

**WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 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, K Griffiths

County Councillor R Ward

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

Also in attendance was District Cllr P Hughes

**APOLOGIES**

Cllrs D Normington, P Brown

There were 4 members of the public present.

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

**052/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A resident raised the issue of security cameras and lights at the housing development, pointing into residents' properties. Cllr N Meakin confirmed that this issue had been reported to the site manager, but he had not seen whether or not the cameras had privacy settings to obscure residents' properties. Cllr N Meakin also advised of other issues affecting residents, such as fencing and security. A resident reported that a dangerous object from the building site had been thrown into their garden. A discussion was held. It was confirmed that the Parish Council were in the process of collecting evidence from residents to report to the relevant authority.

**053/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr R Ward stated that as the first meeting of the County Council isn't until 5<sup>th</sup> October, therefore he will have more to report at the next meeting. He announced that he had a funding pot of £2,000 as a County Councillor, and a pot of £500 as a District Councillor. These are available to local groups and organisations.

Both Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council have funding available for climate change initiatives, £1,000 and £500 respectively. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's Community Lottery is up and running, however the only local beneficiary is Werrington Primary School and Cllr R Ward encouraged more local groups to apply.

A discussion took place regarding the closure of Ash Bank Road. Neither the Chair, Clerk, or Cllr R Ward had received prior notice of the closure. Cllr R Ward agreed to try to find out what exactly is happening.

The Deputy Clerk raised the problem of reporting issues to both the Highways Department and the Police. Although many issues are being reported to the Highways Department, many are being closed without any action. Reporting issues using the new Police website is proving impossible, as it does not recognise the park or some of the issues. Cllr R Ward agreed to contact the Crime Commissioner and pass on the details to the Deputy Clerk.

**Cllrs R Ward and 3 members of the public left the meeting.**

#### **054/23 APOLOGIES**

As above.

#### **055/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair declared an interest in item 13a.

#### **056/23 REGISTER OF INTERESTS:**

Councillors were reminded to maintain their register of interests.

#### **057/23 ACCURACY OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the following meetings were reviewed for accuracy.

- a) Minutes of the meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

***Cllr J Morrison proposed that the minutes be approved. This was seconded by Cllr C Brownsword and carried.***

#### **058/23 ACTION PLAN:**

The action plan was reviewed.

A discussion was held regarding a planning application in Eaves Lane.

Cllr K Griffiths requested that a date column is added to the action plan.

#### **059/23 ACCOUNTS:**

The following were reviewed:

- a) July accounts (circulated via email)
- b) August accounts (circulated via email)
- c) September payment schedule (circulated via email)

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

**060/23 STAFF REPORTS:**

- a) There was no report from the Clerk.
- b) The Deputy Clerk provided an update.
  - It was agreed to obtain quotes to trim the hedge at the allotments.
  - Cllr K Griffiths requested a copy of the allotment documentation.
  - The Deputy Clerk requested a copy of the waiting list for the allotments.
  - The notice board is now in place at the allotments. An agreement is needed as to what should be displayed.
  - An update on the drainage at the sports ground was provided.
  - The car boot sales have now finished and will restart around Easter time next year.
  - The Speedwatch group is now up and running.
  - It was agreed to engage a solicitor to represent the Council when required.
- c) Village Warden's report – Cllr P Nixon provided an update. The problem of litter and vandalism is increasing, especially at Meigh Road playing fields. Cllr K Griffiths requested that steps are installed to access the MUGA, as currently it is difficult to access. A quote for this work will be sought.

**The Parish Council wished to express their thanks to the Village Wardens for their hard work.**

**061/23 HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP:**

The minutes and action plan were approved.

**062/23 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP:**

As the Chair of the group, Cllr P Brown had provided the Clerk with an update. This was read out. A discussion was held regarding a crossing on Ash Bank Road.

**063/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)**

Cllr K Griffiths stated that the current ASB protocols are not working. Reporting systems have changed and are not effective. Cllr C Brownsword suggested that many of the issues are as a result of youth services being cut. A discussion was held. It was agreed to set up a working group to look at what the Parish Council can do to help reduce the level of ASB in the area.

Cllrs K Griffiths, C Brownsword, B Hughes, L Ibbs, J Fryer, P Nixon and S Hill agreed to be part of the working group. District Cllr P Hughes also expressed an interest in attending any meetings.

#### **064/23 MEIGH ROAD PLAYING FIELDS**

It was agreed that this would fall under the remit of the Antisocial Behaviour Working Group.

#### **065/23 ALLOTMENTS**

This had been covered under the Deputy Clerk's report.

#### **066/23 SMALL GRANTS SCHEME**

A discussion was held regarding the following applications:

- a) Werrington Wasps FC – **the Council awarded a grant of £235 for equipment. Cllr R Ward may be able to cover the remaining costs under his own grant funding.**
- b) Werrington Wanderers U8s FC – **the Council awarded a grant of £500 for equipment.**

#### **067/23 REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Cllr K Griffiths stated that a booklet had previously been produced to remember the fallen members of the Parish and suggested that this could be updated and reissued. It was agreed that secular (non-religious) service could be held at the Millennium Rock at 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **068/23 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**

It was agreed to review the costs of a tree and lighting at the next meeting.

#### **069/23 FUNDING FOR DEFIBRILLATORS**

It was agreed to apply for funding for a defibrillator at Meigh Road playing fields.

#### **070/23 CORRESPONDENCE**

A thank you letter from the Bowling Club was read out.

#### **071/23 COUNCILLOR UPDATES/ITEMS**

The following items were considered.

- a) Cllr P Nixon requested that the Council purchase additional litter bins. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would look into this.
- b) Cllr K Griffiths reported issues with some of the trees in the community orchard. Cllr P Nixon agreed to determine what was required and inform the Deputy Clerk.

- c) Cllr K Griffiths reported that there would be a Big Quiz in aid of Alzheimers. The Parish Council agreed to have a team.

**Cllr J Fryer left the meeting at 21:30**

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

**072/23 CAR PARK RESURFACING**

The report provided was reviewed and a discussion was held. It was agreed to write to Mr Farrington to thank him for his time in producing a report. It was also agreed to seek quotes for the replacement of the gate to the car park and bring to the next meeting.

**Cllr C Brownsword proposed that the Council award the contract for Option 1 of the quote by DJC, subject to funding being received from SMDC and acceptable references being provided. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried.**

**Meeting Closed at 21:45**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023**