

**Wokingham Without Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Monday 5th February 2024**

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

Commencing 7:30pm and concluding at 9:55pm

Present: Councillors R Fenny, L Foxwell, P Jordan, C Lancaster, N Martin, J Millett, and S Turtle.
Debbie Gooch – Clerk and Sharon Way – Deputy Clerk. Borough Councillor D Davies.

Apologies: Councillors J Rogers, A Plume, K Whitehead and B/Cllr P Helliar-Symons.

23/147 WELCOME

Cllr Foxwell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/148 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Plume, J Rogers, K Whitehead and B/Cllr P Helliar Symons.

23/149 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jordan declared an interest in agenda item 12B.

23/150 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- A. Cllr Foxwell invited comments on the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th January 2024. Members discussed whether it was appropriate to name councillors in meeting minutes. It was agreed that the minutes of the January meeting would not be changed.

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

RESOLVED: Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting, Monday 8th January was AGREED with one vote against.

- B. Matters arising:

Members agreed that estimated due dates should be added to the action list. B/Cllr Davies requested to be added to the circulation list for the draft minutes of meetings and action list. B/Cllr Davies stated that there is currently no planning application for Maverick Homes' proposals at Sulby Croft. B/Cllr Davies stated that WBC have confirmed that funding is being removed from the 'One Front Door' service.

23/151 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Angus Ross congratulated the council on the signing of the Pinewood leases.

23/152 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING

B/Cllr Davies stated that St Sebastian's Memorial Hall has been selected as the polling place for Wokingham Without. Members discussed the provision of a temporary crossing and measures to be taken by WBC to ensure the safety of pedestrians and all road users. Members discussed the lack of parking provision at the Memorial Hall. The Clerk stated that these issues had been

brought to the attention of Andrew Moulton. Members suggested that polling station staff may be able to park at other nearby locations. Cllr Foxwell stated that these matters are under the control of WBC, however the parish council can offer comment and guidance.

B/Cllr Davies stated that Oaklands school is having issues with parking. New lines are being added to the road and B/Cllr Davies has requested that Cllr Paul Fishwick visit the site during school hours.

B/Cllr Davies stated that the local plan update will be issued in June.

B/Cllr Davies stated that there is no housing development associated with the Bloor Homes SANG application.

B/Cllr Davies stated that signs notifying the closure of the Easthampstead Road level crossing are not in the right location. Cllr Jordan stated that the signage should be placed prior to the Easthampstead Road junction and should state the businesses are open as usual.

B/Cllr Davies stated that trees along Old Wokingham Road have been cut down by BFC to improve sight lines.

The Clerk referred to DMMO applications for the change of public footpaths to bridleways and noted that this is of concern to residents. WBC officer Connor Clark has advised the Clerk that this matter has been outsourced to John Lindsay at Countryside Management Services. Cllr Fenny stated that these applications are being made by the British Horse Society and expressed the concern that they may be approved by default after a certain period of time. The Clerk agreed to find out whether there is a default approval period.

Cllr Millett noted the issues being raised regarding parking at Oak Apples. Cllr Davies asked Cllr Millett to forward Mark O'Leary's email regarding cessation.

Cllr Millett noted the significant parking issues around the Tai Pan Chinese restaurant. B/Cllr Davies agreed to raise the matter with WBC traffic enforcement.

B/Cllr Davies stated that local elections will be held in May. Wokingham Without will continue to have three ward councillors, all of which will be up for election. Councillors will serve for four, three or two years depending on whether they come first, second or third respectively.

23/153 PLANNING

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

- i. No. 233185, Land at Newlands Farm, RG40 3BU
Following discussion, members **agreed** to submit the following comment:
No objection.
- ii. No 232901, The Barnyard, Easthampstead Road, RG40 3BS
Following discussion, members **agreed** to submit the following comment:
Wokingham Without Parish Council (WWPC) considers that the scale of the development is excessive for the intended home office and that the aesthetics are out of keeping with the surrounding listed buildings. WWPC requests that approval of this application is conditional on the outbuilding remaining ancillary to the main dwelling.

- iii. No. 240093, Southbrook, Redlake Lane, RG40 3BF
Following discussion, members **agreed** to submit the following comment:
No objection.
- iv. No. 240192, 28 Linkway, RG45 6ES
Following discussion, members **agreed** to submit the following comment:
No objection.

Regarding Brookfield Farm, the Deputy Clerk agreed to collate dates when enforcement could first have been carried out by WBC. This information would then be used to formulate an appropriate comment to the WBC enforcement team.

- B. To note planning decisions received.
Noted.

23/154 CLERK'S REPORT

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

The Clerk asked members to be mindful of the content of emails.

The Clerk noted that now the leases have been signed, members needed to consider the requirements for the previously discussed Pinewood forum. Members discussed the purpose, format, and agenda for the event. Members highlighted the need to cover general appearance and signage, and future plans/strategy for the site. Members agreed that it should be promoted as a celebratory event. Following discussion, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to hold the event in May. The Clerk agreed to select some suitable dates and draft an agenda for discussion.

The Clerk referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee response. The Clerk agreed to submit WWPC comments previously prepared by Cllr Fenny.

With regard to the litter pick, Cllrs Fenny, Millett and Foxwell agreed to attend. Cllr Fenny stated that Richard Bissett may provide WBC support on the day, however this is yet to be confirmed.

Members discussed signage for the entrance to Pinewood. Cllr Turtle requested to be involved in the development of design / content for the signage.

The Clerk discussed the possible formation of a planning committee. Following discussion it was agreed that the process for review of planning applications would continue as currently organised.

The Clerk reported that a car had again caused damage to the football pitch. Large logs have been placed at strategic locations to deter future incursions.

The Clerk stated that a member of the public had reported numerous potholes along Byway 28 at Gorrick Woods. The Clerk agreed to ask Cllr Rogers for a suitable contact at WBC.

The Clerk agreed to organise a meeting with Eddie Napper, Cllr Paul Fishwick and Cllr Fenny regarding the ongoing drainage issues at Heathlands Road.

23/155 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE / OTHER MEETINGS

- A. Bucklers Park Stakeholder Meeting, 9 January 2024
The Clerk reported that residents had expressed frustration that the path and play area is still closed, and that this is related to leasing issues. The Clerk reported that Age Concern would be taking over the management of the community hub.
- B. Staffing Committee Meeting, 11 January 2024
The Clerk provided a short report of the meeting.
- C. Parish/Ward Liaison Meeting, 16 January 2024
The Clerk referred members to the notes previously circulated and noted that the main discussion points related to the polling station and Men's Shed.
- D. Andrew Moulton – Polling Station, 22 January 2024
The Clerk noted the earlier discussion with B/Cllr Davies. Cllr Foxwell reported that WWPC had expressed many concerns regarding the use of St Sebastians Memorial Hall for the polling station, however this is a matter for WBC to manage.
- E. Clerks Forum, 24 January 2024
The Clerk noted that the PowerPoint about making Wokingham a better place for all residents to live, had been included in the agenda pack.

23/156 POLICIES

- A. Grant awarding policy for adoption
The Clerk noted the need for a grant awarding policy and referred to the draft for discussion included in appendix 10a of the agenda. Cllr Turtle noted that this matter was currently under consideration by herself and Cllr Rogers. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the draft policy for comment in order to bring a finalised policy for adoption at the May meeting.
- B. Reserves Policy Review
Following a proposal from Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Turtle it was:
RESOLVED: The Reserves Policy was AGREED.
- C. Risk Register Review
Following a proposal from Cllr Lancaster and seconded by Cllr Martin it was:
RESOLVED: The Risk Register was AGREED

23/157 FIRE EXIT RAMP AT PINWOOD HALL

Cllr Foxwell stated that the need for an external ramp at the fire exit had been identified during the latest risk assessment. Members discussed the quotations that had been received. Cllr Lancaster advised that the ramp required planning permission. Members agreed that further advice and additional quotations would be sought, and the decision would be postponed to a future meeting.

23/158 LITTER BIN EMPTYING SOLUTIONS

The Clerk discussed the litter bin emptying options given in the decision paper circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk recommended a six-month trial of an external contractor. Members discussed the use of a vehicle for litter picking, in particular members discussed whether the

Kubota should be sold and whether a van should be purchased. Cllr Fenny stated that litter picking was valued by the community, and it was important to continue to employ a litter picker with an appropriate vehicle to carry out this role.

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

RESOLVED: The sale of the Kubota was AGREED by a majority vote.

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

RESOLVED: The six-month contract with an external contractor to empty the bins was AGREED.

23/159 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A. Local Transport Plan Consultation

The Clerk informed members that the deadline for responses is 23rd February. Cllr Foxwell noted that Wokingham Without is not mentioned in the plan. Members agreed that comments would be fed back to the Clerk who would collate and prepare a collective WWPC comment.

B. Pinewood Café

Cllr Jordan left the room. Following discussion, members agreed to grant Pinewood Café permission to replace wooden decking outside the café with concrete slabs to the same dimensions.

23/160 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 31st December (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 Jordan and seconded by Cllr Martin it was:

RESOLVED: Items A-D, above, were AGREED

23/161 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

None.

23/162 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Turtle apologised for absence from the March meeting.

Electric vehicle charging points at Pinewood.

Update on DMMO applications for the change of public footpaths to bridleways.

23/163 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 4th MARCH 2024

23/164 MEETING CLOSED AT 9:55 PM

Signed:

Date: 4th March 2024