

**Wokingham Without Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Monday 8th January 2024**

In St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride

Commencing 7:30pm and concluding at 9:46pm

Present: Councillors R Fenny, L Foxwell, P Jordan, C Lancaster, N Martin, J Millett (*left 9.02pm*), A Plume, J Rogers and S Turtle. Debbie Gooch – Clerk and Sharon Way – Deputy Clerk. Borough Councillor D Davies.

Apologies: Councillors J Montgomery (also B/Cllr), K Whitehead, and B/Cllr P Helliars-Symons.

23/130 WELCOME

Cllr Foxwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the Deputy Clerk's resignation. A short discussion on this ensued.

23/131 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Montgomery (also B/Cllr) and K Whitehead, and B/Cllr P Helliars Symons.

23/132 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/133 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Monday 4th November was AGREED.

- B. Cllrs Plume and Fenny expressed disappointment that Cllr Montgomery's action items had not been followed-up, namely circulation of Paul Fishwick's report, arrangement of a date for a meeting with Paul Fishwick, and circulation of Lindsay Ferris' report on Priors Farm. Cllr Davies **agreed** to progress these items if no action has been made in the next two weeks; the Clerk will notify Cllr Davies accordingly.

23/134 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

23/135 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING

B/Cllr Davies discussed actions being taken to resolve parking issues along Hatch Ride. WBC enforcement will take photos of any cars blocking the pavement; it is hoped that this will encourage the police to act. Members discussed possible enforcement actions to address parking issues across the parish. The Clerk **agreed** to circulate an email from WBC regarding the reporting of parking offences.

B/Cllr Davies noted that a planning application has been submitted by Bloor Homes for a SANG development and stated that the agent had been informed that support for this application does not imply support for any further development.

With respect to Men's Shed, B/Cllr Davies stated that following approval of the planning application a lease had now been sent to the Men's Shed organisation.

B/Cllr Davies stated that Countryside Service have been emptying the bins at Heathlake, and requested to be notified if the bins are not being emptied, so that this can be followed-up. Cllr Davies also requested to be notified if anyone is seen fishing at Heathlake, as this is prohibited.

B/Cllr Davies noted that a growing list of culverts need to be checked by WBC. Members discussed locations across the parish which regularly flood. Cllr Fenny **agreed** to send B/Cllr Davies a list of locations.

B/Cllr Davies stated that the WBC polling places review report is expected at the end of the month. The Clerk stated that WBC appear to favour St Sebastian's Memorial Hall as the polling station and requested B/Cllr Davies's support for an extension of the car park to facilitate this.

Cllr Fenny raised the matter of a flyer distributed by Maverick Homes requesting comments on a proposal for 49 houses at Sulby Croft. B/Cllr Davies **agreed** to find out whether WBC planning is aware of this proposal.

Cllr Rogers stated that the 'One Stop / One Front Door' service may have had a temporary reprieve from the withdrawal of funding. B/Cllr Davies **agreed** to determine the status of this matter at WBC and noted that this service had widespread support among councillors and the public.

Cllr Fenny reported that he and Cllr Foxwell had attended the Borough/Parish liaison meeting. A good presentation had been made by the WBC Head of Finance regarding budgetary matters. Cllr Fenny recommended that B/Cllr Davies obtain a copy of the presentation.

23/136 PLANNING

A. To review and comment on recent planning applications (as given in appendix 7a of the agenda)

- i. No. 232910, 43 Wiltshire Avenue, RG45 6NH
Following discussion, members **agreed** to submit the following comment:
No objection.
- ii. No 233083, 47 Larkswood Drive, RG45 6RH
Following discussion, members **agreed** to submit the following comment:
No objection
- iii. No. 233060, Heathlands Farm, RG40 3BG
Members discussed that the application has not satisfactorily justified the financial and functional need for additional permanent rural worker's dwellings and that it represented inappropriate development contrary to policy CP11 of the Core Strategy. Members expressed concern that the siting of four permanent dwellings on the farm will set a precedent for further development and may have a detrimental impact on local roads.

Following a proposal from Cllr Turtle and seconded by Cllr Plume it was:
RESOLVED: To object on the above grounds was agreed by a majority vote.

Members further agreed that Cllr Lancaster would prepare a suitable form of words for submission by the Deputy Clerk.

- iv. No. 233155, 12 Butler Road, RG45 6QY
Following discussion, members **agreed** to submit the following comment:
No objection.
- v. No. 232814, St Sebastian's Playing Field, RG40 3XA
Following discussion, members **agreed** to submit the following comment:
No objection.
- vi. No. 233185
Following discussion, it was **agreed** that a separate meeting would be held to discuss this application on 22 January at 7.30pm. The Deputy Clerk **agreed** to send a meeting request to all members.

- B. To note planning decisions received.
Noted.

23/137 CLERK'S REPORT

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

The Clerk stated that the headlease and subleases have been signed and the new lease terms will be effective from 1st January. Stamp duty costs were £640 for the clubs and £1000 for the parish council. The forms need to be registered, so correspondence with the Land Registry will be ongoing. Further invoices have been received from Blandy and Blandy and Herrington Carmichael, for costs totalling circa £5100. Members asked whether further solicitors' costs are expected. The Clerk noted that the Herrington Carmichael invoice was up to the end of November, so costs for December are expected. There may also be solicitor's costs associated with negotiations with the Land Registry. Members discussed the significant Herrington Carmichael costs paid by WWPC in support of the clubs.

The Clerk **agreed** to circulate to members a summary of solicitors' invoices to date and anticipated invoices to follow, with a possibility of holding a finance working group meeting to review and assess any implications for the 2023/24 budget outturn.

Regarding the Annual Parish Meeting, the Clerk stated that Guy Gilby, BFC Councillor responsible for roads and transport, has been identified as a possible guest speaker. Members suggested that Paul Fishwick would be a suitable alternative / additional speaker.

The Clerk stated that the annual litter pick will be held on 23rd or 24th March. Members **agreed** that the 24th March is the preferred date, refreshments would be provided, and that the location would be St Sebastian's Memorial Hall.

The Clerk notified members that the Circle Hill litter pick would be held on 25th February.

23/138 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE / OTHER MEETINGS

- A. Borough Parish Liaison Forum, 6 December 2023
Cllr Fenny reported that he and Cllr Foxwell had attended this meeting. Cllr Fenny stated that WBC's costs associated with the provision of child services, for example the cost of providing transport to school, had increased significantly. Cllr Foxwell stated that she had requested that Pinewood be considered as a site for EV charging.
- B. Broadmoor Hospital Meeting, 12 December 2023
Cllr Rogers reported that Broadmoor is on the market and expressions of interest had been received.
- C. Crowthorne Neighbourhood Action Group, 12 December 2023
Cllr Rogers reported that Cllr Guy Gilby (BFC) had discussed the reasons behind the recent local road closures. Antisocial behaviour issues were also discussed. Police were not in attendance; Cllr Rogers will follow this up. Cllr Rogers stated that a Police and Crime Commissioner's fund is now open and WWPC may consider applying for a grant if an appropriate need is identified.
- D. WBC (Giorgio Framallicco) Meeting 18 December 2023
Cllr Foxwell reported that Giorgio Framallicco, WBC Director of Place and Growth, had discussed the SDR and SDL. The road must be built before the houses, but the funding is not available, and WBC do not own all the required land. B/Cllr Helliars-Symons has called for a public forum to be held to discuss these issues. The Clerk **agreed** to ask Giorgio Framallicco to attend a council meeting.
- E. Honey Hill Speed Advisory signs, 19 December 2023
Cllr Martin read an email he had sent to relevant parties regarding WBC's agreement to install 30mph speed warning signs along Honey Hill. Cllr Martin will monitor the situation once the signage is installed.
- F. Circle Hill Budget Meeting, 19 December 2023
The Clerk reported that the Circle Hill budget is increasing due to the cost of tree work and changes to litter handling on the site. Cllr Turtle stated that there needed to be a review of expenditure.
- G. Lease signature meeting with solicitors, 20 December 2023
Lease discussed under Clerk's report.

23/139 PARISH COUNCIL VEHICLE

The Clerk stated that the Kubota is no longer used for litter picking as it is not fit for purpose and that going forward the litter picker will be using his own vehicle. The Kubota will be sold, and the funds returned to general reserves.

23/140 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- A. Additional information from Crowthorne Parish Council regarding request for financial support for their D-Day 80 Celebration in June 2024.
The Clerk stated that CPC have requested that WWPC make a £500 contribution towards a cinema screen costing £3k - £4k. Following discussion members unanimously **agreed** that a contribution would not be made on this occasion.

23/141 BUDGET 2024-25

Cllr Jordan declared a pecuniary interest in matters related to the Pinewood clubs.

The Clerk went through a PowerPoint presentation, previously circulated to members.

The first part of the presentation covered 2023/24 major variances against projected income and expenditure, CIL balances, and projected reserve balances to March 2024

For 2023/24, the Clerk discussed the proposal to increase letting charges by 5%, the service charge by 5%, and the security charges by 15% in line with increases in the cost of this service.

The Clerk discussed the proposal to raise the precept by 5%, which will bring the Band D rate to £75.99 which is in the mid-range for the towns and parishes in and around Wokingham.

Members noted the projected budget outturn for 2023/24.

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

RESOLVED: To increase letting charges by 5%, service charges by 5% and security charges by 15% was AGREED

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

RESOLVED: Confirmation of the proposed budget for 2024/25 as presented was AGREED

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

RESOLVED: Confirmation of the recommended precept of £253,229 for 2024/25 was AGREED

23/142 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- A. To receive a report on outstanding balances (as given in appendix 13A of the agenda).
The report was received.
- B. To note payments both made and payments due (as given in appendices 13B(i) and 13B(ii) of the agenda).
Noted.
- C. To receive a detailed income and expenditure report and financial performance against budget report to 30th November (as given in appendix 13C of the agenda).
The report was received.
- D. To receive a report of salary expenditure year to date (as given in appendix 13D of the agenda).
The report was received.

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

RESOLVED: Items A-D, above, were AGREED

23/143 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr Foxwell noted that during the Teams meeting with Giorgio Framallicco it had been suggested that if the additional 800 plus homes were to be built, it may be proposed to close Easthampstead Road or make it one-way. Additionally, due to bridge height restrictions at the Tesco end of the SDL, high sided vehicles would be required to travel down Heathlands Road.

23/144 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Cllr Turtle provided apologies for absence from the next meeting.

23/145 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2024

23/146 MEETING CLOSED AT 9:46 PM

Signed:

Date: 5th February 2024