

WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on Thursday 29th May 2025, Baptist Chapel, Main Street, Wolston

Attendees:

Councillors (CLLR): Cllr Willis, Cllr Rainey, Cllr Wright, Cllr Milne, Cllr Osmond, Cllr Ramsay, Cllr Sonko (County)

Clerk Malyon, RFO Ball

Members of the public

1. Election of Chair 2025-26 - To elect a Chair for 2025-26

RESOLVED: Cllr Willis was nominated as Chair. All Cllrs voted in favour

2. To receive the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Accepted and witnessed by the Clerk

3. Election of Vice Chair 2025-26 - To elect a vice chair for 2025-26

RESOLVED: Cllr Rainey was nominated as vice chair. All Cllrs voted in favour

4. To receive the Vice Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Accepted and witnessed by the Clerk

5. Re-adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to be subject to review by September 2025

After a discussion and concerns from Cllr Wright has regarding concerns regarding the notice of motion amendment.

Cllr Willis requested to note caution investing too much time, effort and resources in re writing new policies due to plans for government reorganisation. RFO referred to new templates that have been issued by NALC.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Ramsay, Seconded by Cllr Rainey. All Cllrs voted in favour.

6. Apologies. – Received from Cllrs Poole and Ward, Rugby Borough Council.

7. Public Participation:

Cllr Willis highlighted that Borough and County Cllrs reports should be included in this section or immediately before and may have slipped off the agenda and is happy to answer questions for Borough Cllrs.

The Chair welcomed County Cllr Anne Marie Sonko who is new in post, approximately 3 weeks in and invited Cllr Sonko to catch up one to one, especially with this being the first PC meeting.

Cllr Wright asked Cllr Sonko if she was aware of the flooding issues within Wolston. Cllr Sonko confirmed that due to living and working locally she is indeed and has it on her to do list.

Cllr Wright asked Cllr Sonko to consider revisiting the youth club funding.

The garden walkabout team attended and asked for clarification for risk assessments for support from the parish council regarding funding. The Clerk volunteered to work with the team who stated that they were very grateful for any support.

A local resident raised concerns regarding the Brook debris and the added the cost that they have spent considerable money installing flood defences at the rear of their property. Cllr Willis and Cllr Rainey confirmed that extra funding has now been

allocated specifically for the village and may be able to apply retrospectively for recompense.

8. Declarations of Interest (existence and nature) on items on the Agenda –

8.1 To declare any personal interests or prejudicial interests in items on the Agenda and their nature.

Cllr Willis declared his role as Rugby Borough Cllr and as trustee WLCC

Cllr Ramsay declared his role as trustee for Wolston Leisure centre and that his Wife has an allotment.

Cllr Osmond Declared that his Son is a member of the Youth Club

8.2 To receive, consider and approve any requests for dispensation relating to Agenda items.

9. Minutes - To review and if appropriate, approve the minutes of any outstanding Parish Council meetings in 2024/25. –

19th February

6th March

26th March

3rd April

DEFERRED: Items deferred until June 2025 meeting

10. Reconsider the decision made by Wolston Parish Council on 23 September 2024, minute 99 recorded as follows:

At this point in time Wolston Parish Council should withdraw from its commitment to the running of a Youth Club.

Cllr Willis referred to a paper submitted by him that suggested the following. This alongside an update of a recent visit where he was bowled over by the work being done and that the members clearly had a considerable amount of trust and engagement with Emma. So much so that not a phone was in sight; despite there being no restrictions or being locked away.

Cllrs discussed that the parish council is happy to support the youth club financially as is reasonably possible regarding grants; however, cannot accept responsibility for the management of the club given the lack of expertise within the council. The council has always supported the Youth Club financially and remains supportive to those that to have the ability and expertise that is clearly being exhibited by the Youth club team who are giving the village an opportunity to pursue activities, building on strong foundations and reshaping the future.

The paper includes the following recommendations

- 1) Rescind the minute from September
- 2) Consider grant funding
- 3) Include Youth Club funding in the precept

Cllr Rainey Proposed to rescind the minute 99 from September 2024, which can then allow the parish council to reconsider the grant application (item 11.4)

CLLR Wright left the meeting at 20.18

RECORDED VOTE:

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Rainey, Seconded by Cllr Milne

For: Cllr Rainey, Cllr Milne, Cllr Willis

Abstained: Cllr Ramsay, Cllr Osmond

11.4- Youth Club Grant application received

After discussion and advice from RFO; it was suggested that the RFO recognised the grant application and pays the Leisure centre directly, therefore ensuring that VAT is

recognised on the invoice. The youth club have been advised of this and are supportive that the PC makes direct payment to the leisure centre to cover rent and facilities. Proposal to approve the grant application in line with the original paper submitted by the chair to support the rent and facilities from the youth club for the costs of the leisure centre

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Willis, seconded by Cllr Milne, 3 Cllrs voted in favour, 2 Cllrs abstained.

11. Finance –

11.1 To approve accounts for payment.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Rainey, Seconded by Cllr Ramsay. All Cllrs voted in favour.

11.2 Finance update for approval, to include bank reconciliation.

RFO still awaiting statements from previous acting Clerk. RFO has confidence that it will match up. Notification that precept has been paid,

11.3 To note payments received- Noted

11.4 Consider Grant applications and make any appropriate decisions- please refer to item 10

11.5 To authorise appointment Auditor – Mike Spence has been auditor previous years, A proposal was made that this format continues.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Ramsay, Seconded by Cllr Osmond. All Cllrs voted in favour

11.6 To support the Bi-annual Garden Walkabout by providing up to £200 toward the cost of Public Indemnity Insurance.

The quote has returned at £226. Cllr Rainey proposed that then full amount be paid.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Rainey, Seconded by Cllr Ramsay. All Cllrs voted in favour

11.7 Consider Charitable donations and make any appropriate decision

A) Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr Wright for donation to Royal British Legion –

DEFERRED: item deferred until next meeting; Cllr Willis requested full wording of NOM and that it is higher in the agenda.

B) Request for donation for WLCC for afternoon tea donation-

Cllrs discussed that donations cannot be given; however, grant applications can be received and taken out of the grant fund allocated to WLCC.

A proposal was made that a grant be paid to WLCC of £70 for this request.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Rainey, Seconded by Cllr Osmond. 4 Cllrs voted in favour, 1 abstention

12. Adoption of Policies:

13. DEFERRED: Item deferred until later date

14. Confirmation of Committees and membership

DEFERRED: Item deferred until later date

15. Confirmation of Working Groups and membership

DEFERRED: Item deferred until later date

16. Confirmation of Representation on outside bodies

DEFERRED: Item deferred until later date

17. Planning applications and other statutory and non-statutory consultations:

16.1 Update on Rugby Local Plan- None

16.2 New planning applications to be distributed to all councillors on receipt- None

18. Clerks report- Progress report and update and to decide any actions appropriate

- The Clerk has been in liaison with residents; and is often approached in parks and on the street which I am happy to do. The Clerk recognises that Cllr Wright has concerns regarding these not being reported and asked how she can be trusted to not be putting the Parish Council at risk by not receiving and recording letters.
- The Clerk had assured that she does indeed take the role seriously as he does.

19. Events Update- to consider/ decide matters relating to each as required

- RFO and Clerk met with the poppy ladies who have started making ideally 8000 poppies
- Liasing with garden walkabout team and joined the most recent meeting, making great strides and happy to print posters for them
- Made great contacts with the school regarding future events
- Jacqui Wells has volunteered to help clear the donations from floods to make the office workable and less of a fire risk
- Cllr Ramsay asked where the union Jack flag has gone since being replaced by VE flag
- VJ day wreath can be ordered to recognised VJ day. A formal service is not necessarily tradition; however, a nod should be made.

Councillor Ramsay Proposed that Brian Ell be approached to lay wreath for VJ Day for all the work that he has done for the allotments

Proposer: Cllr Ramsay; Cllr Milne- all in favour

- Christmas- Road closures and markets to be booked. Cllr Willis asked if storm cover is included given recent Storm Darragh event closures etc.

20. Future Agenda Items – Councillors are requested to use this opportunity to raise items for future agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision-making.

- Update regarding insurance for Christmas events
- Parking on main street
- Updating the memorial with plague- suggest to those lost in all wars
- Flood group update
- Wolston poppies
- Resolution regarding payment for previous Clerk

21. Parish Council Communications - To receive suggestions for information for sharing

22. Date of Next Meetings – To consider and confirm the date of the 05/06/2025 as the Parish

NEXT Council meeting at Brandon and Wolston Village Hall, Main Street, Wolston at 7:15pm.

Meeting Closed: 21:30