

**Wokingham Without Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Monday 7th August 2023**

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

Commencing 7:30pm and concluding at 8:59pm

Present: Councillors L Foxwell, P Jordan, C Lancaster, N Martin, J Montgomery (also B/Cllr), J Rogers, S Turtle and K Whitehead. Debbie Gooch – Clerk and Sharon Way – Deputy Clerk. Borough Councillor David Davies.

Apologies: Councillors R Fenny, J Millett, and A Plume. Borough Councillor P Helliard-Symons.

23/53 WELCOME

Cllr Foxwell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/54 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Fenny, Millett and Plume, and B/Cllr Helliard-Symons.

23/55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/56 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- A. Cllr Foxwell invited comments on the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd July 2023.

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

RESOLVED: Minutes of the meeting, Monday 3rd July were AGREED.

- B. Matters arising from the minutes of 3rd July.
None.

23/57 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

23/58 PLANNING

- A. To review and comment on recent planning applications (as given in appendix 6a of the agenda)
- i. No. 231533, 4 Belmont Road
Following discussion it was **agreed** that the following comment would be submitted: *WWPC have no objection provided that the planning officer is satisfied there is no privacy issue.*
 - ii. No. 231606, 110 Ellis Road
No objection.
 - iii. No. 231674, 65 Ellis Road
Following discussion it was **agreed** that the following comment would be submitted: *WWPC considers the proposal to be considerably larger than the*

existing building and therefore overdevelopment in size and bulk, overbearing for that side of the street, and likely to result in loss of light for neighbouring properties.

- iv. No. 231524, Heathlands Farm
Following discussion it was **agreed** that the following comment would be submitted: *WWPC have no objection provided that the planning officer is satisfied that the level of visual impact on public viewpoints is acceptable.*
- v. No. 231717, Unit rear of Pinecopse
Following discussion it was **agreed** that WWPC would submit the following comment: *The proposal and associated paraphernalia by virtue of its unwarranted encroachment into the countryside, would have a harmful effect on the character and appearance of the area and therefore fails to maintain or enhance the quality of the countryside environment. The development is therefore contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework 2021, and policies CP1, CP3 and CP11 of the Core Strategy.*

B. To note planning decisions received.
Noted.

23/59 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING

B/Cllr Montgomery stated that the headteacher of Edgbarrow School is in discussion with Andrew Moulton of WBC regarding discontinuing the use of Oaklands school as a polling station. St Sebastian's Memorial Hall is being considered as an alternative. Members discussed the issues associated with the use of St Sebastian's Memorial Hall as a polling station.

B/Cllr Montgomery stated that a site meeting will be held on 9th August attended by B/Cllrs Montgomery, Helliard Symons and Lindsay Ferris (Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan) and WBC officer Judy Kelly to assist the new administration's review of the suggested South Wokingham Development Extension included in the draft local plan.

B/Cllr Montgomery reported that he had requested further information on the plans for Gray's Farm at a meeting of the full council. Current early plans comprise three full size 3G football pitches, 6 grass pitches, indoor paddle tennis courts and a car park to accommodate up to 400 vehicles. Cllr Foxwell thanked B/Cllr Montgomery for the information and stated that WWPC needed to understand the consultation process and how the proposals would work together with the other leisure provisions such as Pinewood.

B/Cllr Montgomery stated that Paul Fishwick had agreed to visit site to investigate the issues raised at the Heathlands Road / Nine Mile Ride junction. The date for this visit is to be arranged for mid-September.

B/Cllr Montgomery stated that a temporary stop has been placed on works at the Oak Apples development until issues related to contravention of TPOs are resolved.

B/Cllr Davies stated that the matter of grass cutting had been raised with WBC officers. The erratic mowing was due in part to the very wet weather.

B/Cllr Davies welcomed the recent news that Pinewood had retained its 'asset of community value' status.

B/Cllr Davies stated that the application for Oakdale Care Home on Lower Wokingham Road had been rejected by the planning committee.

With respect to free school transport, B/Cllr Davies is assisting residents with the tribunal process following the rejection of their appeals.

B/Cllr Davies stated that road resurfacing has been budgeted for several roads including Nine Mile Ride and Easthampsted Road.

B/Cllr Davies discussed actions currently being undertaken regarding the Sawmill Lane site.

B/Cllr Davies stated that the bins at Heathlake will be emptied by WBC more frequently. Cllr Foxwell stated that because they have been overflowing the Heathlake bins have often been emptied by Countryside Services.

B/Cllr Davies noted that Angus Ross has been appointed an Honorary Alderman of the Borough.

Cllr Foxwell requested an update on Men's Shed. B/Cllr Montgomery discussed issues relating to the noise impact assessment. Planning enforcement have informed Men's Shed that they will have to fund the noise impact assessment.

Cllr Foxwell stated that WBC had informed Cllr Fenny that street cleansing occurs every seven weeks. Cllr Foxwell **agreed** to forward the email to the B/Cllrs Davies and Montgomery, who **agreed** to obtain further details of the street cleaning schedule.

Members discussed the WBC waste bin consultation. Cllr Rogers noted that the work currently being undertaken by the litter working group would feed into the WWPC response to this consultation.

23/60 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk referred members to the report included as appendix 8 of the agenda.

The Clerk stated that one lease has been signed and returned. The Clerk is currently chasing several clubs to collect their leases from the Parish Office.

Members congratulated the Deputy Clerk for passing CiLCA.

The Clerk has had the Pinewood site removed from the park4night.com website.

The Clerk stated that the floor of the Memorial Hall has been fully replaced on a like-for-like basis. The water ingress issue will be addressed via regular maintenance and monitoring.

The Clerk noted the response from Pinewood FC.

The Clerk stated that Pinewood has been confirmed as an asset of community value. The letter confirming this will be forwarded to members.

The Clerk stated that the RoSpa playground annual safety inspection reports are included in appendix 8a to 8e of the agenda and are currently being reviewed. The Clerk stated that the nursery has paid for their own inspection.

Members discussed the recent increase in incidents of vandalism and antisocial behaviour around the Pinewood site.

The Clerk stated that a quote had been received for installing outside taps at the Memorial Hall and that this work would be carried out.

The Clerk stated that the beekeeper interested in placing hives on the Memorial Hall land will be speaking to members at the September meeting.

The Clerk stated that the orchard management plan will be circulated to members prior to uploading it to the WWPC website.

23/61 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE / OTHER MEETINGS

A. Crowthorne Carnival Meeting

Cllr Jordan reported that the new running track at the Morgan Recreation Ground had caused problems with the Crowthorne Carnival due to restricted access to the central area and insufficient space for the fairground. The carnival will still go ahead next year but at a smaller scale.

B. Litter working group – 12th July 2023.

The Clerk reported that a map showing the location of WWPC litter bins has been prepared. The Clerk stated that WBC have advised that a map of their bin locations is currently being updated and will be available on the WBC website soon. Cllr Turtle reported that the working group is currently gathering information.

C. Borough / Parish Liaison Meeting – 26th July 2023.

Cllr Foxwell reported that the meeting was attended by the leader of WBC and was dominated by discussion of the WBC litter bin consultation. It is likely that some bins will be removed from the parish and prioritisation is therefore required. Grass mowing and the condition of pavements was also discussed. Cllr Foxwell noted that WBC were encouraged to review their contractors with a view to potentially reducing cost and improving service.

23/62 PINEWOOD LEASE

Members **agreed** that the leases would be signed by Cllr Foxwell and Cllr Plume on behalf of WWPC.

23/63 ST CRISPIN'S LEISURE CENTRE CONSULTATION

Members discussed the St Crispin's Leisure Centre. The Clerk read out written comments from members not in attendance. Cllr Foxwell noted the lack of squash court provision around Wokingham and Bracknell. Members expressed the view that the leisure provisions should not be closed down.

Cllr Montgomery **agreed** to look into the WBC vision for the borough. Members noted the need for a leisure strategy which included Pinewood and Gray's Farm.

The Clerk **agreed** to draft a response and circulate to members for comment prior to submission before the end of August deadline.

23/64 WOKINGHAM BOROUGH CONSULTATION REGARDING GRASS CUTTING AND REFUSE BINS

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

23/65 HONORARY ALDERMAN

Members noted that former Borough Councillor Angus Ross has been appointed an Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Wokingham. Members also noted that Mr Ross had been a WWPC parish councillor prior to becoming a ward councillor. Members **agreed** that the Clerk would prepare a letter of congratulations.

23/66 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- A. To receive a report on outstanding balances (as given in appendix 14A of the agenda).
The report was received.
- B. To note payments both made and payments due (as given in appendices 14B(i) and 14B(ii) of the agenda).
Noted.
- C. To receive a detailed income and expenditure report and financial performance against budget report to 30th June (as given in appendix 14C of the agenda).
The report was received.
- D. To receive a report of salary expenditure year to date (as given in appendix 14D of the agenda).
The report was received.

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

RESOLVED: Items A-D, above, was AGREED.

- E. To agree the transfer of £34,165.34 from Unity Trust Bank to CCLA and close the Unity Trust Bank account.

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

RESOLVED: Item E, above, was AGREED.

23/67 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

None.

23/68 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 4th September 2023

23/69 MEETING CLOSED AT 8:59 PM

Signed:

Date: 4th September 2023