

**WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

**AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL**



**PRESENT**

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

Cllrs C Brownsword, P Nixon, J Fryer, L Ibbs, K Griffiths, P Brown, D Brindley

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

Also in attendance was District Cllr P Hughes

**APOLOGIES**

Cllrs D Normington, S Hill, N Meakin (attended PQT)

There were 7 members of the public present.

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

**102/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A resident raised the issue of noise from a generator at the new housing development site. The generator is used to power the CCTV camera and security lights overnight. District Cllr P Hughes stated that a letter has been sent to the contractors from Environmental Health. This needs to be followed up. A resident said that this has been raised previously but it is still ongoing. The camera, lights and generator have been moved, but are now causing problems for other residents. District Cllr P Hughes thought that this matter had been resolved. In addition to the issue of noise from the generator, there is also an issue of some of the gardens in Salters Close flooding. A discussion was held.

It was agreed that District Cllr P Hughes would forward the email from Environment Health to the Clerk who will follow this up and report that the issue is still ongoing. The Clerk will also raise the issue of the gardens flooding.

A resident asked why the kerb had been dropped on Ash Bank Road by the bus stop? A discussion was held. It was agreed that it would be checked if the proposed 3 new houses were on the same side as on the original plans.

The Chair confirmed that the planning applications for the new Co-op and Bobbies Ice Cream Parlour were due to be heard by SMDC in December.

**Standing Orders were suspended to allow the conclusion of Public Question Time**

A resident asked if a formal complaint had been made to Environmental Health for gross misconduct, for issuing a notice that they would be visiting the building site? It was confirmed that a decision was made to collect evidence from local residents before making any complaints. Unfortunately, only 3

notebooks have been returned. The Clerk reported that after speaking to the Health & Safety Executive, the issues affecting residents are not something that they would get involved with.

A resident raised a complaint about the use of Meigh Road park after dark and the antisocial behaviour arising from this. After reporting these incidents, the resident is now being targeted by a group of young people. These issues have been reported to PCSO Goodwin and via the Police's 101 service and neither have been followed up. The resident passed on their details to the Deputy Clerk and this will be investigated by Cllr K Griffiths. A further resident complained that a group of young people are regularly causing antisocial behaviour on Meigh Road. This has not been reported to the Police. Cllr K Griffiths stressed the importance of reporting any incidents, as there is a protocol in place where the Police must investigate if three complaints about the same issue are reported.

A representative from the Bowling Club requested that vehicular access to the bowling green is permitted for two members who struggle to walk from the car park. A discussion was held. Concerns were raised over cars using the park when children may be present. It was agreed that the Clerk would check with the Council's insurance company. It was stated that the Bowling Club would need to check if planning permission would be required to install covered seating.

**District Cllr P Hughes, Cllr N Meakin, and 4 members of the public left the meeting.**

**In the absence of County Cllr R Ward, no report was provided.**

### **103/23 APOLOGIES**

Reasons for apologies were given. Cllr S Hill – accepted, Cllr D Normington – not accepted, Cllr N Meakin - not accepted.

### **104/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **105/23 REGISTER OF INTERESTS:**

Councillors were reminded to maintain their register of interests.

### **106/23 ACCURACY OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the following meeting were reviewed for accuracy.

- a) Minutes of the meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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

### **107/23 ACTION PLAN:**

The action plan was reviewed and updated.

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would investigate the cost of lighting up the Millennium Rock.

It was reported that Cllr N Meakin has a Council book, rescued from a skip following the passing of a previous Clerk. It was agreed that this book should be requested and kept by the Clerk or archived in a lockable, fireproof cabinet.

#### **108/23 ACCOUNTS:**

The following were reviewed:

- a) October accounts (circulated via email)
- b) November payment schedule (circulated via email)
- c) Budget Virements Report

***Cllr J Morrison proposed that the October accounts were approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried. Cllr J Morrison proposed that the November payment schedule be approved. This was seconded by Cllr C Brownsword and carried. Cllr J Morrison proposed that the Budget Virements Report be approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Brown and carried.***

#### **109/23 STAFF REPORTS:**

- a) The Clerk did not have any additional updates.
- b) The Deputy Clerk provided an update.
  - No games have been played at the sports ground due to the weather and ground conditions.
  - A request was made to apply for a grant towards the cost of the SIDs poles. This was approved.
  - Feedback was provided for a recent training event on Climate Change.
  - Following a discussion on Neighbourhood Plans, it was agreed to find out the cost of the services of a consultant.
- c) Village Warden's report – Cllr P Nixon provided an update.
  - It was reported that although the grass has been cut at Meigh Road playing fields, it was still quite long. The Clerk agree to check the contract and liaise with Cllr P Nixon.
  - The wardens had requested new plants to update the planters etc. The Clerk or Deputy Clerk agreed to purchase these.
  - A discussion was held regarding the opening and closing times of the car park at Meigh Road. It was agreed to keep the times the same for the summer, but to have 'dawn until dusk' for the winter.
  - Cllr D Brindley praised the work carried out by the wardens and this was echoed by the rest of the Council.
  - ***Cllr J Morrison proposed that Christmas hampers were purchased for the wardens as a token of appreciation. This was seconded by Cllr L Ibbs and carried.***

### **110/23 HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP:**

The latest meeting was held this afternoon and the minutes will be circulated.

### **111/23 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP:**

This was discussed during Public Question Time.

### **112/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) WORKING GROUP**

The group met prior to tonight's meeting and minutes will be circulated.

### **113/23 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**

Since the October meeting, it was confirmed that the Community Volunteers Group were erecting a tree near to the Millennium Rock. Following discussions, it was decided that the Council would not be erecting a tree as previously agreed, but would look to support an alternative Christmas project. It was agreed that they would look into lighting up the Millennium Road, although this could not be achieved in time for this Christmas. It was also agreed to look into making the Council notice board look festive and to light it up as in previous years. It was agreed that the Council would still look to provide books for pupils at Werrington Primary School as a Christmas gift. Cllr J Morrison agreed to chase up the head teacher.

### **114/23 GRANT APPLICATION**

- a) Ash Café – application to fund Christmas lunch.

***Cllr J Morrison proposed that an award of £300 is made for the Christmas Lunch project. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried with seven in favour.***

### **115/23 ALLOTMENTS**

A request has been made by a tenant for a skip. Following discussion, it was agreed that a skip would be provided, but that this would be the last time that the costs of this would be covered by the Council. It was decided that a letter would be sent to all plot holders to inform them of this. It was also agreed to remind tenants of the need to maintain their plots, and give a deadline of the end of January for plots to be brought up to standard where needed. A system of red and amber cards will be used to warn plot holders that their plots are not being kept to the standard required.

### **116/23 HIRE OF THE SPORTS GROUND**

Requests had been received for the following:

- a) Food Show
- b) Party Bus
- c) Charity Car Show

A discussion was held. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that alcohol would not be available at any of the events, so a licence would not be required. The Council agreed to all requests, further to completion of standard booking forms.

### **117/23 POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

The following policy was reviewed:

- a) Social Media Policy – slight amendments have been made to include the Facebook Notice Board page. Councillors were reminded of their positions when posting on social media, and that residents may still view them as Councillors, even when posting in a personal capacity, therefore standards must still be upheld.

***Cllr J Morrison proposed that the revised Social Media policy was approved. This was seconded by Cllr C Brownsword and carried.***

### **118/23 MEIGH ROAD PLAYING FIELDS**

The Clerk informed the Council that she had met with Dane Valley Climate Action Group to discuss the rewilding at the bottom end of Meigh Road playing fields. They have offered to provide 50 young birch trees and provide volunteers to plant them. They have offered a provisional date of 9<sup>th</sup> January 24 to carry out the planting. As a charity, there is no charge for this, however a donation would be gratefully received. The planting of hedging was also discussed, but this would need to be purchased. Hawthorn type hedging had been discussed, however the Council decided that they would like to investigate alternatives that weren't so spiky.

It was agreed to go ahead with the tree planting, but to seek further advice on the most suitable type of hedging.

### **119/23 CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were read out and discussed.

- a) Request to rent part of the shed at Meigh Road – this request was refused.
- b) Email regarding the landing of an Air Ambulance helicopter on Meigh Road on Fun Day – this matter was discussed. It was agreed that this should have been submitted to the Council as a request, not just to inform them. Cllrs J Fryer, J Morrison and B Hughes declared an interest. The remaining councillors approved this, subject to the Clerk checking with the insurance company. The Council also discussed the matter of hire agreements. It was agreed that a hire agreement must be in place prior to the Fun Day taking place, as with any other user of a Council facility, and that there would be no exceptions.

## **120/23 COUNCILLOR UPDATES/ITEMS**

Cllr P Nixon reported that Elizabeth House have only cut back part of the hedge along the path from Draw Well Lane. It was agreed to contact them regarding cutting back the remainder.

Cllr P Nixon, along with the Clerk, reported that a complaint had been received from a resident of Meigh Road regarding damage to their fence, which is on the boundary to the bottom entrance to Meigh Road playing fields. A discussion was held. It has now come to light that the short track running from Meigh Road to the playing fields does not belong to the Parish Council but is thought to be owned by Fradley's builders. It was agreed to carry out further investigations into the ownership, and responsibility for this land.

Cllr K Griffiths confirmed that following investigation into the whereabouts of a number of Council documents, they had been removed from the solicitor's office by Tony Curzon when he retired. Following his passing, Cllr K Griffiths had made enquiries with the family, however they have not discovered any relevant documents.

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**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (PUBLIC AND PRESS EXCLUDED) – The remaining members of the public left the meeting.**

## **121/23 FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION GRANT**

The Service Level Agreement was reviewed. A discussion was held.

***Cllr J Morrison proposed that the Council sign the Service Level Agreement for the grant for Pitch Maintenance. This was seconded by Cllr B Hughes and carried with one abstention.***

## **122/23 QUOTES FOR NEW SIGNAGE AT MEIGH ROAD**

This item was carried forward.

## **123/023 SECTION 106 FUNDING**

This item was carried forward.

## **124/023 DRAINAGE AT THE SPORTS GROUND**

The Deputy Clerk reported that a CCTV camera could be used to investigate any potential issues in the drainage system at the sports ground. A quote had been received for £500.

***Cllr J Morrison proposed that this quote was accepted. This was seconded by Cllr C Brownsword and carried.***

## **125/23 BACKDATED PAY**

The Clerk provided an update on the recently approved Governmental increase for Public Sector workers. It was agreed to accept the increase, backdated to April 23.

**126/23 DEPUTY CLERK'S APPRAISAL**

The Deputy Clerk left the room. The Clerk reported that the Deputy Clerk's appraisal had been carried out and was successful. An increase of one point on the NJC scale to point 20 was recommended. The Council agreed to this increase.

**Meeting Closed at 22:30**

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