

Minutes of a meeting of Full Council
Held on Wednesday, 27th September 2023
At School Green Centre commencing at 19:00

Present: Cllrs Clarke, Grimes, Hoyle, Jones*, Masseron, Montgomery** and Peer

Attending: BCllrs Glover, Gray & Rance
B Winton (Clerk), S Herring (Deputy Clerk)
13 members of the public
Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley

23/114 Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

114.1 The Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Crime Commissioner explained that his role was not operational and that he dealt with finance and strategy. He set out some of the key points that TVP were proposing: -

- Decrease the average response time for 101 calls from 6 minutes to 3 minutes
- Launching of a victim's portal to allow them to logon and get an instant update of their case
- Increase reporting using other forms of communication, e.g. Facebook messenger, WhatsApp, etc. This would be a quicker way to report and make it simpler for residents
- More recruiting for neighbourhood policing. As part of this, more PCSOs had chosen to train as Police Officers which had created a gap. There was a challenge with recruitment due to competition with the Metropolitan Police.
- The recruitment drive would allow more neighbourhood police officers to tackle increased levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB), shoplifting, etc.,
- Visible policing was now a priority together with communication about successes in the local media, working with local groups, parish councils, etc. There was no simple method.

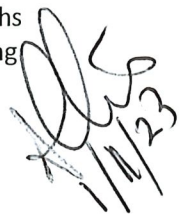
Questions were then invited from the public and Councillors.

**Cllr Jones joined the meeting at 19.30*

23/115 Public Questions

115.1 ASB at the Spencers Wood Youth Club

The senior youth worker explained how she was experiencing problems with youths kicking doors, breaking locks and using abusive language to youth workers resulting



in two evenings being cancelled. She did not feel safe walking to her car. She recognised that there was an element of 'herd culture' as some of those involved were members of the youth club who were normally pleasant individuals. She asked how this could be dealt with and how to obtain support.

WBC's ASB officer was present who offered to work with her and to ask the PCSO's to be visible and engage with the offenders.

The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that although TVP wished to have more visible policing in urban, rural and suburban areas they were struggling to attract applicants.

- 115.2 One BCllr reported that a member of her family had been a victim of abuse but was afraid to report the incident, even though she was aware of who the people were, in fear of repercussions. The Police and Crime Commissioner said it was really important that crimes are reported so the police force were aware of the magnitude of the problem. Crimes can be reported anonymously through 'Crime Stoppers'. PCSO's can talk to parents and children to intervene on ASB.

- 115.3 A member of the public reported that a local retailer had been threatened with a machete. He was also aware of drug dealing in local streets. He had encouraged the people in question to report the crimes.

The Police and Crime Commissioner said that any "in the act" drug dealing should be reported via 999. All reports of crime are looked at by local inspectors on a daily basis and they are used as intelligence on where to deploy resources. First time offenders for knife crime are usually released under investigation; this is followed up with a court appearance and a fine. Under 18's are more likely to be charged in custody and go straight to court.

- 115.4 The Chairman asked why there wasn't more police presence at local events. The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that a request was needed prior to the event.

- 115.5 Discussion took place regarding police and community open days. The Police and Crime Commissioner said that the communications team were looking at ways to develop and promote roadshows around the TVP area to reach as many people as possible. He felt that this would be more successful than holding a large event at the Sulhamstead site.

- 115.6 BCllr Gray asked how the police link with the ASB team at Wokingham. WBC cannot deal with criminality; they do hold local meetings and discuss ASB cases. There is a strong link between the two.

08:08 *The Police and Crime Commission left the meeting*
7 members of the public left the meeting
***Cllr Montgomery joined the meeting*



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115.7 Footpath on Hyde End Lane

The SPC Volunteer representative reported that he had a petition signed by 400 residents regarding the unfinished footpath on Hyde End Lane that resulted in residents having to walk along a very dangerous road. It was recognised that responsibility for the path lay with WBC and that they had had received the money to complete this footpath but were reluctant to do so until the proposed new primary school was built. However, it was still unclear as to if and when the school would be built. Taylor Wimpey had offered to finish the path for £10,000 while they were on site, but WBC had declined the offer.

Cllr Masseron proposed that SPC indicate to Wokingham Borough Council that the parish council was prepared to co-fund the provision of an interim footpath on Hyde End Lane on an even share basis with a maximum contribution of £5,000 from SPC.

Proposed: Cllr Masseron
Seconded: Cllr Peer
Agreed: Unanimously

4 members of the public left the meeting at 20.25

23/116 Apologies and declarations of Members' Interest

- 116.1 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Boyer, Jahromi, James, Lias and Tatla
Apologies had been received from Borough Cllr Munro
- 102.2 There were no declarations of members' interests
- 103.3 There were no changes to members' declarations of pecuniary interests

23/117 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd August 2023

- 117.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd August 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed as such by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke
Seconded: Cllr Jones
Approved: Unanimously

117.2 **The following matters arising were discussed:**

23/71.2 Clerk to complete mapping of bin locations

This was ongoing with the hope of having this completed by the end of the week. Wokingham Borough Council had recently announced a list of potential bins to be removed and listed 26 under consideration within Shinfield Parish. A few are proposed due to lack of use, but the remainder are proposed because there are "other bins in the area". Sometimes these are WBC bins, for example, there are four around the School Green with two marked for possible removal. However, others are Shinfield Parish Council or even businesses (for example, the BP garage at Three Mile Cross).

ACTION: Clerk to arrange an awareness campaign to encourage litter to be taken home

- 23/75.2 Clerk to chase for the lease on Manor Ground

The lease had now been signed by SPC and sent to the University of Reading for their signature.

- 23/86.2 Clerk to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and invite him to attend a meeting with councillors

This was on the agenda

- 23/88.2 Clerk to arrange the first meeting of the Education Working Party

This was on the agenda. BCllr Bray had attended. Swallowfield had been invited but declined at this stage.

- 23/89.3 Clerk to continue to pursue the location of land at MereOak as an option for a 3g pitch

The Clerk advised that he had no further update, but it looked unlikely that WBC could be persuaded of MereOak as a possible location for a 3g pitch.

- 23/104.2 Clerk to write to BCllr Rance regarding the entry in her report for 23.7.23 in respect of school bus provision

The Clerk had written to BCllr Rance who had accepted that the correction was a more accurate description of the situation

- 23/109.1 Clerk to Draw up Heads of Terms for a lease of Ryeish Green playing fields

The Clerk advised that this had been discussed at Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Clerk was asked to write to WBC to suggest using the lease of Deardon Field as a basis for the playing fields lease with a view to the leases being co-terminus. The Clerk had written to WBC proposing that arrangement but had not yet received a response.

ACTION – Clerk to follow up with WBC

- 23/111.2 Clerk to provide information on the website and in the newsletter explaining the relationship between SPC, WBC and parliamentary constituency borders

The Clerk advised that he had prepared a draft document but due to staff illness that had not been completed and issued.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange for publication in the next SPC newsletter

- 23/113.3 Clerk to circulate a list of the grant applications received

The Clerk advised that this has been issued to all parish councillors. This item was also on the agenda



23/118

Reports

118.1 Reports from Borough Councillors

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

118.2 Questions for Borough Councillors

BCllr Glover's report stated 'Hyde End Road' in the last paragraph. This should read 'Hyde End Lane'. BCllr Glover agreed to this amendment.

There were no questions for the BCllrs.

118.3 Minutes of Facilities Committee 6th September 2023

Cllr Clarke reported that he and the Clerk to the Parish Council had met with Shinfield and Spencers Wood football clubs who reported they had 800 members. On Saturday mornings, the 'Little Kickers' had 50-60 members who would potentially move up to the other two clubs. The clubs were paying £56 for the use of a full-sized football pitch which was proving to be expensive, and they relied heavily on volunteer coaches. Two teams play at Swallowfield and Riseley as there were insufficient pitches in the parish. The two cricket clubs are turning people away due to insufficient space.

Cllr Clarke had attended the Planning and Highways meeting to express the support of the Facilities Committee for the planning application of the two junior pitches at High Copse.

Members **NOTED** the minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting held on 6th September 2023.

118.4 Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Events Committee 7th September 2023

Cllr Tatla noted:

Rock Around the Christmas Tree might be combined with an evening Christmas Market for local businesses provisionally on Friday 1st December.

The Chairman proposed that this event be held on a Saturday to allow more family participation. This would be discussed further at the next Arts, Culture and Events Committee meeting.

Members **NOTED** the minutes of the Arts, Culture and Events Committee meeting held on 7th September 2023.



118.5 Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee 13th September 2023

Cllr Peer noted:

The planning application for Carney's Yard had been refused, but not yet closed.
The Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) had not been published.

ACTION – Clerk to follow up the TRO

Members **NOTED** the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 13th September 2023

118.6 Working Parties

Traffic Working Party:

The Clerk advised that as there had been no response from WBC regarding the formal requests for speed limit restrictions and crossings submitted in late August there had been no working party meetings held since the last meeting.

118.7 Chairman's Report

Cllr Grimes reported that

- The Spencers Wood Carnival had gone well
- Spencers Wood Village Hall, accounts were completed and in a healthy state and the committee was now working well

118.8 Cllr Masseron requested that the Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes be circulated with the Full Council papers.

ACTION – Clerk to circulate the Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes with the Full Council papers for future meetings

118.9 Reports from Outside Bodies

- The Shinfield North seaside trip had been a thoroughly enjoyable day enhanced by the Red Arrows at the end of the day. One lady had stated that she had never seen the sea before.
- NALC – Cllr Peer reported that she, and the Clerk, had attended an online session on 'Communications with the Community' and it had been strongly recommended to use a variety of communication methods to reach a large number of people, recognising that 'word of mouth' was the most effective.

23/119 Engagement Working Party

119.1 Engagement Working Party

This had been arranged but was not able to take place. It would be rearranged.

ACTION – Clerk to rearrange the Engagement Working Party

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119.2 Engagement at Spencers Wood Carnival

The Clerk advised that there had been 5 councillors and 4 officers involved in manning the stall over the course of the day. Almost 50 new names were added to the eNewsletter distribution list, and many positive conversations were had. The Clerk had also taken on board how the stall could be improved for next year's event.

Cllr Clarke reported that the voluntary car service only had one or two people who spoke to them. It was essential to get volunteers so they could expand the service beyond taking people to hospital and for health appointments. It was suggested that the service had more prominence on the SPC website.

ACTION – Clerk to investigate improving the publicity of the voluntary car service on the SPC website

23/120 Education Provision in the parish

120.1 Education Working Party

The first meeting of the Education Working Party (Cllrs Grimes, James, Lias, Montgomery and Tatla plus the Clerk and Deputy Clerk) took place on 12th September at 11:00 as a TEAMS meeting which also included BCllr Bray and Ming Zhang, Assistant Director of Education, WBC. Key points were as follows:

- SPC wants to help solve the problems faced by our students and get an equitable basis with other students in the borough for both students and parents. It was important that they had equality and the same opportunities as others.
- BCllr Bray talked about Hall Farm as possibly creating a new secondary school nearer to the parish but this would be at least 10 years away (if it happens at all), and concerns about being able to access the school (e.g. Bohunt)
- Bohunt 6th form starting 2024 for their own pupils and open to other students from 2025
- Oakbank 49 out of an intake of 112 had not selected the school as one of their choices (43.8%). Suggestion that, if possible, Cllr Tatla becomes a member of the Oakbank School governing body. SPC would like to investigate what they could do to help create a more favourable impression of the school
- New Spencers Wood Primary Funding had been allocated for the building of a new primary school in Spencers Wood, however, concerns were that the land was within the DEPZ, and the potential number of students was currently inadequate. No further discussion took place due to time restraints.
- Transport Issues – SPC made it clear to BCllr Bray that nobody wanted a repeat of this year's issues, and the plan was to spend more time talking about transport issues at the next meeting
- Next Meetings – 17th October for SPC and 31st October with BCllr Bray

Further discussion took place: -

- It was recognised that there was no Post 16 Education provision within the parish, with Wokingham being the hub of the main transport network linking to sixth form colleges. The parish was compromised as there were inadequate, or no, direct transport links.


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- Members were unsure as to why a primary school could not be built within the DEPZ as most of the intake would be from children living within the DEPZ, therefore there would be no additional strain to emergency planning.
- A suggestion was made to investigate whether Oakbank School could be differentiated in some way to make it more attractive by creating links with the Berkshire Film Office.

23/121

Sports and Recreation Items

121.1 Cllr Clarke gave an update on the Sports Working Party

Detailed costings for the proposed sports provisions at Millworth Lane had now been received from the Chartered Surveyor with a total projected cost of £1,047k compared to the "order of magnitude" provided to Full Council of £750k. The Clerk advised that the costing included some elements which could be dropped, deferred or reduced in scope. The Sports Working Party would be meeting next Tuesday afternoon to discuss what measures could be taken. The Clerk reminded members that a detailed Business Case would be presented before any planning application or work was carried out.

It was agreed that it would be good to move this project forward to planning and the working party should look at expenditure and potential income.

23/122

Ryeish Green Pavilion

- 122.1 The Clerk reported that the Ryeish Green Pavilion was on the market and to date there had been 50 viewings of the property over three different days and formal offers had been received. It was now intended to invite formal bids from those who do wish to make a bid for the building to include a deadline date and time. Enquiries included vets, churches and a nursery.

Proposed: Cllr Peer
Seconded: Cllr Clarke
Approved: Unanimously

23/123

Land Issues

- 123.1 As agreed at the last meeting the proposal is now to regularise arrangements for both the Deardon Orchard and Ryeish Green Playing Fields by means of leases so that ownership does not change. For the avoidance of doubt the Ryeish Green playing field is only part of the total area used as playing fields and does NOT include the 3g pitch. This had been discussed at Finance & General Purposes Committee on 20th September and it was agreed to propose to WBC that the Deardon field lease be used as the basis of the arrangements.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange for the leases to be drawn up


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123.2 Community Space in the north of the parish

The meeting with the director of the Bellevue Place Education Trust (BPET), the headmaster and finance manager for the Whiteknights School had taken place on the 19th September with Cllrs James, Montgomery and Tatla plus the Clerk and Facilities Manager.

BPET shared current plans for the building which could be built in up to 3 phases. BPET advised that their preferred approach would be to achieve Phases 1 & 2 of an overall three phase build at the same time and were hoping to move as quickly as possible on this.

Phases 1 & 2 would cost approximately £1.5m if done together (but £1.8m if completed as separate phases). The school currently had £1.0m available through ten years of fundraising by the school.

Cllr Hoyle supported the idea but questioned whether there were any other alternative sites available in north Shinfield. BCllr Gray suggested that this was an excellent site for holiday clubs, etc and suggested talking to Reading Borough Council as well as they were a neighbour to SPC.

ACTION – Clerk to provide a formal report on the options for establishing a presence in the north of the parish

123.3 Unfinished Footpath on Hyde End Lane

This item had been discussed at the beginning of the meeting under 'public questions'.

23/124 School Green Centre

124.1 Update from Cllr Grimes

Cllr Grimes reported that the snagging list would be signed off once he had confirmed everything with the Facilities Manager.

124.2 Provision of film screening facilities

The Clerk advised that an initial site visit had been held on 23rd August with the appointed contacts acting on behalf of Shinfield Studios. There had also been a Teams discussion on 19th September. The Clerk had reiterated the concerns that any cinema solution needed to work for the council as well and not have any undue adverse impacts on the operational flexibility currently available.

124.3 School Green Working Party

Quotes for bollards and screens had been requested which hopefully would be available for the Facilities Committee meeting on 4th October.

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23/125 Grant Applications

- 125.1 The Clerk reminded members that the decision had been taken in March to move to an annual application process and this had been successful in terms of the number of applications received. Whereas the previous scheme only required approval from the then Recreation & Amenities Committee this new system ensured that there was a lengthy review of each application through the working party which was then ratified by Finance and General Purposes committee (F&GP) and was now being submitted to Full Council for final formal approval.

The Clerk took members through the recommendations.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke
Seconded: Cllr Montgomery
Approved: Unanimously

ACTION – Clerk to inform the applicants of the decision of their grant application

- 125.2 Four applications were deemed to be capital grant applications, and these will be considered further by F&GP Committee

Proposed: Cllr Clarke
Seconded: Cllr Montgomery
Approved: Unanimously

ACTION – Clerk to convene a further F&GP committee working party

23/126 Correspondence

- 125.1 There were no items of correspondence

23/127 Invoices for Payment

- 127.1 Members **NOTED** the following payments: -
- Payments made within the Clerk's financial delegation
 - Payments made on Barclaycard within the Clerk's financial delegation

23/128 Date of Next Meeting

- 128.1 The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 25th October 2023

21:56 2 members of the public left the meeting

The meeting ended at 21:56

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List of Actions

23/117.2 23/71.2	Clerk to arrange an awareness campaign to encourage litter to be taken home	Clerk
23/117.2 23/109.1	Clerk to follow up with Wokingham Borough Council the Heads of Terms for the lease of Ryeish Green playing fields	Clerk
23/117.2 23/111.2	Clerk to arrange for the publication of the relationship between SPC, WBC and parliamentary constituency borders in the next SPC newsletter	Clerk
23/118.5	Clerk to follow up the publication of the TRO relating to Carney's Yard	Clerk
23/118.8	Clerk to circulate the Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes with the Full Council papers for future meetings	Clerk
23/119.1	Clerk to rearrange the Engagement Working Party	Clerk
23/119.2	Clerk to investigate improving the publicity of the voluntary car service on the SPC website	Clerk
23/123.1	Clerk to arrange for the leases to be drawn up for the Deardon Field and Ryeish Green Playing Fields	Clerk
23/123.2	Clerk to provide a formal report on the options for establishing a presence in the north of the parish	Clerk
23/125.1	Clerk to inform the applicants of the decision of their grant application	Clerk
23/125.2	Clerk to convene a further F&GP committee working party	Clerk


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