

MINUTES OF WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL MEETING Monday 11th October 2021

PRESENT: Pauline Fury, Ivan Hammond, Vince Moon, Roger Proudfoot, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald, Bill Mercer,

WARD COUNCILLORS: Cllr Judy Fox, Cllr John Fox,

VISITORS:

APOLOGIES: Charles Coxon, Cllr S Lane, Tony Forster, Roger Sale, Cllr Bryan Tyler

1. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND APOLOGIES:** Vince Moon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

MINUTES OF MEETING: 13TH SEPTEMBER 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. They now advise that the Canteen is not available as Vivacity are unable to lock up this area. Two suggestions include The Ploughman and the new classroom at the library but Sally suggested that the library will be subject to the same restrictions as above.

Annual General Meeting: The AGM is Thursday 28th October 2021 (7.15pm for 7.30pm). The speaker has been confirmed. He can either present a verbal report or do a presentation if there was equipment available. It was agreed that Roger will provide a lap top and projector using the screen in front of the kitchen hatch. Entry will be via the fire doors on the left of the entrance.

The order of the evening will be:

- Presentation
- Reports: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
- Awards
- Report: Environment

Roger has heavy work commitments but will find time to write the report and on the evening will show David Gwyer's videos.

Awards: The following awards had been discussed by Sally, Roger, Geoff and Vince. These were verified by the meeting and the following members agreed to say a few words and present the awards. Note: Lise Alexander Smith made the community nominations and has asked if she can announce the presentations.

WERRINGTON AWARD: Werrington Scout and Guide Fireworks Committee for 50 years of displaying (Bill Mercer)

GOOD CITIZENSHIP YOUTH: Ethan Lutterer (Roger)

ENVIRONMENT AWARD: PE4 Womble litter pickers Melissa Bolke, Diane Downing, Joanna Henderson and Janet Flyn (Roger)

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARDS: The Bluebell Inn, Newton Fallowell Estate Agents (Lise)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AWARD: David Gwyer, local film maker (Vince)

Membership: Nominations for membership have been received from Roger Proudfoot, Bill Mercer, Vince Moon and Charles Coxon

50th Anniversary: Sally found out the details of the firm who makes plaques for the Civic Society. Geoff hasn't visited the plinth on The Green with Martin as yet but agreed there were three sides that a plaque could be put on. It isn't known if planning permission will be needed and John will ascertain. There was a suggestion that this could be a circular plaque like the Civic Society but this would create confusion with the Civic Society's blue plaques. It was suggested that the inscription could read ... 2021 Werrington Neighbourhood Council celebrating 50 years faithfully serving the residents of Werrington.

Bill said that a plaque to a local WW2 airman was being put in the library and suggested that this plaque could be put there too. It was agreed that given the Neighbourhood Council installed the plinth then that should be the prime location.

Policing: Steve Lane gave Sally an introduction to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Darryl Preston's office has responded saying that he would be willing to attend a meeting in Werrington. It was suggested that this could take place as part of the Annual General Meeting on 1st June 2022. Sally said that this would have to take place in the Small Hall and questioned if it was large enough especially as social distancing couldn't happen. But it was agreed that this was a year one and large meetings have taken place there in the past and can do so again.

Planning: There have been some problems with the notifications of planning applications coming through which will have to be resolved.

A planning application has been approved to extend the Lighthouse Centre at the front and to reformat the interior as a Church outreach centre. Geoff said that he hadn't been able to open the plans online so Sally will download and forward.

Geoff asked about the Werrington Centre flat application but no one had heard anything since the response was sent in. Geoff said that in the course of conversations it had been suggested that Alf Savage had fought hard to 'agree' with the City Council that nothing would be built above 2 stories in new Werrington. Sally said that something from that long ago would no longer be relevant and for it to stand planning scrutiny would need to be in the Local Plan. In any case there were three story residences and Olympus House adjoining the Centre has been demonstrated to be higher than the proposed buildings. It was questioned that there are 3 storied houses in Werrington.

Underpasses: The £3500 for Paston Parkway underpass money has now been received. Sally has promoted this project on facebook asking for people to join the project but without response. Nathan has been featured on a Channel 4 'Short Story' documentary on social media and is now expected to be overwhelmed with work.

The Davids Lane Underpass is being painted with Tesco money and the Paston Parkway underpass with the loan shark money. Both projects are due to be completed early 2022 so there is no urgency at the moment.

4. HONORARY TREASURER's REPORT

Geoff reported on the following:

The current account credit balance as at 10th October is £9,215.37 this includes £3,500 income received from Birmingham City Council pursuant to our successful grant application to undertake a Community Arts Project (an 'under the sea' theme). It also includes previously advised ring-fenced sums.

Expenditure cleared in our accounts since our last meeting is the £5 annual membership fee paid to the Werrington Community Association. In addition I have made purchases for the Independent Examiner's honoraria totalling £25.50 and also picture frames for the annual awards of £38.80 which I will arrange the reimbursement of in due course.

No other reimbursement requests have been received to date.

Our accounts for the previous financial year have now been signed-off by our Independent Examiner and are ready for inclusion in the AGM Meeting Pack as part of my annual report. I am picking up the signed Annual Statement of Accounts from him tomorrow afternoon.

I have also now picked up the Good Citizenship Youth Award shield from the last winners and it is therefore ready for this year's award winner(s) which I will arrange once the recipients have been confirmed. The £60 donation kindly made by Councillors John and Judy Fox towards this award has been cleared in our accounts. As previously referred to picture frames have been purchased for all of the award winners and I will prepare the certificates in the usual way.

I will be self-isolating with my wife Chris 17th -20th October as part of her hospitalisation requirements and so I will not be available over this period apart from by way of email. "

Roger confirmed that he will be submitting invoices.

Geoff added that Daphne Heiser sadly died just over aged 100. She was Chair of governors at Welbourne for many years and a past recipient of a WNC award. A card had been sent from WNC.

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

- A successful day at Werrington recreation ground with 9 volunteers. A comment about the long grass (with seed going in dog's ears) was offset by the more positive comments about the paths being good so that dogs can't see other dogs.
- Ethan has provided seeds to 55 residents with 5 others pending following the funding from Kew

Gardens.

- Boom group has cleared 2 thirds of the boom. Roger said that he fell into the brook by over stretching and this will be reported as an incident to Rivercare.
- A contractor has been found who can take the risings off next year which is essential to the improvement of the meadow. He will also look at the Primary School grounds as well.
- Nothing has been found by Environment Agency nor Anglian Water following the reports of sewage in Cuckoos Hollow. Bill said that all the drainage west of the railway line had been redirected by Network Rail so the contamination could have come from this area. But it was generally agreed that the distance from the site and the lack of contamination of the brook suggests that this is not the case.
- Another meadow day will be held on Friday 12th November which will also be open to Environment Agency staff.

6. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Cllr John Fox:

- Thanks for the collaborative effort over the unauthorized encampments. He was able to give advice over the Campbell Drive incident based on his past experienced. It was disappointing about the criticism over the 2 day departure delay but there is a system in place, bailiffs have to be booked and the diesel crisis added to the problems. Geoff referred to the incidents from 20 years and his involvement in various working groups for over 20 years and provided John Fox with a file containing details of a PCC group he was part of and their considerations. He asked (as a representative of Gunthorpe Harriers FC) that it be minuted their appreciation of the assistance provided by the ward councillors during a very difficult time for the club and its officials. John added that with any change in law it will be down to the police to enforce. The Ken Stimpson fields entry points are being reviewed to prevent another incursion. Height beams are expensive to install.
- Bill was asked for the plan for the library signage.
- Some more dog signs have been acquired. Whilst installing then in Cuckoos Hollow it was noted that more Environment Agency signs have been installed.
- The skate park shelter has been taped off but it is not yet known why.
- There is a problem with parts supply to repair the street lighting.
- He has asked for two motions to be made to the Council:
 - Protocol for websites and social media. He added that Werrington Noticeboard facebook is good as it shuts of any posts that become political and abusive.
 - Police queuing in A&E as it is taking up too much of police time.

Cllr Judy Fox:

- The shrub cutting will take place from 25th October for 3 weeks. It was noted that the hedges are creeping forward as they are not being cut back so far especially with only one cut a year rather than two. Roger said an appearance of untidiness does not mean that it is unmanaged. Signs and road ends should not be obscured but more shrubs create a better wildlife habitat rather than a manicured scene and creates more growth to offset CO2. Hopefully the cutting will involve some horticultural skill with sensitive and knowledgeable cutting back.
- New outdoor gym equipment is being installed at Hodgson Avenue. It is not known what will be installed.

Cllr Bryan Tyler: In the absence of Bryan, Sally read out his report.

- He has access to a funding source giving grants to health and well-being projects and grants. £5-10k is pretty simple. Up to £250k a bit more work required,
- As you know, ASB in all its forms seems to be on the rise. And 14 year olds with knives robbing a local shop-not even bothering to hide their faces- was his tipping point! He has been in contact with the CEO of a large Housing Association and Police Commissioner about doing more in partnership to reduce ASB in our Ward and will report progress at next meeting.
- On October 20th he is leading a small team of Environment experts on a tour of our Ward. There are several new initiatives regarding funded tree and flower planting programmes. He has straw polled half a dozen people yesterday and all agreed beautifying certain areas would be an improvement. Roger asked who is involved in this and if this links in with previous meetings about the area to avoid duplication of work.

Roger asked if there was any update on the clearance of the shrubs down the side of Porcelanosa. It currently still isn't clear if it was done with permission as none of the Council Depts know about this. Geoff referred to the Nextdoor app invitation from an unidentified neighbour which he questioned. Sally said that she was a member and it was good as it allowed access to a messaging platform without being a

member of facebook and allowed her to reach a different group of people. She said the invites were just a marketing ploy as members were asked to put their name to them.

7. ANY OTHER MATTERS:

North Werrington Railway Action Group: Bill Mercer reported as follows:

1. Bill Mercer on 11th October 2021 had a person to person meeting at the Network Rail Offices with the main contractor's site agent Mr David Washbrooke.
2. Progress to date:
 - a) The main offices compound setup is currently been taken down, cleared away
 - b) A new satellite compound is being erected on a neighbouring field to supervise the remaining finishing works. The main drainage for the new infrastructure will be complete by the end of October 2021.
 - c) Werrington triangle reinstatement works began on 11th October 2021. The work will take 6 weeks including muck away to local Maxey quarry reinstatement.
 - d) Site wide fencing and establish all site boundaries.
 - e) Network Rail will check all trackwork and signalling and commence trial runnings of goods/container trains, local passenger trains in due course, during December 2021/January 2022.
3. Noise review will follow the opening of new works to full use with a comparison to existing traffic noise levels. If, as expected, the noise abatement fencing will be required to cover the boundary to Gasgoine, The Paddocks, Sunnymead, Kingsbridge Court, Redbridge, Tarrant and Livermore Green
4. Tree replacement to fill in trees where trees were deleted due to roots undermining adjacent property foundations, with smaller trees and bushes to absorb the increased CO2 and nox gases from increased rail traffic.

Bill added that the incline means that the trains will be running three times more noisy than current in view of the incline. The long length of the container trains means that the trains will be taking so long to pass. This will be affecting the hundreds of houses in north Werrington.

Sally reminded that all prospective differences in noises across all the different estates had been included as part of the Inquiry report and that these included noise reductions for several areas.

Bill said that having visited Sarjeants Walk a lot of the space where the trees had been is growing up nicely.

Bill said that the Group will keep raising these issues because when the noise affects residents in the future then it will be seen that the group had kept the pressure up

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8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

AGM: Thursday 28th October 2021 7.15pm for 7.30pm Village Centre

Post AGM Meeting: Monday 29th November 2021 7pm The Barn