

## WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Wolston Parish Council held at 7:15pm  
on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at The Village Hall, Main Street, Wolston

### **PRESENT:**

WPC: Cllr G Rainey (Vice Chair) Cllr L Wright, Cllr T Ramsay, Cllr T Ball, Cllr R Grainger, Cllr S Dobinson, Cllr T Shirley, Cllr J Galliford, Cllr A Milne, Mrs D George, Clerk/RFO

RBC: Cllr D Poole

WCC: Cllr H Timms

Plus 6 members of the public.

Meeting commenced at 7.15 pm with the public forum.

Opened by Vice Chair who welcomed all and thanked attendees.

Parish Council meeting commenced at 19:42pm

- 79 Apologies and Acceptance of Reasons for Absence** -To receive apologies.  
Cllr Simon Ward  
Cllr Tim Willis
- 80 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 T Shirley declared a blanket pecuniary interest as partner of Public Works Lead.**  
**Cllr T Ball – declared a pecuniary interest in item 83 c)**  
**Cllr L Wright declared a personal interest in item 83 c)**  
**Cllr G Rainey declared a pecuniary interest as Chair of Village Hall Committee in item 83 c)**
- 81 Minutes –** To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023  
**Proposal: To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 subject to removal of named contractor in the confidential section.**  
**Proposed: Cllr L Wright**  
**Seconded Cllr R Grainger**  
**6 in favour**  
**3 abstentions**  
**Resolved: To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 subject to removal of named contractor in the confidential section.**
- Cllr T Shirley mentioned a problem with Vision ICT and requested that her personal email address be used for correspondence until her WPC email is functioning.
- 82 Clerk’s report – To receive a progress update.**  
The Clerk gave a progress update on the following ongoing issues:-  
Objections to AGAR 2021/2022,  
AGAR 2022/2023,  
VAT Claim 2021-2023, VAT  
William Cree Wet Pour Quotes  
Priory Field

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Replacement Dog and Waste Bins  
 Mobile Phones  
 Unknown Tommy and Woman Statues  
 Oak Tree Donation  
 Recreation Ground  
 Scouts Lease  
 Advantage Edge Software  
 Banking  
 Remembrance Day 12th November 2023  
 Parish Office Tenancy Agreement Baptist Church

83

**Finance****a) To endorse payments made in August 2023****Proposal: To endorse payments made in August 2023.****Proposed: Cllr L Wright****Seconded: Cllr R Grainger****8 in favour****1 abstention****Resolved: To endorse payments made in August 2023.****b) To note payments received in August 2023**

It was noted that no payments were received in August 2023.

**c) To consider and if appropriate approve a grant application for Brandon and Wolston Village Hall £1500 for general maintenance and use of the hall for WPC and NDP Meetings.****Proposal: Approve a grant application for Brandon and Wolston Village Hall £1500 for general maintenance and use of the hall for WPC and NDP Meetings.**

A discussion took place regarding the reserves in the Village Hall account – Cllr Rainey mentioned the funds accrued are nothing to do with the annual income statement. Cllr T Shirley suggested that transparency in grant applications would be more helpful. Cllr G Rainey spoke to the refurbishment of the Village Hall and income recovery.

**Proposal was withdrawn by proposer.**

Cllr S Dobinson suggested it would be helpful to give guidance to applicants.

Vice Chair Cllr G Rainey withdrew the application on behalf of the village hall for re-submission later.

**It was agreed unanimously that the item 83 c) be deferred to another meeting.****d) To consider the Baptist Church Tenancy/Room Hire Agreement and make any appropriate decisions.**

A discussion took place regarding the hire agreement being shared with WPC solicitor, and a possible meeting with the Baptist Church to discuss amendments to the agreement.

It was agreed that the item be deferred to another meeting pending the Chair's return from annual leave as he may have already had some discussion with the church.

**Proposal: To defer Item 83 d) to another meeting.****Proposed: Cllr L Wright****Seconded: Cllr T Ramsay****Unanimous****Resolved: To defer Item 83 d) to another meeting.**

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**84 Dyers Lane Hedge** – To receive an update on condition of Dyers Lane hedge and make any appropriate decisions.

Cllr J Galliford – suggested complete removal of the hedge and replant.

Cllr L Wright – reported that Elm decease has spread to other areas of the village. Suggested WPC plant Buddleia as a back screen to cover what is taken out of the front of the hedge and recommend every dead elm which is on WPC ground be removed.

Cllr J Galliford agreed that we need to remove all the dead elms and burn them.

There was an outburst from a member of the public complaining that the hedge has been destroyed for vengeance.

Vice Chair asked the resident to bring the meeting back into order and requested that no further comment be received from the public. Vice Chair Stated that the Council were debating future action. Vice Chair Re-assured the resident that no one in the council would deliberately do anything to anyone personally.

Cllr Galliford re-affirmed that once Dutch Elm decease is prevalent it has to be removed.

A working group should be created to tackle the issues in Dyers Lane and other parts of the village.

It was agreed to continue discussion of this item at minute 89.

**85 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. To discuss and if appropriate comment on any planning applications received. (NB this item included in case any are received)

There were no planning applications to be considered.

**86 Working Group Delegates Reports** – To receive updates from Working Groups, including NDP (GR), Allotments Working Group (SD), Finance Working Group, (TB), Open Spaces Working Group (GR) and HR Working Group (LW) and make any appropriate decisions.

**NDP** – Cllr R Grainger gave an update on progress of the documents. There has been a delay due to ill health. There is an issue of higher resolution pictures being entered first followed by the text.

Cllr L Wright asked when the public consultation would take place?

Cllr G Rainey will address this as a supplement to the minutes.

**AWG** – Cllr S Dobinson gave an update on progress.

Cllr T Ball asked if the compensation has been agreed.

Cllr L Wright – Allotments on front of site were an asset of community value. Needs to be recorded in the local plan.

Cllr R Grainger – WPC can re-apply for the current allotments site to be an ACV. On finding the original minute Cllr Grainger will complete the application via the Clerk.

Cllr L Wright has looked at the site and it is unreasonable. There is still work to be done.

Spitfire said they would clear it. AWG to contact the contractor. Cllr R Grainger has sent the drawing to the contractor but has not finished the minutes.

**Communities – Warm Spaces** – Cllr S Dobinson reported on the meeting held in August 2023 – they require more time to plan advertising – money will be used for posters A frames and flyers – St Margarets, Baptist Chapel, Village Hall and the Library – There will be a meeting at the end of September 2023 to assess what each venue can provide. A new application will be made in November 2023 which will be forthcoming in February 2024. 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 should be the commencement date. Village Hall

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treasurer is going to help with the reporting of how the funds are disbursed. Cllr L Wright requested that the traffic light system be included in the provision within this group, Cllr S Dobinson agreed to add this to the discussions. Cllr Shirley suggested it should be for vulnerable people not just elderly.

Cllr S Dobinson to attend a WRCC Warm Spaces information session.

**Youth Club** – Cllr S Dobinson reported that WCC Youth service are going to help with employing youth workers. Working with CAVA to create JD/PS, etc.

**HR AND FINANCE** – It was agreed that HR Working Group and the Finance Working Group reports would be moved to the confidential section of the meeting after minute 90.

- 87 Scout Hut Lease** – To consider amendments to incomplete scout hut lease and make any appropriate decisions. (LW)

A discussion took place.

It was agreed to defer this item to October 2023 following councillors reading the lease and replying with their comments.

- 88 Wildflower seed beds and bulb planting around the village** – To agree a schedule of planting over the winter months. (LW)

Cllr L Wright suggested planting wildflowers on perimeter of the air field and various areas in the village.

**Proposal – To support wildflower seed beds and bulb planting around the village to enhance the village scene.**

**Proposed: Cllr L Wright**

**Seconded: Cllr A Milne**

**Unanimous**

**Resolved: To support wildflower seed beds and bulb planting around the village to enhance the village scene**

- 89 Review of trees on PC land or planted by PC, in need of removal or pruning.** (LW)

A Discussion took place.

**Proposal: That a separate emergency group be created to work with professionals to tackle all areas of the village, including Dyers Lane and a review of trees on PC land or planted by PC, in need of removal or pruning.**

**Proposed: Cllr T Shirley**

**Seconded: Cllr A Milne**

**Unanimous**

**Resolved: That a separate emergency group be created to work with professionals to tackle all areas of the village, including Dyers Lane and a review of trees on PC land or planted by PC, in need of removal or pruning.**

A discussion took place regarding the emergency group members.

**Proposal: That Emergency Group members will be Cllr J Galliford, Cllr L Wright, Cllr G Rainey, Cllr T Willis.**

**Proposed: Cllr L Wright**

**Seconded: Cllr A Milne**

**Unanimous**

**Resolved: That Emergency Group members will be Cllr J Galliford, Cllr L Wright, Cllr G Rainey, Cllr T Willis.**

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Cllr G Rainey will endeavour to set up a preliminary meeting of this group within 7 working days.

**90 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.**

**86 a) Finance Group Report - Cllr T Ball read out the Finance Group Meeting report stating that WPC are overbudget with the salaries and recommended that all additional hours worked to date be paid in September 2023. And that no further additional hours should be undertaken without prior authorisation.**

A heated discussion took place regarding contractual changes and pecuniary interests.

Cllr T Shirley expressed her displeasure and stated her intention to resign.

Cllr T Shirley left the meeting at 22:00.

A further heated discussion took place. It was agreed to complete the proposal on the table.

**Proposal: WPC pay employees for the additional hours worked as of 31st August 2023 in the September 2023 pay packet.**

**Proposed: Cllr T Ball**

**Seconded: Cllr S Dobinson**

**Unanimous**

**Resolved: WPC pay employees for the additional hours worked as of 31st August 2023 in the September 2023 pay packet.**

Meeting closed at 22:04 incomplete.

Agenda items 91 to 95 were not discussed as the meeting closed at 22:04.

**91 William Cree Play Area Wet Pour Quotes – To consider recent wet pour quotes and make any appropriate decisions. (LW/GR)**

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

**93 Clerk’s report – To receive a progress update on any confidential items.**

**94 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.**

**95 Date of Next Meetings – To consider and confirm the date of Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 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.**

Signed .....Vice Chair

Date .....

Signed .....

Public Forum Member of the Public (MOP)  
Commenced at 07:15pm

Cllr H Timms

Not much to report as it is the start of the new term.

Various Grants have been given out.

Cllr H Timms' Funding will be used to improve the footpath between the church and the bridge to widen the path. Cannot do the gates as the landowners are responsible for those.

Cllr R Grainger to Cllr Timms – re Gate on the footpath is landowners responsibility – Cllr H Timms - land is up for let – Action: Cllr R Grainger to write to Godfrey-Payton to ask Wilcox Trust to repair the gate Cllr H Timms will support this.

Vice Chair to Cllr H Timms – Corner of dyers lane and school street – Severn Trent manhole is collapsing. Manhole covers in school street opposite dyers lane are both subsiding and residents complained of the noise

Action: Clerk to email Richard Haycock with photos and a map cc Cllr H Timms.

Cllr L Wright - WCC have been approached re an iron gate on the bridleway at the top of the fosse way. Handle is not easy to operate –

Cllr H Timms - WCC cannot take on responsibility for this but they can approach the landowner –Action: Member of public to email clerk with photos, suggestions of ways to improve it to forward to Cllr H Timms would be helpful.

Cllr L Wright Millenium Way – arrows on road humps need to be whitened so they can be seen. Cllr H Timms investigate this if Clerk could email.

Cllr L Wright Four reflector posts put back on coalpit lane to prevent cars going into the ditch. Cllr H Timms unfortunately will investigate this if Clerk could email her.

Cllr L Wright – road gullies full of grass. Cllr H Timms says they will be dealt with in September 2023.

Cllr D Poole - Day to day inquiries - not a lot going on at RBC as it is a new term. Regeneration Strategy has full board, Leader, two opposition deputies and the CEO. Local Plan to go before council for 2024-2028  
Budget Setting – finance officer off ill.

Cllr R Grainger – asked about the Local Plan. Cllr D Poole - not at full draft yet – one opposition group want a partial plan one group want a full plan – it will go to full council meeting.

Cllr R Grainger - Priory Field – requested of the local plan to move settlement back into the village boundary but have received no response – Cllr D Poole will follow this up.

Cllr L Wright – queried insulation for Wolston.

Cllr D Poole – social housing in Lawford has rockfill insulation, not RAAC.

Mop 1 - Brook Street regarding upkeep, parking, and road markings.

Cllr H Timms - invested county highways money to resurface the road and remark it – £30-40K not long ago. Concerns about the width of the markings – Cllr T Willis has

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been looking into this, Cllr H Timms will include it with her correspondence with highways.

Mop 1 – wheelchair user cannot go down the road.

Cllr Dobinson to Cllr H Timms – could you look at the width of the path and the depth of the curb to stop cars parking?

Mop 2 – Path on brook street is so narrow that it is difficult to walk due to bushes overgrowing the path.

Cllr H Timms – the residents are responsible for the bushes overgrowing the path.

Cllr G Rainey – we can identify problems and write to residents and inform.

Cllr T Shirley – EVA have been spraying the brook.

Cllr S Dobinson – Liaising with EVA on how to clear the brook.

Cllr T Shirley – Weeds in brook were 10ft high – we were very careful when the brook was cleared.

Mop 2 - would like to be on the brook clearance group.

Cllr G Rainey – Brook Street is most attractive – Action: Cllrs T Willis, S Dobinson and T Shirley can put together a report on progress to the public forum next meeting.

Public Forum closed at 19:42

Signed .....