

Minutes of Wolston Parish Council Meeting Thursday 5th December 2024
Start: 7:15p.m.
Venue: Brandon & Wolston Village Hall, Main Street, Wolston CV8 3HJ

Meeting started: 19:15

Present: Cllr. TIMMS (Chair), Cllr. RAMSAY, Cllr. BALL, Cllr. WRIGHT. Cllr. MILNE, Cllr. OSMOND.
 L. KNOWLES (Acting Clerk & RFO)
 Members of public: 4
 Cllr. Heather TIMMS

Public forum

Cllr TIMMS – budgeting in CC Government settlement still awaited. Wolston – priory road and ditch along school street – timely the water can now reach the other system around the village. Avoid more water entering the brook. Walk around with environment agency looking at bridges CC point of view looking at the Avon appear silted – link with bridge team to clear and some will naturally disappear. Vegetation will be a spring job. Other a summer job.

Powerline down on near Limestone Hall A428 is closed.

Wright – asked to investigate the bridge the wall of the bridge if it collapses – Dangerous condition. The engineer has been out and is happy with the condition of the bridge. The survey cannot be released. WCC has inspected it – if there is an issue it will be sorted out fast. Walls by the telephone box – one side completed but bricks are still out of the wall on the other side. If reported it will be rectified quick – pick up with the team.

Wolston Lane a lady with a pushchair struggling to keep on the footpath – grass overgrown on the inside of kerb. Looks as if recently tarmaced and grass left on the side. Needs cleaning from where quarry is. Tarmac was redone 4 years ago with money from the quarry. Grass has just grown. Cllr timms will ask for it to be looked at. Vote of thanks – footpath is exposed by gate on left hand side. No access for disabled.

Quarry is now handed over to someone else will we lose out. Subcontracted to fill in professional firm. Bringing in the raw material. Still the same people running the quarry and having responsibility for the quarry.

Thanks for Christmas light switch on. Suggestion to make nature baubles to hang on Christmas tree.

133. Apologies received from:

Cllr. Ward Cllr. POOLE – message from cllr. ward – read out by TW pass on thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas light switch on – honour and bringing community together.
 Thanks to all involved.

134. 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. WILLIS – any items/matters with regard to Rugby Borough Council. particularly. planning
 Ball – 137 expense 147b although application withdrawn.

135. Minutes – a). To review and if appropriate, approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 November

Wright proposed – subject to corrections

Second – cllr RAMSAY

For: 6

Abs: 1

	Proposed: Seconded: For: Against: Abstention:
136.	Co-option – To discuss and consider co-option of a prospective councillor, to receive any expressions of interest and if appropriate, vote and co-opt a councillor. No expression of interest.
137.	Finance – a). To approve payments for November 2024. Prepared to month end – now prepared to clerk’s preparation of report. Sovereign included. We need to claim 106 monies back. Proposed: T. BALL approval of payments Seconded: Cllr. Milne For: 7 Against: Abs: b). To note payments received. Note bank c). To note the latest bank reconciliation. reconcilaitation ois a training issue d). To confirm the return to Youth Club Funding to Warwickshire County Council. Terms for grant did not fit for other use in village. We are going to refund it. Number of addresses requesting a response. Sending money back to shire hall hours. Original application not yet seen and how it arrived in our bank. Look for Cllr. Wright – some items were not filled in. money came from the county. Check where the cheque goes to. Lindsey Horner’s email in the morning. Proposed: Cllr. WRIGHT Seconded: ramsay All in favour send email nudge e). To confirm the final amount for the Payment to Sovereign for work at Dyer's Lane playing, and agreement to request the refund from RBC through S106 monies held. Work originally identified the S106 monies to pay for it. Some work outstanding issues. Clerk contacted to correct the issues. No reason not to release the money and make the claim back from RBC.

Proposed: Wright
Seconded: Ramsay
For: all

f). To confirm the movement from reserves as necessary to cover the purchase of emergency flood defence equipment using S137 power, inc. costs to date. Be confirmed

Ramsay – storage boxes – need 10

pumps £49.99 each x 5 one in every other box.

pack of 10 sandbags £569.10

£1789.05 total

Who owns pumps and who is responsible for the, what if there is an accident. Electricity and water

Ramsay – designed for purpose. Manufacturers problem if anyone got a shock. Cover all risks.

If lost – do they replace it.

FLAG will be independent own bank account and working with Warwickshire association. Pumps – look t resident electrical expertise and point in direction of insurance.

Osmond – disclaimer in each box.

Ball – flood action group have started risk assessment which will then need to be lodged with the PC

Rainey – we have two boxes. Finance wants to support his now need to work out the mechanics.

Ball – movement of reserves to enable us to spend that money. To ensure that PC has no objection to move monies out of reserves. This is the only flood action group in the borough. Need to work together to navigate through the complexities (training for residents)

Willis -

Wright – change word confirm to approve – never been discussed and debated before.

Ball – propose confirm

Raney some expenditure already made. Need funds moved across. Now heading towards £2000. How do we in future fund that. An independent flood group will have ot have some constitution and bank account n order to give a grant.

Ball is a working group. First spend for two boxes has been approved.

When flag made it known that they need more. Money needs to be available with full backing of the council.

Milne – not much opportunity to discuss anything at last finance meeting.

Rainey happy to accept cllr balls proposal. Already discussed that we needed a vehicle to make money available. Can decide mecahnics

Wright – if confirming cannot debate it.

Proposed: pC agress to the movement from reserves

Seconded : MILNE

For: ball, milne, rainey Osmond willis ball ramsay

Against wright

g). To approve payment of the Chair's Annual allowance

Proposed: wright

Seconded: rainey

For: 6

Against:

Abs:

h). To confirm payments for Wolston Gardens maintenance and care

volunteers who care for the various planters around the village. Proposal for next year will be different. Set up a small meeting to determine their spend. Nominees from the group who will apply for the funds.

Timely payments – process is not as easy as the individuals believe.

Wright

	Ramsay For 7 i). To confirm payment of Clerk's and Councillors Expenses. Christmas claim Need to change to Wolston from Bubbenhall Propose: Cllr. Rainey Second: Cllr. Wright For: 6 Abs: 0 Meeting in January – we will have a better schedule building in the financial Ball – it will be the clerks responsibility. j). To confirm the date of an extra meeting for the 2025-26 Budget. This is budget month – a set of documents ill go out tomorrow – everyone to attend a finance group review of the budget. Provide a recommendation for the January meeting. Look at last year's budget – see how it is presented – allows some flexibility. End of next week at 5:30 -6:00 doesn't need to be a formal meeting PC can be behind closed doors. Date – TBC Work to the figure which is an indication Needs to be by 18th January Need the final figure from RBC worthwhile doing the budget preparation. Milne – better to discuss than go in blind. No final decision on date. k). Finance working Group report. All covered in above.
138.	To consider the gritting of pavements at key sites within the village – to receive a costed and detailed proposition to propose a trial of the operation for gritting areas of village and make any appropriate decisions (LW). All laid out at last meeting – Cooper is prepared to grit the village the same as Stretton on dunsmore on a report via the clerk and weather report £20 an hour. If needs to provide the salt will be more. Can't give price on how many hours depends n what s required by PC . Trial run and then will give a fixed cost. Recommend in best interests of the village. Ball – proposed route? Have an idea? Wright – inclines like john Simpson – everyone would their areas doing. Manor estate – on incline. Outside shops as a starting point. #willis – trigger is what – Wright – whoever is responsible looks at weather report and deals with it. Rainey – great idea – but no final cost. Need an idea of how many hours. need a route and a timing for the route. Willis – an essential and desirables. Wright – discussion of possible routes. Try it and Ball – can we agree a budget with a maximum taken to January maximum budget £900 – we need a definite route to be quality controlled. Check his insurance and our insurance is happy with it. Rainey – self accumulating – centre of village. Need to objectively set the route and put the marker on it. Make it plain in media outlets that it is a trial the cost and how effective it is. Rainey: we will do a trial with managed route. Ramsay – spoke to gentleman – salt – needs it in bags – need a cost for that and how to store. Ball – cannot do it as a one off. If we take it forward we then have to wait until January to approve and continue.

	Proposed that we trail one day then work out a route £750 plus £900 for the experiment. Cllr. Osmonds amended proposal – use the first trail as a way of assimilating the information to make decisions about the future – route and costs. experiment as a means of getting to know the costs. BAU Up to a budget of £1500 to mid January amendment Proposed: osmond Seconded: ball For: 7 Against: Abs: Cllr wright – tie in together as to how we access the information
139.	Blocked vehicle access gate to Dyer's Lane Playing Field (western side) – to receive a presentation of report and proposed recommendation(s) and make any appropriate decisions (LW). Wright – if we don't do something we will have a footpath across centre of playing field. Access is difficult There is a gate there. We had criticism when we cut the hedge because of tyre marks across field. Needs the field gate that is open hanging so that it opens one way and pedestrian gate wants cutting off with a central removeable post. Through gate rather than an obstacle gate. Other side – get a county barrier to put on other side of road – dyer's lane. Rainey – there was a gate the signall access from brook street to allow mowing equipment get through. Previous years problem with gate access from scooters. Reluctant to get rid of kissing gate. Another way of getting pedestrian access. Need something drawn up – make the right decisions. Ball – needs fully costed. Get costings of proposal and bring back. Ball costings Roughly for the budget proposals. Wright - £200 Rainey -adapting what we have using the PWL Proposed: wright Seconded: ramsay For: 7 Against: Abs:
140.	Replacement of the two full size goalposts in the Dyer's Lane Playing Field - to consider options, inc. contact with RBC to confirm if S106 monies can be used to finance this improvement and make any appropriate decisions (LW). Wright – looked at taken down goalposts – cross bars and fittings are excellent . the problem is the base. Like the opportunity to investigate utilising what we have, modify the posts to get them back in working order couple of hundred pounds. Rainey discussions with leisure centre – have replaced goalpost for various reasons. Posts failed at the base . advised by leisure centre – they have multiple goalposts due ot vist. Defer to january Proposed: Seconded: For: Against: Abs:
141.	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). Ref: R24/0998 - Proposal at: 17, STRETTON ROAD, WOLSTON, COVENTRY, CV8 3FR For: Single storey rear extension and creation of additional rooms in roof with front and rear dormer windows. Consultation expiry date: 19 December 2024 wright – subject to neighbour consultation and materials kept in site. Roofs in a built up area – subject to any windows be obscured. Ball – 45 degree splay – there is no overlooking. front and rear – quite a substantial build No objections. Proposed: wright Seconded:ball For: 6 Against: Abs: 1 b). Ref: R24/1019 - Proposal at: 39, ARDERNE DE GRAY ROAD, WOLSTON, RUGBY, CV8 3LQ For: Proposed loft conversion, to include an increase in roof height and erection of a rear dormer extension. Consultation expiry date: 16 December 2024 ball – 106 bungalows – only for OAPs of the village to move in to. Extending what is originally set out as a bungalow. There must be guidelines for it to remain as a bungalow. Ball – housing needs survey – there is a need for bungalows in this village. Call in – reasons for to be circulated Friday 6.12.24 plans Clerk – find planning officer email have own log in and make comment on rugby borough site. Follow up with an email. Look at conditions of the original application – Bloors. Should be in the land registry. Ball will get a copy of charges register. Rainey – 2 bedroom bungalows forever and a day. TW – application may be turned down by RBC Query to RBC – directly to the planning officer – registering concerns. TW will send everyone the details. Comments in – TW Proposed: Seconded: For: Against: Abs: 1
142.	Working Group Delegates Reports and Recommendations – a). Election of Councillors onto Committees & Working Groups: 2024-2025 – subject to the co-option of Councillors at agenda item 136. LCC cllr ramsay will join b). To receive timely headlines and consider any recommendations from working groups and committees including, Allotments Group (TW/TR), Ramsay – meeting today – brian ell chris albion. Alliance came out with GPS on all drainage. There is a fall on it, not very much. Company coming out Monday to take samples of soil. Snagging ist informed have been done -waiting to confirm. Wright – front entrance needs tarmacking keeps delaying it. Streetlights done in February. Chair has been in to new building – not completed should have been in September. Proposed: Seconded: For: Against:

Abs:

Flood Action Group (TR/SO),

TW presenting at climate adaptation cafe 9th September climate emergency group this week attended by two MPs. Severn Trent – not in the room pleaded for MPs to get involved. We made it on to parliamentary debate. Promise to engage with it.

Ramsay – environment agency out on Tuesday walk from brook to the Avon have reported the blockage have been cleared

Dredging or moving of silt do not recommend.

Emergency number to put out if there is any problems. 3 monthly checks around wolston. Good explanation of how it works. Big blockage under one of the bridges to be removed in spring. may be what is causing road to flood.

Wright – growth in the brook –

Ramsay - will spray water will flatten it. Flooding is the sheer amount of water in a short time.

Wright – flack on FB re flood group. 1. Flow from ditch would hold back water

2. Convince the rbc New attenuation pond could retain water coming off the site. 3. Stretton lane problem outside melodies meadow all the drains down Stretton Road are In grass verge. Cut some grips I it and retain it in the pipes.

3. Coalpit lane – newt pond del with Bloors it would benefit houses if deepen pond as a holding area.

3 actions to present to Environment Agency.

Local knowledge is important to hear from residents. Agencies are starting to listen, take seriously and take action.

Ramsay – water is consistently moving. Its going to shift it.

Ball – ditch behind meadow road if much more is diverted here – there will be a problem. Flooding is not just main street/hawthorne close. Environment agency needs to visit other areas.

Wright BC took contract out with farmer but things have changed. Has it been transferred/ TW still RBC. FLAG to look at it. Phtographs will be useful.

Proposed:**Seconded:****For:****Against:****Abs:**

Neighbourhood Development Plan Group (TB),

Ball – resident working on prelim of it – precis we did have meeting before last PC meeting – not been able to give any time apologies. Couple of issues.

Me ingles – quite a lot to say – frustrated document has bee ready for 6 months. 10 years since started and nothing has happened. Not aware of work or planning being done. No access to online planning. Parish online no access – parish website no access. Feels like handing it over.

Rainey – positive meeting in October. Inclining of an intent we have a document that meets requirements to go forward. Issue now – deadline for consultation. Needed actions in November December – positive feedback from mrs ramsay. Fully understand the frustration.

We are running out of people. Rainey will review with remaining members of NDP before next meeting.

Actions to prepare for consultation. 5 members of the group. Apologies offered.

TW – anything we can do. Its about people that can do the communications, understand it. Need another housing needs survey.

Rainey – owe the council a summary review of where we are, obstacles and how we can resolve those.

Prepare for next meeting.

Need to get the community active and involved.

Mr Ingles – access to Parish Online and website.

Wright – if it fails – am on steering group – no meeting for months. Will PC let it fall or take it onboard essential that we have a NP. Or we will have housing development everywhere. Can the council lead on it?

Mr Ingles – no support for a long time for other aspects of the project.

Steering group meetings – no meetings no minutes taken no evidence base. Which is a concern. The document 6 months old problem soon it will need updating – nothing has been done. Local plan may be available soon. National specifications update on a 12 monthly basis.

TW – need a meeting with Mr Ingles to understand what support is needed. Need to go to consultation with parishioners. Need a housing needs survey. Call for sites is out of date. under one of the bridges to be removed in spring.

TW – do we know what the process looks like.

YES we have templates to use.

Ball – proposal we go ahead and carry out the housing needs survey – no cost.

Problem – finding the hours to do it.

Put out a plea for support to getting it out to the community. Difficult.

Proposed: BALL

Seconded: wright

For: 6 (Ramsay out of the room).

Against:

Abs:

Open Spaces Working Group (LW),

Sovereign work is resolved.

We need to look at what we are going to do with the pavilion. Need to find plan.

Playing field – grass cared for. Being used.

More bulbs and wildflowers added to village. Permission to order the same as last year.

Proposal to buy same as last year (£300) PWL to undertake the work.

PWL will have a winter works programme which will include planting. PWL – will gt orders from else where.

Proposed: wright

Seconded: ramsay

For:

Against:

Abs:

Communications Group (TB),

Comcentrated on Christmas.

Proposed:

Seconded:

For:

Against:

Abs:

Wolston, Brandon and Bretford Joint Burial Committee (LW)

Struggling to get bank account.

Everything going in right direction. Recovering monies owed. Looking after interest of village.

Colleagues voted us out of precept for next year. Need to record burial board owe PC over £5000 for clerk salary over the year. Need to recover some from Bradon & Bretford. Reimburse PC for monies for that period.

No monies paid to acting JBCclerk

Proposed:

Seconded:

	For: Against: Abs: and make any appropriate decisions. NB. Work Group Leads to send highlight report/update to the Clerk for circulation to Councillors prior to the meeting.
143.	Events/Communications a). Remembrance Sunday – To provide an overview of the event, inc. road closure and costs incurred, and make any appropriate decisions regarding future events and budget requirements. (TB) events were a success – meetings afterwards – invites will be sent out. Get involved mid January. Include other agencies. Proposed: Seconded: For: Against: Abs: b). Christmas Lights Switch on/Street Fayre – To provide an overview of the event, inc. road closure and costs incurred, and make any appropriate decisions regarding future events and budget requirements. (TB) Proposed: Seconded: For: Against: Abs:
144.	Future Agenda Items – Councillors are requested to use this opportunity to raise items for future agendas. NB. Councillors are reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision-making. Streaming of meetings CCTV we consider bringing meeting forward to 7:00 correspondence – should be recorded
145.	Date of Next Meeting – To consider and confirm the date of 2 January 2025 as the next Parish Council meeting at The Village Hall, Main Street, Wolston 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. Agenda before Christmas 23rd december Propose: osmond Second: Wright For 6 Against - RAmsay

146.	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. Wright Willis 7
147.	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. a). To receive an update and to discuss and agree on a final payment for the previous Clerk. Minute from last meeting item deferred until we receive an approach Defer item and call a separate meeting Wright Rainey 7 b). To provide an update on recruitment to the vacancy of the Clerk/RFO to WPC and make any appropriate decisions closing date 9.12.24 2 applications One expression of interest Publish log emails distributed with papers before. Need a correspondence list. Hedge in priory lane FOI from school street What is happening? Solutions in other councils circulate all emails but not FOI requests. Advise of FOI requests. Letters in – circulate. Item on agenda for next time. Tell cllrs action or FYI NAIC monthly
	Meeting end: 21:41