

## WEST HENDRED PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016

**Present:** Cllr Richard Evans (Chairman), Cllr David Clayton, Cllr Roy Lennox, Cllr Fiona Taylor, Cllr Sarah Lloyd

**Clerk/Finance Officer:** Julia Evans

**District Councillor:**

**County Councillor:** Cllr Stewart Lilly

**Members of the Public:** Alex Dixon for agenda item 11.

<b>01/16</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Cllr Mike Murray sent his apologies.	<b>Action:</b>
<b>02/16</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b> None.	
<b>03/16</b>	<b>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015</b> Cllr Clayton proposed accepting the minutes of the meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2015. Cllr Lennox seconded. RESOLVED.	
<b>04/16</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p><b>The Old Ford</b> – It was reported that the tunnel is still silted up and needs cleaning. It was suggested that this could be cleared by volunteers. Cllr Evans to look into this. The collapsed pipe will need to be repaired by OCC. Clerk to write to Gordon Hunt again.</p> <p><b>Waste Bin Stickers</b> At a previous meeting the Clerk reported that stickers were available in Household packs of 6 stickers or bulk packs of 100 stickers from <a href="http://www.smartwheelie.co.uk">www.smartwheelie.co.uk</a> Cllr Taylor agreed to look into this.</p> <p><b>Speed Limit in Ginge</b> At a previous meeting Cllr Lilly's response to the request to consider lowering the speed limit in Ginge was discussed. The clerk has written to Mr Pill.</p> <p><b>Facilities for older people</b> At a previous meeting Cllr Taylor suggested organising something in the village for older people. Cllr Evans to speak to Steve Willis about this.</p> <p><b>Levels of Liability Insurance</b> The Clerk has sent a copy of the insurance policy to Cllr Lennox to review.</p> <p><b>Setts in Ginge Road</b> – Damaged setts were reported in Ginge Road, just passed The Barnyard. Clerk has reported this. Awaiting repair.</p> <p><b>Damage to the Village Green</b> At a previous meeting a complaint about damage to a driveway across the village green was discussed. It was noted that there is also damage to the green as a result of recent building work. It was agreed to write to the householder who had had the building work carried out to ask him to repair the damage and to ask whether he could assist with the damage to the driveway. It was also agreed to write to the resident who had complained about the driveway. Cllr Evans agreed to draft a letter for review. At a previous meeting it was noted that a resident had pruned a tree belonging to the Parish Council on the Village Green at the bottom of the Greenway without requesting permission to do so. Cllr Lloyd presented a draft letter for review. The meeting approved the letter. Clerk to send.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RE <b>Clerk</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C/F: FT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C/F: RE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">RL</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Clerk</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Clerk</b></p>
<b>05/16</b>	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> A police report was not available.	
<b>06/16</b>	<b>OPEN FORUM</b> No members of the public were present.	
<b>07/16</b>	<b>COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT</b> Cllr Lilly reported that OCC's budget had been reduced by a further £20m	

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	<p>over the next 2 years. This will result in significant reductions in service. OCC will give priority to their legal obligations which includes children and the elderly. It was reported that 2% of the population takes more than 50% of the budget. It was reported that OCC had been obliged to accommodate 29 unaccompanied child refugees which will also have an impact on the budget. A devolution bid has been placed with the Secretary of State but it will take some time to come into being. The Secretary of State has approved the application. Cllr Lilly reported that library facilities are now available on smartphones and tablets. Exam results in OCC schools were up last year. Cllr Lilly reported on the localities meeting: The work to the A417 is in the County traffic plan but implementation is dependent on S106 funding. Costings are being developed so that road improvements can be implemented as soon as funds become available. West Hendred's crossing is 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> on the list. On the roads: Featherbed Lane improvement will start this year; Milton Interchange is due to be completed by April; Chilton slips and Hagbourne Hill should be complete by September. Some funds have been set aside for patching and edge repairs to strengthen the highways. Cllr Lilly reported that due to development the drainage systems are experiencing capacity problems which Thames Water are not addressing at the moment. Some new plans are having now having Grampian conditions attached which means that development cannot start until the drainage issues have been addressed.</p> <p>Cllr Lilly reported on the Oxfordshire Together initiative. OCC will only deal with grass cutting where it has an impact on road safety.</p> <p>Cllr Lilly was asked if there was a completion date for the railway bridge on the A338. He informed the meeting that there was not.</p> <p>Cllr Evans questioned why OCC had not requested S106 funding from the proposed 'North Hendred' developments to create additional space in the village schools. He informed Cllr Lilly that as least one of the schools is already oversubscribed. West Hendred's children will be forced to travel to other schools because they will not be able to secure a place locally. Cllr Lilly agreed to look into this. He suggested writing to Cllr Melinda Tilley at County Hall, who is the Cabinet Member for children and education. He suggested inviting her to the Annual Meeting to talk about education.</p> <p>Cllr Lilly was thanked for attending.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>08/16</b></p>	<p><b>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT</b> Cllr Murray's emailed report had previously been circulated to all councillors. A copy is filed with these minutes.</p>	
<p><b>09/16</b></p>	<p><b>PLAYING FIELD REPORT:</b> <b>Playing Field Inspection-</b> Cllr Taylor reported that the January inspection would be carried out next week. Cllr Lennox to carry out the inspection for February. <b>Playground Repairs</b> – The clerk reported that Paul Stoter had carried out the repairs to the fort and the stepping posts. The meeting agreed to ask him to quote for the application of a non-slip surface on the fort and for repairs to the wobble board. <b>Grant for new swings</b> – Cllr Lloyd reported that the grant application had been successful and an award of £1784 had been made. Cllr Lloyd to examine both quotes and select a supplier. <b>Grass Cutting</b> – At a previous meeting it was reported that the internal auditor recommended that an annual amount for grass cutting be agreed a year ahead. The meeting agreed to formalise a contract and offer £456 for grass cutting in the financial year 2016/17. The Clerk reported that Mr Soffe has agreed. Clerk to write to Mr Cox about grass cutting beside the Old Ford. <b>Donation of picnic table</b> – A selection of commercially available tables had previously been circulated to the councillors. Cllr Clayton presented a quote of £600 for a bespoke table which has better access for the less able. Cllr Clayton reported that Mrs Hart has agreed to this. The meeting agreed that</p>	<p><b>FT/RL</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>SL</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>DC</b></p>

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	<p>the Parish Council would fund a commemorative plaque for the table. Cllr Clayton agreed to proceed with the order.</p> <p><b>Sign for the Playing Field</b> – Cllr Evans had previously circulated draft text for signs for the playing field. Clerk to obtain a quote for the signs from Falcon Signs along with recommendations on the size of the signs. Quote for posts will also be required. Clerk to obtain these.</p> <p><b>Large Trees</b> – At a previous meeting the Clerk was asked to establish who is responsible for the large trees in the playing field. Savills has been contacted but they have not yet replied. Clerk to chase.</p> <p><b>Permission to remove overhanging branch</b> – A resident has reported a dangerous overhanging branch in the playing field and requested permission to remove it. The meeting agreed. Cllr Evans to notify the resident.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>RE</p>
10/16	<p><b>PLANNING MATTERS:</b> Cllr Evans to write objections to both the ‘North Hendred’ planning applications.</p>	RE
11/16	<p><b>WEBSITE UPDATE</b> Alex Dixon presented a beta version of the new website. He agreed to send a link to all the councillors for the further review. Councillors to respond to Alex directly. Alex to send information on the new email accounts that have been set up.</p>	All Councillors/AD
12/16	<p><b>DEVOLUTION OF OCC GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES (OXFORDSHIRE TOGETHER)</b> The clerk presented costings for grass cutting within the village and in the extended area of the parish. The meeting agreed to budget for one cut of the entire parish and two additional cuts of the Furlong footpath. Clerk to agree with Ben Grisswood. Clerk to contact Tim Shickle from Oxfordshire Together to discuss the next steps.</p>	Clerk
13/16	<p><b>FINANCIAL MATTERS</b> <b>Payments for Approval</b> – A list of payments for approval is filed with these minutes. Cllr Clayton proposed approving all payments. Cllr Taylor seconded. RESOLVED. <b>2016/17 Budget and Precept.</b> The meeting discussed the budget proposals and the impact of different precept levels. Cllr Lloyd proposed an increase of 10%, which would mean a precept of £6,900, and a budget shortfall of £600. Cllr Lennox seconded. RESOLVED. <b>Appointment of External Auditor</b> The clerk presented the proposals for the new arrangements as put forward by NALC. The Parish Council has the opportunity to opt-out of the National Scheme. The clerk recommended not opting out since there were likely to be economies of scale by staying in the national scheme. The meeting agreed. <b>Appoinment of Internal Auditor</b> It was suggested that Mr Findley be asked if he would be prepared to undertake the internal audit again for the financial year 2015/16. Cllr Evans agreed to contact him.</p>	RE
14/16	<p><b>REPORT FROM A417 MEETING</b> Cllr Evans reported that costings for the work on the A417 were due at the end of February. The designs are being down-scaled, for example using mini-roundabouts instead of compact roundabouts. The pedestrian crossing is key for West Hendred. The design has not yet started and no funds are available for this. The design is estimated to cost £10,000. The crossing itself will cost between £30,000 and £100,000. Cllr Lennox suggested that if the crossing is unlikely to be delivered we out to consider special signs on the A417. Clerk to contact OCC Highways. It was also suggested that a highways safety audit be requested to take place at 8am and 4pm. Clerk to contact Cllr Lilly. Money for the Wantage Eastern Link Road is coming from</p>	Clerk

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	development in Wantage, but this has been held up.	
<b>15/16</b>	<b>DEFIBRILLATOR PROJECT</b> The clerk informed the meeting that the grant had been paid in full and asked whether the defibrillator should be ordered, The village hall committee are yet to decide on whether the telephone kiosk is the best place to install the defibrillator. Cllr Lloyd advised waiting until a decision had been made. Cllr Lennox noted that the Insurance company should be notified once the defibrillator had been purchased.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>16/16</b>	<b>CELEBRATION OF HM THE QUEEN'S 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY</b> Cllr Lloyd suggesting asking the Village Hall to hold a tea party on the weekend of 11/12 <sup>th</sup> June, the official birthday weekend. Cllr Evans noted that beacons are being lit on Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> April to mark HM The Queen's real birthday. The meeting felt that this would be a good idea. Cllr Lloyd suggested that a bar should be made available. Cllr Clayton agreed to find out whether there was a mobile bar available locally. Cllr Evans agreed to publicise the event and contact surrounding councils.	<b>DC/RE</b>
<b>17/16</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE</b> <b>Consultation on the draft Magnox Socio-Economic Plan</b> – The meeting had no comment to make. <b>Request for Grant from Oxfordshire Association for the Blind</b> – The Clerk reported that this charity had supported 9 people from the parish over the past year. The Cllr Taylor proposed a grant of £50. Cllr Lloyd seconded. <b>RESOLVED.</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>18/16</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER ITEMS</b> The following items to be reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beacons</li> <li>• Precept</li> <li>• Defibrillator</li> <li>• Swings</li> </ul>	<b>RE</b>
<b>19/16</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> None	
<b>20/16</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm	

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

Signed .....

Dated .....

