

MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL MEETING Monday 13th September 2021

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

1. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND APOLOGIES:

Vince Moon welcomed everyone back to the first face to face meeting in 18 months and thanked people for coming.

2. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM: There were no questions but the fence issue was taken at this point.

KSCS FENCE: Sally advised the following:

- A statement had been provided by City Council detailing what had happened and the legal position. Sally had disputed some of the points made in this document and these had now been corrected.
- The outcome of these considerations is that the fence cannot be legally positioned to the west of the school. There are now two options being considered adjacent to Fox Covert Road and Ainsdale Drive. A public meeting would be held to explain this.
- Both Sally and Save Werrington Fields (SWF) objected to the proposed 'Public' meeting being on zoom and following this a face-to-face meeting is being held at KSCS at 6.30pm on Monday 20th September. Members are being encouraged to attend as individuals but a ticket must be obtained.
- In the last two days SWF have issued a statement challenging some of the content, shared with members. Sally and Vince have been in communication with SWF and are being copied into their correspondence with PCC. As Bill suggested we are 'critical observers'.
- Sally presented a copy of the current WNC position statement and suggested that something similar needed presenting for the meeting (see Appendix 1).
- During discussion, there was a firm commitment to still support the fence given the understanding of the safeguarding concerns but not in its current style and height which gives the impression of a prison within an open space. It was suggested that the statement did not reflect the WNC's submission to the Planning Application which expressed that hedging either on its own or with low fence could create the barrier needed to address the safeguarding risk. This would support climate change, wildlife and be visually acceptable although would need a strict maintenance programme.
- There were no strong feelings expressed about the location but it was generally agreed that the fragmentation of the fields, the creation of a rat run down the Fox Covert Road boundary and the narrowness of the footpath between the fence and the garden boundaries are problematic. It is not clear how many and where the gates are going to be. This is key given the use of these fields by families walking up from the village and who need to access these fields (other than families to the north of the fields who have easy access to other playing fields/playgrounds).

John Fox said that any hedging would be too expensive to maintain. He also said that children from the Village would use Welbourne as their open space. Sally said this field was the closest and safest access to an open space from places like Hall Lane and Church Street and families would want access right on the corner and not walk the length of two football pitches

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

MINUTES OF MEETING: 19TH JULY 2021

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

REPORT

Venue: Following contact with KSCS they advised that they could only offer the IT suite until 8pm as the main school complex needed to be secured then. But they were exploring if the canteen could be used (where the police meeting was held). It was agreed that this was worth pursuing as there was little room at The Barn with Covid in mind.

Funding: An application last February to Waitrose has produced £1,000 donation without any need for

receipts or deadlines to support environment projects. Vince thanked Sally for her success in obtaining funding.

Martin asked about Martin Court. Sally said that this project was being led by Morgan Sindell who wanted to develop a community project and John Fox identified this project. Contractors were bringing the heavy labour to remove the undergrowth and dig the pond. It was Morgan Sindell's intention to work with the City College and the residents to do the design and bring about volunteers. It then needed financing for a new pond, paving slabs, planting etc. which Sally had said she would help with. She had applied unsuccessfully to National Gardens Scheme and City Council. But she found Carl at Youth Inspired who could bring young people as volunteers and funding. She introduced them both to develop the project but then Covid struck. Morgan Sindell has now moved on. Roger said that some bat and bird boxes have been installed. Martin asked if Axiom and residents could get involved but John advised that this was City Council land. Sally suggested that with the absence of heavy labour even with funding this project is not going to happen.

Membership: Covid extended everyone's term of office by one year. Therefore the ends of terms of office are for Vince Moon, Bill Mercer and Roger Proudfoot. There are an additional three vacancies and it is noted that Charles Coxon has expressed an interest in membership. Nomination forms were distributed.

Annual General Meeting: The AGM is Thursday 28th October 2021 (7.15pm for 7.30pm), Notice is in Spotlight. The Fraud and Cyber Protect Team have confirmed that they will do a half an hour presentation. Reports will be received from Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Environment. Geoff confirmed that he can put these together but must have them at least two weeks before. Some nominations have been received for the awards. As the whole Council is not the best place to discuss these, it was agreed that Sally, Vince, Geoff and Roger would review these separately.

50th Anniversary: WNC celebrates 50 years in existence with the first meeting in Autumn 1971 and first constituted meeting in Spring 1972. This has been discussed at the previous two meetings and following an email circulation, it was agreed only to put the article in Spotlight in January with photos and to do a similar photo presentation at the carnival. Martin said that he would support the placing of a plaque somewhere as it is important to recognise this anniversary and he could install it. After further discussion, it was felt that the 'Werrington in Bloom' plinths on The Green might support this. There was also a suggestion of a time capsule or a collage. He and Geoff will go and take a look and Sally will get a contact for a manufacturer from the Civic Society.

Policing: Sally has contacted PCSO Martha Hurley who says that numbers have been reduced with redundancy. Herself and a colleague are now covering North & South Bretton, Westwood, Ravensthorpe, West Town, Longthorpe, Netherton, Paston, Gunthorpe, Walton and all the rural villages as well as Werrington. With a change of computer systems as well means she doesn't have time to produce statistics and the new system doesn't isolate the information by ward. So she is not going to be able to provide the monthly stats anymore. If people still wanted to access statistics, then www.crime-statistics.co.uk breaks information down by postcode. Roger said that it would be useful to have statistics but only if WNC was going to do something about to support them.

John said that it isn't as bad as she portrays as there is a new police officer covering Werrington and he will pass the details to Sally so that she can make contact.

Planning: There have been no planning applications of note. Nothing has been heard about the Werrington Centre Flats.

Underpasses:

Sally has now met with Nathan.

- He is now VAT registered so the value of the donations has been reduced by 20%.
- He can paint the Davids Lane Underpass before Christmas with the Tesco £1,000. The design hasn't been decided. It was suggested that schools are approached for design ideas. John said that the surface had been scratched. Sally confirmed that a special surface will be put onto the tiles.
- He can paint a loan sharks underpass with the £3500 from the Illicit Money Laundering Team and Proceeds of Crime in the Paston Parkway underpass being a one off repaint and clean up. He knows the two current graffiti artists working there. He will use 'under the sea' images with a 'Sharks belong in the sea; not in Peterborough' slogan. The underpass design has to be approved by the IMLT and all the Facebook and press releases also have to be approved. This will be community led with a workshop. She has contacted City Council and Newborough Parish Council. Other than Steve Allen, there has been no

response. She will follow up PCC and assumes that Newborough has no problems. The money isn't expected for some time so the timetable is likely to be early 2022.

- Nathan is keen to deal with the graffiti on the opposite side of the stream and he was going to review how to get across: scaffolding? This will need additional funding. Sally was going to suggest to him to apply to the Community Association after he gets a quote. Bryan said that Stephen Duffy from Buckles has access to some Trust Funds. Sally confirmed that the Community Association had been beneficiaries from these Trusts in the past although Geoff said that he had previously applied and been unsuccessful.

Neighbourhood Plan: Tony, Jenna and Sally have been working on the Character Assessment. Barnack's Plan was accepted last month. They were at the writing stage two years ago.

4. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Geoff reported that the current account credit balance as at 12th September is £5,660.37. Income received since our last meeting is £500 being the donation made to us by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The only expenditure incurred since our last meeting is £431.80 being a reimbursement to Roger Proudfoot for approved seed and equipment purchases he had made on our behalf. Our accounts for the previous financial year have been with our Independent Examiner for a number of weeks now but due to his holiday commitments and mine we have not as yet been able to meet up to finalise them and the annual statement of accounts. It is hoped that this will now take place sometime over the following week with a view to the approved accounts and detailed statement being available for our next meeting on 11th October and onwards for our AGM reports. Just before the meeting Cllr Judy Fox had kindly provided Geoff with a cheque in the sum of £60 on her's and John's behalf as their donation towards the annual Good Citizenship for Youth Award - they were thanked for this generous support which they had been providing for a number of years now. Geoff asked if anyone had any bills that needed to be paid and Roger confirmed that he would soon be submitting a further seed purchase reimbursement request.

5. ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT: Roger reported on the following:

- PE4 wombles are still doing fantastic work with over 1,000 bags of rubbish collected. It has taken some of the Rivercare work though but there is still some deep seated rubbish in the brook.
- There has been approx. 33 bird boxes and 12 bat boxes installed or about to be installed. A 60 page licence has had to be signed in duplicate for England Homes.
- Ethan has got the Kew Wild Flower grant and has had 40 respondents. He is currently packing the envelopes.
- The Council has cut the grass to the specification provided with a wildlife refuge in the middle albeit a bit early. He has a contact from Langdyke Trust who will take the risings. A bug bioblitz attracted 10 people identifying grasshoppers, butterflies, bugs, frogs – an impressive variety of species. It proves that the management plans are encouraging more wildlife.
- An event takes place on 3rd October at 10.30 for seeding wildflower patches.
- Another visit to Forge Workshop s expected to bug up bird and hedgehog houses.
- He is liaising with the Primary School to help develop their woodland and pond area.
- Next year a more formal plan is being developed.

Geoff asked about the bee corridor project but Roger said it wasn't this area.

Bill asked about the newt pond area as he noticed that the fence was still in tact but it looked overgrown. Roger said that he understood that the volunteers still meet monthly. It is overgrown to produce a range of habitats but there is evidence that great crested newts are there. Sally confirmed that Network Rail has forwarded their report to WNC.

John asked about the ownership of the owl boxes along Folly Bank Peakirk. Sally said that Judith Jacob would know as there are boxes on the Welland Bank where Moor Farm grazes.

Bryan asked about the problems of overgrown trees blocking out the sun. Trees are currently being removed in Coniston Road. Roger said that it is a balancing act as clearly some people like the trees and won't be bothered about such shading so it is difficult to pass comment. John reflected on the trees being in wrong places and the difficulties of sycamore trees reseeding. Some people can't even get a TV signal and have no daylight. Judy agreed saying that people move in and then complain about the trees but there are concerns when paving slabs are lifted. Roger said if the 25 m rule applied then there would be no trees. Sheffield has had whole scale removal of trees.

Vince thanked everyone for their input and said that Werrington was lucky to have Roger.

6. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Cllr Bryan Tyler: Three new bins have been installed and two have been rehashed.

He will be painting benches .. the Scout Group has also volunteered to be involved.

Cllr John Fox: There is a lot of rubbish and the tulip bins have been blamed. But people are just being lazy and are not going onto empty bins. Rubbish affects areas, wildlife. Dog mess is also a problem but there are a lot of responsible dog owners.

Cllr Judy Fox: The smell and suggestion of sewage at the weir has been reported but it is not a priority. At least 3 otters have been seen at the weir. Sally said she had reported oil coming out of the same storm drain previously.

Problems with speeding in Dukesmead and it turns out there was no 30 mph sign.

Aragon has been very good at cutting back the trees and bushes.

Cllr Sandra Bond: Congratulated Bryan on getting the bins installed as she had been trying for the last two years. Sally agreed that she too had been reporting them for a similar length of time.

7. ANY OTHER MATTERS:

North Werrington Railway Action Group: Bill Mercer read out the article from Peterborough Telegraph summing up the work that had been done and what is still to be done with work due to be completed by the end of the year, He highlighted issues including:

- There will be more train use especially of freight trains.
- With the steeper inclines there will be more train noise
- Property values will reduce because of the extra trains and noise.
- People are buying properties without knowing the facts of the train noise.
- Trees have been removed by the City Council from the corridor separating the houses from the railway thereby exposing residents to the noises, vibration, gases and that these need to be replaced.
- Contractor noise has been kept to a minimum.
- Regular Spotlight articles have been provided so that residents know what going on.

Network Rail needs to address these issues with the provision of a noise reducing fence and the City Council needs to replace the missing trees.

John said that Network Rail had always indicated that a noise review had been promised once the work was completed and the new line established. Bill said that this work needs doing before.

Sally said that during the inquiry and in all the supporting documentation Network Rail had said that as the trains will be going faster at the junction then actually there is less acceleration and therefore there will be less noise. She therefore questioned the evidence for there to be three times the noise? Bill said that with the steeper incline that there will be more noise as with motorways.

Vince said that he had visited the tunnel and it was an impressive structure.

Rubbish: Martin asked about the burning of rubbish. This isn't a Neighbourhood Council matter especially as it is being done within the law. It could be the result of lack of brown bin collection.

Library: Bill asked about the signage to the library as there is no sign at the end of the path. He saw an old lady trying to step over the fence. John asked for the details and will request.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 11th October 7pm Location TBC

APPENDIX ONE:

KEN STIMPSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL FENCE APPLICATION: POSITION STATEMENT

Werrington Neighbourhood Council did not support the Planning Application for the fences at Ken Stimpson Community School. It could not criticise the school's safeguarding evidence which meant that an objection could not be made. It however supported the resident's objections about the fence's height impacting on neighbours and the local character and requested that a review was made of the height and nature of the fence. It was noted that a Public Meeting was held, coverage was given on Facebook and an article was featured in Peterborough Telegraph. There was no overwhelming support by residents either one way or the other. Whilst Werrington Neighbourhood Council was disappointed with the Planning Committee's decision, it considers that the process was followed correctly and that the decision was reached democratically.

It does however feel that the City Council's subsequent suggested limited community use was unacceptable and was not the intention of the Planning Committee especially given the numbers of access points. It has attended meetings and supported residents in their criticism about this with the Local Authority.

The Neighbourhood Council has no campaigning role and so can play no part in the current actions of residents.