

WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 17TH APRIL 2023

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL



PRESENT

Cllrs B Hughes (Chair)

Cllrs S Hill, L Ibbs, P Brown, D Brindley, D Normington

Z Grindey (Clerk), G Keiher-Knapper (Deputy Clerk)

APOLOGIES

Cllr J Morrison (Vice Chair)

There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm

001/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident wished to discuss the Bowling Club. The club requires several improvements and updates and wants to increase their membership. A discussion was held. It was agreed that the Bowling Club would put together a document, detailing the improvements and updates required. The Chair provided details of the Disability Funding officer at the District Council with regards to funding that may be available for the Bowling Club to apply for. The Bowling Club stated that they would prefer the first option of the fencing quote.

A meeting had taken place between a resident and Werrington Primary School to discuss the possibility of using the wooded area at Meigh Road as a Forest School. A discussion was held. It was agreed that the Wildlife Trust would be invited to review the wooded area for the possibility of converting it to a Forest School. It was also agreed that they would be asked to provide a report regarding the possibility of rewilding the bottom area of the park. The Clerk would meet with their representative.

An update was provided by Jason Edwards regarding the upcoming event at the sports ground. It was agreed that the Council would support with advertising where possible.

Members of the public left the meeting.

002/23 APOLOGIES

See above.

003/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

004/23 REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Councillors were reminded of the need to maintain their Register of Interests.

004/23 ACCURACY OF MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings were reviewed for accuracy.

- a) Minutes of the meeting held 13th February 2023

Cllr S Hill proposed that the minutes be approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Brown and carried.

005/23 ACTION PLAN

The action plan was reviewed and updated. A discussion was held regarding the poor state of the roads and pavements. It was agreed to set up a Highways Committee at the May meeting to look into these issues and write to the Highways Department.

A discussion was held regarding the difficulties of adding additional signatories to the TSB account. It was agreed to raise a formal complaint.

Cllr D Brindley provided an update on the improvements to the Millennium Rock. The issue of electricity cables running under the planted area was raised. The Deputy Clerk agreed to contact SMDC regarding this matter. It was agreed to purchase two planters to sit either side of the memorial bench.

006/23 ACCOUNTS

The following were reviewed:

- a) March accounts (circulated via email)
- b) Year End accounts (circulated via email)
- c) Next month's payment schedule (circulated via email) – these were not available.

Cllr P Brown proposed that the March and Year End accounts were approved. This was seconded by Cllr D Normington and carried.

007/23 STAFF REPORTS

- a) The Clerk provided an update. Following discussion, it was agreed that a public consultation would be carried out regarding the proposed Forest School and rewilding of the bottom area of the park. Confirmation would be needed from the school and scouts that they would take over responsibility for the wooded area.
- b) The Deputy Clerk provided an update.
 - Work on the Lengthsman's hut is due to commence shortly.
 - The car boot sales had now restarted.

- The Coronation mugs would be available w/c 24th April. Chair to arrange date with the primary school and preschool to present the mugs.
- The Deputy Clerk would be on annual leave on 1st and 2nd May.
- The 40mph speed stickers for bins on Ash Bank Road had been delivered.
- A discussion was held regarding the mobile speed sign. Approval was given to purchase SIDS poles. The Deputy Clerk to continue investigations.

008/23 COMMUNICATIONS, WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

It was agreed to amend the minutes section on the website to make it clearer for users.

STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED TO ENABLE THE REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

009/23 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr D Brindley provided an update on the allotments. The general upkeep of the site is not good. Work on the allotments is due to start soon. It was suggested that the allotments would be better managed under an association, as this would enable them to apply for grants. Should the general condition of the allotments not improve over the next 12 months, and once the Council have carried out the required works, then a transfer to an association will be considered.

Cllr D Brindley left the meeting at 10.20pm

010/23 FUTURE MEETINGS

The issue of the current length of Council meetings was raised, as they are regularly over the 2.5hrs limit, often not finishing until past 10.30pm. A discussion was held. It was agreed that the meetings were finishing too late, often due to public question time running over.

It was agreed that future meetings would start at 7pm. As stated in Standing Orders, public question time would now be restricted to 15 minutes, with only one question per resident, for a maximum of 5 minutes.

011/23 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to discuss.

012/23 COUNCILLOR UPDATES/ITEMS

There were no Councillor updates.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

013/23 QUOTES FOR DEFIBRILLATORS

This was deferred to the next meeting.

014/23 QUOTES FOR GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The quotes were reviewed, and a discussion was held. It was agreed to award the contract to SJL Landscapes.

The meeting closed at 10.35pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS 15th MAY 2023