

Minutes of a meeting of Full Council
Held on Wednesday, 26th July 2023
At School Green Centre commencing at 19:30

Present: Cllrs Clarke, Grimes, James, Lias, Masseron, Montgomery, Peer and Tatla

Attending: BCllr Glover, Gray, Johnson
B Winton (Clerk)
55 members of the public
1 member of the press

23/83 Public Questions

- 83.1 There was a large public presence due to concerns from parents and guardians (for simplicity referred to below as just parents) regarding the provision of school buses.

Cllr Grimes welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that legally the council would not be in a position to make any decisions on this matter tonight, but he would give residents a chance to speak and for BCllr Prue Bray (Executive Member for Children's Services) to respond.

After an initial question from a member of the public which reflected the concerns of all the parents present, BCllr Bray set out Wokingham Borough Council's obligations to provide free transport for some students and the arrangements that are in place to allow other, fare paying, students to use surplus capacity on the buses provided. There was a "bulge" in student numbers which was creating a situation where the previously provided capacity was insufficient to meet the demand. The rate for spare capacity places for 2023/24 would be £825.

BCllr Bray advised that WBC were projecting a budget deficit of £3m for the current financial year and £11m for the following year. Therefore WBC could not commit any additional funding towards the provision of buses. An additional bus would cost from £75,000 for the year.

BCllr Bray advised that the E3 service which ran to and from Finchampstead had approximately 30 spare seats, but parents questioned the practicalities in getting children to Finchampstead.

83.2 There was a consensus that:

- An immediate solution was required for those due to go to school in September 2023
- There needed to be a longer-term certainty about what arrangements would be both for those currently going to secondary school and those who would be starting in future years
- For those making their decisions about which school to go to this year, access to reliable transport (however provided) would be a major consideration
- There was a need for more accurate numbers relating to those who were definitely affected those issue (WBC's numbers were not completely up to date)
- Cllr Grimes also asked that there be a degree of "buy in" from parents that, if alternative provision was made available, then parents would make use of the service

There were also discussions on:

- The viability of the Leopard #3 Reading Buses service (although it was noted that there is a legal notice period for any change to a published public transport timetable)
- Whether there may be spare capacity on other school services e.g. those to Forest School
- How SPC, WBC, parents and if necessary, coach operators could work together on a longer-term solution

83.3 It was agreed that there would be a special Full Council meeting of Shinfield Parish Council on Wednesday 2nd August 2023 to receive and consider any viable options to help resolve this issue.

83.4 Most members of the public left the meeting at this time and three remained.

23/84 Apologies and declarations of Members' Interest

84.1 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Boyer, Jahromi
Apologies had been received from Borough Cllrs Munro, Johnson, Gray & Rance
Apologies had been received from S Herring, Deputy Clerk

84.2 There were no declarations of members' interests

84.3 There were no changes to members' declarations of pecuniary interests

23/85 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

85.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed as such by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke
Seconded: Cllr Montgomery
Approved: Unanimously

85.2 The following matters arising were discussed:

- 23/71.2 Clerk to request numbers of Shinfield Parish Council pupils attending named secondary schools in Wokingham Borough Council and outside of WBC

This was on the agenda.

- 23/71.2 Clerk to plot on a map current bin locations and who owns them

This had been started but was still a work in progress. It was suggested that an awareness campaign was organised to encourage people to take their litter home for disposal (including recycling). Cllr Masseron asked if it was possible to identify how full bins were when they were emptied as it may be an option to reposition bins which were not used a lot

ACTION – Clerk to complete map of bin locations

ACTION – Clerk to arrange for awareness campaign to encourage litter to be taken home

ACTION – Clerk to investigate how full bins were when emptied

- 23/72.3 Clerk to display notice of Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 from 3rd July for 30 days

This had been done.

- 23/72.4 Clerk to display notice of Section 2 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 from 3rd July for 30 days

This had been done.

- 23/72.5 Clerk to display notice of public access to AGAR from 3rd July for 30 days

This had been done.

- 23/73.1 Clerk to set up a working party for 'Engagement'

This was on the agenda

- 23/74.6 Clerk to ensure that WBC have arranged a meeting for the Traffic Working Party

This meeting took place earlier today 26th July and the outcome will be discussed later in the agenda

- 23/75.2 Manor Ground Lease to be on the agenda of the next meeting

This was still with the University of Reading's lawyers

ACTION – Clerk to chase for the lease

23/76.1 Clerk to arrange for the Ryeish Green Pavilion to be put on the open market for sale

This was on the agenda.

23/77.1 Clerk to arrange a meeting with Craig Hoggeth (WBC) and Cllr James

This was on the agenda.

23/77.3 Clerk to produce minutes relating to the car park for Cllr Jahromi

This had been done.

23/79.4 Clerk to set up an Education Working Party to explore further

This was on the agenda.

23/86 Reports

86.1 Reports from Borough Councillors

Members **NOTED** the written reports from Borough Councillors Glover, Munro & Rance

86.2 Questions for Borough Councillors

Cllr Lias raised the issue of cars racing on the A33 every Saturday from 23.00 onwards. As the police were not available to intervene Cllr Lias asked if WBC ASB officers could observe and take a note of vehicle registrations. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the Police and Crime Commissioner about this specific issue and used that as the opening premise for a formal meeting with the PCC. It was suggested that the proximity of police at Three Mile Cross not addressing this particular concern would be potentially embarrassing to Thames Valley Police

ACTION – Clerk to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and invite him to attend a meeting with councillors

86.3 Minutes of Facilities Committee 5th July 2023

Cllr Clarke asked if members had any questions on the minutes. Cllr Lias advised that at the traffic meeting that morning, WBC had indicated that the footpath to Shinfield Meadows included in the School Green programme would be carried out by WBC this year.

Members **NOTED** the minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting held on 5th July 2023.

86.4 Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Events Committee 6th July 2023

Cllr Tatla advised that the initial set of objectives for the committee were an art exhibition in 2024, establishing a community choir and providing soft play and other entertainment for children on Fridays during the summer holidays.

Cllr Clarke said that he was aware of an interest in establishing an art class in the parish, but the potential group had found the room hire rates too high. The clerk indicated that we would be happy to have a discussion with any potential long-term hirer about helping them to establish their booking.

Members **NOTED** the minutes of the Arts, Culture and Events Committee meeting held on 6th July 2023.

86.5 Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee 12th July 2023

Cllr Lias indicated that residents should be encouraged to record their local flora and fauna as had been discussed at committee. This would help establish a baseline for biodiversity net gain.

Members **NOTED** the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 12th July 2023

ACTION – Clerk to include reporting of flora and fauna in the newsletter

86.6 Working Parties

Traffic Working Party:

Cllr James reported that there had been a meeting with Matthew Gould from WBC earlier in the day. The meeting had been arranged to go through the detailed proposals submitted to WBC by SPC on 26th May 2023.

The main items were:

- Reducing Speed limits
 - WBC would support 30mph speed limits for Hyde End Road, Hollow Lane, Arborfield Rd
 - Church Lane was described as “trickier”
- Bus Gate for Beke Avenue
 - SPC explained our concerns over the impact on walking and cycling in the village centre
 - At the Planning Meeting in October 2021 where the bus gate was removed, an argument put forward was the impact that it would have on traffic modelling. However, the housing development was operating effectively with Beke Avenue closed thereby replicating the effect of a bus gate
 - Another previous point made at the same meeting was that WBC would not be able to enforce the bus gate. This was no longer relevant as WBC now have the power to enforce moving traffic offences which they didn’t have in Oct 21
 - Matthew Gould explained that he could not overturn a planning decision although he recommended a discussion with Chris Easton.
 - Traffic can only act once the road was formally adopted by WBC
- Speeding into Grazeley
 - There was an agreement to look at what options there were for improving advance notice of corner
- Beech Hill Road
 - WBC agreed to look at providing more advance notice coming along White House Lane
 - Getting some form of controlled crossing would be harder and funds would be an issue
- Hollow Lane
 - A lot of what SCP would like to see is already in the LCWIP but there is no time frame for when that would be delivered
- Speed Cameras on Hyde End Road
 - These do in fact belong to WBC but they were having difficulty finding a contractor to point the cameras back at the roadway
- Black Boy Roundabout Box Markings
 - WBC felt this should be reasonably straightforward
- Swallowfield
 - It was explained that the concept here is to nudge traffic back on to A33
 - WBC indicated that there was some possibility of 30mph and mini roundabouts at Swallowfield St and The Street
 - Would also consider the extension of the 30mps speed limit area to Lambs Lane

WBC also advised that there had been no objections to the extension of the 30mph speed limit along Basingstoke Road and Hyde End Road to Dobbies.

86.7 Sports Working Party:

The Clerk advised that this should be considered later on the agenda regarding Millworth Lane.

86.8 Chairman's Report

Cllr Grimes reported that he had attended the ceremony along with other councillors to add a plaque commemorating former councillor Eddie Brown on the kissing gates opposite Spring Gardens which was a fitting tribute.

86.9 Reports from Outside Bodies

Cllr Peer gave an update on the most recent BALC meeting.

Cllr Lias advised that he had asked Cllr Bowyer to attend Grazeley Village Memorial Hall meetings.

Cllr Grimes advised that the Repair club previously at Spencers Wood Village Hall had relocated to Lambs Lane.

23/87 Future Council Strategy

87.1 Engagement Working Party

It had been agreed to create an Engagement Working Party and members were asked to nominate who should be involved. This working party would be tasked with looking at how the council could improve its engagement with residents, business and other parties.

It was agreed that Cllrs Grimes, Masseron and Montgomery would be on the working party

The Clerk was asked to arrange the first meeting (on Teams).

ACTION – Clerk to arrange first meeting of Engagement Working Party

23/88 Education Provision in the parish

88.1 Distribution of pupils, resident in the parish, to primary and secondary schools in the borough

The Clerk had received numbers relating to the distribution of pupils, resident in the parish, to primary and secondary schools from the Executive Member of Education at Wokingham Borough.

Concerns were expressed about the lack of progress on the extension of Aldergrove and the planned Spencers Wood primary school which could not proceed as it was within the DEPZ

88.2 Education Working Party

It was agreed that there would be an Education Working Party, and this would include Cllrs Grimes, Lias, James and Tatla. Again it was agreed that this party would convene on Teams.

ACTION – Clerk to convene meeting of Education Working Party

23/89 Sports and Recreation Items

89.1 Plan for Millworth Lane

Cllr Clarke introduced the overall proposal; Cllr James spoke regarding the capital costs involved and the Clerk gave a brief outline of the operating income and expenditure.

Cllr Lias suggested that the use of solar panels was incorporated into the plans.

Cllr Masseron recognised the wellbeing aspects involved but asked that similar consideration was given to the community garden at High Copse for non-sports minded residents as and when this came forward.

A member of the public was concerned about the impact on football pitches of these proposals and the sale of Ryeish Green Pavilion. The Clerk was asked to invite both football teams to the next Working Party meeting which would take place on 1st August.

Members resolved to approve the general principles outlined in the proposals and also recognised a capital expenditure of £750k as being of the order of magnitude.

Proposed: Cllr Peer
Seconded: Cllr Tatla
Approved: Unanimously

Final approval would be required once the fully costed plans were available from the Quantity Surveyor. Members would be able to review these and also the detailed assumptions and costings of the business model.

89.2 'Coffee Trailer' proposal

The Facilities committee had reviewed this proposal and recommended offering a three-month rent-free period to allow the basic concept to be trialled initially at Deardon Allotments but with flexibility to use other SPC locations subject to other licences and permissions etc being obtained.

Proposed: Cllr Peer
Seconded: Cllr Masseron
Approved: Unanimously

89.3 3G Pitch

The Clerk had written to BCllrs Shenton and Ferris on 26th May setting out detailed proposal for considering the use of the area north of MereOak Park & Ride as a location for a 3G pitch. Neither of them had responded to the proposal directly.

As was reported at the previous meeting, in a response on sports provision around Hyde End Lane, from Chris Howard, Delivery Manager at WBC the 3G option was disregarded. The Clerk and Cllr Clarke have been attempting to get a meeting with Chris Howard but to no avail.

ACTION – Clerk to continue to pursue this location as an option for a 3g pitch

23/90 Ryeish Green Pavilion

90.1 The Clerk reported that the Ryeish Green Pavilion would be formally on the market shortly.

23/91 Land Issues

91.1 Land Issues

The Clerk had been in touch with Craig Hoggeth to arrange a meeting to take this matter forward. Mr Hoggeth was reluctant to have a meeting if all it would do would be to revisit old ground.

As discussed at the last meeting SPC felt that the option of achieving an equitable swap was now extremely unlikely.

One option would be to take any permanent change of ownership of the land involved (either the playing fields at Ryeish Green or the Deardon Orchard) completely off the table. Also off the table would be the Century Drive playground previously introduced to attempt to balance the areas of land involved. Instead of permanently exchanging title on the land the discussion would be on leasing instead.

Cllr James still wished to see the School Green Car Park brought under SPC control and Cllr Grimes felt that this may be possible through a discussion on the lease that WBC would require for Ryeish Green playing fields.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange a discussion with Cllrs Grimes and James regarding how to take this forward with Mr Hoggeth

91.2 Community Space in the north of the parish

The Clerk advised that a working party consisting of Cllrs James, Tatla and Montgomery, Paul Gudge and the Clerk had arranged a meeting with the Director of the Education Trust and Headmaster of Whiteknights School had been arranged for Wednesday 13th September to discuss the proposals in more detail. This will be reported back at the September Full Council meeting.

23/92 School Green Centre

92.1 Update from Cllr Grimes

Cllr Grimes had nothing to report on School Green Centre.

92.2 Provision of film screening facilities

Cllr Grimes reported a meeting on site was to be arranged.

23/93 CIL Funding

93.1 Infrastructure Funding Statements and Medium-Term Financial Plans of Wokingham Borough Council

The Clerk advised that he had shared this with Planning & Highways, and it had been agreed to share it with Full Council.

Of particular note was the fact that the new primary school which had been showing on these plans for 2022/23 was not showing on the 2023/24 plan.

23/94 Correspondence

94.1 Local Government Boundary Commission for Wokingham

This was to formally note the change to the parliamentary constituencies had been confirmed and Shinfield Parish would be contained within the new seat of Earley & Woodley constituency.

94.2 Terms of reference for community fund

Due to time constraints it was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting.

ACTION – Clerk to include on agenda for August Full Council Meeting

23/95 Invoices for Payment

95.1 Members NOTED the following payments: -

- Payments made within the Clerk's financial delegation
- Payments made on Barclaycard within the Clerk's financial delegation

Members APPROVED the following payments: -

- Payments due to be made that were outside the Clerk's financial delegation

Proposed: Cllr Lias
Seconded: Cllr Tatla
Approved: Unanimously

23/96 Date of Next Meeting

96.1 The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 23rd August 2023.

The meeting ended at 21.55

List of Actions

23/71.2	Clerk to complete mapping of bin locations	Clerk
23/71.2	Clerk to arrange an awareness campaign to encourage litter to be taken home	Clerk
23/71.2	Clerk to investigate how full bins were when emptied	Clerk
23/75.2	Clerk to chase for the lease on Manor Ground	Clerk
23/86.2	Clerk to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and invite him to attend a meeting with councillors	Clerk
23/86.5	Clerk to include reporting of flora and fauna in the newsletter	Clerk
23/87.1	Clerk to arrange the first meeting of the Engagement Working Party	Clerk
23/88.2	Clerk to arrange the first meeting of the Education Working Party	Clerk
23/89.3	Clerk to continue to pursue this location as an option for a 3g pitch	Clerk
23/91.1	Clerk to arrange a discussion with Cllr Grimes and James regarding how to take this forward with Mr Hoggeth	Clerk
23/94.2	Clerk to include terms of reference for community fund on agenda for August Full Council Meeting	Clerk