

**MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
**HELD VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM**

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Pauline Fury, Ivan Hammond, Vince Moon, Roger Proudfoot, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald (Absent for part item 3 and 4)
<b><u>WARD COUNCILLORS:</u></b>	Cllr Sandra Bond, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Judy Fox, Cllr Stephen Lane
<b><u>APOLOGIES:</u></b>	Martin Greaves, Bill Mercer
<b><u>VISITORS:</u></b>	None

1. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND APOLOGIES:** Vince Moon welcomed everyone at a difficult time.

2. **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:** No visitors were present

3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- **Minutes of meeting: 23rd November 2020:**

- The brief notes had been sent out without the treasurer's report attached. Sally suggested that it seemed reasonable to accept the minutes as presented as approval was being given to written to the minutes rather than any attached report and members had seen that report. Geoff disagreed and said that the minutes could not be accepted without the report. The meeting, however, agreed that subject to the report being circulated again, the minutes could be approved.
- An amendment was made to Item 6 as follows: John Fox ..... 'asked for people to contact him if they knew of any areas that need to be made secure to stop unauthorised encampments'.
- Pauline noted that her name was missing off the minutes for the two October meetings.

- **Review of policies: Safeguarding and Health and Safety**

Both policies were reviewed and were reapproved for a further 12 months without amendment.

- **Werrington Underpasses:** Sally advised that:

- £250 had been raised through crowdfunding.
- three funding applications had been submitted for Nathan to do some more mural work: Tesco (Fulbridge Road Underpass), Central England Co Op (Davids Lane), Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (Davids Lane and other minor work). Many of the funders are now driven by Covid 19 so the application opportunities are limited and the applications made have a focus on the effect on mental health/encouraging walking/cycling/bringing people together.

- **Planning Report**

- **Werrington Flats:** Heard nothing more since the initial Planning Application.
- **Ken Stimpson Fence:** The Neighbourhood Council is being copied into the various emails between the various parties. Sally is talking to Jenna who is leading the dialogue with the City Council. The protesters discovered the existence of covenant making the fields a public playing field. The gates will now be left open to allow public access. The City Council has reduced the height of the fence to 2m. As Planning Permission is not required for this height, the agreed Planning Application permission is not being used. Therefore the Community User Agreement (and the Neighbourhood Council's involvement in it) is not now required. The City Council is currently reviewing the situation after a proposed legal challenge by the protesters. Steve Lane clarified the Planning Permission status.
- **Fields in Trust/Village Green Status:** Leading on from what is happening at Ken Stimpson, questions are being asked about what other protection can be given to the open spaces of Werrington. The protesters have identified Fields in Trust and they have already given James Collingridge a list of 12 open spaces. They have also identified Village Green status as another area of protection. The Neighbourhood Council have been asked if they would give their support to these protection options. During a discussion concern was raised about putting anything in that could delay the Sports Centre development. Sally confirmed that this had been discussed in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and had been identified as problematic. Cautious support was therefore offered with that proviso.

**Sally temporary left the meeting at this point. The final part of her report is in Appendix One which was circulated after the meeting.**

4. **HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

Geoff Smith went through his report which is presented in Appendix Two. There were no questions made by members.

## 5. ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT

- Litter picking by the public is being encouraged as well as being carried out by the group on a number of occasions.
- Developing areas/Tree planting –Ethan and Roger reported on the ideas for this that were being progressed. They are going back to James Collingridge with plans for a 200 tree planting project. Ideally this will be done in March but it may have to wait until September/October time. Public will be consulted about planting ideas.
- Roger/Sandra will get together to consider concerns raised by a resident who wanted vegetation cleared from an area. Some clearance may be needed but the need to promote habitats for wildlife also needs to be considered.
- Following the work on the Brook improvements to the nature in the area have been noted such as evidence of otters in the Brook and pictures of Kingfishers have been taken.
- Future Projects include bird/bat boxes, wildflower seeds, a community orchard, a path to be mowed through the Paddocks area.
- Flooding - Roger has produced an explanation of how the Brook changes helps lessen the impact of this.
- Roger reported that a platform is to be built which will help with clearing debris collected by the boom. (Sally rejoined the meeting at this point).

## 6. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

**Judy Fox:** Good to see the supportive Covid related comments following the refuse collection problems with Covid related absences

**John Fox:** An unsecured area has been identified in north Werrington which will be addressed.

A bin is being installed in the Fox Covert area.

Messages about suspicious incidents need to be directed to the Police so that resources can be prioritised.

**Sandra Bond** There are currently good communication channels from different agencies being shared by Councillors.

Many people were going litter picking and she is loaning out equipment

## 7. ANY OTHER MATTERS

**Award Protocol:** There is concern about not many Werrington resident's receiving the Civic Award. Similarly there aren't many nominations for the Neighbourhood Council awards. It was agreed that there was great benefit in ensuring that people's efforts are recognised. Sandra Bond described the benefits of acknowledging our younger residents. There was a discussion about what the Neighbourhood Council could do to identify people. With the timing of the Neighbourhood Council awards in May, suitable nominations could then be made ready for the Civic Award in October.

It was agreed that Sally will promote all the Neighbourhood Council in the March Spotlight.

### **Neighbourhood Watch:**

- Geoff advised that Werrington Neighbourhood Watch is at a critical stage with only a handful of people involved. Promotion of the group could be made via Spotlight and Facebook especially off the back of the current high facebook profile of anti social behaviour in Werrington Rec and Cuckoos Hollow.
- Sally advised that Andy Brooks had contacted WNC. Following the response to the local antisocial behaviour incidents he had been talking to the local police. They had suggested that a hub is needed to keep local officers in the area when doing paperwork. Suggestions of such places could include the community centres, library etc. John Fox will make contact with Andy and Sally suggested that there may be mutual benefit for Neighbourhood Watch to contact Andy in view of the common aims.

## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### **APPENDIX ONE: ADDITIONAL PLANNING INFORMATION**

**1391 Lincoln Road:** Application for demolition of bungalow replaced with a two storey house. Appears OK as is in context with surrounding buildings but has an annex.

**1323 Lincoln Road;** Roger's neighbour has had the annex approved in the back garden which is not a good precedent.

**Carron Drive:** Hairdressers in the garage down the bottom of the garden has been approved

**Aster Drive:** An extension being built in an cul de sac ran parallel down the side of the road. We had an approach from 3 residents to oppose this. We did as a not in keeping with the character as the extension covered most of the garden with the extension running parallel to the

**Trees:** Lots of trees being felled – all with sound reasons apart for the one in Crester Drive being felled to the threat of coconut falling on people’s head

**Have the trees been felled adjacent to Frog Life:** we haven’t heard about their options for replacement.

## APPENDIX TWO: TREASURER’S REPORT

Geoff Smith presented the following reports:

### 1. CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

<b>CURRENT CREDIT BALANCES</b>	<b>IN THE BANK = £ 5,047.42</b>	<b>PETTY CASH = -£ 12.70</b>	<b>TOTAL = £ 5,034.72</b>
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With reference to my report as presented to our last meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 the sum shown above is an updated figure which includes the current ring-fenced amount of £3,909.04 - as detailed on the separate sheet provided with this report. Once the ring-fenced amount has been deducted this leaves us with an operational total of **£1,138.38** .

A further minor adjustment to the operational total needs to be made to take into account the purchase of packing containers ( see below item 2 of this report ). These items totalled £47 and the existing £34.30 of petty cash was utilised leaving a balance of £12.70 to be re-paid at a future date but incorporated in the balance shown. **So our present adjusted operational total sum is £ 1,125.68** .

During last year I made a further bid to the Werrington Community Association for a grant towards our insurance premium but to date have not heard whether or not this has been successful. I believe that Sally has made further attempts to secure income for further mural work and for other initiatives – she will no doubt be reporting on this.

After a number of further attempts to close our extant Stripe account ( relating to our 2018 “ Chuffed “ fundraising initiative ) I gave up trying to get any sense out of them as it was taking up a lot of my time that I didn’t have !! As far as I know we have about £1 ( less their commission !! ) still in this account - I will be reimbursing Sally this amount ( the £1 ) in due course as it was her money that she used to try and assist me in getting the account closed down.

Last year’s books are now closed and I will now be reconciling them and preparing the usual audit package to go to our Independent Examiner, Richard Collingridge, in due course - it is assumed that despite the pandemic restraints the usual financial processes will be maintained.

### 2. OFFICE RELOCATION

As members may well be aware we have for over 17 years benefitted from a partnership arrangement with the City Council’s various Youth Services whereby we had an office in what was the Werrington Community Education Centre and which there had been mutual benefits of having our presence there. Latterly the local Church took back ownership and Youth Services relocated to The Barn, and the Centre is now the Lighthouse Youth Centre. Over this last year we have continued to have use of this office and it remained as our postal address however early in December I unexpectedly received an email from the then Vicar of Werrington ( The Revd Canon George H Rogers ) effectively giving us notice to vacate the office by the end of that month ! What with the festive period and the pandemic restraints this left me with barely two weeks to arrange for the relocation which I referred to in my response saying this timescale wasn’t reasonable given the amount of work required to remove our equipment and filing, and I therefore requested an extension in time but never received a reply.

Fortunately I’ve had a particularly good working relationship arrangement with Newton Kiribingi ( the Church’s Werrington Parish Youth Worker ) who is based there and I am in the process of relocating but not under the original constraints. In any event the present lockdown situation has added to the difficulty in completing this process - so its just as well we have someone reasonable and realistic like Newton to deal with.

In tandem with all of this I have since spoken with Denham Hughes - Team Manager ( Community and Interventions ) Targeted Youth Support Service Housing, Communities and Youth -whom I was delighted to see has been retained by the City Council having originally been made redundant ) and The Princes Trust people up at The Barn ( were we already have our main filing cabinets ) and agreed with them to have some additional space to enable us to complete our relocation. In order to help in facilitating this I offered to tidy up the storage room which after over two solid days of work I have completed and it is now nearly ready to remove our items from the LYC.

This now brings me back to the sorting out of things there which I have already spent some time in doing, and have completed about 50% of this but ( and for obvious reasons ) can only work there when nobody else is in the building. A lot of the equipment stored there e.g. two filing cabinets, desktop computers, associated printers etc where either donated, restored or items I have equipped the office with over the years. In addition to preparing items for removal/relocation I am currently compiling an inventory of what is there and what is possible/desirable for us to keep given that we no longer have an actual office but only storage space - I will report more fully on this, and on progress in general, in due course. Help may be required in moving the filing cabinets but this will depend on the space available at The Barn so its a case of ‘ watch this space ‘ ... and don’t be surprised for a plea for help at an appropriate time !! We will also need to establish a new official postal address for our mail - something for future consideration. End of report ....

*GEOFF SMITH*



## SUMMARY OF RING-FENCED AMOUNTS 2021

### TOTAL CREDIT BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT

AT YEAR-END 31-12-20 = £ 5,047.42

CURRENT BANK BALANCE ( 02-01-21 ) = £ 5,047.42

#### RING-FENCED AMOUNTS :

1. WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CLUSTER GROUP = £ 944.67 \*  
[ AS AT 17-10-20 ]
2. SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS
  - 2.1 EARLIER YEARS CARRIED OVER AMOUNTS :
    - [A] 2018 CARRIED OVER WAITROSE DONATION ( £170 ) BALANCE OF £ 155 - STILL AVAILABLE
    - [B] 2019 WAITROSE SHOPPERS TOKENS DONATION = £ 298 - STILL AVAILABLE
  - 2.2 2020 CARRIED OVER AMOUNTS :
    - [A] CROWDFUNDING DONATION = £5 ( PREVIOUSLY £100 - £95 SPENT ON HALL HIRE )
    - [B] CO-OP COMMUNITY FUND DONATION = £ 1,706.37 ( FULL ALLOCATION )
3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS ( GENERAL - NOT ASSIGNED AND CAN BE RE-ALLOCATED )  
TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE [ IN WHOLE OR PART ] = £ 800 [ PREVIOUS VILLAGE SIGN RENOVATION FUNDS ]

TOTAL OVERALL RING-FENCED AMOUNT [ ABOVE ITEMS 1 + 2 + 3 ] = £ 3,909.04

#### IMPORTANT NOTE :

THESE DETAILS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND CIRCULATION IS LIMITED TO WNC AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS ONLY - HONORARY TREASURER'S APPROVAL MUST BE OBTAINED FOR ANY WIDER CIRCULATION PURPOSES.

GEOFFREY R SMITH MRS PH  
HONORARY TREASURER