

MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 8th March 2021
HELD VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Pauline Fury, Ivan Hammond, Vince Moon, Roger Proudfoot, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald, Roger Sale
<u>WARD COUNCILLORS:</u>	Cllr Sandra Bond, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Judy Fox
<u>APOLOGIES:</u>	Bill Mercer, Cllr Stephen Lane, Ethan Lutterer
<u>VISITORS:</u>	None

1. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND APOLOGIES:** Vince Moon welcomed everyone and thanked people for coming.

2. **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:** No issues were raised

3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- **MINUTES OF MEETING: 11TH JANUARY 2021**

The minutes were accepted as a true record and no matters arose from them

- **REPORT**

UNDERPASSES: Sally advised that:

- There has been some bubbling inside the Cuckoos Hollow underpass which Nathan had been to investigate possibly due to the wet weather or not curing during the painting process.
- £360 had been raised through crowdfunding with just under £350 already received to the WNC account. The crowdfunding has further been promoted in Spotlight.
- Central England Co Operative Society turned down the Davids Lane mural application not surprising as it was a Covid driven fund. A £20 voucher was sent which has brought some reams of paper which anyone can have. Three funding applications are active with: Tesco (Fulbridge Road Underpass), Arts Council (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. Whilst the plan was still to get £3,000, Davids Lane would be a smaller project than Cuckoos Hollow as there wouldn't be floor to ceiling coverage nor the approaches painted.
- John Fox said that someone had contacted him about the graffiti in Davids Lane underpass and was going to send photos.
- Sally was thanked for all her work in applying for and securing funding.

- **PLANNING REPORT**

- **Werrington Flats:** A meeting was held with the applicant, agent, PR representative, Councillors, Vince and Sally and the new plans are awaited. Sally contacted Kate Wood to see what the current situation was and if anything could be made available to this meeting but had received no reply.
- **Ken Stimpson Fence:** The fence issue is still with Gillian Beasley and officers are still being consulted
- **1391 Lincoln Road:** Application for demolition of bungalow replaced with a two-storey house. This is a large house on a small plot with an annex. There has been a lot of activity with 2 residents contacting WNC. WNC submitted 3 comments as the plans changed alongside resident's comments. Problems with large house/small plot, use of annex, car parking and arguments over the boundary. Whilst John asked for it to be taken to committee, this wasn't needed as the application was eventually withdrawn.

- **FUNDING**

Sally said that she was tempted by an LNER community/environment funding opportunity given the chance to link this to the Dive Under Work and improvements to the Dukesmead and Hurn

Road areas. She is thinking bulbs, anti-graffiti extending to the underpass creating 'A Brighter Werrington'. She is not clear how these areas will be left by NR and will make contact with Rob Norman as there could be some partnership working here. PECT and their tree planting is a beneficiary of this fund. She is already raising the question of who is responsible for the maintenance of Dukesmead Bridge now and coming forward given the state of the graffiti there. Roger said that there is potential for new ponds to create new habitats at both The Paddocks and Newt Pond Field. It would be interesting to see if the newts are still in the pond and he will make contact with Conservation Volunteers. Sally will have a similar conversation with Network Rail. If there are no newts then there could be a need to look at what can be done for those sites going forward. Sally said that it will be a push to do a bid for a major project for LNER as deadline is 1st April but there are other funds such as the Post Code Lottery available for a larger project such as that.

Roger said that someone has done some clearance and installed a dam at Sobrite: Conservation Volunteers, Froglife? John said that he is aware of residents who are also keeping an eye on things there who he hopes to catch up with.

John said that he had been asked who owned the John Clare Sculpture Mural at Hurn Road. No one knew but Sally said there was a photo of the opening (*Subsequently this was found not to have names on*).

4. HONORARY TREASURER's REPORT

- Geoff Smith went through his report which had been circulated immediately before the meeting and presented in Appendix One. He highlighted the ring-fenced amounts. He said that the application for the insurance to be met by the Community Association's reserves was still to be considered. The books have been prepared and he is in contact with Richard Collingbridge for their examination.
- A lot of time and effort has been spent on the relocation of the office from the Lighthouse Centre to The Barn. A schedule of assets has been prepared along with a list of award participants. Sally thanked Geoff for all the time and hard physical work that he has spent doing all this work. Vince echoed this.
- Geoff drew attention to the article showing the planting of an oak tree to celebrate the 25th anniversary 25th years ago. The 50th anniversary later this year is something to be proud of. It is not clear where the oak is and this will be located. It will need a plaque to identify it going forward. It was agreed that the planting of another tree would be a suitable commemoration and John Fox will seek to procure a tree or find out costings. Sally said that there are trees owed to Werrington following the recent spate of felling. She said that the two cherry trees planted at the Cock Inn roundabout in lieu of the tree at the Post Office was featured in a piece for Spotlight.
- The Princes Trust are intending to recommence in April.
- Chris Ware no longer lives in the area but is still happy to counter sign cheques and this was agreed in the current circumstances.
- Judy Fox said that she and John are willing to sponsor the Youth Awards again this year. Sally said that a piece about the awards had been put in Spotlight and it will be interesting to see the response is. Whilst it is not possible to have the AGM at the beginning of June, it is hoped that it will happen during the summer.
- Sally said that the Council was again seeking a community group to take over the running of Hodgson Centre. She said that the Neighbourhood Council had a clear interest in this and needed to keep in touch with what was going on. She had contacted the Council to say that the Neighbourhood Council did not have the resources to support this but asked that her details are passed onto anyone expressing interest. Vince advised that he was aware of interested group who were looking to set up a community co-operative and they were currently looking at options. Sally has been unsuccessfully trying to contact the previous Bookings Secretary. Judy and Pauline advised that the Play Group had folded and it was unclear who was or will be using the Centre in the future.

5. ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT

Roger advised on the following:

- Being busy working from home, he is finding it hard to pick up of other things outside of work

and any work is hampered by Covid.

- Previously consideration was given to a 400 tree pack but this would take a lot of planting and, given Covid, isn't feasible so it is fortunate this wasn't progressed. It will need a summer consultation with areas to be planted considered. There is a need to re establish the link with PECT.
- Six bat boxes are to be located and there is a need to identify some positions on public buildings such as The Barn or the Church. Bat box locations have been identified with Cambridgeshire Bat Group but it is unfortunate that some of these are on the England Homes land which require separate permission. The bat group will also do an annual check of the boxes. Also positions need identifying for bird boxes such as Martin Court?
- Geoff said that there is a potential storage area round the back of The Barn. Sally suggested a reappraisal to local storage companies such as 3 Ways Storage.
- The pathway can be cut through Werrington Paddocks at £75 for three cuts using Roger's lawn mower to maintain the current established paths. The lady has her own PL insurance and will need clearing with James Collingridge and PL Insurers.
- Litter pickers are being loaned out on permanent basis as a way to supporting initiatives.

6. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Sandra Bond:

- Litter bins are going missing or ending in The Brook and having to be repaired.
- A PECT project is taking place to plant shrubs and wildflowers and this includes an area between Ambleside Gardens round to Baron Court. A lot of litter pickers have been lent out as well.
- Complaints about the flooding following the recent heavy rain
- She has been upset about the negative facebook comments about Gunthorpe Councillors and the comparison of Gunthorpe side of the Brook to Werrington. She has been trying to explain the conservation side of the Brook compared to the nice cut area of Cuckoos Hollow. John said that no one was having a go at her personally as the criticism is being levelled at previous Councillors especially given the pending elections. Roger confirmed the importance of The Brook and reeds as a fish nursery and as nesting for swans and whilst the shrubs may look untidy they are an important wildlife habitat.
- Sandra wanted to know where the bat boxes are and Roger said that it would be good to do a Brownie Walk.

Judy Fox: No matters to report

John Fox: Been walking out a lot but no other specific issues to report

7. ANY OTHER MATTERS

- Sally said that she and John had been approached to help Ken Stimpson recruit some volunteers to help with the Covid testing as this, and especially the result recording, was draining the school's resources. A request had been put on Facebook.
- Geoff advised that during the meeting the invoice had been received for the website hosting at £50. Sally said that it is hoped that next year's website cost also at £50 will be funded by the Neighbourhood Forum as well but this is dependent on more funding being available. Progressing the Neighbourhood Plan will be dependent on more funding and this will hopefully get going again after stalling during the lockdown and time being taken up with other projects especially as the emerging Glington Plan was quoted as part of the decision to reject the new housing scheme application there.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 26th April 2021. It should be noted though that the Staniland Court Planning Applications are likely to be released well before that date. The Neighbourhood Council will need to meet to consider these once these have been made public and residents have given the chance to consider them so that feedback can be considered as well.

APPENDIX ONE: TREASURER'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 4 **HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

MEETING OF THE WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

Geoff reported on the following matters :

1. CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

CURRENT CREDIT BALANCES	IN THE BANK = £ 5,396.30	PETTY CASH = - £ 14.40	TOTAL = £ 5,381.90 *
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With reference to my report as presented to our last meeting held on 11th January 2021 the total sum shown above* is an updated figure which includes the current ring-fenced amount of £4,257.92 - as shown below. The only expenditure incurred so far this year that has been reported to me is on postage (£1.70) which has been deducted as Petty Cash (see above). Sally has obtained a further £348.88 of income by way of a " Just Giving " account and this has been added to the ring-fenced amount as shown below - her report will no doubt make reference to this. Once the ring-fenced sum has been deducted this leaves us with an operational total of £1,123.98 .

SUMMARY OF RING-FENCED AMOUNTS 2021

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 AVAILABLE)
- TOTAL AMOUNT [2.1 + 2.2] = £2,164.37
3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS (GENERAL - NOT ASSIGNED AND CAN BE RE-ALLOCATED)
TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE [IN WHOLE OR PART] = £ 800 [PREVIOUS VILLAGE SIGN RENOVATION FUNDS]
4. JUST GIVING FUNDRAISER = £ 348.88 * **NEW** *
- TOTAL OVERALL RING-FENCED AMOUNT [ABOVE ITEMS 1 + 2 + 3] = £4,257.92

As previously reported during last year I made a further bid to the Werrington Community Association for another grant towards our insurance premium but to date have still not heard whether or not this has been successful.

Last year's books are now closed and I am preparing the usual audit package to go to our Independent Examiner, Richard Collingridge, who has been consulted and is willing to offer his examination services once again.

2. OFFICE RELOCATION

After a lot of work since our last meeting I have nearly completed relocating all of our items from our old office to The Barn. A lot of tidying-up of our files and records has been done together with various items of equipment being stored or disposed of - I have prepared a comprehensive list of this and for the time being have provided copies to just the Chairman and Secretary. There remains just a small amount yet to be done which hopefully will be completed within the next few weeks but I've managed to deal with all of this without assistance by others, which has been important given the current pandemic constraints. I have also researched all of the annual awards we have made since our inception in 1971 and prepared a comprehensive schedule of these for future reference purposes - I'm happy to provide members with a copy if they wish.

3. OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

While tidying-up our records I have found a lot of press-cuttings that I kept over the years - some are very interesting and I'm trying to get these filed in some sort of order. Amongst them I found the ones shown overleaf which reminded me that our 50th Anniversary falls due in September of this year. You will see that we celebrated our 25th Anniversary by having an oak tree and bulb planting ceremony in Cuckoo's Hollow and I wonder how many of our residents remember this and have you seen the oak tree lately - is it still there ? Think it would be nice to use some of our ring-fenced funds to do something similar this year. What is the Council's view on this ?

4. THE PRINCES TRUST

Their next project is due to commence on 12th April with Taster Events to be held on 7th and 8th April.

..... REPORT CONTINUED OVERLEAF