

**Wokingham Without Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Monday 2nd October 2023**

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

Commencing 7:30pm and concluding at 9:47pm

Present: Councillors R Fenny, L Foxwell, P Jordan, N Martin, A Plume, J Rogers, S Turtle and K Whitehead. Debbie Gooch – Clerk and Sharon Way – Deputy Clerk. Borough Councillors David Davies and Pauline Helliard-Symons. One member of the public.

Apologies: Councillors C Lancaster, J Millett and J Montgomery (also B/Cllr).

23/83 WELCOME

Cllr Foxwell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/84 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Lancaster, Millett and Montgomery.

23/85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/86 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- A. Cllr Foxwell invited comments on the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023.

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

RESOLVED: Minutes of the meeting, Monday 4th September were AGREED.

- B. Matters arising from the minutes of 4th September.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Montgomery would be providing a written update on the matters raised at the last meeting and this would be forwarded to members once received. C/Cllr Davis stated that he had no further updates on Men's Shed. The Clerk stated that the kissing gate had been fixed.

Members discussed the IFC/WBC funding matter. B/Cllr Davis noted that WBC have issued a statement maintaining that the council is underfunded in comparison to similar authorities. B/Cllr Davis suggested that detail on the background data to support this statement could be requested by members at the borough/parish liaison forum.

23/87 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public made a statement in support of planning application no. 232123. Members viewed elevation and plan drawings submitted with the application.

Following a request, it was agreed to move the Borough Councillor's Briefing to precede Planning. This was agreed, however for the purpose of the Minutes the agenda order has been followed.

23/88 PLANNING

- A. To review and comment on recent planning applications (as given in appendix 6a of the agenda)

- i. No. 232124, 12 Larkwood Drive, RG45 6RL
Following discussion, members agreed to submit the following comment:
Wokingham Without Parish Council has no objection to this application provided the design and materials are consistent with the street scene.
- ii. No 232123, 3 Grange Avenue, RG45 6RX
Following discussion, members agreed to submit the following comment:
Wokingham Without Parish Council request that approval is conditional on the outbuilding remaining ancillary to the main dwelling.
- iii. No 232155, 33 Lyon Road, RG45 6RX
Following discussion, members agreed to submit the following comment:
Wokingham Without Parish Council request that approval is conditional on the outbuilding remaining ancillary to the main dwelling.
- iv. No. 232253, Cartref, RG45 6JX
Following discussion, members agreed to submit the following comment:
Objection. The changes introduce a materially different proposal by the addition of a balcony which is likely to result in loss of privacy for adjoining occupiers. This should be a new application rather than a variation.

B. To note planning decisions received.
Noted.

23/89 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING

B/Cllr Davies referred to a £10m loan made by WBC and stated that he had been assured by council officers that the loan would be repaid in full, with interest, by May 2024.

B/Cllr Davis stated that Section 19 of the local plan may be issued in November 2023. This would then be subject to a consultation period and submitted to the planning inspectorate in March-June 2024 for review. Alternatively, Section 19 may be issued for consultation in March-June 2024. B/Cllr Davis had requested clarification from WBC officers.

B/Cllr Davis stated that WBC officers still refuse to recognise a problem with potholes at the NMR / Heathlands Road junction, but this matter will continue to be raised by the ward councillors.

B/Cllr Helliard-Symons stated that several planning questions had been raised with Ian Bellinger including details of when the house building south of the railway line will be started, when the SDR will be completed and how the SDR will be funded.

B/Cllr Helliard-Symons discussed a recent site visit with Cllr Lindsay Ferris, Cllr Jordan Montgomery and a planning officer involving a walk along Old Wokingham Road in the vicinity of Oaklands Climbing Centre. This visit highlighted several issues, including closing the development gap with Bracknell and the significant volume of traffic currently using this road which would be increased further by the proposed development. B/Cllr Helliard-Symons has requested confirmation that the development of 835 houses in this area will not be permitted.

B/Cllr Helliard-Symons referred to the ongoing discussions regarding the site of the polling station for Wokingham Without. B/Cllr Helliard-Symons stated that a paper will be brought to the October WBC full council meeting in order to open the discussion and consultation on the future of the polling station. B/Cllr Helliard-Symons stated that Andrew Moulton did not consider that further discussion with Oaklands school was necessary. The parish council will have an opportunity to put its views forward during the consultation period. Andrew Moulton has

informed B/Cllr Helliard-Symons that he is working with WBC officers to find ways to help resolve the traffic and parking issues associated with the use of the Memorial Hall as a polling station.

With respect to the Borough Councillors' Briefing, Cllr Foxwell suggested that members submit any questions to the borough councillors in advance of the meeting in order to give them a better opportunity to provide a considered response at the meeting. The Deputy Clerk **agreed** that the action spreadsheet will provide separate lists of borough councillors' actions and members' actions. Cllr Plume suggested that if a borough councillor is unable to attend a meeting, they should be asked to provide a short report of any actions undertaken or matters arising.

B/Cllrs Helliard-Symons and Davis, and the member of the public, left the meeting at 7:56pm.

23/90 CLERK'S REPORT

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

The Clerk stated that an online meeting has been organised with Herrington Carmichael, Blandy and Blandy and Cllr Foxwell to discuss the numbering issues found with the leases.

The Clerk stated that Sibit are preparing a quote for supply of the equipment needed to hold hybrid online/in-person council meetings.

Regarding the WBC street cleaning and waste bin consultation, the Clerk referred members to the notes of the meeting between Richard Bisset and the parish clerks. The consultation is wide ranging, and the clerks raised numerous issues arising from the proposed reduction in services. Members requested that the Clerk's response includes the need to improve the contractual arrangements between WBC and the companies providing the street cleaning and waste management services. Members suggested that since many comments are common across parishes the Wokingham parishes should consider a co-ordinated response. The Clerk stated that the Clerks forum will be held on 18th October. A report on the consultation will be presented to WBC Executive on 26th October. The Clerk noted that the official consultation period has closed but that the Clerks had requested more time to prepare responses. Cllr Rogers proposed that the Clerks agree questions to be submitted to the Executive committee meeting. Cllr Fenny stated that it was not acceptable for WBC to stop cleaning the areas around bottle banks. The Clerk **agreed** to draft a response and circulate it to members for agreement.

The Clerk noted that the playground repairs had been carried out under guarantee.

The Clerk stated that the Waste Action Group had recommended that two new bins should be purchased, one to be located at the layby beside St Sebastian's Memorial Hall. Cllr Turtle clarified that the other bin was recommended to be located on New Wokingham Road at the footpath entrance to Heathlake. Members **agreed** that the Clerk should proceed with the purchase / installation of the two bins.

The Clerk stated that CPC are holding a shopping and Christmas lights event in December and have asked for a contribution towards the cost of the road closure. A £500 contribution was **agreed** by members, to be deducted from the grants budget. Members discussed ideas for a theme for a joint CPC / WWPC stall. The Clerk **agreed** to formulate a plan for agreement at the next meeting.

The Clerk stated that a request had been made to site a pizza van in the St Sebastian's Memorial Hall car park. Members **agreed** that due to hall hire / litter considerations this was not acceptable.

The Clerk stated that Cala Homes had been contacted to request a donation towards maintenance of the pond. An email reply had been received offering £250 as a goodwill gesture. The Clerk confirmed that this will be put towards the silt clearance work.

23/91 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE / OTHER MEETINGS

- A. WBC & Wokingham Clerks Street Cleansing consultation – 7th September 2023
Discussed under Clerk's report.
- B. NAG Meeting – 11th September 2023
Cllr Rogers reported that the Crowthorne police were in attendance and are recruiting for both PCs and PCSOs. Cllr Foxwell reported that Sandhurst have joined the group which reduces the time that can be spent on Wokingham Without affairs. The Clerk **agreed** to request that the CPC Clerk organise the next meeting to facilitate the attendance of Wokingham Without PCs.
- C. Circle Hill/Walter Rec. trustee meeting – 19th September 2023
Cllr Turtle **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting would be circulated to members.
- D. COATS AGM – 25th September 2023
Cllr Foxwell stated that COATS had reported a good year. The majority of people attending the centre are thought to be from Wokingham Without. COATS are seeking additional volunteers and are expanding their charity shop into what was the card shop next door.
- E. Parish / Ward Meeting – 26th September 2023
The Clerk noted that items discussed at this meeting had been covered under Borough Councillors' Briefing.
- F. Buildings and Facilities Working Group – 29th September 2023
The Clerk updated members on the snagging issues related to the Pinewood Hall refurbishment project. The Clerk stated an issue had been identified with the sprung floor around the location previously occupied by the boiler. The Clerk stated this was a latent defect which should be rectified by Creative in accordance with the contract. The Clerk proposed that, with the assistance of Cllr Whitehead, a letter to Creative Projects would be drafted. This was **agreed** by members.

The Clerk stated that the Scouts organisation have installed a concrete plinth without obtaining the required permissions and now wish to install a bench on it. Members discussed whether the scouts should be permitted to install the bench or whether they should be instructed to remove the plinth. Cllr Jordan gave her views on the benefits to the scouts of building the bench. Cllr Turtle stated that the close proximity of the proposed bench to the historic blast shelter was not acceptable. Cllr Plume stated that the clubs should be reminded of the correct process for undertaking projects such as this and that a letter should be sent to the scouts to remind them of their obligations under their lease. Members discussed whether the site should be returned to its condition prior to the construction of the plinth.

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

RESOLVED: The scouts organisation will be requested to remove the plinth, restore the ground, and come back to WWPC with suitable proposals within their own demise, was **REJECTED** with 4 votes in favour, 4 against and the casting vote by the Chairman against the proposal.

23/92 INSURANCE RENEWAL

Members noted the renewal of the council's annual insurance policy (Year 3 of a 3-year deal with BHIB) at a cost of £14,977.03.

23/93 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- A. To receive a report on outstanding balances (as given in appendix 11A of the agenda).
The report was received.
- B. To note payments both made and payments due (as given in appendices 11B(i) and 11B(ii) of the agenda).
Noted.
- C. To receive a detailed income and expenditure report and financial performance against budget report to 31st August (as given in appendix 11C of the agenda).
The report was received. Cllr Plume noted that income from hall hire was lower than projections. The Clerk stated that some hirers had either stopped or reduced the frequency of hall hire due to reduced take-up.
- D. To receive a report of salary expenditure year to date (as given in appendix 11D of the agenda).
The report was received.

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

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

- E. To note completion of the quarterly check carried out by Cllr Martin on 21st September 2023.
Noted.

23/94 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr Foxwell stated that a SEN school may be built at Bucklers Park.

23/95 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2023

23/96 MEETING CLOSED AT 9:47 PM

Signed:

Date: 6th November 2023