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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, MAIN STREET, WOLSTON  
THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 AT 7:15PM**

**PRESENT:**

WPC: Cllr Willis (Chair), Cllr Rainey (Vice Chair) Cllr Wright, Cllr Ramsay, Cllr Ball, Cllr Grainger, Cllr Dobinson, Cllr Shirley, Cllr Galliford, Cllr Milne, Mrs D George, Clerk/RFO

RBC: Cllr Poole, Cllr Ward

WCC: Cllr Timms

Plus 13 members of the public.

Meeting commenced at 7.15 pm with the public forum.

Opened by Chair who welcomed all and thanked attendees.

Parish Council meeting commenced at 8.05pm

**45. Apologies and Acceptance of Reasons for Absence.** – To receive apologies.

No apologies received.

**46. Declarations of Interest (existence and nature) on items on the Agenda** – Councillors to declare any personal and/or pecuniary interest on items on the agenda.

Cllr Shirley declared a blanket pecuniary interest in that PWL is her partner and in items 48 and 58 as her grandchildren play for Wolston Juniors.

Cllr Willis Blanket declaration as planning and borough Cllr

**47. Minutes -**

a) To review and, if appropriate, approve the minutes of the Wolston Parish Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023.

**Proposal: To approve the minutes of the Wolston Parish Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

Proposed: Cllr Grainger

Seconded: Cllr Dobinson

9 in favour

1 abstention

**Resolved: To approve the minutes of the Wolston Parish Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

b) To review and, if appropriate, approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Wolston Parish Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Proposal: To approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Wolston Parish Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Proposed: Cllr Wright

Seconded: Cllr Grainger

7 in favour

3 abstentions

**Resolved: To approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Wolston Parish Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**48. Wolston Juniors FC** – To consider the recent correspondence received regarding the future of Wolston Juniors Football Club and make any appropriate decisions. TW/All

Chair reported that WPC had received a letter from a solicitor regarding the Wolston Juniors FC on a pro bono basis. Cllr Willis asked Mr Smyton, Manager of Wolston Juniors FC to give an overview of the club and the difficulties faced.

Mr Smyton gave an overview of current situation – previously had three teams now only two.

Lots of children from this village play for other teams outside the village. The objective is to grow the teams for the village. We need financial support to create stability. Age groups are split now and two different size pitches are needed. WPC allow them to play at Dyers Lane but there is not space for two fixtures on the same day. Asking for funding to be able to run the coaching at the WLCC. Parents pay a monthly fee but not enough – the ultimate goal is to provide the best for children in the village. Currently funded by parents and fund raising activities.

Cllr Willis read out a section of the Wolston Leisure Centre Trust Document –

Under the provisions of the lease the permitted use of the centre is as follows; public open space as defined in the Open Space Act 1906 and for community facilities the latter to comprise of all to be used for usual functions associated with a village hall including uses defined in classes d1 and d2 of the town and country planning use classes order and to be for benefit of the residents of Wolston and the immediate vicinity, such use to specifically include use for youth purposes.

Cllr Willis stated that we are Wolston PC, this is Wolston, this is a Wolston facility, these are Wolston teams who are very successful. Cllr Willis called on Cllrs to look at working with our youth for the future of a successful team within Wolston village boundary.

Cllr Ward was asked to say a few words regarding Lawford United.

Cllr Ward -s the Chair of Lawford United, Little lightnings was set up in 2018 because there were no local teams available in the area. Many children were willing but getting the volunteers proved difficult as they were unpaid. As a community it is so important to support this for the benefit of the children.

Cllr Milne reported that the playing field facilities are quite poor, the Pavilion needs refurbishment. Cllr Milne felt very strongly that WPC should provide the goal posts and anything else that Wolston Juniors FC need.

Cllr Wright stated that WPC have always supported village teams and purchased the goal posts in the past, that it is a recreation ground not a playing field and stinks of dogs. Strongly recommended WPC meet the trustees of the WLCC.

Mr Smyton stated that the pitch is full of holes from dogs and to safeguard the young children he spends half an hour checking the pitch at Dyers Lane for dog fouling prior to each training session and fixture. Years ago the grass was aerated. In the last 4 years there has been no aeration. Patches of the ground are covered with moss. It needs aeration and re-seeding.

Mr Smyton confirmed the first fixture will be 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Cllr Willis suggested with this date in mind Cllrs needed to act quickly to make a decision to support.

Cllr Rainey agreed that Wolston FC should be supported to get ready for the next season. The Dyers Lane recreation field was maintained in previous years, the underlying recreation ground is good, the question is how do we recover the recreation ground? If it is maintained correctly all can use it.

Numerous instances where the WLCC for the right reasons at the time have not acted in the right way to be supportive of the Football Teams.

Mr Smyton reported that they had requested the use of two pitches at WLCC – vice chair last night indicated that they are trying to accommodate it. Awaiting a decision from WLCC.

Cllr Willis - focusing the mind are the WLCC are waiting to see if the funds are available?

My Smyton is waiting to see if the pitch is available first.

Cllr Ball fully in support of helping the Wolston Juniors FC and reported that there is 50K available from the Section 106 agreement fund to refurbish the pitch in addition there are ringfenced funds available for refurbishment of the pavilion. Cllr Ball suggested a separate group be created to include members who have an interest in the pitch i.e. the ladies cricket team and a separated area created to be solely for the use of the sports teams, not for dogs.

Cllr Grainger reported that the Architect plans for pavilion are already created and WPC are just awaiting sufficient funds to be available.

Cllr Milne – once the recreation ground is improved more children may come to Wolston to play.

Cllr Dobinson declared an interest as the representative of WPC on the board of trustees of WCLL.

Cllr Dobinson reported that WLCC had certainly spoke about giving the Wolston Juniors FC one pitch in September.

Cllr Ramsay pledged his support for Wolston Juniors FC and queried if the £50K section 106 agreement was guaranteed.

Cllr Grainger confirmed £50K in the section 106 agreement is guaranteed for improvements to Dyers Lane recreation ground.

Cllr Rainey – had seen the allocation and statement of £50K and was confident that WPC can provide a much better and acceptable provision on the field for costs which will not be outrageous.

Cllr Rainey pledged his support for Wolston Juniors FC as it is the only one with the Wolston name.

Chair of Wolston Juniors FC had received requests from children from other villages. Ideally there will also be a girls' team. There is a need for larger goal posts.

Cllr Rainey will create a recommendation on the requirement to bring the Dyers Lane pitch up to standard for the team to start playing in September 2023.

Cllr Milne suggested we start from the basis of what has been asked for and find out what other items are required – WPC need to support the children of the village.

Cllr Willis we want to ensure the decisions we take are sustainable.

Cllr Ball proposed that WPC are very amenable to a request of a grant for up to £1000.00 for immediate use by Wolston Juniors FC with a review for the longer-term issues to work with the club.

Cllr Willis - suggested an extra ordinary meeting to formalise approval of the grant application. It was agreed that the debate had taken place.

**Proposal: Wolston Parish Council are amenable to supporting in principle the funding as detailed in the letter from the Solicitor and grant application received today from Wolston Juniors FC and to include a further longer-term commitment.**

Proposed: Cllr Wright  
Seconded: Cllr Willis  
Unanimous

**Resolved: Wolston Parish Council are amenable to supporting in principle the funding as detailed in the letter from the Solicitor and grant application received today from Wolston Juniors FC and to include a further longer-term commitment.**

**Proposal: Wolston Parish Council meet as a body with all the trustees of the WLCC to talk through a number of issues in a round table strategic meeting.**

Cllr Wright proposed that wpc meet with WLCC  
Seconded Cllr Willis  
Unanimous

**Resolved: Proposal: Wolston Parish Council meet as a body with all the trustees of the WLCC to talk through a number of issues in a round table strategic meeting.**

#### 49. Finance – RFO

- a) To endorse accounts for payment for June 2023.

Updated list of payments for approval have been updated with bank charges.

A discussion took place regarding how the electricity supply to the streetlights was calculated. Calculation is fixed by the supplier on usage and wattage of lights and duration. This will only change if the lights are changed or the times are changed.

**Proposal: To endorse accounts for payment for June 2023**

Proposed: Cllr T Ball  
Seconded: Cllr Wright  
Unanimous

**Resolved: To endorse accounts for payment for June 2023**

- b) To note payments received

**Proposal: To note payments received.**

Proposed: Cllr Wright  
Seconded: Cllr Rainey  
Unanimous

**Resolved: To note payments received.**

- c) To consider a grant application from Wolston Leisure & Community Centre including a contribution to Wolston Leisure & Community Centre Luncheon Club and make any appropriate decisions.

A discussion took place. The level of grant funding being requested is significantly higher than that original indicated. Cllr Willis proposed that the item be deferred until after WPC had held the strategic meeting with the Trustees WLCC for collaborative and helpful discussions. Cllr Ball raised a point that the money granted previously to WLCC for pitch refurbishment appeared in their accounts as part of their un-ringfenced reserves. A discussion took place regarding the luncheon club – why numbers have dropped off. Cllr Wright was keen to continue support of the luncheon club. Cllr Willis agreed that many elderly people would benefit from the luncheon club.

**Proposal: That Agenda item 49C be deferred until after WPC have held the strategic meeting with the Board of Trustees of the Wolston Leisure & Community Centre.**

Proposed: Cllr Willis  
Seconded: Cllr Wright  
Unanimous

**Resolved: That Agenda item 49C be deferred until after WPC have held the strategic meeting with the Board of Trustees of the Wolston Leisure & Community Centre.**

**50. Planning** - Councillors are to review planning applications prior to the Parish Council meeting.

All planning applications and consultations can be viewed on the RBC Planning Portal Website and [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/planning](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/planning). To discuss and if appropriate comment on any planning applications received.

a) Application reference No: RBC/23CM007 Applicant: Woodhall Proposal: Install surface water lagoon, Bottom Ash hardstanding. Amended Process building Location: Veolia Environmental Services Limited, Coalpit Lane, LAWFORD HEATH, CV23 9HH. Responses by 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Cllr Wright – Liaison meetings are falling short – this should have been discussed at the Ling Hall liaison meeting. WCC are not honouring their pledge that the meetings would be on twice yearly basis.

**Proposal: That WPC are in support of the application.**

Proposed: Cllr Wright

Seconded: Cllr Grainger

4 in favour

5 abstentions

**Resolved: That WPC are in support of the application.**

**Proposal: WPC Letter sent to WCC and copied into H Timms in terms of lack of positive and meaningful engagement at Linghall**

Proposed: Cllr Wright

Seconded: Grainger

Unanimous

**Resolved: WPC Letter sent to WCC and copied into H Timms in terms of lack of positive and meaningful engagement at Linghall**

Action: It was agreed that Cllr Rainey and Cllr Wright as representatives on the Ling Hall working group assist the Clerk in drafting the letter they have the required background knowledge.

**51. Dyers Lane Hedge** – To receive an update on the condition and progress of Dyers Lane Hedge, debate and make any appropriate decisions. ALL

Cllr Rainey - Dyers Lane Hedge growing fast – preliminary plan of campaign for remediation is decided and agreed - timetable and plan is in place.

Cllr Galliford – Meeting positive this morning and dependant on weather – Tuesday dead elms removed – cleavers removed – rubbish removed – ivy and brambles removed. Between the Contractor and PWL will work together.

Cllr Rainey - The hedge will require more work as the season progresses.

Cllr Rainey will inform the Clerk on Monday.

Cllr Wright – Reported that it is an emotive subject that has been addressed. Dutch Elm is spreading rapidly. Growth round the whips are choking them. The weeds are taking all the water. Diseased limbs will be removed. Some are dead and will be removed, ready for re-planting in the Autumn.

Cllr Rainey – agreements made are to tackle today's issues – there is an ongoing issue regarding hedges throughout the village which also need attention.

Chair recorded thanks to the Open Spaces Team for taking this forward.

**52. William Cree Close Play Area** – To consider wet pour quotations received and make any appropriate decisions. LW

Cllr Rainey – Wet Pour William Cree Close – is part of the problem only – there are numerous areas that require attention. We have a proposal to provide the most urgent repairs but in doing so there are questions arising through the group that there should be some recourse to previous suppliers. The due diligence undertaken by Cllr Dobinson has raised further concerns. We will report separately to that.

Cllr Dobinson reported that Cllr Grainger had identified companies – paid for equipment – to enquire from them what guarantees were in place.

Cllr Wright - The play area in William Cree Close is not safe – if there is an accident – we will be liable. The area around the rocker and the see-saw need to be made safe.

The round about got broken by 15 year olds using it. The Swings are not for older children who are using them at night.

Cllr Wright approached 6 companies and only one came back with a quote.

Cllr Milne – queried the warranty on the equipment.

Cllr Grainger – if the William Cree Close is unsafe we should shut it.

**Proposal: WPC close the William Cree Close Area immediately pending repairs.**

**Proposed: Cllr Grainger**

**Seconded: Cllr Ball**

Open Spaces Group recommend that we put a disclaimer on parts of the play equipment still suitable for use or close the play area completely until the repairs are available.

Cllr Dobinson suggested that this will cause great consternation in the community.

**Counter Proposal: That WPC restrict access and also put disclaimers on the equipment.**

**Proposed: Cllr Shirley**

**Seconded: Cllr Milne**

**Unanimous**

**Resolved: That WPC restrict access and also put disclaimers on the equipment.**

**53. Working Group Delegates Reports** – To receive updates from Working Groups, including Allotments Working Group, Open Spaces Working Group and HR Working Group and make any appropriate decisions.

Cllr Rainey reported that the draft terms of reference for the Open Spaces Group is complete and will be presented to Cllrs at another meeting.

HR Working Group moved to private session.

AWG Cllr Dobinson met twice as a group and once with Spitfire regarding the abandoned plots, snagging list responsibilities. Two permanent members of the Allotments Association now on the working group. Drainage and surface water, water sample testing, rabbit fencing, keeping a diary of what is going on. Progress of the Allotment Association, they had a committee meeting last night.

Legal advice tells us the lease is effective but no rent will be paid until phase 1 is completed.

Cllr Ball visited the allotment yesterday – could someone get the patch of ground which is overgrown cut as this is impacting on the other plot holders. Cllr Dobinson confirmed that they are dealing with that.

Cllr Rainey – would like to see the recurring item on the agenda – do we have a licence in place yet?

Cllr Dobinson reported that the Allotment Working Group are working closely with the Allotment Association Committee as a high priority to create the licence.

Cllr Milne advised that the solicitor should be consulted regarding the licence – it has to mirror the lease – Cllr Dobinson assured Cllr Milne that we are taking legal advice from the Solicitor.

Cllr Rainey reported that he would like this to be on every agenda until the issue is resolved. Cllr Grainger reported that the Draft SLA and Licence and Terms are getting ready to be sent to the solicitor. Cllr Dobinson confirmed that the AWG are on the case.

Cllr Wright – on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – Spitfire said that they would put 4” at East and 8” at the West end the drains are actually only 4” drains. WPC need to write to the Contractors to say we need the specification of what they are planning to do on plot 39b.

Warwick Road they have removed a length of hedge to put a drain. We were told the hedge was to be safeguarded.

We need safety railings round the attenuation pond as it is a play area.

Cllr Wright – land drainage needs to be put in at plot 39b.

Cllr Willis will take photos of alleged removal of hedge and report breaches to RBC Planning.

Cllr Willis closed this item and left this with the Allotments Working Group to come back with proposal and decision to bring this forward.

Cllr Ball reported - Communications Group – Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 4:30pm – email etiquette, filming, paper based comms and facebook.

Cllr Ball reported - Finance Working Group – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 5:30pm – Agenda in place – TOR draft ready.

Cllr Ball reported NDP plan is ready for consultation - WPC will be asked to approve NDP on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 (8 yrs in making). Draft executive summary will be available before 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023. Cllr Grainger – draft NDP document will be available with amended artwork.

Cllr Rainey – requested updated working groups and report back to council with allocated chairs.

#### **54. Events – To consider and make any appropriate decisions regarding arrangements for the Christmas Tree Lights Switch On and Remembrance Day 2023.**

Cllr Wright suggested WPC purchase a tree and apply for a road closure early and employ a firm to carry out the road closure. Investigate ducting laid to memorial so we can put lights up. Cllr Ramsay suggested we need permission from WCC to install ducts. Help was requested from Smiths. Cllr Wright agreed to head up the working group.

A discussion took place regarding the discussion with Smith’s about help with obtaining a Christmas Tree

Cllr Grainger reported that selection of a Christmas tree could be undertaken by Mr Parker and Mr Milne.

Cllr Rainey suggested there cannot be a more important working group than that that handles the arrangement for the Christmas and Remembrance Day – we need a formal working group every year.

**Proposal: Proposed we establish immediately a working group for events like Christmas and Remembrance Day**

Proposed; Cllr Rainy

Seconded: Cllr Wright

Unanimous

**Resolved: Proposed we establish immediately a working group for events like Christmas and Remembrance Day**

Working groups now established should be published - Terms of reference to be included.

**55. Exclusion of 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 staffing.*

**Proposal: That the press and public are excluded from the following items.**

Proposed: Cllr Wright

Seconded: Cllr Willis

Unanimous

**Resolved: That the press and public are excluded from the following items.**

**56. Human Resources (Staffing)** – To receive any updates on any items of business that are likely to include staffing discussions, and make any appropriate decisions.

*Confidential minute*

**57. 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.

*Confidential minute*

**58. Date of Next Meetings** – To confirm the date of Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 for the next meeting of the Parish Council at the Village Hall at 7:15pm. If an interim meeting is required, an agenda will be sent to Councillors and be put on the website and in the Main Street noticeboard three clear days before the meeting is held.

**Meeting closed at 22:35**

Signed ..... Chair

Date .....



Notes on the Public Forum  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7:15pm

Cllr Willis requested Borough and County Councillors to speak.

Cllr Ward – directed people to RBC Website to see what free events are taking place going on.

WCC

Cllr Timms - WCC may become a member of the West Midlands Combined Authority – cabinet paper is coming out next week. Currently WCC are a non-com member (no vote). It is in the Coventry Evening Telegraph.

RBC

Cllr Poole - North Atherstone Nuneaton and Bedworth voted against – if Warwickshire vote no – Secretary of State has a right to make us join the West Midlands Authority. Consultation will go to the whole of the West Midlands.

Cllr Wright – Will Parish Councils be consulted?

Cllr Timms - Yes, consultation with everybody.

Cllr Wright – Do you support it?

Cllr Timms – Not decided yet, if it brings benefit to residents Cllr Timms will support, if not, will not support.

Cllr Rainey – Is there a summary of why it is being done?

Cllr Timms – Cabinet Paper will explain. All districts and boroughs are non-com members – change in the membership is due to the change in government funding.

Cllr Poole – As a non-com members, Rugby pays £25K/year – it costs to £250K to become a full member. This is the same for each district. Information will be passed on as soon as it is available.

Cllr Timms – As a fully constituted member we would be under the authority of the Mayor.

Member of the public – Is it possible to bring Brook Street into the same maintenance area as the rest of the village. Paths are unkempt, parking is terrible. Car blocking the invalid carriage way.

Member of the public for Cllr Timms – Son goes to transition day at school on Monday – autistic – told he must walk down and get the 69 bus. Wolston St Margaret's said that Bilton will cover cost of taxi – Bilton School said that St Margaret's will pay. H Timms happy to take the document and send it to the correct person. This should not have happened.

Cllr Wright – Garage Rooves – asbestos warning signs are missing – they need to be replaced.

Cllr Wright - Coalpit Lane – hedge overgrowing the road – the sign from Rugby end is under

Cllr D Poole – photographed the old sign and the new sign – Signs for garage rooves will be replaced.

Cllr L Wright - Signs on railings going into School Street Brook Street and Warwick Road need replacing

Cllr D Poole – We will get them replaced

Member of the public – Missing money mentioned – Clerk reported that a letter received from donator has been acknowledged and investigation is ongoing.

Member of the public - Brook street brought into same maintenance schedule as the rest of the village – it is not looked after – road markings are missing. Cars park erratically – Parking needs to be rectified.

Cllr G Rainey declared an interest in that he knew the MOP.

Cllr Rainey said there is no reason why the maintenance of Brook Street cannot be included in the regular maintenance regime. Chair asked if the issues could be sent into the Clerk by email so that we can get the right answers. We do not have the answers but we will come back to you.

Cllr T Ball – The Traffic Issues Group has recorded a paper to include the parking in Brook Street.

Member of the public – NDP to be sent to Cllrs prior to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 meeting? Cllr Miss T Ball sent the document by email to all Cllrs. Cllr G Rainey – This document is the final substantive document and there is a summary if anyone would like one – it will be taken to consultation and then to referendum.

Member of the public – The attenuation pond has been drained into the Brook – has it been tested?

Cllr S Dobinson – yes, it has been tested they are awaiting the results.

Chair reported that he had also emailed requesting the testing two weeks ago and they responded immediately.

Member of the public – Need assurance that something is being done.

Cllr S Dobinson – they have confirmed that testing will continue.

Cllr J Galliford reported that the water is filtered through sand.

Cllr L Wright suggested that the water has gone down the river and its too late to test it.

Member of the public – can draft minutes published and approved prior to the meeting?

Chair answered – No - at the top of the meeting today I have suggested that the recording of the meeting should be streamed. Currently it is ill advised.

Cllr L Wright – As per standing orders draft minutes cannot be published.

Cllr L Wright - Does the 5 minute question include the answer?

Member of the public - Can the draft minutes be approved prior to the meeting – can the standing orders be amended?

Cllr Willis – it is unlikely, but will refer back to monitoring officer.

Cllr T Ball – Reference standing order 11 e & f – only if and when they are amended and approved at full council meeting

Cllr Willis – Leisure Centre Meeting – over 50's football team – defibrillator was used last week. Cllr Willis asked Cllr Ward to say a few words about how important this is.

Member of the public – At last Tuesdays football match against another team – during the game one of the team members collapsed. Assessed - CPR – dialed 999 – shouted for defibrillator – continued CPR – Staff from Leisure centre came and used the defibrillator managed to

resuscitate him – WLCC have two defibrillators. Ambulance arrived in 15 minutes – without the defibrillator the team member would not have survived. In the village there are two defibrillators. We need more within the village.

Cllr Ward – big issue to all concerned – every second counts. – RJ foundation purchased a mobile defibrillator to be installed in Bennets Court – We need to raise funds for more throughout the village. Send Cllr Ward a message if you would like more information.

Cllr Poole – Cllr Ward on Saturday raised £23,200 for the RJ foundation.

Member of the public – we need the people around the village to use the defibrillator – CPR and first aid training is required.

Cllr Ward – Training session took place in January this year – the defibrillator talks you through the whole process – never be afraid to use one. Children can be trained to use them.

Member of the public – Urge everyone to take opportunities for first aid training because it helps give you confidence to give CPR. Keep refreshing the training.

Cllr Ward – a 17 year old performed CPR for 17 minutes.

Cllr Galliford – Street Pastors are all trained to use defibrillators – how much are the courses?

Cllr Ward – RJ Foundation Courses are free

Member of the public – Historically, when positioning defibrillator there was a debate with planning regarding the site.

Cllr Poole will make sure the defibrillator is set up in Bennets Court.

Public forum closed at 8:05pm