

**Wokingham Without Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Monday 2nd August 2021**

In the St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride

Commencing 7:30pm and concluding at 8:04pm

Present: Councillors J Cannon, L Foxwell, P Jordan, C Lancaster, A Plume, J Rogers, S Turtle and Katy Hughes - Clerk, Sharon Way – Assistant Clerk.

Apologies: Councillors R Fenny, N Martin and K Newland and Borough Cllrs. C Bowring, P Helliar-Symons and A Ross.

21/58 WELCOME

Cllr Plume welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Plume mentioned that as requested the agenda has been kept light for the August meeting but noted that quite a few decisions will need to be made over the coming months.

21/59 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fenny, Martin and Newland and Borough Councillors Bowring, Helliar-Symons and Ross.

21/60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

21/61 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a) Cllr Plume invited comments on the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 5th July 2021. No comments were made.

Following a proposal from Cllr Turtle and seconded by Cllr Cannon it was:

RESOLVED: Minutes of Monday 5th July were AGREED

- b) Matters arising from the minutes of Monday 5th July.
None.

21/62 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman referred to a member of the public who had previously raised concerns regarding the recent sinkhole and other issues along the Nine Mile Ride, such as speeding, traffic levels and the number of HGV vehicles using the road. Cllr Plume stated that the resident had already been in contact with the Clerk and a response from WBC regarding the sinkhole had been forwarded to the resident, along with suggestions of possible avenues to pursue regarding the traffic issues. It was also suggested that the resident raise the issues at the next Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) meeting.

21/63 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS BRIEFING

No Borough Councillors were present to provide a briefing. Cllr Plume noted a productive meeting was had with the Borough Councillors and Parish members last Thursday 29th July, minutes of which had been circulated. Cllr Plume asked members if there were any matters arising from the minutes they wished to raise.

The Clerk noted that a discussion had been held with respect to whether there was any appetite for the council to consider funding surfacing repairs of footpaths where the ownership is unknown. The footpaths off Heathermount Drive and Larkwood Drive were cited as examples of footpaths with deteriorated surfacing.

Cllr Rogers mentioned there are public footpaths in our parish that are in a worse state and needed more urgent attention.

Following a discussion on which footpaths to prioritise and possible CIL funding options, it was decided this topic should be an agenda item for a future meeting.

21/64 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk stated that due to staffing issues with the contractor the allotment fencing project at Pinewood has been pushed back and is now scheduled to start on 31st August.

The Clerk has submitted comments to BFC ahead of the deadline for the proposed parking / waiting restrictions for Old Wokingham Road and the entrance to Old Sawmill Land and Ellis Road. The Clerk will circulate feedback from BFC once this has been received.

The Clerk confirmed that the playground repairs will be carried out this week by Playdale, which should see the zip wire brought back into use by the middle of week commencing 9th August.

The Clerk stated that the Wicksteed invoice is still outstanding as the issues raised after the initial playground installation have not yet been resolved.

The Clerk stated that the fire extinguishers' annual service was carried out today (2nd August).

The Clerk stated that a report had been received from the Miniature Railway advising of vandalism which has resulted in a broken window. The incident happened between 28th July and 1st August.

The Clerk stated that it has now been confirmed that Asulox can be used to spray the bracken on the Memorial Hall land and this work will be carried out later in August. Signage will be prepared warning the public to keep off the site.

The Clerk stated that the shipping containers have been ordered with delivery expected by 5th October. Tree works to facilitate the delivery is scheduled for 20st August.

The Clerk reported on a staffing matter.

Cllr Plume thanked the Clerk for being able to organise the bracken spraying works using Asulox which has resulted in cost savings.

21/65 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE / OTHER MEETINGS

A. COATS AGM – 19th July

Cllr Foxwell stated that the annual results were better than expected, and their facilities were now expected to resume more normal operations.

B. Memorial Hall Land working group – 27th July

Cllr Turtle stated that the working group met with Karl Grover to discuss aspirations and possibilities regarding the proposed extension to the car park. Mr Grover will revert back to the working group with a plan for the works. The Clerk stated that a topographical

survey is needed, and quotations have been requested for this work which it is hoped will be available for submission to the September council meeting.

- C. Parish and Ward member meeting – 29th July
Cllr Plume referred members to the notes of the meeting which had been recently circulated to members. Cllr Foxwell noted that a meeting will be arranged to discuss the Oaklands Lane situation, with the date advised in due course.

Cllr Plume noted that Cllrs Cannon and Rogers had circulated a proposed response to the WBC footpath consultation. Cllr Turtle commented that it had been very well written.

21/66 PLANNING

Cllr Plume asked whether members were happy with the current method of dealing with planning matters. Cllr Rogers noted that it was more difficult for new councillors to learn how to comment on planning matters. No further issues were raised.

- A. To receive and confirm comments from members on current planning applications (circulated 13th and 27th July 2021).
Cllr Plume asked for any further comments to those listed.
- Regarding the Pineridge development, members noted that a car rental business which would attract members of the public was not appropriate use of the countryside location.
 - Regarding the planning application for the Land off Old Wokingham Road, members noted that the removal of trees was contrary to WBC's stance on the Climate Emergency. Members also noted that BFC should be consulted on the access to the Old Wokingham Road, and additionally that removal of trees would adversely affect the gap between WBC and BFC settlements.
- B. To note comments submitted and updates received on planning applications previously circulated via email to members.
The comments were noted and no further comments were made.

21/67 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- A. The report on outstanding balances given in appendix 10A was received.
- B. The detailed income and expenditure report and financial performance against budget report to 30th June 2021 was received. The Clerk stated that the error with the report showing the precept noted at the July meeting had now been corrected. The Clerk also stated that the hall hire was largely on budget, with some new hirers. Cllr Plume invited questions and comments from members and none were received.

Following a proposal from Cllr Rogers and seconded by Cllr Foxwell it was:

RESOLVED: The payments both made and still to be made as provided in appendix 10B(i) and 10B(ii) of the agenda were AGREED

21/68 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr Plume stated that the Pinewood Lease had been raised with Cllr Ross and the matter was progressing.

21/69 PROVISIONAL DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 6th September 2021

Cllr Plume requested that any agenda items for the next meeting be passed to the Clerk.

Signed:

Date: 6th September 2021