

## **Yattendon Parish Council**

### **MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at 7:30pm** in Yattendon Village Hall.

Councillors present: Gordon Robertson (Chair), Anne Harris (Vice-chair) and Philip Bickford Smith

In attendance: Sarah Marshman (Clerk), Glyn Davis (Traffic Management & Road Safety Team, West Berks Council), Rose Somerset (North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), Rob Morley (Frilsham and Yattendon Parochial Charities), Cheryl Lundberg (Forestry Consultant to Yattendon Estates) and David Slack (Managing Director, Yattendon Estates).  
15 members of the public.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillors Wendy Mole and Chris Turner, and District Councillor Virginia von Celsing.

The meeting started at 7.30pm.

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#### **1 Introduction by the Council Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2 Presentations from/by:**

##### **Glyn Davis, Traffic Management & Road Safety Team, West Berks Council**

West Berkshire Council are responsible for setting speed limits and they follow legislation and guidelines when reviewing speed limits. When an application is received from a Parish Council or a District Councillor the area is viewed, videoed, a speed assessment is carried out and any reports of accidents are considered. The evidence is then taken to the speed limit review. The Police also attend the review and give their recommendations.

With regards to the recent request from Yattendon for a 20mph limit by the school, a speed assessment was carried out. For a 20mph limit to be considered, the speed assessment needs to show an average speed of 24mph or lower to be self-policing. However, the speeds recorded in this area were higher so extra traffic calming measure would be required. The Police also advised against the implementation of a 20mph limit.

WBC are instead recommending that a 40mph buffer zone is introduced approaching the school, with the 30mph limit closer to the school which should ensure more traffic is travelling within the speed limit when passing the school. This will be taken to the next speed limit review.

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Chairman

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Date

### **Rose Somerset, North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

Rose spoke about the special geology of the area, which is a chalk basin, which has led to the land being protected. 80% of the world's chalk landscape is situated in the UK. The chalk acts like a large sponge, soaking up water which it delivers as springs which support wildlife. The AONB contains 520 scheduled monuments. The AONB needs to develop and evolve, but it should also be protected during this process. Until around 60 years ago, wildlife was able to adapt to changes, but it is now more difficult for them to adapt due to the faster pace of these changes.

AONBs are different to National Parks. National Parks also have more funding and also have planning authority control, however AONBs do not have this and are only consultees on planning applications. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, section 85 says all public bodies shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB. Section 89 says all local authorities are required to prepare an AONB management plan and review it every 5 years.

A vast proportion of West Berkshire falls in the AONB, so whilst there is an effort to ensure development falls outside the AONB, some development must take place within it.

### **Rob Morley, Frilsham and Yattendon Parochial Charities**

The responsibility for the Dean and Pocock funds for Yattendon was previously handled by Yattendon Parish Council, who, on following advice, approached the Frilsham Parochial Charities (FPC) to take on the role of administering the funds for Yattendon. As a result, the FPC altered their objectives and extended their range to cover Yattendon and was renamed the Frilsham and Yattendon Parochial Charities (F&YPC). Two trustees are appointed by Yattendon Parish Council, two by Frilsham Parish Council and two additional trustees are independent. Last year £70 was given to elderly residents at Christmas. F&YPC can support others as well. A meeting will take place in November to decide who to support and what awards will be made for Christmas.

### **Cheryl Lundberg, Forestry Consultant to Yattendon Estates**

Cheryl works for a forestry and ecological consultancy and has been engaged by Yattendon Estates for approximately 18 months to assist with actively managing the woodlands. Yattendon Estates are taking a proactive approach, replacing felled trees, restocking where conifers are cleared at maturity and carrying out invasive species control.

### **David Slack, Managing Director, Yattendon Estates**

The Village stores have been in their refurbished premises for just over a year. Good feedback has been received and David thanked everyone for their support. Additional parking with lighting has also been implemented.

The Dairy will be split into a storage unit and premises for West Berks Brewery. The Royal Oak will be refurbished, subject to planning permission, to improve facilities, add a conservatory/orangery at the rear to increase covers, improve the kitchen area and increase the pub area.

Although not related to the Yattendon Estate, David also highlighted the transformation of the cricket club.

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Chairman

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Date

### **3 Parish Council Reports:**

#### **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman thanked the Parish Council and the Clerk for their hard work. The installation of broadband by Gigaclear is going well. More footpaths leaflets have recently been printed. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and highlighted that everyone was welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and to raise any subjects to be discussed.

#### **Financial Report from the Clerk:**

We started the last financial year with a balance of £3,178. The precept was set at £7,000 to cover the expected expenditure on the budget. We received a small grant of £29 from West Berkshire Council along with a grant of £403 from the Berkshire Association of Local Councils in order to purchase a laptop for the council to meet the Transparency Code (these funds were still to be spent at the end of the financial year). In addition to the necessary running costs for the Parish Council, expenditures include £2,500 which is paid annually to Yattendon Parochial Church Council to help with the upkeep of the churchyard and £174 to reprint the Footpaths leaflet. We have been fortunate to make a big saving in the cost of the parish council insurance this year and this, combined with the grant that has been carried forward, has contributed significantly in increasing the balance held at the end of the year to £4,415.

### **4 Questions from members of the public**

A member of the public highlighted the current condition of the roads. Yattendon Estates have raised this issue with West Berkshire Council.

Meeting closed 9:15pm.

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Chairman

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Date