

WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Wolston Parish Council held at 7:15pm on Thursday 4th April 2024
at The Village Hall, Main Street, Wolston

Present: WPC Councillors: Mr T Willis (Chair), Mr G Rainey (Vice Chair), Mrs A Milne, Mr L Wright,
Ms S Dobinson, Mr T Ramsay, Mr S Osmond and Mrs D George (Clerk)
RBC: Cllr S Ward

Plus 14 members of the public

The Chair welcomed all in attendance and the meeting began with the Public Forum at 7.16pm
The WPC Meeting began at 7:35pm

205 Apologies - To receive apologies.

Apologies received from Cllr J Galliford, Cllr H Timms, Cllr D Poole

206 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 Willis – blanket declaration for anything Borough Council Related.

Cllr L Wright – Non-pecuniary interest in the Allotments.

Cllr T Willis read out the definition of interests, pecuniary and non-pecuniary.

Cllr S Dobinson declared a pecuniary interest item 210 as a flood victim and a non-pecuniary interest in item 213 as a trustee of the leisure centre.

Cllr A Milne – declared a non-pecuniary interest in the allotments as her husband is vice president.

207 Co-Option of Parish Councillors – to discuss and consider co-option of prospective councillors, to receive any expressions of interest, and, if necessary, vote and co-opt a councillor (TW)

Miss Tracie Ball volunteered to be co-opted as a Cllr for WPC

Proposal: To Co-Opt Miss T Ball as a Councillor for Wolston PC

Proposed T Ramsay

Seconded: Cllr T Willis

Unanimous

Resolved: To Co-Opt Miss T Ball as a Councillor for Wolston PC.

Miss T Ball signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was duly witnessed by the Clerk.

Cllr T Ball completed the Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Form which was signed by the Clerk.

Cllr T Ball completed Acceptance of the Code of Conduct and Electronic Summons which was signed by the Clerk.

208 Minutes –

a) To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 1st February 2024

Proposal: To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 1st February 2024.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr S Osmond

7 in favour

1 abstention

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 1st February 2024.

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b) To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 7th March 2024
A discussion took place regarding the amendments to the Public Forum Notes suggested by Cllr T Willis. All were in agreement with the amendments to the notes.
Proposal: To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 7th March 2024.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright
Seconded: Cllr S Dobinson

7 in favour
1 abstention

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on March 2024.

c) To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Wolston PC held on 19th March 2024

A discussion took place regarding the decisions made at the extra ordinary meeting. Cllr L Wright informed Cllr S Dobinson of the reasons behind the commercial decision, the contractor guaranteed the trees were disease free, value money, getting the trees planted before the end of March 2024. Cllr S Osmond clarified that Cllr A Milne took the minutes and the debate was robust. Cllr T Willis explained the urgent need to find an alternative solution as the trees from HS2 were not forthcoming.

Proposal: To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Wolston PC held on 19th March 2024.

Proposed: Cllr T Ramsay
Seconded: Cllr S Osmond

4 in favour
4 abstentions

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Wolston PC held on 19th March 2024.

209 Finance

a) To approve payments made in March 2024.

A discussion took place regarding the final invoices for payment in March due to invoices being sent in while Clerk was on annual leave. The cheques for the three invoices written on 31st March 2024 were signed at the meeting. Chair of the finance working group proposed that the additional payments be added as an addendum to the payments list for March 2024.

Proposal: To approve payments made in March 2024.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright
Seconded Cllr G Rainey

6 in favour
1 against
1 abstention

Resolved: To approve payments made in March 2024.

b) To note payments received.

Councillors noted payments received.

c) To note application to Lloyds Bank

Councillors noted the application to Lloyds Bank.

210 Flooding update – To receive an update from Parish Council Working Group (TW/TR/SO)

Cllr T Willis – Joint FLAG of WPC Brandon PC and Wolston and Brandon Residents along with representatives from RBC, WCC Flooding Team, EA, still waiting to hear from Severn Trent, will be held on 16th April 2024 not a public meeting there will be 16 to 20 people attending to address flooding events. There is less water flooding down Avondale Road, work on clearing the drains has been carried out. Date to be agreed with residents, draft action plans will be looked at, the causes and preventions on both sides of the river, repairing and ownership. This needs to be collaborative, EA are

Signed

bringing information on where to obtain funding for flood defences/protection for residences. Severn Trent issues need to be resolved. FLAG will report back at the next meeting. Sand bags are in place at the compound.

Cllr L Wright – raised concerns that Wolston, as a main rural settlement is ripe for development.

We should be asking for a growth and capacity sewerage evaluation for the areas to make sure the capacity of the system is capable of taking on more properties. We know as local residents that it is not capable of taking on additional properties. If we do not ask for and get an evaluation we have got no information when the local plan is produced and they come back to us to develop where they are looking to develop on the other side of School Street. WPC will be lost because they will have no back up information to say that they asked for it but were not given it. Cllr L Wright urged WPC to write to Severn Trent and request this. Cllrs T Willis requested a transcript of Cllr L Wrights comments to be given to FLAG.

Cllr S Osmond – echoed the point to be raised as an agenda item at the FLAG Meeting. Cllr L Wright – suggested a FOI to ask how much sewerage from the Wolston sewerage station is being discharged into the Avon by Severn Trent in the last three years.

Action: Clerk to write to Severn Trent recorded delivery.

Cllr T Willis reminded Councillors that he is able to call planning applications into committee if requested.

Cllr G Rainey – Any potential development within the village – are there any desktop studies made and the issues raised at planning?

Cllr T Ball – Independent companies can provide A2 maps available to display where the Severn Trent where drains are in the village and the capacity at a minimal cost. Flood Action Group to investigate this.

- 211 Review of Dyers Lane Hedge** – To receive an update from the Emergency Working Group regarding current position on remedial work, and to make any appropriate decisions. (LW/TW)

Cllr L Wright reported completion of planting of new whips and wildflowers, laurels instead of the gale break. Cllr Rainey commented that the Dyers Lane Hedge is taking pleasing form again. Chair thanked all who contributed.

- 212 School Street Hedge** – To consider impact of recent hedge trimming as carried out on behalf of PA Housing, and to make any appropriate decisions.

A discussion took place. Cllr T Willis stated that the incident had been reported to the police and Rugby Borough Council.

Audit Report was shared with the council. Rules were not followed regarding birds nesting. Environmental Risk Assessment was not carried out by the contractors.

Cllr L Wright and Cllr S Osmond proposed that WPC write to PA Housing to register displeasure to the CEO and request remedial action as quickly as possible on behalf of our residents. Photographs to be included.

Cllr T Ball asked what remedial action needs to be taken.

Cllr S Osmond will provide information regarding the New consumer standard for HA's one of which is to work with communities.

- 213 Wolston Juniors FC** – To consider the potential move of the team back to Dyers Lane and to make any appropriate decisions. (TW/GR/OSG)

Proposal: This item to be moved to 215

Proposed: Cllr G Rainey

Seconded: Cllr T Willis

Unanimous

Resolved: This item to be moved to 215

Signed

214 **Allotments** – To receive an update on SLA/Compensation and any other outstanding matters and to make any appropriate decisions. (AWG)
Cllr S Dobinson updated Cllrs.

On Tuesday 19th March 2024, WBAGA held their AGM when the following resolution was presented:

That the Association agrees to the distribution of the Compensation monies from the development of the north side of the Allotment site at Stretton Road, Wolston to be paid out either by the Wolston Parish Council or by the Association in accordance with the formula devised by the Committee of the Association as explained to the meeting.

24 members voted yes; 1 member voted no; no abstentions.

The details of the compensation package had been given to all plot holders before and at the AGM and time was given for a full discussion.

Proposal: As agreed at the Wolston PC meeting in March, WPC approves the immediate release of the remains of the compensation money to be distributed by Wolston and Brandon Allotments Association committee in accordance with the plan presented to and approved by the AGM.

Proposed: Cllr S Dobinson

Seconded: Cllr A Milne

Counter proposal: WPC only agree to the compensation package being paid out that was originally agreed in the directive that was agreed by the parties who came to the decision on how that money was for the surrender of the allotments prior to the building of the houses.

Proposed Cllr L Wright

No seconder

Counter proposal failed.

A further discussion took place regarding the compensation and how the WPC would answer a challenge.

Amended Proposal: Wolston PC approve the immediate release of compensation less the £3,588.00 paid by Wolston PC on behalf of the Wolston and Brandon Allotment Association for compost, the balance of £38,412.00 to be paid via cheque to the Wolston and Brandon Allotments Association to be distributed to the members by the Wolston and Brandon Allotment Association Committee in accordance with the plan presented to and approved at the AGM of Wolston and Brandon Allotment Association.

Proposed: Cllr S Dobinson

Seconded: Cllr A Milne

Recorded Vote Requested

In Favour: Cllrs S Dobinson, Cllr G Rainey, Cllr A Milne, Cllr S Osmond, Cllr T Willis

Against: Cllr L Wright

Abstentions: Cllr T Ramsay, Cllr T Ball

Resolved: : Wolston PC approve the immediate release of compensation less the £3,588.00 paid by Wolston PC on behalf of the Wolston and Brandon Allotment Association for compost, the balance of £38,412.00 to be paid via cheque to the Wolston and Brandon Allotments Association to be distributed to the members by the Wolston and Brandon Allotment Association Committee in accordance with the plan presented to and approved at the AGM of Wolston and Brandon Allotment Association.

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Cllr S Dobinson updated Cllrs on current AWG.

215 Open Spaces Group updates – To receive an update on items below and make any appropriate decisions.

a) Kicker Wall Dyers Lane Recreation Ground

b) Car park area in front of Pavilion

c) Use of Football Pitch/Remedial Works Required

d) Pavilion - use of/refurbishment - costed business case required

e) Prospective Orchard for Wolston - application form to be completed, information is required re location, water source, maintenance (watering).

f) Cleaning of wet pour –

A discussion took place and It was agreed that the Open Spaces Group would come back to the next meeting with a proposal on items 215 a) to f).

213 Item 213 moved to 215.

Cllr G Rainey reported that WJFC requested the return to Dyers Lane as soon as possible. Lakeside will carry out cuts to the pitch.

Electronic meeting with WJFC – requested plan from them.

Work will be required to bring the facilities up to date.

Suggested an Open Spaces Group Meeting as soon as possible to prepare a proposal for the WPC.

They require two pitches at least. We need a clear understanding what we are obligated to. Survey is required on how the pavilion will be upgraded to support the use of the recreation ground.

Grant source funding is to be researched and a plan put forward to council.

An in-depth discussion took place regarding the future aspirations of the football club the financial implications of remedial works, mole removal, dog walkers from outside areas, FA requirements, the sizes of pitches required.

Cllr T Willis left the meeting at 21:18

Proposal: Cllr G Rainey, Vice Chair take over chairing the meeting of WPC.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr A Milne

Unanimous

Resolved: Cllr G Rainey, Vice Chair take over chairing the meeting of WPC.

Cllr G Rainey reported that WPC would abide by the Nolan principles.

216 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 www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk. To discuss and if appropriate comment on any planning applications received.

a) : R24/0212 Proposal at:

THE COTTAGE, PRIORY HILL, RUGBY ROAD, WOLSTON, COVENTRY, CV8 3FZ For: First floor extension to rear, single storey extension to side of dwelling

I refer to the above application that you may wish to comment on. The plans and documents can be viewed on-line at: www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk

Consultation responses should be sent to adam.kerr@rugby.gov.uk by 11-Apr-2024.

A discussion took place. Cllr L Wright has issues with the planning portal.

Proposal: No material objections to be raised, subject to neighbourhood consultation.

Proposed: Cllr T Ball

Seconded: Cllr L Wright

Unanimous

Resolved: No material objections to be raised, subject to neighbourhood consultation.

Signed

217 Neighbourhood Development Plan – To receive an update on the NDP (GR)
Cllr T Ball reported on the NDP. Mr Ingalls has worked very hard, plan with amendments is now available, steering group meeting to be put in the diary in the next 10 days with a mock-up of the front page is required. Meeting with RBC required. Statutory Consultees need to be approached. Referendum to be in September 2024. Timeline will be provided to WPC for May meeting. Graphics situation will be discussed. A discussion took place regarding achievable targets.

218 Working Group Delegates Reports and Recommendations – To receive updates and consider recommendations from working groups including, Finance Working Group (GR), Communications Group (TR), Ling Hall Wolston Fields Liaison Group (LW) and make any appropriate decisions.

Finance WG

Cllr L Wright – recommended the skateboard park remedial work to be carried out.

A discussion took place regarding the current playground inspection supplier. This item will be discussed in the Open Spaces Group Meeting.

Wolston Fields Liaison Group

Cllr L Wright reported attending the last meeting, there are no reports, there are no site inspections carried out. No benefit to Wolston – site is not accessible to Wolston residents. No accessible access. Once minutes of the meeting are received Cllr L Wright will prepare a report for presentation to WPC.

Communications Group – nothing to report other. (TR)

219 D-Day 80 Celebrations – To consider and agree arrangements for D-Day 80 Commemoration on 6th June 2024 and to make any appropriate decisions (TR)

80th D-Day celebration (TR) –

Road closure will cost approx. £1,500.00

Need to find a different location for the celebration.

A discussion took place regarding the location of the existing beacon.

Action: Cllrs T Ramsay and T Ball to summarise proposal after consulting participating venues, i.e. churches, fish and chip shop, scouts, schools. Locate the existing beacon.

220 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: To exclude the public and press.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr T Ramsay

Unanimous

Resolved: To exclude the public and press.

221 Human Resources (Staffing) – To receive any updates on any items of business that are likely to include staffing discussions and to make any appropriate decisions. (LW)
HR Group needs new members.

Cllr S Osmond and Cllr S Dobinson volunteered to join the HR Group.

Proposal: Accept offers of help from Cllr S Osmond and Cllr S Dobinson as members of the HR Working Group until working group review in new year pending skills audit.

Proposed: Cllr T Ball

Seconded: Cllr A Milne

Unanimous

Signed

Resolved: Accept offers of help from Cllr S Osmond and Cllr S Dobinson as members of the HR Working Group until working group review in new year pending skills audit.

222 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.

Footpath Centenary way pot-holes repair, Coalpit Lane Follow Up

Work In Progress Report

D-Day

CCTV

Plaque for King Charles

223 Date of Next Meetings – To consider and confirm the date of 2nd May 2024 as the next Parish Council meeting at Brandon and Wolston Village Hall, Main Street, Wolston at 7:15pm, and to consider and confirm the dates, times and venues of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and of the Annual Parish meeting. 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.

Proposal: 2nd May 2024 will be the date for the Annual Parish Meeting Assembly to be held at Baptist Church, 2 Main Street, Wolston

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr S Dobinson

Unanimous

Resolved: 2nd May 2024 will be the date for the Annual Parish Meeting Assembly to be held at Baptist Church, 2 Main Street, Wolston

Proposal: The Annual General Meeting of WPC to be held on 16th May 2024 at a venue to be confirmed.

Proposed: Cllr T Ball

Seconded: Cllr S Dobinson

Unanimous.

Resolved: The Annual General Meeting of WPC to be held on 16th May 2024 at a venue to be confirmed.

Meeting Closed at 22:12

SignedChair **Date**

Notes on the Public Forum – commenced at 7:16pm

Cllr S Ward – reminded residents of the elections on 2nd May 2024 - deadline for postal vote 17th April 2024, information available on the RBC website.

Gary Strain from WP road safety would be happy to speak to community at a WPC meeting regarding speed awareness – 3-4 volunteers would be required and training would be provided, Speed Watch signs and High Viz jackets.

All welcomed this – Cllr S Ward to arrange the visit.

MOP – Are there consequences for speeders if they are caught?

Cllr Ward – online reporting is available – Gary would be able to answer those questions for you.

MOP – initially a letter of advice is issue, if it happens again then further proceedings will take place.

Cllr L Wright – Dustbin Service – some collections have been missed in John Simpson Close and Main Street – issue with residents reporting after 12pm or before they have finished – issues with residents being able to report the issue. Green Bins are the most common, a Blue Bin was missed in John Simpson Close this week.

Cllr S Ward - please report this directly to the RBC Cllrs – if particular addresses are missed we can feed back to RBC and act quickly.

Cllr L Wright – Any further progress with the ditch on Warwick Road?

Chair – referring to Spitfire issue with clearing the remnants of the flood of 2nd January 2024.

Cllr L Wright expressed concern for residents being able to claim for foul water in the flood in their properties.

Chair – Agencies have confirmed that the flood water was contaminated, they do not have the levels, but that is enough. I have issued a letter with chief officer references in it and copies of this letter are available to any residents who require them. Flood Action Group is coming up – it has been pointed out to Spitfire that the finger is pointing at them as being responsible – questions posed to Spitfire must be answered, there are five Wolston residents belonging to the Flood Action Group.

Chair thanked Cllr S Ward.

MOP – Complimented on the improved communication through social media but website is pretty dire.

Communications Lead, Cllr T Ramsay, thanked MOP for the feedback and commented that the Website is in hand.

MOP – requested an update on the situation regarding the Scouts Lease.

Chair will take this away for discussion and will follow up.

Cllr L Wright has a copy of the lease however he will be liaising with the Scouts and the solicitor regarding the considerable number of issues with the lease and due to the car park being re-surfaced, looking at changing the entrance to make it safer for the children. There are some further amendments and a meeting with parties is required, Cllr L Wright has been appointed onto the Scout Group Liaison.

Signed

Cllr G Rainey – there are many issues pertaining to the recreation field which all impact on each other – the scout lease is one that can be easily fixed, the open spaces plans for the future need to be incorporated into an overall scheme for the recreation ground and facilities and will require significant investment in the future budget.

Public forum closed at 7:35pm

Signed