

WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2023
AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL



PRESENT

Cllr B Hughes (Chair), Cllr J Morrison (Vice Chair) (arrived 19:25)
Cllrs S Hill, C Brownsword, N Meakin, P Nixon, J Fryer, L Ibbs, K Griffiths
County Councillor R Ward (arrived 19:30)
Z Grindey (Clerk), G Keiher-Knapper (Deputy Clerk)
Also in attendance was District Cllr P Hughes

APOLOGIES

Cllrs D Normington, P Brown, D Brindley

There was 1 member of the public present.

The Chair opened the meeting at 1900 hrs.

A TWO MINUTE SILENCE WAS OBSERVED FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF FORMER PARISH AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TONY MCNICOL

073/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

074/23 APOLOGIES

Reasons for apologies were given and accepted for all Councillors.

075/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

076/23 REGISTER OF INTERESTS:

Councillors were reminded to maintain their register of interests.

077/23 ACCURACY OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the following meeting were reviewed for accuracy.

- a) Minutes of the meeting held 11th September 2023

Amendments to items 067/23 and 072/23 were agreed.

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.

072/23 CAR PARK RESURFACING - **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.**

Cllr J Fryer proposed that the amended minutes be approved. This was seconded by Cllr S Hill and carried.

078/23 ACTION PLAN:

The action plan was reviewed and updated.

Cllr P Nixon requested that the opening/closing times for Meigh Road car park be reviewed. It was agreed that this would be done as part of the new signage for the gates.

It was confirmed that the budget for Christmas Celebrations is £750. A maximum of £500 was designated for a Christmas tree and lights, including installation. Cllr J Morrison agreed to speak to Werrington Primary School regarding the purchase of books to be given as Christmas presents to the pupils.

A discussion was held regarding the Community Orchard. It was agreed that Cllr P Nixon would speak with the resident who offered to assist with the pruning of the trees.

079/23 ACCOUNTS:

The following were reviewed:

- a) September accounts (circulated via email)
- b) October payment schedule (circulated via email)

Cllr J Morrison proposed that the September accounts were approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried with 1 abstaining. Cllr J Morrison proposed that the October payment schedule be approved. This was seconded by Cllr C Brownsword and carried.

The petty cash transactions were checked, signed, and a top up of £100 was approved.

080/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr R Ward provided an update. The County Council budget is currently slightly overspent but is within their contingency. The planning application for the new Co-op has been called in and will be reviewed

by the District Council's Planning Committee on Thursday 19th October. It was requested that Cllr R Ward finds out more about the possible puffin crossing on Ash Bank Road.

It was agreed that a notice would be put on the Council's Facebook notice board page and notice board, providing details about how to comment on the planning application for the new Co-op. It was agreed that the Chair would speak at the Planning Committee meeting.

Cllr R Ward left the meeting

090/23 STAFF REPORTS:

- a) The Clerk provided an update.
 - The annual audit has been completed with no findings or recommendations.
 - Ash Café have enquired about a grant to fund the Christmas lunch. It was agreed that they could submit an application form.
 - The Scribefest conference had provided some useful information which will be investigated further.
- b) The Deputy Clerk provided an update.
 - More wheelie bin stickers have been ordered and will be delivered by the Village Wardens.
 - The Speedwatch group is now up and running and is a great success.
 - The minutes of the Highways Working Group have been shared. Once approved, the Deputy Clerk will report all issues and update the table. A formal complaint has been made to the Highways Department.
 - Antisocial behaviour is increasing, and a large number of drugs bags have been discarded, along with an increase in fly tipping. No response has been received from the PCSOs over the summer period. The Deputy Clerk has highlighted the difficulty in reporting these incidents.
- c) Village Warden's report – Cllr P Nixon provided an update. It was requested that larger signage regarding the opening/closing times of the car park at Meigh Road is installed on the new gates.

091/23 HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP:

This item was covered under the Deputy Clerk's report. As the latest meeting was held this afternoon, the minutes will be available at the next meeting.

092/23 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP:

Cllr N Meakin stated that following visits to properties in Salters Close, he felt strongly that their gardens would flood in the future due to inadequate drainage as a result of the new development. A resident has reported a blocked sewer, with it backing up in a manhole in their garden. Severn Trent have investigated and identified the cause as a collapsed drain under the building site. Cllr N Meakin reported this to the site manager, as Severn Trent were denied access. The current blockage has now been cleared. It was requested that the Clerk contacts Countryside to obtain a response to an email sent in June, and request an update on the drainage issues.

093/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) WORKING GROUP

The group met earlier today, and minutes will be circulated.

094/23 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

A discussion was held. It was agreed to switch the lights on in December at a date to be agreed.

Cllr J Morrison proposed that a maximum of £500 be spent on a new Christmas tree, lighting and installation. Cllr P Nixon seconded the motion and it was carried.

Cllr N Meakin left the meeting at 20:40

095/23 CORRESPONDENCE

The following were read out and discussed.

- a) Letter from anonymous resident – the letter was noted, however as no contact details were provided, the Council were unable to respond.
- b) Letter from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – it was agreed that the letter and survey be resent to Councillors for comments.

096/23 COUNCILLOR UPDATES/ITEMS

There were no Councillor updates.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (PUBLIC AND PRESS EXCLUDED) – Cllr P Hughes and 1 member of the public left the meeting.

097/23 FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION GRANT

An update was provided by the Clerk and a discussion was held. Cllr K Griffiths was due to meet with the solicitors to obtain the documents relating to the purchase of the sports ground. It was agreed to contact the FA to agree to the Service Level Agreement in principle, subject to reviewing the paperwork and running it past a solicitor.

098/23 QUOTES FOR FENCING AT MEIGH ROAD

The quote was reviewed, and a discussion was held. It was agreed that if the project goes ahead, letters would be sent to residents around the car park entrance.

Cllr C Brownsword proposed that the quote from Trentham Fencing for double gates, fencing and a pedestrian gate was accepted. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried.

099/023 ALLOTMENTS

The quotes were reviewed, and a discussion was held.

Cllr J Morrison proposed that the contract was awarded to S.A.M Hedge & Tree Services. Cllr J Fryer seconded the motion and it was carried.

100/023 SIDS POLES

A discussion was held.

Cllr P Nixon proposed that the SIDs poles were purchased. This was seconded by Cllr S Hill and carried.

101/023 CAR PARK RESURFACING

An update was provided regarding the car park resurfacing and remaining S106 monies. The quote for the installation of the ramp to the MUGA was agreed. It was agreed to request that any remaining S106 money be used for new signage at Meigh Road playing fields.

Meeting Closed at 21:50

DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS 13TH NOVEMBER 2023