

Twyford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Meeting held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford on Thursday 13th December 2018 at 7.45 pm.

Present: Mrs B Ditcham, Mrs E Ashley, Mr M Boniface, Mr M Bray, Mr J Jarvis & Mr D Fergusson.

Clerk in attendance: Lynn Povey.

As the chairman and vice chairman were absent it was proposed by Mr M Bray, seconded by Mr D Fergusson and unanimously agreed that Mrs B Ditcham should chair the meeting.

1. **Public questions** – No questions.
2. **Apologies** – Mr R Abeywardana, Mr M Alder, Mr J Bowley, Mrs J Duffield, Mrs L Jarvis, Mr R Mantel, Mrs T Ramsden, Mr C Wickenden & Mr T Winchester.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – None.
4. **Dispensations** – None.
5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2018.** Approval of the minutes as a true and accurate record proposed Mr D Fergusson, seconded Mr M Boniface, motion carried nem con.

6. **Matters arising.**

6.1 Polling District review – the clerk had written a further to WBC emphasising that the Parish Council are requesting that the polling booths for the 603 Twyford electors on register 'TMB' are located at Stanlake Pavilion alongside 'TAM2'. WBC responded that this would be difficult with only one room at Stanlake however the issue will be raised with the Working Group Members for their consideration. Noted.

6.2 An invitation to meet had been received from Jude Whyte, Assistant Director, Customer and Localities, WBC. Previously agreed to invite Jude to the January meeting on 29th January 2019. WBC response suggested that the Council consider the discussion items at their January meeting and then Jude Whyte and Mark Redfearn will meet with the Chairman to go through the topics. Noted. Carried forward to January.

7. Borough Council Matters. No report from Mr W Smith. Mr J Jarvis read his report in the meeting & the report from Mr L Ferris was circulated. Both reports detailed below:

Mr Lindsay Ferris

1. **Civil Parking Issues**

We have been getting a number of complaints from resident's reference people being booked for strange reasons. I have heard of cases where cars parking in the Surgery car park have been booked (not even a public) highway, cases where people have been booked at midnight and others. I am currently pursuing this with Officers at Shute End.

2. **Commuter & other Parking Issues**

An e-petition reference Car Parking issues in Broad Hinton has just completed (with 56 signatures). It is now with the Highways officers at WBC to decide what actions are required. The petition covers the whole of Broad Hinton and I have worked with Cllr Wayne Smith on this issue as well as Broad Hinton residents.

3. **Twyford Post Office**

I have been in contact with the Councillor liaison manager at the Post Office on this issue. The Post Office have been less than forthcoming on what will happen to the current Post Office. I have in particular asked if a temporary/mobile Post Office can be provided until things are sorted one way or the other. He has indicated that he has raised this with his senior officers. I am still awaiting a response. I will let the Parish know when/should I get a response. It is becoming more and more likely that we may need a new long term location.

4. **Road & Pavement Sweeping**

I have made enquiries as to the frequency of when the roads and pavements have been swept in Twyford.

Whilst I have seen the large lorry sweep Waltham Road frequently and the other part of Waltham Road on occasions, I have not seen evidence of any sweeping of pavements & of many side roads. I would find it helpful if Parish Councillors could advise me of what is their position in their parts of the Village. I am being told there is a schedule of sweeping, but I am not convinced it is necessarily being followed. Any assistance would be appreciated.

5. WBC Council Items

The New Leader of the Council Julian Magee-Sumner will formally be appointed at the 14th December Full Council at Shute End. He will also be appointing a New Executive. In addition to what was reported last month, Cllr Richard Dolinski has resigned both from the Conservative Party and as Exec member for Adult Social Services.

In addition the Council will be appointing a new Chief Executive at the 14th December Meeting. At this stage I cannot reveal the name as there are still a number of issues to resolve. There should be an announcement from the Council shortly.

Mr John Jarvis

1. I have been discussing with a local resident an allegation that WBC Traffic Wardens were issuing PCN's to those church members using the Twyford Surgery on a Sunday morning. I am able to confirm that whoever was issuing such tickets it was not Wokingham Borough Council as no PCN's have been issued recently in Loddon Hall Road. The WBC does not have a TRO to cover the Twyford Surgery as this is a privately owned car park. I would add that every PCN issued has to be dated and cover a road where a TRO applies. Without this information a PCN would be invalid. I have no knowledge of any PCN's being issued at or around midnight but if they were then they would have to be on a double yellow line where parking is not permitted 24 hours a day. I support this action to prevent parking on double yellow lines overnight.
2. I have carried out a survey of all the residents in Twyford as to the problem with parking and how this can be solved. Over the Christmas period I will be analysing the comments I have received with a view to presenting a solution that most of the residents of Twyford can and will support. I do not support picking off roads one by one and trying to solve this problem piecemeal. Every problem solved only moves this problem to another road and further disruption.
3. Wokingham are having problems with their main Post Office with the probable re-location to W H Smith. It appears that most of the Post Offices in the Country are being re-located to other stores which cause residents problems in getting all the services currently provided by Main Post Offices e.g. renewal of passports. The problem in Twyford is that Booze Bargain have ceased trading and stopped operating the post office. The old outlet appears to be reluctant to take back this post office as the returns are minimal. This is likely to be repeated throughout the country.
4. I understand Susan Parsonage has been appointed as our new Chief Executive and will be taking up her position in the middle of March next year. Julian McGhee Sumner will become the Leader of the Council on the 14th December 2018.
5. I can report that the Council has been partially successful in its discussions with the government over local finances and we will not be asked to have a negative Rate Support Grant next year. This success means that with our other cost saving measures which do not affect services we will be able to rebuild our contingency fund to over £10m following budget overspends this year in the Adult and Children services. It is extremely difficult to budget for these services as we have little control over who will require assistance during the year.

6. One major success story is that during this year we have managed to provide temporary help to those leaving hospital and requiring halfway help before returning to their own homes after a stay in hospital. We are continuing to build more temporary accommodation to those made homeless until we are able to provide new housing for them.
7. One of the Wards in the Wokingham Borough is running close to being 30% over the average electoral ward and when this happens it triggers an automatic boundary commission adjustment to maintain similar sized wards. When this happens an all out all in election instead of one third will be held after the boundaries have been adjusted. This could happen in 2020 or 2021.

8. Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council – No representative present.

9. Reports and to receive any recommendations from committees:

9.1 Planning and Amenities Committee & Neighbourhood Plan 04.12.18

Mr J Jarvis highlighted 7.1,7.3, 12, 15.1, 15.3 & 15.4 & outlined the following:

Recommendation: £525 (£175x3) monthly website management & development. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2 Parish Lands Committee 06.12.18

Mr D Fergusson highlighted 8.2,8.3, 9.2, 9.3 & 12.1 & outlined the following:

Recommendation: purchase 10 tonnes of scalping at a cost of £235. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation: to approve the quote for £800 for tree works to be carried out at the London Road Allotments. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation: to approve the quote of £220 to purchase the handrail scaffolding parts for the London Road Allotments. Motion carried unanimously.

9.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee 11.12.18

Mr D Fergusson highlighted 8 & 11 & outlined the following:

Recommendation: approval of the amended Social Media Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation: a grant of £110 to Berkshire MS Therapy Centre. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation: a grant of £275 to ARC youth counselling. Motion carried unanimously.

9.4 Fete Committee – No meeting held.

9.5 Other representatives reports – None.

10. To review which committee should have ownership of the website – Mr D Fergusson proposed that the website should form part of the Finance Committee. Seconded by Mr M Boniface and unanimously agreed.

11. Clerk's report – None.

12. Items to be discussed at the next meeting – Item 6.2.

13. Correspondence (circulated to councillors by email):

13.1 WBC Postponement of Community Conference (circulated 22.11.18). Noted.

13.2 WBC NEWS: Food waste collections are coming (circulated 22.11.18). Noted.

13.3 Meeting with Parish and Town Councils (circulated 23.11.18). Noted.

13.4 Christmas cards received from Keep Mobile, Age Concern & St Mary's Church. Noted.

14. List of authorised payments – List dated 7.12.18. Proposed by Mr D Fergusson, seconded by Mr J Jarvis and unanimously agreed.

15. Dates of meetings:

All meetings 7:45pm at Loddon Hall unless noted otherwise.

Ruscombe Parish Council meeting (LJ)	02.01.19
Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (7:30pm Stanlake Pavilion)	07.01.19
Neighbourhood Plan (7pm)	08.01.19
Planning and Amenities Committee	08.01.19

Twining meeting (EA&BD)	09.01.19
Wokingham Borough Council Engagement (7-9pm Loddon Hall)	10.01.19
Meet your councillor session (Waitrose café 3-4pm)	12.01.19
Mr J Jarvis, Mrs L Jarvis with Mr R Mantel as reserve	
Parish Lands Committee	15.01.19
Finance Committee	22.01.19
Fete Committee (7pm)	29.01.19
NAG (EA)	07.02.19

16. Date of next meeting of the Council Tuesday 29th January 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.