

PARISH OF WOLSTON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

**Held at 7pm on Thursday 18th May 2023
at the Baptist Church, Main Street, Wolston**

Present: Chair Tim Willis, Clerk Dawn George and Six Members of the Public
The meeting commenced at 19:06

Cllr T Willis welcomed the audience and introduced himself as new chair of Wolston Parish Council.

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies received from Mr T Ramsay, Mrs H Timms, Mr S Ward, Mr D Poole, Mrs J Galliford and Ms S Dobinson
2. Minutes from the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting.
Proposal: To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022
Proposed: Mr L Wright
Seconded: Mr R Grainger
Unanimous
Resolved: To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022
3. Matters arising from the minutes - Item 4. Resident Mr L Wright asked for a progress report from existing Cllrs regarding the naming of adoption by ordinance survey reference Richard's wood. A discussion took place. It was agreed that as a process items from the Annual Parish meeting should be added as future agenda items for parish council meetings, introduced and proposed by the relevant councillor.
4. Open forum – an opportunity for village groups and residents to share information, good news and raise any issues.
Resident R Grainger read out a report from the Heart Of England – HOE secretary shared an informal report which will be formally confirmed by CEO return from annual leave. "We confirm the Heart of England Community Foundation has received the £100,000.00 donation agreed, this has now been invested on behalf of the fund. I am also able to advise that the first meeting of the panel was held on 27th April 2023, Tina Costello, the Chief Executive of the Heart of England Community Foundation was in the Chair for this meeting. There were six residents as panel members in attendance with one apology for absence. The roll of the panel is to manage any funding applications submitted to the fund. Tina Costello advised the panel that the deed of gift from the Crew Wilcox Trust contains a clause that requires the fund to be a long-term investment for the residents of Wolston so consideration needs to be given with regard to how and when any funding applications should be handled. The panel had considered whether to retain the whole amount without any disbursements for the first two or three years to enable the accumulated interest, which is about 5.5% per annum simple interest, to then be used to fund any grant applications. No decisions on this were taken at the meeting but the panel did agree to meet again soon to review this. For the avoidance of doubt all grant applications will need to be in accordance with the Heart of England

Community Foundation conditions that are available on the website, but otherwise the Panel was able to determine how the disbursements should be made.”

Resident Mr R Grainger gave a snapshot update - as part of the process for negotiating the Spitfire development the Crew Wilcox trust agreed to provide £150K. £50K is in a Section 106 agreement for improvement of the facilities in the Dyers Lane Recreation Ground. The other £100K is as a donation to set up a trust called the Wilcox Wolston Community Fund to be managed by the Heart of England Community Foundation and for a panel of residents to then oversee any applications for grants for community purposes.

Resident Miss T Ball requested names of those on the panel. Resident G Rainey asked if the community fund was a blind trust, does it have limited access so the principle is not available. Resident R Grainger is a member of the panel as a resident. Chair requested that this matter be brought to discuss at the Cllrs meeting next week. Potential for an item to be put on the agenda. Update declaration of interest required. A copy of the report will be available from the CEO of Heart of England Community Foundation and a copy of the terms and conditions. Chair thanked Cllr Grainger for his input.

Resident Miss T Ball – residents did not have a party in the park this year – is this going to be an annual event?

Resident Mr L Wright mentioned that the BT Telephone Box is in a bad state, somebody in the village suggested it could be used as a library, the telephone box is a working land line. It was suggested that if BT will not refurbish the box that WPC could clean it. It has been used as a urinal and if the windows were cleaned it would dissuade people from doing this.

Resident Mr L Wright stated that the WCC job on bridge is not complete. There are crooked bollards outside the Barbers, originally put there to stop parking. Suggested it might be worth while removing the crooked bollards. Chair suggested this item be brought to public forum at the next WPC meeting or to take this item directly to Cllr Miss H Timms.

Resident Mr L Wright raised concerns that there are issues with the Allotments development, there are issues with drainage, there is no disabled access and no rabbit fencing. Chair suggested that the Allotment Association email their concerns directly to WPC to provide an audit trail.

Resident Mr G Rainey, there is a working group for the allotments, we need a report on the progress as a whole and the total exposure of WPC. Mr L Wright raised concern that Wolston Parish Council are the Lease holder of the land and the land is not capable of being allotment land. It was agreed that legal advice should be sought and to add this item to the agenda for an executive meeting of councillors. Chair thanked Mr Wright for raising this issue.

Mr L Wright asked if the Clock above co-op could it be removed? Chair agreed to bring this to a WPC meeting.

Mr L Wright asked if ducts for electric lighting for Christmas Lights could be installed. A Christmas working group could be introduced as a parish council item at a WPC meeting.

Resident Mr G Rainey raised the question on how the Commemorative mugs will be distributed to the non-St Margaret's primary school children and or siblings. It was agreed that this item would be raised at a parish council meeting open forum. Mr R Grainger stated that Cllr S Dobinson has a process for distributing the mugs.

5. Time Capsule – A reminder that a time capsule was buried in dedication to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 12th July 2014. It was buried by the Children of St Margaret's Primary School under the Diamond Jubilee tree guard - to remain there for a period of 70 years. It is due to be excavated on Saturday 1st July 2084. (This item is for noting only).

6. Report on Parish Council Finances for 2022-2023

Clerk read through the accounts report for the year 2022-2023.

A discussion took place regarding the Warm Spaces funding received from the National Lottery and the success of the project during 2022-2023. Mr L Wright requested a review of the rental agreement on the gas house with Godfrey-Peyton and raised the issue of a Rental Agreement being required for the Parish Office.

Miss T Ball asked for a vote of thanks to be given to the Clerk for diligence and hard work in producing the accounts in very difficult circumstances.

7. Report by Chairman of the Parish Council. This report was circulated prior to the meeting and will be added as an addendum to the minutes of this meeting.
8. Any other matters – No other matters raised.

Chair thanked everyone for coming and the Meeting Closed at 20:29

SignedChair Date.....