

Minutes of the Burford Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber 1 March 2017 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr J White, Mayor. Cllr J Tunnel-Westmacott Deputy Mayor, Cllr D Cohen, Cllr A Temple-Bruce, Cllr P Bush, Cllr D Cotterill, Cllr I Brown, Cllr M Taubenheim, Cllr N Owen – OCC, Maggie Andrews - Town Clerk. John Yeatman – Treasurer. Two members of the public.

1. MINUTES. Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 February 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING. Cllr Walker Burford future plan. No information to hand.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs Taubenheim, Walker, Lofthouse & Mills. Mr N. Field-Johnson.

4. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION.

Trees Lower High Street. A resident whose property is close to the proposed planting has shown concerns about root damage to her property. Although the appropriate license has been obtained from OCC for planting additional trees, the matter needs more discussion between relevant parties. Cllr Tabenheim will pursue. It was noted that the planting will not be funded by the council.

Shepherds Hut. Burford Festival committee have asked if a shepherds hut could be situated at the Tolsey as an information centre. All were in agreement.

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The following Councillors declared a personal interest because they represent the Council as Chairmen of the following committees:-

Cllr White – Chairman of Traffic Committee.

Cllr Taubenheim – Chairman of the Pavilion committee.

Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott – Cemetery & Environment.

Cllr I Brown – Chairman Recreation Ground.

6. TREASURERS REPORT.

Payments for approval:-

Council account:-

Mrs Andrews	669. 80
Inland Revenue	300. 89
J Yeatman	148. 80
Nest Pension (D/D)	13. 10
Mr & Mrs K Dadge	97. 50
David Buckland	1083.36
Petty Cash	50. 00
A K Timms	112. 03
Ricoh	4. 04
SpecialEffect	400. 00
OALC annual subscription	243. 14

Talkingout loud	25. 00
BT Business account	31. 80 D/D
Southern Electric Office	302. 41
Viking Office Supplies	171. 04
Southern Electric Rec	72. 01

The above were passed for payment.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Cllr White & Cllr Cohen had attended a meeting in Witey regarding a Unitary Council. A presentation was made by permanent officers i.e. civil servants not by politicians. The scheme involved the abolition of all 6 councils – OCC, 4 districts & Oxford City – replaced by Unitary Council. All assets and powers of districts and city would be transferred to UC. South Oxfordshire has reserves of £100m which would pass to UC but they support it. WODC's alternative scheme – a 'devolution deal' would not be accepted by Government according to OCC. Government has denied that it is not doing devolution deals. UC would have about 125 Councillors as opposed to the current 250+ district and county Councillors

The Mayor had also attended a meeting with Cottsway, Carters (Contractors), the site Manager, Cllrs Tunnell-Westmacott & Bush regarding the Falkland Close development. Will Munro from Cottsway apologised for not advising or consulting the Council of their start date or the Traffic Management Plan. Residents in Frethern Close have already suffered with extra traffic and delivery lorries. Cottsway & Carters stressed they would keep us and the residents informed on a day to day basis wherever possible.

A Unitary roadshow was held at the Library and all questions concerning the Unitary proposals were noted.

The Mayor attended a NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) meeting. Carterton were experiencing a high level of vandalism whereas Burford appeared to be in a 'good state'. The meeting was poorly attended and the Mayor doubted whether the NAG would continue to meet in the future.

He also attended a Governors meeting at Burford School for National Results Day. Burford School is very successful with 297 pupils wanting to attend with 270 vacancies.

8. WODC REPORT Cllr D Cotterill

Cllr Cotterill reported that the next waste contract which starts October 2017 will have different coloured bins. The current thinking is anthracite grey with blue lids for recycling, green for garden waste and grey for household rubbish. The existing black boxes will be continued for bottles.

WODC has voted through £25,000 to fight the County Unitary bid. The Chief Executive of South Oxfordshire, David Hills explained the plans to OALC to alter the concept of five Area Boards which reflected the present District areas into a greater number of 'area panels' based around market towns to make governance more local. A consideration was also being given to 'parishes' in Oxford City and the creation of a new City Council. The County Council will be asked to endorse these proposals on 14 March before the Unitary bid is sent to the Secretary of State. If the 'bid' is successful an implementation Council' will be set up to deliver the proposals within 18 months.

West Oxon has voted through its budget so Council Tax bills will soon arrive. The total cost estimate for services in 2017/18 is £11.03m. The budget includes the cut in the Government funded Revenue Support Grant of £0.42m and recognises a number of risks such as the Council Tax capping, collection fund risk (99% at present), business rate and new homes bonus. Currently the Council holds £11.26m in reserves as a working cash cushion, protection against unforeseen events and earmarked reserves being built up for later expenditure projects. The minimum reserve level in WODC is £5m.

The Council raises in excess of £4m from fees and services and £3.5m from commercial property; both these income streams are subject to risk from market forces.

9. OCC REPORT Cllr N Owen

Extra Funding secured. The County Council set its budget in mid February for 2017-18. It was announced the Council had £1,957,000 extra over and above the position reported to the Cabinet in January, as a result of better than expect business rate collections, council tax collection fund surpluses and a higher than expected grant. The County is proposing to hold £926,000 of this until the 2018/19 financial year to deal with future pressures. Cabinet propose to spend the rest of the money (£1.03m) in this financial year in the following ways:-

£170,000 additional grass-cutting work on highway verges.

£250,000 one-off funding initially for a pilot Communities Fund for parishes and towns to bid for matched funding schemes following changes/reductions for funding for services.

£600,000 additional funding for children's social care – a part of the council that has been exempted from cuts since 2010 but has continued to experience significant rising demand on services in common with children's social care departments across England.

£11,000 increase on the Council's Flood Defence Levy.

Children's Services. Start-up funding for 12 more community schemes to run open access services at children's centre has been approved by OCC. Community services will compliment the Council's new service for 0-19 year olds and ensure that families who need extra help are identified at an early stage. Open access sessions will also continue at the eight Children and Family Centres and two satellite centres at the heart of the Council's new Children's Service.

Fix my Street. OCC has been working hard to make Fix my Street work more effectively. It will improve the quality and consistency of public reports. Members of the public who consistently give good information can be rewarded with 'trusted reporter' status meaning OCC will fast track future reports to the contractor resulting in quicker resolution for the resident and reduced effort for the inspectors. However before the new scheme is launched OCC will need to deal with reports still marked as 'open'.

Fire & Ambulance service. OCC Fire & Rescue Service has been working in partnership with South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). OCC has been working with Thames Valley Fire & Rescue partners to undertake a collaborative co-responding trial. The trial has been a success with crews attending approximately 1500 medical emergency calls per year. Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service are working in partnership with SCAS towards all fire engines within the communities being available for cardiac arrests.

This enables casualties across Oxfordshire to receive the quickest available defibrillator and casualty support.

Unitary Update. OCC launched 'A Fresh Start for Oxfordshire' a draft of OCC's intended proposal for DCLG (Department of Community & Local Government) on how and why a single unitary authority for Oxfordshire could work. The full proposal can be found online at www.oneoxfordshire.org. It has been agreed that the three councils will move forward with a joint proposal for a single unitary council across Oxfordshire. A statement has been issued to parish councils.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

A potential business venture called Cotswold Tuk Tuk has asked if the Council would support such a venture. Councillors were in agreement.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning.

The following were discussed and Council's comments sent to WODC planning department.

17/00408/LBC. Burford School Boarding House. Affix fascia sign to front elevation of building. The Council objected on the grounds that the sign is far too big and would spoil the line of the building.

17/00402/FUL. 111 High Street. Proposed alterations to the single storey building to the rear of 111 and 113. No objection.

17/00380/LBC & 17/00379/HHD. Flat 1 Castles Yard. Internal and external alterations to flat 1 & 2. No objection.

17/00273/HHD. Straddles, Cheltenham Road. Part conversion of existing roof space into habitable use and new front driveway. No objection.

Mrs Loades had shown concern over the demolition works to the Old Brewery. The Mayor responded accordingly noting her concerns.

Recreation Ground/Pavilion

Cllr Brown reported that he and Cllr Cohen had met with those concerned with the proposed Trim Trail. Information was shared and left with them to review.

A meeting was held with the Scout group representatives to discuss various issues. It was decided that camp fires should be sited opposite the scout hut where the wild flower area is envisaged. The copse area will not be used for campfires by Burford Scouts or visiting Scout groups.

Other issues addressed resulted in the decision not to fence in the wild flower area and not to have 'formal' planting but for the main focus to be on wild plants.

A notice board will be erected by the parking area/Scouts hut explaining the wild flower area with a map, and warnings for the public to keep their dogs on leads and to pick up after the animal fouls the Recreation Ground.

A representative from the Scout group has been invited to the next Rec committee meeting on 5 April.

The Scouts agreement may need some modification in light of the above decisions.

General cutting back of several areas on the Rec continue including large tree branches which have fallen in the recent gales. Working parties will be arranged in the near future for anyone to come and help.

Environment & Cemetery

Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott noted that a large lorry had been parked in front of the Tolsey. This was because of shop refurbishment to Rose Dodd now to be Charles Clinkard.

An area of rough pavement at 157 The Hill means that residents with mobility scooters are experiencing great difficulty in using the pathway.

It was noted that 'sets' have been removed from the High Street by Huffkins, and replaced with tarmac.

The Clerk was asked to chase OCC regarding the roundabout A40 white demarcation lining.

Traffic.

Nothing further has developed in Witney Street regarding the 20mph signage.

It has been noted that lorries are using the A40 to turn in to St Andrews Barn. Access to the site has been denied by the planning authorities. The Clerk will advise the Planning Department at WODC.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that allegedly some houses have already been allocated to buyers at the Falkland Close development. Cllr Cotterill will investigate.

Cllr Brown said that the link to the website advertising the Unitary proposals was difficult to find.

The disabled sign outside Closa, Lower High Street has been sited on a short pole so that Traffic Wardens can now police the disabled bay.

13. CHARITY MATTERS.

The Colliers Charity event at the Primary school is scheduled for 27 March at 2.30pm.

DRAFT ONLY

ONLY D