

MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 26th April 2021
HELD VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Pauline Fury, Ivan Hammond, Vince Moon, Roger Proudfoot, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald,
<u>WARD COUNCILLORS:</u>	Cllr Sandra Bond, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Judy Fox, Cllr Stephen Lane
<u>APOLOGIES:</u>	Bill Mercer, Martin Greaves
<u>VISITORS:</u>	Charles Coxon, Tony Forster, Roger Sale

1. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND APOLOGIES:

Vince Moon welcomed everyone and thanked people for coming.

2. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

- i) **Ken Stimpson Fence:** Tony Forster advised that the City Council will be holding a Public Meeting about the Ken Stimpson Fence after the election and asked the following:
 - **Will the Neighbourhood Council be reviewing the City Council's update?**
Sally Weald advised that whilst the Neighbourhood Council cannot take part in the campaign, it is apparent that new information will be forthcoming and so a review will be made.
 - **Will the Neighbourhood Council be willing to facilitate a resident's meeting?**
 - It was confirmed that there is a precedent with the Ken Stimpson PFI meetings so it was agreed that this would be possible.
- ii) **Tony Forster asked about the position of a potential Parish Council.**
Sally gave a detailed overview which included the following points:
 - The Neighbourhood Plan process now provides a short cut for the Parish Council as it has defined the Parish Council area and removed the need for petition.
 - The next stage is a request for a Community Governance Review. However in a meeting in Autumn 2019 with senior City Council officers it was indicated that only a basic letter will be provided with Bretton being given as an example as it is close Werrington in area and profile.
 - This is problematic given that the City Council will give no details of what people are voting on especially given the anti-Parish Council feeling around. Further information will be needed to be provided as part of a campaign. Also Bretton's precept is £50 and, if this is being given as an example, then there is no way that this will be accepted by residents.
 - Additional barriers are the lack of funding to deliver a campaign, concerns over confusion with the Neighbourhood Plan which may jeopardise the Plan and the lack of resources to develop further progress

In response to further questions:

 - Sally clarified that a Neighbourhood Plan Forum has to be set up to deliver the Neighbourhood Plan as the Neighbourhood Council can't do so. This needs 21 supporters and lasts for 5 years which can then be extended for another 5 years to support the Neighbourhood Plan. Expiry of the current Forum will be in two and half years.
 - Sally confirmed that any referendum would be a majority of those voting and not based on total residents (*After the meeting Sally clarified that a referendum wouldn't necessarily be held for a Parish Council as residents pass their views direct to the City Council. A referendum as she described would be needed for the Neighbourhood Plan*)

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- **MINUTES OF MEETING: 8TH MARCH 2021**

The minutes were accepted as a true record and no matters arose from them. The Neighbourhood Watch group has taken some of the Co-Op paper.

- **REPORT**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The published meeting date of Tuesday 1st June will have to be postponed. Concern was expressed about the size of the Village Centre's Small Hall so future dates using the larger hall will be explored.

50th ANNIVERSARY: On reflection, the oak tree may not be such a good idea particularly not planted isolated in Cuckoos Hollow as the previous one was vandalised (see Geoff's report). It will cost between £75 and £200 if supplied by Aragon. Other options explored include a bench or a cluster of trees. Roger said that cheaper oaks could be sourced and substantial anti vandal stakes need to be used.

UNDERPASSES: Sally advised that:

- Nathan has repaired the damaged walls. Test areas have been covered with sealant to see if that solves the problems. The sealant will cost over £600 but he has some left over from other jobs that could reduce the cost and he has offered some of his time for free. Over £700 has been raised via crowdfunding to support the work.
- The Arts Council has asked for the funding application for Davids Lane to be resubmitted to include more partnership working and community involvement. Whilst arts organisations such as Metal and Peterborough Presents might support, their involvement could impact on their applications and will remove the projects community led feel. Also theres a load of community sessions already being proposed. It is suggested to hold back on this application pending the decision of the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.
- The Tesco Bags of Help application is being chased up as the application has been held over for over a year.
- Cambridgeshire Community Foundation's decision is due by end of May
- The Proceeds of Crime Act with its Stop Loan Sharks initiative has funding and their first suggestion is to create a mural. Could this be a way of tackling an underpass such as Mancetter Square with 'an under the sea' experience or a row of sharks getting bigger. There was general consensus to explore this further but Roger warned about making sharks seem scary. Sally has emailed Nathan to see how enthusiastic he is.

OTHER FUNDING:

- Persimmon Homes East Midlands has two lots of £1000 to give away each month so a general environment application has been made.
- Post Code Lottery has 1000 lots of £500 to allocate but despite this being a 10 minute application, it has been tricky to provide the income/expenditure information they need.

PLANNING: There have been no major applications. Nothing has been heard about Werrington Centre flats.

NETWORK RAIL: In response to questions, Network Rail advised:

- There were Great Crested Newts in the ponds per the reports from 2019 and 2020. The next survey of the site takes place in the next few weeks.
- Any graffiti on the Dukesmead bridge will only be addressed if it is offensive. A coat of anti-vandal paint is being put on over the coming weeks.
- The areas around Dukesmead Bridge and Hurn Bridge will be landscaped by Morgan Sindell.

SCARECROW TRAIL :

- Sally said that entering a scarecrow will bring about good PR for WNC and has prebooked the Village Sign which is the starting point of the trail. She is happy for someone else to do a scarecrow although a quick conversation with Roger has brought about an idea of a David Attenborough theme to link the Environment Group. Roger also intends to hand out wild flower seeds during the event. This was agreed.
- Sally said that given the need to promote the Neighbourhood Watch then a scarecrow sitting on someone's garage roof could bring about good PR especially with a sign giving details of the Neighbourhood Watch. It would need to be close to Church Street those outside the immediate village get less visitors which Roger S also agreed with. Whilst Geoff and Pauline said that they had no time to do this, Sally suggested that the NW co-ordinators or members could be contacted. Sandra Bond said that she would support this if necessary.

4. HONORARY TREASURER's REPORT

Geoff Smith gave the following report:

4.1 CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION:

- i) CURRENT* CREDIT BALANCES:
IN THE BANK (*AS AT 11-04-21) = £5,612.44;
PETTY CASH = £14.40; TOTAL = £5,598.04*
- ii) The balances shown above are an update on the figures provided in my report to our March meeting.
 - The current credit balance of £5,598.04* includes an amended ring-fenced amount of £3,251.71 - as detailed below.
 - Sally has obtained a further £245.35 of income towards the underpass mural work by way of a "Just Giving" account and this has been added to the ring-fenced amount as shown previously to make a total of £594.23. We have since made a payment to Street Arts Hire Ltd of £376.63 which leaves us with a balance of £217.60 which is the new ring-fenced sum shown in section 4 below.
 - Two payments have been made totalling £874.93 for environmental project items (bird boxes and wildflower seeds) purchased by Roger Proudfoot out of the Co-op Community Fund (CCF) donation shown in item 2.2 [b] this leaves a ring-fenced balance of £831.44 remaining.
 - A further payment of £50 has been made for our website renewal, and this has been repaid to us by the WCA out of the Werrington Forum account that they were holding for us.
 - I am delighted to report that my bid to the Werrington Community Association (WCA) for another grant towards our annual insurance premium has been successful and £297.92 has now been paid into our account. I have written to them on our behalf expressing our gratitude for their most helpful and much appreciated support in this way.
 - Important to Note: Some of these transactions have yet to be cleared through our bank so the totals shown above will be amended accordingly in due course.

4.2 LATEST SUMMARY OF RING-FENCED AMOUNTS 2021

- i) WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CLUSTER GROUP = £ 944.67* [as at 17-10-20 - unchanged]
- ii) SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS 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
- iii) 2020 CARRIED OVER AMOUNTS
 - a) CROWDFUNDING DONATION = £5 (PREVIOUSLY £100 - £95 SPENT ON HALL HIRE)
 - b) CO-OP COMMUNITY FUND DONATION = £831.44 (REMAINS AVAILABLE)
 - c) TOTAL AMOUNT = £1,289.44
- iv) ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS (GENERAL - NOT ASSIGNED AND CAN BE RE-ALLOCATED)
 - a) TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE [IN WHOLE OR PART] = £ 800 [PREVIOUS VILLAGE SIGN RENOVATION FUNDS]
 - b) JUST GIVING FUNDRAISER = £217.60
- v) TOTAL OVERALL RING-FENCED AMOUNT [ABOVE ITEMS i + ii + iii + iv] = £3,251.71

4.3 **ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF OUR ACCOUNTS:** I anticipate that our accounts will be with Richard Collingridge, our Independent Examiner, within the next two weeks.

4.4 **OFFICE RELOCATION** I met with Newton Kibiringi - the Church Youth Worker who is now in charge at the Lighthouse Youth Centre - on Thursday 15th April and handed over our keys to the Centre and thereby ended our 17+ years involvement there.

4.5 **OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Further to the report I gave at our last meeting I have undertaken additional research of my/our records and also consulted former WNC Member Judy Bunten, who was one of the key people involved at the time of the 25th Anniversary celebration event. Regrettably it transpires

that the oak tree that was planted on 10th November 1997 only lasted for a short while after being planted. It was vandalised by having its bark removed and died very quickly thereafter. The daffodil bulbs that were planted on the 29th November seem to have fared better.

5. ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT

Roger reported on the following:

- Trees are being obtained for a native species community planting for Werrington Recreation Ground. Aim is to establish a community orchard. Previously there has only been low instances of vandalism there.
- Bird and bat boxes have been obtained from a workshop which supports disabled workers. They have been/will be installed at Sweetbriar, Martin Court, Werrington Lodge and Church. Hope to get some at Werrington Primary School. Some will be installed at Cuckoos Hollow. The England Homes land has been determined as the best place for bat boxes but annoyingly they don't seem to be conducive to the idea and are requiring a lot of information. Other locations are also being sought in safe out of the way places.
- The PE4 Womble facebook group has proved really popular with large numbers of people joining the facebook page. There are lots of litter picking meet ups and events being arranged and this is making a huge difference to the amount of litter in the area. Litter pickers have been supplied to the group by WNC including those supplied by City Council. Thanks to John for procuring the pickers. Any more pickers which can be sourced will be well used. John said that the amount of bags being picked up by Aragon was huge but there is a request for the pick ups to be co ordinated.
- A co ordinated litter pick with the PE4 wombles at 3 different locations produced 20 bags ad assorted other rubbish from Cuckoos Hollow and The Brook. The WI also had a successful litter pick.
- An Environment Group Zoom meeting takes place 7pm Wednesday 28th April
- A Wildlife Friendly Werrington initiative has been launched inspired by Risby a wildlife friendly village in Suffolk. A logo design competition has been launched and Roger has donated £50 and a bird box to support this. Will be launched in 4th June World Environment Day.
- The soil bunds down Lincoln Road have been sown with wild flower seeds with residents watering.
- Events including those by Rivercare have been affected by the Covid restrictions.
- The boom platform at the Brook has been replaced by the Environment Agency. The Environment Group has taken over the cleaning over the boom with Charles managing this with Roger S helping. Thank you to Charles and Roger S and to everyone who has been involved previously.
- The previously boom platform was dangerous and has been replaced by a new eco grit platform. John raised concern about the loose gravel and Sally said that her husband had already challenged a young lad lobbing hands full into the brook. Roger said that the intention is that the gravel will eventually bed down and blend in.
- There is a keenness to find and catch the terrapin.
- Vince said he still has a Rivercare bag.
- Roger was thanked for all his work and contribution.

6. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Sandra Bond:

- Ward litterpicking has been merged with PE4 wombles which is a continuing success. Aragon needs the litter bags leaving in a safe place for pick up.
- Bins are ending up in the Brook on a regular basis which are having to be removed. Recent flytipping in the Brook has been removed. During the meeting Sandra received another message was received to say that another lot of fly tipping had appeared but there may be a recording of the culprit.
- It has taken a year to get a bench replaced.
- Anti social problems in the woodland behind Bala Court with fires and drug use. Police and Fire service have been involved. The dead trees being used for seating have been removed which is unfortunate given that they were used by other people such as a local

child minder.

John Fox:

- PE4 wombles have been a huge success. The litter on the playing fields is being monitored by the Sports Centre. Rubbish bags are being supplied to football teams,
- Planting of wild flowers needs City Council permission but this is easily obtained from James Collingridge.
- His keenness to get a right of way along Car Dyke has been noted previously. He has been talking to the MP and Cambridgeshire Mayor to raise awareness of the potential especially with the Manor Drive and Leeds Farm developments and the proposed link between Deeping and Peakirk.
- Long term intention to replace the weir bridge.

Judy Fox:

Been out and about in the ward. Cuckoos Hollow is looking especially attractive including the mural. The damaged spindles on the bridge have been replaced. The damage to the boards at the seating area is noted.

Steve Lane:

Still having difficulties with the lighting on the Dukesmead railway bridge with Network Rail avoiding the issue.

7. ANY OTHER MATTERS: None

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

- Monday 19th July 2021 by Zoom
- Extra meetings may be held to discuss the KSCS Fence or Werrington Flats.
- Annual General Meeting to be arranged.