M Boniface, J Bowley & J Jarvis.
3. **Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive - 21st Century Programme.** Mr Couldrick spoke about the tension between Town and Parish Councils and the Borough and wanted to reach out to talk about the Borough Council and open doors to more effective working. Keith Baker, Leader of the Council was unable to attend however he would be willing to respond to any questions. Mr Couldrick spoke about the financial challenges which had been reported at the Budget Engagement meetings. Twyford's had been one of the best attended although possibly because of a burning local issue. £30 million of savings have already been made but a further £19 million needs to be saved by 2020. Cuts in the Revenue Support Grant means that the financial challenge is severe. Staffing will be reduced by 10-15%, IT systems need to be more effective, processes need to improve. The new tier of workforce will work locally in communities. The Council want to continue offering non statutory services such as libraries. The Council hopes to improve its revenue streams through the land that it owns. Mr Couldrick then took questions:
Mrs Ditcham – How can the Parish Council work together with the Borough and have more say? Mr Couldrick said he had no fixed views and would welcome the Parish Council suggestions on how the Borough can improve. Some Parish Councils are better prepared to run some services.
Mr Morris spoke about the new relief roads which alleviate traffic problems in Winnersh and Wokingham but what about infrastructure to alleviate problems such as at the Twyford crossroads. Mr Couldrick reported that infrastructure often happens in the locality of the housing when in fact it effects the whole Borough. He spoke about the outdated roads, problems with light sequencing and pinch points.
Mr Bray asked about Cllr Sleights statement reported in the press that he was going to seize the allotment land owned by the Parish for a Station Car Park. Mr Couldrick reported that there is no policy position on this. Globally there would seem to be pressure in parking around the station and there are more and more double yellow lines in Twyford. A discussion needs to be had on the art of the possible.
Mr Smith – Did we not have a discussion with First Great Western Railways?
Mr Mantel – Investment in the Wokingham regeneration work is £100 million. Twyford are asking for £1-2 million for the Community Hub but there is nil for Twyford. Mr Couldrick reported that all of the money spent in Wokingham will be repaid and then some.
4. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – none.
5. **Dispensations** – none.
6. **Minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2016.** Item 9 line 7 amendment of the word 'sold' to 'transferred'. Amended minutes proposed Mr C Smith, seconded Mr R Morris, motion carried nem con.

7. Matters arising.

7.1 Invitation to WBC's Angus Ross at the January meeting to talk to the Council on the Environment portfolio. Angus has confirmed his availability and may be accompanied with his deputy, Cllr Parry Batth. Noted.

7.2 Borough Parish Liaison questions for next meeting on 16th December 2016.

[Agreed to put forward the following question:

When will Wokingham Borough Council publish residents feedback from the Budget Engagement sessions. What concrete actions will the Borough be taking based on the feedback?] Carry forward to the December meeting.

8. Borough Council Matters. Mr Ferris had given his apologies. He asked by email if the Council had arranged a session about the Local Plan and reported that the possibility of Twyford being a Strategic Development Location remains. WBC Full Council received the petition on Hare Hatch Sheeplands. 25 questions were asked by residents and circa 100 residents attended. After presentation of the petition the Council debate ended up with a motion being approved. Mr Ferris asked the Parish Council if they have any funding plans for the Community Hub.

9. Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council. Mrs Bulman reported on the Southbury Lane bridge. She reported donations to Keep Mobile, Link and Air Ambulance. RPC are considering whether they wish to have the Ruscombe signs on the London Road gateway.

10. Reports and to receive any recommendations from committees:

10.1 Planning and Amenities Committee 01.11.16, Website sub committee & GWR meeting Mrs Ditcham highlighted items 7.2 – planning permission given for The Old Boys School (Community Hub), 9.1 - the Council now own Bell Corner and have written to the shops asking them to refrain using the bollards for advertising, 9.4 - relocation of the Waitrose noticeboard and 9.6 - 'No cold Calling zone' trials for Gooch Close and Yewhurst Close.

The committee **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to make a contribution of £200 to the Thames Valley Police Speedwatch project. Motion carried 8 for, 1 against.

Mr R Morris and Mr R Mantel had agreed to participate as Speedwatch volunteers. Mrs Ramsden, Mr Bray and Mr Wickenden also volunteered.

Mr Mantel summarised the GWR meeting and the Planning and Amenities committee had agreed to send a follow up question.

10.2 Parish Lands Committee 08.11.16, Family Picnic sub committee & Parking sub committee Mrs Jarvis reported that the Cricket Club are exploring the idea of extending the Stanlake Pavilion. They have concerns over a clash with the Colleton after school club in the summer term. Mrs Jarvis also highlighted item 11.6 - agreement to purchase a bin for the youth shelter, 8.3 - Heras fencing and a quote for planting to stop the deer entering the allotments, 8.4 - plans to lock the allotment entrance gates, 8.5 - request for an allotment skip, 8.6 - request from TATA for plots to be used as small taster plots, 10.1 - permission given for Bell Corner events and 12.2 - Stanlake Meadow height bar modifications required.

10.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee 15.11.16 Mr Fergusson reported. The budgets and precept are currently being considered by each committee and will be confirmed in January. The Piggott School and Twyford Comets had shown interest in the Twinning project. The committee are asking further clubs if they would be interested in being involved in order to gauge interest. The Committee **RECOMMEND to Full Council** approval of the meeting dates for 2017/18. Motion carried unanimously.

10.4 Other Representatives reports.

10.4.1 BALC AGM 03.11.16 Mr Mantel and Mr Bowley attended the AGM. The BALC subscription will increase from 18.5 pence per elector to 20.5 pence. Once the NALC part is agreed the Council can consider whether they wish to subscribe.

10.4.2 Community Hub meeting 09.11.16 Carried forward.

10.4.3 Meet the public 12.11.16 Mrs Ditcham and Mr Smith had attended. Mr and Mrs Stafford attended and expressed concern at the lack of discussions at the Planning and Amenities meeting regarding the gardening suggestions from the Twyford in Bloom. Mrs Ditcham updated them on the latest Twyford in Bloom meeting which she had attended on behalf of the Council.

10.4.4 Mayors Reception – Voluntary Sector Mrs Ditcham attended on behalf of the Chairman and Vice Chairman who were unable to attend. Mrs Ditcham reported on Involve, Give and Take Care points for caring and Drug FAM.

11. Clerk's report The Clerk reported on the Clerks Forum. A report had been received on the WBC Health & Wellbeing. There is a need to look at neighbourhood work and intervention. It was felt that the Parishes have a lot to offer in terms of keeping residents healthy with clubs and societies / allotments / gardening groups / recreational facilities etc. The forum discussed the relationship between WBC spend and NHS savings and the possibility of NHS funding in order to save on care. The organisation giveandtakecare.co.uk was discussed. This is a scheme of mutual exchange where an hour of volunteering can be banked and exchanged later.

The forum discussed the problems of receiving consistent Planning information from WBC, with the consequence of having to actively manage the information. Sometimes it was confusing which plans could or could not be commented on.

Finchampstead Parish Council reported on Community Right to Bid submissions and the clarification received from DCLG as to what is permissible in a submission. There was conflicting information as to whether they could list a pub as a Community Asset.

12. Waltham road path – to consider the options for a path through Stanlake Meadow. [Item put forward for discussion] Carried forward in order to enable Mr Winchester to put forward his proposal.

13. Items to be discussed at the next meeting – none.

14. Correspondence – none.

15. List of authorised payments – list dated 22/11/2016. Approval proposed Mr D Fergusson, seconded Mrs B Ditcham, motion carried unanimously.

16. Dates of meetings:

Planning and Amenities Committee	01.12.16 (Thursday)
Parish Lands Committee	06.12.16 (Tuesday)
Ruscombe Parish Council meeting (LJ)	07.12.16 (Wednesday)
Finance Committee	08.12.16 (Thursday)
Parking Sub-Committee	13.12.16 7pm
Meet your councillor session	07.01.17 (Waitrose 3-4)
Mr D Fergusson & Mrs T Ramsden with Mr R Morris as reserve.	

17. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 13th December 2016.

The meeting closed at 9:35 pm.