

**MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021**  
**HELD VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM**

**PRESENT:** Pauline Fury, Ivan Hammond, Vince Moon, Roger Proudfoot, Geoff Smith (from item 4), Sally Weald,  
**WARD COUNCILLORS:** Cllr Sandra Bond, Cllr Judy Fox, Cllr Stephen Lane, Cllr Bryan Tyler (Cllr John Fox was also in attendance but did not wish to participate)  
**APOLOGIES:** Bill Mercer, Martin Greaves  
**VISITORS:** Charles Coxon, Roger Sale, Tony Mason (from item 5)

**1. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND APOLOGIES:**

Vince Moon welcomed and thanked people for coming. He welcomed Bryan Tyler to his first meeting and offered congratulations on his election as Gunthorpe Ward Councillor. He also congratulated John Fox on his re-election and Steve Lane on his mayoral appointment.

**2. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:** There were no questions asked.

**3. MEMBERSHIP:**

Charles Coxon had expressed an interest in joining the Neighbourhood Council. Charles has been working with the Environment Group and taken part in many events. Appointments are made at Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings. Pending the AGM in September it was agreed to appoint Charles as a co-opted member but gives Neighbourhood Council membership status but does not confer voting rights.

**4. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING: 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

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

**REPORT**

**Minutes and Meetings:** The minutes of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were approved as a true record. The Annual General Meeting and the Post AGM meeting was cancelled so it has been 3 months since the last meeting.

Meeting dates have been circulated for next year and it is hoped that meetings will be able to be held at The Barn going forward with the AGM at the Village Centre. 13<sup>th</sup> September, 11<sup>th</sup> October, THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> October, 29<sup>th</sup> November (Post AGM and general meeting), 17<sup>th</sup> January, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 16<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June AGM, 18<sup>th</sup> July Post AGM and general meeting

**Annual General Meeting:** Arranging this meeting has been problematic. Every community centre has regular bookings every weekday evening and there are real communication problems with emails not being answered. The Werrington Parish Village Centre has one Thursday a month available so the AGM is Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (7.15pm for 7.30pm). The Fraud and Cyber Protect Team have confirmed that they will do a half an hour presentation. There have not been many nominations for the awards though and this has been put into next Spotlight.

It is rather appropriate that the Fraud and Cyber Protect Team are coming given the scam incident that the WNC nearly fell victim too. So the warning is where there is any email about any financial aspect to double check with the originator with a separate email to their correct email address.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** WNC celebrates 50 years in existence with the first meeting in Autumn 1971 and first constituted meeting in Spring 1972. No conclusion about any celebration had been made at the previous meeting. Options include: having a display at AGM or carnival, planting a tree maybe alongside the Queen's Jubilee tree, installing a bench (at Werrington Recreation

Ground?). No positive comments were made so Sally will circulate the options. It felt that the Queen's Jubilee Tree presentation needed to be kept separate.

**Planning:** Other than the Werrington Centre Flats there have been no planning applications of note. The Werrington Centre comments have gone in with the focus continuing on the density and parking. The narrow access has been improved by removing the shrubbery alongside the health centre. The application has been called in by Councillors so we will wait to see if goes to committee.

**Underpasses:**

- The application sent in last March to Tesco has produced £1,000 with no requirements which needs to be complete in 12 months. Ideally this needs to be spent on Davids Lane Underpass but it is not known if this will be enough.
- The Illicit Money Laundering Team and Proceeds of Crime has given £3000 for an underpass painting and £500 for a community art workshop SUBJECT to some final checks. This has to promote an awareness of Loan Sharks so a suggested idea could be an 'under the sea' experience 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. Three Underpasses: Paston Parkway, Mancetter Square and Papyrus Road each have their own problems: potential for vandalism, sloping walls so this will have to be worked through with Nathan. The residents can take part in the design by suggesting/voting for sea creatures. Roger said that he was reassured about the representations of sharks and this could be also have a conservation focus. Sally asked for members to join an underpass team and get involved in meetings with Nathan. Councillors asked to be included in this.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** Work has been reinvigorated following some new members joining the 'Action Group'. £5800 has been secured from the government which will pay for any consultancy work. ACRE has been reappointed as consultants led by Natalie who came to the previous meetings as Mark has now left. Emma from the City Council is also keen to help progress this so hopefully good progress can be made. To put this into context, Newham in Cambridge had a neighbourhood Forum formed the same time as Werrington but they now seem to have abandoned their Plan.

**Scarecrows:** David Attenborough on The Green got a lot of attention. The WNC Facebook page got several new followers over the course of the weekend. It was a hugely successful event and clearly should be supported again next year. Roger gave out seeds during the event. Sandra provided a Neighbourhood Watch 'Gangsta Granny' entry which was also well received.

## 5. HONORARY TREASURER's REPORT

Geoff Smith joined the meeting at this point and gave the following report:

Geoff apologised for being late to the meeting due to another meeting he was required to attend at the same time - an AGM ! He reported on the following state of our accounts since his last briefing to the Council on 26th April under item 4 in the minutes thereof.

Our current account balance is currently in credit by £5,592.17. The renewal of our annual insurance policy to Zurich of £297.92 has been cleared through our account on 14th July and they have confirmed in writing that this policy will continue to be operative for another 12 months from 25th July. On 9th July we received £1,000 from Tesco's towards our Underpass Mural project work. Sally's " Just Giving " arrangement has also produced a further £152.58 (received in our account on 3rd June ) towards this project. The two payments issued to Roger Proudfoot for his environmental project earlier in the year totalling £874.93 were cleared on 12th May. We have also been advised that a further sum of £500 can be expected soon from the Grow Wild, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew as part of a GrowWild Grant application. On Tuesday 13th July I paid our annual membership fee of £5 to the WCA - this has yet to be presented to our bank for payment. There are no other items of income/expenditure for me to report on at this time. I will prepare a more detailed report to our September meeting and then my audited/examined annual report will be presented to our October meeting prior to our AGM on 28th October. Please let me have any requests for payment.

On Tuesday 13th July I attended the AGM of the Werrington Community Association on behalf of the WNC and have been appointed as our representative for the next 12 months. I am very saddened to report that WCA stalwart, Bob Bell, who helped to organise and participate in many

of their events, sadly passed away on Friday 2nd July and his funeral is to take place at Peterborough Crematorium on Thursday 29th July at 2pm - further details were included in the Peterborough Telegraph on 15th July.

I was pleased to assist Sally in confirming the use of The Barn for our normal Council meetings through to about this time next year.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT:** Roger reported on the following:

- Following the logo competition, Amy Dickman's design was selected as it represents trees, animals and water creatures. The judging panel was Roger, Nathan, Sally and Judy. This will be used to promote the group and can be used by supportive businesses. It was launched at the scarecrow trail.
- The Wildlife Friendly Werrington idea came via the Welland River Trust presentation. Roger has now joined the Welland River Trust Volunteer Group as a member whose organiser didn't realise that The Brook was a Welland Catchment area.
- A meeting has been held with City Council Officers including the new Wildlife Officer. He was excited with what is being achieved in Werrington and will be showcasing and taking ideas back to the Council.
- At this meeting the grass cutting was discussed and it is appreciated that grass cutting is just being cut for cut sake even where recreational use isn't a priority. The Paddocks proves that a reduced cut regime is successful with more wild flowers.
- An environment group member has produced a GIS plan for The Brook area and wants to produce a further map from a drone.
- Following meeting with Officers at Werrington Meadows, it was agreed that the City Council's management habitat plan isn't being followed and officers will be meeting to get the balance right and it is hoped that WNC will be further involved in this.
- Using the Co Op money, two further bird boxes will be installed in the Autumn. Ethan has finally managed to get a licence from England Homes to install the 5 bat boxes in the land to north of Cuckoos Hollow which will be completed in 2 weeks.
- He has an expert contact for establishing a community orchard. An apple tree will cost £15.50 so £300 will establish a group of trees. A possible location at the Recreation Ground has had trees vandalized so will need review especially in view of the significant investment in time and money.
- A shout out to the PE4 Wombles who are keeping on top of the litter at the Recreation Ground and means that River Care litter picks are largely redundant although litter still accumulates in the Brook. There is now an accumulation of people with grappling hooks to help clear larger objects.
- With litter largely cans and bottles a refund scheme will have a huge impact.
- Another video is pending about The Paddocks and a further one about the swans.
- Ethan gave an update on the Kew Gardens/Grow Wilder funding. £500 will buy wildflower seed to produce packs to distribute to residents and to plant at The Paddocks. There is a meeting this week to discuss this further. Roger further explained that Ethan had to produce a video as part of his application and he thanked Sally for her help in supporting this.
- Vince congratulated Ethan on his successful funding bid.

#### **7. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**

##### **Cllr Sandra Bond:**

- The three Gunthorpe Councillors have been meeting with officers.
- Ambleside Gardens play area will be reviewed as it has old play equipment.
- Cuckoo Hollow signs have disappeared and will be replaced. Similarly the life buoy has disappeared from the lake and will be replaced.
- A pending walkabout with other two Councillors and Officers will include the Brook area.
- Street sign repaired and pot holes will be repaired in Hythegate.
- New drop down barrier at Aubretia Avenue.

**Cllr Bryan Tyler:** Been undertaking lots of ward work with pot holes, signage and green boxes.

**Cllr Judy Fox:** Lots of ward work. Issues with brown bin charges with the new additional costs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> bin. Residents being asked to write in to the Council. Sign been replaced at Sargeant Way. Overgrown bushes requested cut back where is there a Health and Safety issue.

**Cllr Steve Lane:** General Ward work. He is still pursuing the lighting issue on Cock Lane bridge. The Township areas were designed in the 1970s and 80s. Since then there has been deterioration and issues around increased car usage creating parking problems.

## **8. ANY OTHER MATTERS:**

North Werrington Railway Action Group asked for the following statement to be presented.

A meeting at Bil Mercer's house with Steve Lane in July 2021 to discuss the completion of the railway tunnel and approach railway crossings up to rear of Gascoigne Sunnymead and Redbridge.

Completion and opening of the new railway junction is expected to be at the end of 2021.

Concern about the increased rail engine noise and expected Carbon Dioxide contamination to adjacent homes from Gascoigne to Redbridge estates will affect 500 homes!

The existing railway is level but the new railway has much increased climb up to the new junction from the new railway tunnel up to factor 3 in noise, vibration and pollution.

Steve Lane confirmed the City Council and Network Rail have had meetings at the beginning of the new rail contract but no agreement between them to date between City Council and Network Rail over the provision of required noise and vibration fencing to the rear of Gascoigne to Redbridge.

Steve Lane and John Fox are concerned.

Further meetings are required directly with Network Rail now!

Sally said that, given that this had been presented many times previously, this was not the time for further debate but knew that Steve Lane wanted to make comment.

Steve advised that Bill has misunderstood his position on this issue. He met with Bill as a Ward Councillor and listened to the issues. However noise concerns were addressed by Network Rail at the Public Inquiry and, unless there is expert evidence provided in support of the Railway Group to counter the inquiry findings then nothing can be done. He has asked the City Council for their noise report and this is being taken forward. Steve emphasised that he is not campaigning on behalf of the Action Group; he is just taking forward concerns as a ward councillor. He does have sympathy for residents during the extended noise during the construction and testing periods.

Judy and John Fox agreed with Steve and thanked him for his input. It was agreed that if there is substantial noise increases above that planned for after the line is open then there is a case for NR to undertake a review.

Sally said that an article submitted by the Railway Group to Spotlight made similar comment about the Neighbourhood Council (and Councillors) being in negotiation in Network Rail. She had been made aware of it at the last minute and, given that it was not correct, had to spend a lot of time getting it changed - she hopes to everyone's satisfaction. Steve said that he had requested that future articles are shared with Councillors and WNC.

Vince advised that he was going to a virtual meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner on Wednesday covering Peterborough. He asked for any issues to take to the meeting. Pauline said that the lack of police presence is concerning. Sally agreed saying that given the high public presence at the Scarecrow Trail there was no police seen the whole of the weekend which would have been a good PR exercise. John Fox said that community policing is the key and a visual presence is needed. Sally said that she had made contact with PCSO Martha Hurley to ask for anything she wanted to report but, given that she had no answer, wasn't even sure if Martha was still around. There has been mention of a new officer but no details have been forthcoming. When Martha did reports then they were problematic for her. Roger said that WNC and residents need to be made aware of issues affecting the area so that responses can be made. Ward statistics need to be easily available.

Bryan Tyler reminded everyone to complete the Police and Crime Commissioners Survey. Sally said that this has been circulated to members and had been put on Facebook.

Sally said that Steve Lane had given WNC an introduction to Darryl Preston the new Commissioner. She had followed this up and sent an introduction email. She highlighted that Jason Ablewhite cancelled a community police meeting at the last minute. She doesn't feel at the moment, given Covid and the lack of meeting venues, that any further meetings can be arranged.

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 7pm at The Barn**

