

**WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

**AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL**



**PRESENT**

Cllr B Hughes (Chair), Cllr J Morrison (Vice Chair)

Cllrs S Hill, D Brindley, C Brownsword, N Meakin, P Nixon, J Fryer, L Ibbs, P Brown

County Councillor R Ward (arrived at 19:30)

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

Also in attendance was District Cllr P Hughes

**APOLOGIES**

Cllrs D Normington, K Griffiths

There were 7 members of the public present, including 2 members of Vibe2Thrive and 2 members of Werrington Village Players.

**The Chair opened the meeting at 1900 hrs.**

**Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair requested that if anyone wished to record the meeting, could they please inform the Council, as members of the public were present and may not wish to be recorded. The Chair also informed Councillors and members of the public that as there is now a working group for Highways, any highway-related issues should be reported to that group for discussion, prior to being brought to the full Council. A Housing Development working group has also been set up but has not yet met. Once a date for this has been set, it will be advertised by the usual means.**

**034/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

Cllr N Meakin asked to address the meeting as a member of the public. The Chair agreed to this. He raised the ongoing issues at the new housing development and requested that it is escalated to the HR department at SMDC, as he felt that some officers are not carrying out their duties in the correct manner. A discussion was held. District Cllr P Hughes responded by saying that she has been observing what is happening at the site and will happily get involved in the matter if asked to. It was agreed that the Parish Council had taken matters as far as they could, and that it needed to be escalated to district level. It was agreed that a date would be set for a meeting of the Housing Development Working Group, and that District Councillors and residents would be invited to attend. Attempts to invite officers of the Planning Department and Environmental Enforcement to meet had been met with a 'no'. There had been no response from Karen Bradley MP.

A resident informed the Council that they had submitted a planning application (SMD/2023/0227) to SMDC and would like to invite members of the Parish Council to visit the site and ask any questions they may have. It was agreed that the Clerk would co-ordinate this.

**Cllr R Ward arrived at 19:30**

A presentation was given by members of Vibe2Thrive, who had been invited to attend the meeting by the Deputy Clerk. The programme helps to build confidence and self-esteem in young people aged 7 to 16. It can be delivered as a one-off four-hour session or tailored to fit up to a six-month project. The costs are £30 per attendee, covered by a sponsor, so that they are free to access for parents. Most sessions are for up to 16 young people, but this could be increase to 32 if needed. Councillors asked a number of questions, and it was agreed to discuss this further under the relevant agenda item.

**The 2 members of Vibe2Thrive left the meeting.**

A short presentation was given by Werrington Village Players, who had submitted a grant application to the Parish Council. They are a not for profit community group, and would like to be a key part of the local community. As well as putting on performances in the Village Hall, they would like to visit the local care homes too. The group meet in the Village Hall on Thursdays at 7.30pm to 9.15pm. A decision regarding the grant would be made under the relevant agenda item.

**The 2 members of Werrington Village Players left the meeting.**

**035/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr R Ward stated that as the next meeting of the County Council was next week, he did not have anything to report. A question was asked about why he wasn't responding to emails, and he reported that this was because his County Council email address was not working. He requested that emails are sent to his personal email address until this matter has been addressed. A question was asked about Bobby's Ice Cream Parlour. Cllr R Ward informed the Council that this was a district matter and fell under another Councillor's area. Following further questions, Cllr R Ward stated that Washerwall Lane is in the system for resurfacing, but no date has been set. He is hopeful that things will improve under the new Highways contract, starting in October of this year. He urged Councillors and residents to report any issues regarding the roads or pavements on the Highways portal. It was noted that Cllrs David Williams and Mark Deville are cabinet members for Highways.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Highways Working Group is on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Cllrs R Ward, P Hughes and the remaining members of the public left the meeting.**

**036/23 APOLOGIES**

As above.

**037/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr L Ibbs declared an interest in agenda item 11 b).

#### **038/23 REGISTER OF INTERESTS:**

Councillors were reminded to maintain their register of interests.

#### **039/23 ACCURACY OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the following meetings were reviewed for accuracy.

- a) Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- b) Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

***Cllr J Morrison proposed that the minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> June be approved. This was seconded by Cllr C Brownsword and carried.***

***Cllr P Brown proposed that the minutes from 30<sup>th</sup> June be approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried.***

#### **040/23 ACTION PLAN:**

The action plan was reviewed.

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had been unable to establish who the electricity cables under the Millennium Rock area belonged to and had been referred to the Parish Council!

Cllr C Brownsword had prepared a draft plan for a Youth Activity Scheme, to be run over the summer holidays in 2024, which he shared with Councillors. He explained that he intended to contact Moorside High School in September, in order to engage and consult with pupils about what sort of activities they would like to see available to them, before looking for volunteers and developing the plan further.

The Chair informed the Deputy Clerk that a dog was loose on the sports ground at the car boot sale on the previous Saturday, and others were there on leads. The Deputy Clerk agreed to remind the person organising the car boots that dogs are not permitted at the sports ground and requested that should any Councillor see this in the future, to speak to the organiser at the time.

#### **041/23 ACCOUNTS:**

The following were reviewed:

- a) May accounts (circulated via email)
- b) June accounts (circulated via email)
- c) July payment schedule (circulated via email)
- d) Expenses

***Cllr J Morrison proposed that the above accounts were approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried.***

#### **042/23 STAFF REPORTS:**

- a) The Clerk provided an update. It was agreed that business cards for the Councillors was a good idea and should be pursued.
- b) The Deputy Clerk's report had been circulated by email.
  - It was agreed that Werrington Primary School could use the sports ground during September and October for their football team.
  - It was agreed to cover the cost of room hire at the library for the Speed Watch volunteers' training, and to provide refreshments at a cost of £5 per head.
  - Cllr P Nixon agreed to be the second Councillor covering Meigh Road playing fields, as it was felt that this was too much for one Councillor. Cllr L Ibbs will concentrate on the play equipment and Cllr P Nixon will be responsible for monitoring the grounds maintenance.
- c) Village Warden's report – it was reported that the littering and antisocial behaviour at Meigh Road playing fields had increased massively since the year 11s had finished at Moorside High School. The wardens were working incredibly hard to keep on top of all of the litter, broken glass and other damage, and had even discovered drugs at the park. The Clerk is chasing a meeting with the contractor to discuss installing a second CCTV camera at the park, this time at the top end. It was agreed that photos of the awful state that the wardens are finding it in each morning should be posted on Facebook to inform the residents of what they are having to deal with.

#### **043/23 HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP:**

The minutes and action plan were approved. The next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September will cover from Oak Mount Road to Washerwall Lane, on both sides of Ash Bank Road. Any issues to be discussed at this meeting should be submitted to the Deputy Clerk.

#### **044/23 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP:**

As the group had not met, there were no recommendations to consider. Cllr N Meakin informed the Council that roadworks are due on Ash Bank Road from the 17<sup>th</sup> July, likely to last one week.

#### **045/23 POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

The following policies and procedures were reviewed and approved.

- a) Training & Development policy
- b) Safeguarding policy
- c) Complaints procedure

#### **046/23 SMALL GRANTS SCHEME:**

A discussion was held regarding the following applications:

- a) Werrington Wanderers U7s FC – **the Council awarded a grant of £200 for equipment.**

- b) Werrington Village Players – **the Council awarded a grant of £300 towards start-up costs.**
- c) Werrington Wasps FC – this application had not been received and was deferred to the September meeting.

#### **047/23 CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence had been received.

#### **048/23 COUNCILLOR UPDATES/ITEMS**

Cllr D Brindley reported that the overhanging trees/hedges on Hill Village Road were the responsibility of all residents of that road. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to each resident requesting that this work is carried out, as it is a danger to pedestrians.

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#### **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (PUBLIC AND PRESS EXCLUDED)**

##### **049/23 TEAM VIBE**

A discussion was held. It was decided that further research should be carried out before agreeing to fund this project and it should be reviewed again in September. Cllr L Ibbs stated that she would carry out further research.

##### **050/23 WEBSITE**

It was agreed to obtain further quotes for comparison and confirm when the current contract ends.

##### **051/23 CAR PARK RESURFACING**

It was agreed that as there is currently no budget for this work, it should be included in the five-year plan.

**Meeting Closed at 22:05**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**