

PARISH OF WOLSTON
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT WOLSTON BAPTIST CHURCH ON THURSDAY 12TH MAY 2022 AT 6.30PM

Cllr Fewkes, the Chair of the meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

12 people were present at the meeting (including Parish Councillors Cllr Fewkes, Cllr Miss Dobinson, Cllr Grainger, Cllr Wright, the Acting Clerk to the Parish Council and seven residents).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Miss Ball and Cllr Harvey-Smith.

2. MINUTES FROM THE 2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting held on the 6th May 2021 were circulated. Cllr Grainger noted an error in the list of attendees and asked that Cllr Miss Cross be replaced with Cllr Miss Dobinson. Subject to this amendment Cllr Wright proposed the minutes are signed by the Chair as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Grainger and all present were in favour.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Grainger reported that there will be a defibrillator course offered to all residents free of charge in the next month or so.

4. OPEN FORUM

Cllr Wright proposed that the Parish Council approach Ordnance Survey to ask if the wood planted on Richard Postlethwaite's land can be recorded as 'Richards Wood' or 'Richards Coppice'. This proposal was supported by Cllr Grainger, and it was suggested that a suitable name be discussed with members of his family. It was agreed this should be taken forward by the Parish Council and any outcome be endorsed by residents.

5. REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES FOR 2021-22

Everyone in attendance was given a copy of the 2021-22 financial report (attached to these minutes). Cllr Grainger explained that the cheque payment for the street lighting upgrades wasn't issued until April, despite the work being carried out in March. Eon increased our electricity costs by 150% at the end of last year, this has been challenged and we are awaiting a response. A power surge earlier in the week had affected the solar cells on the lights however as these are smart lights they restored themselves to the usual on/off times over the ensuing few days. It was noted that power surges in the village happen regularly, and this issue has been referred to Western Power Distribution for investigation. It was noted that £6,000 for the land agent associated with the allotment income summary had been omitted. Cllr Grainger offered to update the report. Subject to this correction Cllr Miss Dobinson proposed that the Finance Report be accepted which was seconded by Cllr Wright and all in attendance at the meeting agreed.

6. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Fewkes said that 2021-22 had been 'the best of times, and the worst of times' for both parishioners and the Parish Council. He reported that the Parish Council has continued to support the school with swimming lessons and the Wolston Wombles with clean-up activities. Lights have been installed around the war memorial and the footpaths on the playing fields have been upgraded making the play areas more accessible. We have sourced eco-friendly benches and plans are in place to procure bollards made of the same materials. Cllr Grainger has managed the project to change the streetlights to low energy luminaires which will see a huge saving in terms of our energy consumption. The village Christmas lights were also supported by the Parish Council, and we have also given support to the Village Hall and the Leisure Centre. He added that two speakers from the Smiths Concrete Quarry and Warwickshire Search and Rescue have attended meetings to present to the Parish Council. The sale of the northern half of the allotment site by the landowners has caused a rift in the community which is very hard to resolve. The Parish Council have worked to ensure that allotment holders are treated properly throughout the process and do not suffer greatly from any inconvenience. There has unfortunately been a campaign to discredit members of the Parish Council through social media which has resulted in the resignation of the Parish Clerk. Cllr Fewkes added that the people responsible for this should go away and reflect on their actions. Cllr Fewkes conveyed the best of

luck to the reconstituted Parish Council going forward. Cllr Wright commented on the achievements of the Parish Council over the years, a lot of which was a result of the work and commitment from those Councillors relinquishing their posts. He suggested that a gift and thank you card be arranged for Cllr Harvey-Smith on behalf of the Parish Council and the village for the years of service he has given, along with a thank you letter to all ex-Councillors acknowledging their service. Cllr Fewkes confirmed that suitable gift for Cllr Harvey-Smith is being sourced. Cllr Wright conveyed thanks for Cllr Fewkes for taking over the Chair in challenging circumstances.

7. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Wright suggested that the unveiling of the new village clock could coincide with the Party in The Park Jubilee celebration. Councillors agreed to meet with the group running the event to ascertain how this could be done.

Having no further business to discuss Cllr Fewkes closed the meeting at 6.58pm.

Signed (Chairman):..... Date:.....