



WNF Steering Committee

Minutes of a meeting on 20 September 2023 at 7.30pm

In attendance: Paul Buckley, Tony Dale, Richard Lawrence-Wilson, Andrew Siantonas, Mary Brown, Suzy Donald, Cllr Steve Goddard

1. Apologies

John Bleach, David Stone, Tamsin Smith, Cllr Jo Sandelson, Cllr Andrew Gant

2. Declarations of interest

Paul Buckley as a Governor of Wolvercote Primary School (items 8 and 10)

3. Minutes of previous meeting on 12 July 2023

The Minutes were agreed.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 8.1: Tony Dale reported that he had contacted City Council officer Chris Cameron who had reported that all round 3 CIL payments had been made. TD had asked CC for the date monies are paid to applicants to be made known to WNF; and in future successful bidders would be asked to let WNF SC know when they have received their funds. It was noted with pleasure that the Five Mile Drive notice board had finally been erected: Richard Lawrence-Wilson was thanked for driving this.

Item 10.1: Andrew Siantonas reported on a meeting held with Oxford University Estates department about felling of trees adjacent to Wolvercote Mill Stream. He reported that University officials explained that the Lombardy Poplar trees had been planted at the edge of a water meadow within the SSSI including Port Meadow, Pixey Mead etc. The leaf fall from the trees was enabling plants to flourish at the expense of water meadow flowers and grasses and the University had been instructed by Natural England to cut the trees. The University apologised for not informing the local community beforehand and undertook to give advance notice should they need to fell trees in the future.

5. Planning of AGM on 7 November at 7.30 at WVH

Cllr Goddard reported that a special City Council meeting had been called for 7 November, so he regretted that City Councillors might not be able to attend the AGM.

5.1 It was agreed that, in advance of the AGM, the website should be updated to include draft minutes of the 2022 AGM, a notice of the 2023 AGM together with agenda, the annual report on activities, and names of any nominees for election. In addition, it was agreed to add to the website copies of all the WNF SC's responses to public consultations. PB would arrange these changes with Steve Roberts.

- 5.2 It was agreed that the AGM Agenda would consist of: welcome and summary report on the past year's activities from the Chair; the Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts; elections of officers and steering committee; a short break followed by reports on CIL (including encouraging ideas for large scale projects); progress towards the new Wolvercote community building 'The Wolvercote Mill'; brief updates on big local developments (Oxford North, Water Eaton, the stadium, CDC Local Plan 2040 etc); and Q&A and comments from the floor: it was agreed important that sufficient time is allowed for this.
- 5.3 Elections: it was noted that there are current vacancies for Chair and Secretary, but no current vacancies for committee members. AS is currently a co-opted member of the committee as minute-taker. If a vacancy appears on the committee he expressed a willingness to join as a member. If there are more candidates than vacancies on the committee, TD and SD said they would willingly resign but would be willing to continue to contribute to the CIL Working Group as co-opted members.
- 5.4 Speakers: PB (Welcome and annual report); RL-W (Treasurer's Report and Accounts); JB, TD or SD (CIL); TS (to be confirmed) (The Wolvercote Mill); TBC (updates on planning issues); PB (contributions from the floor).
- 5.5 A draft design of poster was approved subject to small changes: PB would arrange for printing of them, but it was agreed not to put them up until after the next SC meeting, to avoid losing impact by them becoming too familiar. There would also be email notifications to the WNF mail list and to community groups and Neighbourhood Watch groups where we have details. It would also be advertised on Facebook. It was agreed not to have a leaflet drop for this meeting.
- 5.6 The Wolvercote Women's Institute have agreed to provide paid-for Light Refreshments during the meeting: cash and card payment will be available.

6. Developments and Planning Applications

- 6.1 Water Eaton PR6A (CDC application 23/01233/OUT)
The application had not yet been considered by CDC.
- 6.2 Oxford North Plot C (23/01412/RES)
The application had been approved in spite of objections from WNF over the height of the building.
- 6.3 OUFC Stadium proposal
Release of the land had been approved by Oxfordshire County Council in spite of many objections, including that from WNF.
- 6.4 5G telecoms mast in Five Mile Drive (23/02023/T56)
It was agreed not to comment, since all alternative locations were even less desirable.
- 6.5 Other planning applications since last meeting
A list of other planning applications received since the last meeting was considered, and the recommendations not to comment were agreed.

7. CIL Round 3 (Spring 2023)

- Richard Lawrence-Wilson reported that the cost of the Five Mile Drive noticeboard had been £500 less than the CIL funds received by WCC. It was agreed to ask WCC to earmark this for future expenditure on further community noticeboards.
- The proposed Davenant Road traffic calming scheme: the applicants had reported that they were having difficulty finding a contractor for design of the scheme.
- No-one Goes Hungry: the application for CIL funds to allow the Oxford Food Hub to purchase an electric cargo bicycle was approved in principle, subject to (1) the Oxford Food Hub agreeing, and (2) satisfactory estimates being received.
- The Scout Hut roof: it was agreed that a late decision on CIL funds for this project would be made when the required estimates had been received.

8. CIL Round Autumn 2023

The CIL Working Group reported that the following applications had been received by the deadline.

Wolvercote Primary School: £10k towards a 'Shepherd's Hut' (total cost £40k).

Cotteslowe Community Centre: £7.5k towards audio-visual equipment, to enable a cinema experience (total cost £10k).

Monday Lunch Club: new vacuum cleaner.

WCC: a new noticeboard for opposite the Village Hall, and playground equipment.

Wolvercote Village Hall: refurbishment of the disabled toilet.

Wolvercote Young People's Club: installation of two EV charging stations, and further work on fire doors.

White Hart Community Pub: support for kitchen refurbishment.

9. Wolvercote Community Building update

The information that had been provided to WNF concerning formation of a new Community Benefit Society 'The Wolvercote Mill' had been noted by SC members with interest. It was agreed that this information showed the CBS to be a suitable organisation to take ownership of the former Cala Homes Wolvercote Sales Office, in order to provide community facilities for Wolvercote, consistent with the terms of the Mill Site S106 Agreement. PB would write to Cala Homes to confirm the Steering Committee's support, on behalf of the WNF, for the hand-over of the building to this CBS.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr Gant had asked for the following to be reported to the committee.

- When the Oxford City Planning Committee had considered the Oxford North Plot C application, he had objected to the height exceeding that approved in the Outline Planning Permission, but permission had been granted nevertheless.
- He had investigated how to solve parking problems at Wolvercote Primary School, caused by introduction of the Controlled Parking Zone: the school could purchase 'Business Permits' for £150 per year.

- He was in discussion with Oxfordshire County Council officers, on behalf of WYPC, about their lease.
- He was seeking a means of achieving a cycle/pedestrian route from Oxford North to Oxford Parkway.
- He was trying to get South Parade improved for cyclists, by adding a contra-flow cycle lane and pavement parking restrictions.

The committee was grateful for Cllr Gant's work on these matters.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

It was agreed to hold the next WNF SC meeting on Tuesday 17 October at the White Hart.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

AS/PB