

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WOLSTON, ON THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.15PM**

PRESENT Cllr Dobinson (Chair), Cllr R Grainger, Cllr L Wright, Cllr Humphreys, Cllr Rainey, Cllr Ramsay and Cllr Ball (Minute taker).

Plus: Cty Cllr Mrs Timms, Boro Cllr Tim Willis and 15 members of the public.

After members of the public and Councillors had been given the opportunity to raise any issues, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and the Parish Council meeting commenced at 7.50pm.

92. Apologies and acceptance of reasons for absence

The apologies of Cllr Humphreys, Cllr Carney and Boro Cllr Derek Poole, Boro Cllr Simon Ward were noted.

93. Declarations of Interest (existence and nature) for items on the agenda

Cllr Ramsey declared an interest in agenda item 102, No other declarations of interest were made for any items on the agenda. The Chairman advised that Councillors could declare an interest later in the meeting should this become apparent for any agenda item.

94. Minutes of the Parish Council

All Councillors had been given the opportunity to review the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th June 2022, 7th July 2022 and 4th August 2022. A request was made to defer acceptance of the August minutes to the October meeting

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Wright seconded Cllr Grainger to accept 9th June 2022, 7th July 2022 minutes The minutes of the 4th August meeting to defer acceptance until October meeting.

95. Co-option:

A discussion took place to consider how and when the remaining positions of councillors from the uncontested election are to be filled.

Cllr Dobinson proposed that we accept the two late applications that had been received, this was seconded by Cllr Grainger, A recorded vote was requested - For Cllr Dobinson, Cllr Grainger - Against Cllr Ball, Cllr Wright and Cllr Ramsay – Abstained Cllr Rainey.

RESOLVED: Co-option of further councillors to be deferred until a new clerk is in place and legal requirements confirmed

Proposed Cllr Ball seconded Cllr Wright carried unanimously.

96. To receive all new councillors' declaration of pecuniary interests from Co-option.

Cllr Rainey was reminded to return the signed the declaration of pecuniary interests at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: Cllr Rainey to sign and submit his documents at the next Parish Council meeting.

97. Clerk Role

A discussion took place about the appointment of a new clerk. A possible solution has been presented by WALC for an intermediary to provide a locum clerk at £35 per hour and £350 introduction fee.

RESOLVED: Once the HR working group has been agreed, they will consider the viability of a locum clerk.

98. Finance

Due to lack of time Cllr Ball apologised for not presenting the finance figures, at present she can only cover the Clerk role for a limited number of hours per week.

RESOLVED: Finance figures will be available for the October meeting.

99. Correspondence

Due to lack of time Cllr Ball apologised for not presenting the correspondence, at present she can only cover the Clerk role for a limited number of hours per week.

RESOLVED: To distribute correspondence when a new clerk is appointed

100. Allotments

- a. **Tenancy agreement** – there is currently no agreement in place, it was agreed it was essential for this to be progressed as soon as possible. Cllr Dobinson contact Parish Council solicitor to get a quote for an agreement to be drawn up.
- b. **PC Liaison** –Cllr Wright provided an update and highlighted some issues. These include access visibility on Stretton Road, problems with drainage, plot holders want to know how the

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compensation was worked out.

The noncompliance of Spitfire homes with licence agreement was discussed and suggested that the parish council refer to their solicitor to write to Spitfire drawing legal attention to their failure to complete the works in line with detailed planning. It however was then agreed that the AWG met with Spitfire in the next few days to discuss these issues.

- c. **Spitfire construction method statement** - The comments made by WPC to RBC have been accepted and statement has been re-issued
- d. **Drainage** – It was discussed that the Parish Council will be seeking assurance from the contractors that full specification of the detailed planning and the licence of works will be adhered to. Any problems the AWG will contact the enforcement officer at RBC .

101. Grass cutting in the village.

A discussion was held concerning the necessity to go out to tender for the 2023 grass cutting contract. Current contract ends Oct 2023. There may be a requirement to include wildflower meadow areas.

RESOLVED: Proposal to go out for tender by the end of October, for the grass cutting for 2023, making a map available showing the areas to be maintained. Proposed Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Grainger all in favour.

102. HR Update -

This item was moved to after item 110 with the exclusion of press and public. Cllr Wright expressed a concern about the legality of this action.

103. Bollards

A discussion was held to agree where the 20 bollards are to be placed in the village.

RESOLVED: WCC to be contacted about the installation and if possible, obtain a time frame for the installation date. If a reasonable timeframe was not available, then WPC to contact a local contractor to do the work under the guidance of the Public Works lead. The clerk to contact WCC in the first instance.

104. Brook Clearance

The clerk provided an update after speaking with Environment Agency. The brook has been sprayed. The EA have no plans to do anything further to clear weeds unless the spraying has not worked.

RESOLVED: Cllr Dobinson proposed to consider a weed clearance working party. Advice was given that the insurance must be contacted to check volunteers are covered, a full risk assessment must be undertaken. The EA have also stated that under no circumstances should any silt be removed.

105. Speeding and traffic issues in Wolston

A discussion was held regarding the number of traffic issues within the village. It was acknowledged that most of the problems were known but the solutions are more difficult to agree on.

RESOLVED: Cllr Ball proposed a meeting be arranged to gather information and solutions and get volunteers to construct a report to give to the authorities., this was seconded by Cllr Ramsay.

More volunteers are also required for the Community Speed Watch – Cllr Dobinson asked anyone who is interested in joining to contact the clerk.

RESOLVED: To contact the police on the places where the CSW can be situated.

106. Christmas

A discussion was held concerning the tree installation, road closure and lights

RESOLVED: Cllr Ball will pull together a plan and keep Councillors informed of who is doing what.

107. Election of Councillors onto Committees & Working Groups: 2022-2023

The chair thanked the councillors who had indicated which working groups they wanted to be involved with. Work has begun on collating the information, a latest version was distributed for councillors to consider. Cllr Wright asked for a copy of the Salisbury trust document, Cllr Dobinson agreed to obtain this.

Cllr Ball requested that the HR working group be agreed in principle so that interviews with any new clerk could be undertaken in a speedy manner. Councillors proposed are Cllr Wright, Cllr Ramsay, and Cllr Ball. Cllr Rainey expressed an interested in being involved in any interviews for the new clerk. Cllr Grainger pointed out it was not good practice for the chair of the PC to be on the HR group.

RESOLVED: Cllr Dobinson will email all councillors and the results will be discussed at the October meeting.

Cllr Dobinson proposed Cllr Wright, Cllr Ramsay, and Cllr Ball be agreed as the HR working group.

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108. Planning –

All councillors were given the opportunity to review planning applications prior to the Parish Council meeting.

- a. **Planning application R22/0689** - 258, London Road, Stretton-on-Dunsmore, RUGBY, CV23 9HX for stand alone sign.

RESOLVED: Following a discussion, Cllr Wright proposed supporting the application, subject to neighbour consultation. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Grainger and agreed unanimously.

109. Grant Application – To review and make any decisions as required

- a. Wolston Leisure and Community Centre - £1500 towards Pitch improvement works and maintenance to five grass pitches and a training area

RESOLVED: Clarification received, this is the only grant and the number of quotes obtained is within their governance. Proposed Cllr Ball, seconded Cllr Grainger that the Grant be approved, all in favour

110. Parish Office –

A discussion was held on how the best use can be made of the parish office. This will include accessibility for all councillors to support their requirements for the Council's use of electronic communications. Also, there is the need to have both doors lockable. A present there is no agreement in place with the Baptist Church for the rent of the offices. There is also a need to get a copy of the fire risk assessment for the offices. A proposal was made that we should offer the Borough councillors a set time and date to hold their surgeries. There is also a need for secure archive storage for both the burial board and the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: - Cllr Ball proposed obtaining new locks on both the doors upstairs at an approximate cost of £250.00.

102 Staffing

The following was read by the chair - Agenda Item 102 is to be discussed with the exclusion of the press and public. In accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Parish Council is invited to Resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda items owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

Reason for Exclusion – The exclusion is on the grounds that items of business to be discussed are likely to include discussions about items of staffing.

All members of the public left.

Cllr Ramsay has declared an interest – The chair confirm she was happy for Cllr Ramsay to remain in the meeting.

Cllr Dobinson advised the meeting that she had compiled a report concerning an alleged face book profile being operated by a council employee, which had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council by a resident. This was a subsequent report to the original report given by the previous HR working group.

RESOLVED: - Wolston Parish Council have been presented with evidence that cannot in its present format, either prove or disprove the suggestion of a fake Facebook account being operated by a Parish Council employee.

111. Future Agenda Items

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • UK Share Prosperity Fund | • Asset register |
| • Green shoots fund | • Replace of Bins |
| • Replacement of planters | • Suspect face book profile |

112. Parish Council Communications (information for sharing)

Christmas lights switch on, Brook Clearance, Traffic issues meeting.

113. Date of Next Meeting

To confirm the date Thursday 6th October 2022 for the next regular meeting of the Parish Council at the Village Hall at 7:15pm.

As there were no further items on the Agenda the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.20 pm

Signed:..... Chairman

Date:

Signed

Notes on the Public Forum and Parish Matters held during the Parish Council Meeting on 1st September 2022.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were any representations from anyone present at the meeting.

Public

- Speeding and traffic issues within the village covered in agenda item 105
- Allotments – a representative of WBAGA reported that the site had been cleared of most of the vegetation, details of new plots are imminent. Drainage specifications still not being fully considered, see agenda item 100.
- Other allotment issues –
 - vegetation requires cutting back on Stretton Road.
 - Toxic waste, letter to M Pawsey MP concerning environmental health issues.
 - Affordable housing update request.

Borough and County Council

- Wolston Quarry meeting end of September.
 - Road markings and pathway to village is there anything Smiths can do

Closed 7.50 pm

Signed