

**Wokingham Without Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Monday 6th September 2021**

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

Commencing 7:30pm and concluding at 8:56pm

Present: Councillors J Cannon, R Fenny, L Foxwell, P Jordan, N Martin and J Rogers. Katy Hughes - Clerk, Sharon Way – Assistant Clerk. Borough Councillor P Helliard-Symons plus 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillors K Newland, A Plume and S Turtle. Borough Cllrs. C Bowring and A Ross.

21/71 WELCOME

Cllr Foxwell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

21/72 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Newland, Plume and Turtle and Borough Councillors Bowring and Ross.

21/73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

21/74 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a) Cllr Foxwell invited comments on the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 2nd August 2021. No comments were made.

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

RESOLVED: Minutes of Monday 2nd August were AGREED

- b) Matters arising from the minutes of Monday 2nd August.
None.

21/75 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Rycroft made a statement regarding planning application 212668. He objected to the application on the grounds that there are direct sight lines from the proposed balcony into his property which results in significant loss of privacy. He also commented that the proposed angle of the windows provides sight lines across his garden, again impinging on his privacy. Mr Rycroft stated that the colour and texture of the wall render requires clarification. Mr Rycroft also stated that the proposed concrete interlocking tiles were not consistent with the other properties in the area. He also stated that the applicant's neighbours have not been consulted, contrary to the statement in the application.

Mr Rycroft thanked the council for letting him voice his concerns and left the meeting.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that WWPC would submit a comment on this application with respect to the loss of privacy resulting from the position of the balcony and angle of the windows.

21/76 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS BRIEFING

Cllr Helliar-Symons stated that an email from WWPC regarding Oaklands Lane had been received by Andrew Fletcher. Cllr Helliar-Symons had also followed this up with similar points. A public meeting will be arranged by WBC to discuss Oaklands Lane and possible solutions.

With respect to the passageway with broken steps between Oaklands Lane and Edgecombe Park, this matter has been passed to the WBC Highways Dept to determine whether the passageway can be adopted.

Cllr Fenny noted recent reports of government funding for smart traffic lights and asked whether the traffic lights at the Heathlands road junction would be upgraded. Cllr Helliar-Symons stated that this was being followed up by Cllr Bowring. The Clerk stated that WBC had agreed to send WWPC a list of traffic lights that were to be upgraded once this had been agreed.

21/77 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk stated that works on the allotment fencing had commenced and are expected to be complete by early / middle of w/c 13th September.

The Clerk stated that the summary of responses received for the bus survey had been circulated and if no further feedback was received it would be submitted in the next couple of days.

The Clerk stated that following the council decision in July the planning application had been submitted for the orchard fencing and is now out for public consultation. A decision is expected by the end of October. If planning consent is granted, a paper to consider the proposal will be brought to council in due course.

The Clerk stated that the next NAG meeting will be held on Thursday 16th September at the Morgan Centre, starting at 7.30pm

The Clerk stated that outstanding repair work for the adventure playground is due to be carried out on 17th September.

The Clerk noted that a new rates bill for the Pinewood car park had been received earlier this year, which the Clerk challenged. WWPC have recently received a refund of some £1,850 as the rates charge is instead of, not in addition to, the existing rates bill. The expenditure code will still show as significantly overspent, because the refunded income cannot be credited back to a cost centre code, so has been posted under 'parish office income'. WWPC will still overspend on the rates budget but it will be by less than initially anticipated. Cllr Rogers asked whether the rates bill would be recharged to the clubs. The Clerk stated that at the point of budget preparation in November the Finance Working Group would need to determine the proportion of the rates bill that is shared among the clubs.

The Clerk confirmed that bracken spraying had been carried out on 20th August 2021.

The Clerk stated that there has been a significant uptake in enquiries for hall bookings, both for regular and for adhoc bookings.

The Clerk stated that the WWPC honours board, normally on display in the main hall, has been updated.

Cllr Rogers referred to the stream problems and asked whether a response had been received from the Environment Agency or WBC. The Clerk stated that no response has yet been received. Cllr Rogers stated that it appeared the flow in the stream is being controlled. Cllr Fenny suggested raising the matter at a higher level in Cala Homes.

21/78 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE / OTHER MEETINGS

A. WW Footpath 11 meeting with Devi Lingam – 24 August

Cllr Cannon stated that the site meeting had been held to familiarise the WBC planning officer with the location and the proposals. The meeting had been positive and it had been emphasised that WWPC wish to be involved and that it was important to keep the lines of communication open.

21/79 INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Clerk stated that the WWPC insurance is due for renewal on 1st October. The Clerk referred to the decision paper included as appendix 9 of the agenda. A quote secured via BHIB with Aviva is marginally lower than the amount paid for the current insurance. The Clerk noted that this is a 3 year rather than a 1 year policy and would be subject to an annual inflationary increase. The annual cost would also be subject to increase if claims were made. In comparing the policy to the existing policy there are a small number of outstanding questions for which the Clerk is awaiting a response from BHIB. The Clerk is therefore seeking approval for delegated authority to approve the proposed renewal of £11,760 with an additional allowance of 10% as a contingency pending the outcome of the outstanding questions. The Clerk stated that annual premiums would be subject to an inflationary increase, but that WWPC had the option to withdraw from the policy should there be a significant increase in premium as a result of a claim on the policy.

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

RESOLVED: The delegation of authority to the Clerk and members of the Finance Working Group to approve the renewal of the council's insurance policy was AGREED

With respect to cover for subsidence at the shooting club building, the Clerk discussed the need for insurance cover and the options for this, depending on the answers received from BHIB, including the potential of obtaining stand-alone cover with a specialist insurer.

21/80 TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY – MEMORIAL HALL LAND

Cllr Foxwell referred members to the decision paper included as appendix 10 of the agenda.

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

RESOLVED: The appointment of Geopoint to undertake a topographical survey as proposed in appendix 10 of the agenda was AGREED

21/81 MOTORCYCLE / GYMNASTICS CLUB FENCING

Cllr Foxwell discussed the proposals to provide a new gate to replace the damaged and temporary fencing to the rear of the gymnastics club, as given in the decision paper in appendix 11 of the agenda. The Clerk stated that the purpose of the gate was to maintain the safety of pedestrians / dogs etc from the motorcycle training school area when training was taking place.

Cllr Rogers asked what would be done with the waste materials. The Clerk stated that they would be repurposed and stored until required.

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

RESOLVED: The delegation of authority to the Clerk and Public Spaces and Amenities Working Group as proposed in appendix 11 of the agenda was AGREED

21/82 PLANNING

- A. To receive and confirm comments from members on current planning applications (circulated 10th, 17th and 27th August 2021).
With respect to application 192325(land SE of Finchampsted Road) Cllr Fenny noted that there was a reduction in the number of houses compared to the original plan and there was therefore a concern as to where the additional houses to make up the plan would go. It was agreed that a comment would be submitted to this effect.

Cllr Fenny questioned why 'no comment' was being given for the Gardeners Green application. The Clerk stated that this was because no member had submitted a comment to the Assistant Clerk. Cllr Rogers suggested that a comment should be made that the presence of the mobile home on this site should be time restricted.

The Clerk noted that WWPC are working with WBC to pursue a fly tipping prosecution of a person who was caught on Pinewood CCTV dumping a significant quantity of bathroom refurbishment materials in the bins at Pinewood. If a prosecution is achieved this will be publicised.

- 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.

21/83 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- A. The report on outstanding balances given in appendix 13A was received.
B. The detailed income and expenditure report and financial performance against budget report to 30th July 2021 was received.

Cllr Rogers asked how lettings was performing with respect to budget. The Clerk stated that a significant proportion of hall hire income is charged retrospectively, so there is a delay before the income shows in the financial reports, however, demand has been strong and a lot of new hiring enquiries are being received. The Clerk noted that the Howard Palmer room is now receiving bookings, but that income has lagged behind the main hall due to number restrictions, with very few bookings before the removal of restrictions in July. Currently, provided no further restrictions are imposed, it is anticipated that the council is on target to meet the income prediction for lettings.

- C. The report on salary expenditure year to date as given in appendix 13D was received.

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

RESOLVED: The payments both made and still to be made as provided in appendix 13B(i) and 13B(ii) of the agenda were AGREED

21/84 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr Foxwell provided an update on the Pinewood Lease. WWPC has requested a meeting with WBC. The Clerk has contacted the WBC Chief Executive and is awaiting a constructive response.

Cllr Foxwell stated that there is significant CIL money that needs to be spent within the next year. Following a discussion, it was agreed that a list of projects with current status, budget etc should be prepared and prioritised.

The proposal for Byway 28 was discussed. Cllr Rogers suggested this project could be placed on Contract Finder. The Clerk would chase the relevant parties to try and progress these works.

The Clerk agreed to table the CIL project list as an item on the next meeting's agenda.

21/85 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 4th OCTOBER 2021

21/86 MEETING CLOSED AT 8:56 PM

Signed:

Date: 4th October 2021