

MINUTES OF WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 28th February 2022

- PRESENT:** Charles Coxon, Pauline Fury, Ivan Hammond, Vince Moon, Bill Mercer, Roger Proudfoot, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald,
- WARD COUNCILLORS:** Cllr Sandra Bond (from 7.30pm), Cllr Judy Fox (left at 7.45pm), Cllr John Fox (left at 7.45pm)
- APOLOGIES:** Tony Forster, Martin Greaves, Cllr Bryan Tyler, Cllr Steve Lane, Roger Proudfoot.
- VISITORS:** Howard Fuller, Carole Fuller, Roger Sale

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:** Vince Moon thanked everyone for coming to the meeting especially on such a wet evening. Apologies were accepted as above.
Sally advised that Tommy Kelly from The Armed Forces Covenant had belatedly advised that he was not being able to attend the meeting. She apologised to the two people who had come specifically to the meeting for this item. The agenda was reordered as Cllrs John and Judy Fox have to leave early.
- 2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING:** There were no issues raised by members of the public.
- 7. PLANNING REPORT**
WERRINGTON CENTRE FLATS
As distributed to members the flat application was turned down by the Planning Committee with a majority vote for the following reasons. The following points were made
 - The strong public response had a big impact eg residents who submitted comments, people such as the Crowhurst residents and those who attended the meeting
 - All three Councillors presented against the plans. Vince thanked Sally for the strong presentation on behalf of Neighbourhood Council. Sally added that Tony had also made a major contribution to this response.
 - The big problem was the removal of the open space as this was the positive application of the application. There was confusion as the report said that the pocket park had been removed because it would encourage anti-social behaviour yet the agent said that it was still going to happen. However John presented evidence that good landscaping architecture and landscape design reduces anti-social behaviour. Sally clarified that the open space removal was being off set with investment in the allotments, Cuckoos Hollow open space and Copsewood. There was a discussion about the pending Biodiversity Net Gain legislation.
 - A further discrepancy at the meeting was the agent's statement that all the units were now occupied. Sally said that given the applicant currently only owned east side of the Centre then it is only the Police Station that is empty and it is not known what happened to the funeral parlour. *(After the meeting, Sally determined that as this Planning Permission was given in May 2018 it had now expired)*
 - The applicant has the opportunity to appeal or resubmit with variants.
 - Sally said that there are now be concerns about the improvements to Werrington Centre and asked the Councillors what could be done to support this. Way back the Werrington Centre Action Group was in existence involving police. Clearly Andy will be central to any going conversation and John and Sally will follow this up with him. It was highlighted that the other District centres of similar ages of Bretton and Orton have already been refurbished.

KEN STIMPSON FENCE:

The application for the change of use from community use to school playing fields is awaited. Everyone who sent comments have now been told that this application will now be deferred until after the election. John reminded the meeting that after residents approached him about the impact on Swallowfield, he went to the meeting and asked for the decision to be deferred to allow the other site to be considered. This was not helped with the limited public response although two residents did speak and Vince attended on behalf of Neighbourhood Council. Unfortunately the Planning Committee ignored his request and now there are all the political repercussions.

Werrington Sports Centre: The centre is now open certain weekday evenings with the support of Ken Stimpson for groups. It must be hoped that it opens for the summer holidays but there is an undertaking

that it open by September. It was observed that residents have already found alternative venues to play badminton etc. John Fox gave his views about the situation.

39 The Green: The house behind the Chapel has received planning permission for its extension despite officers recommending otherwise. This is in the conservation area but can't be seen from the road so WNC choose not to object. Cllr John Fox supported the application and went to the meeting.

102 Church Street: Three trees are being felled here but it looks like they are all overgrown conifers. There doesn't seem to be any undue concerns.

New sports centre and swimming pool: John Fox said that the swimming pool had been put on hold because of the current financial situation but he will be raising questions with the City Council about it.

8. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Judy Fox: There has been a lot of bin collection issues especially with items being put in the wrong bins.

John Fox: Obviously a lot of time has been given to Werrington Centre. Graffitied utility boxes have been painted

Werrington Library: A meeting was held at the library with Councillors, officers and Friends of Werrington Library. It was very busy at that time and it is seen that Werrington library is an example of how a library should be run. Bill referred back to Werrington's original opening hours and highlighted that these were originally more than double than that currently. Obviously it is hoped that Werrington won't lose any more hours in the future.

Bill added that the library is planning to do an event on the Jubilee Weekend with a display. Sally said that a planning meeting had been held with Werrington organisations to ensure that there were no clashes and clearly this needs to be factored in. But as this would be on the Saturday morning and the events in village centre were in the afternoon, there isn't a clash. The Local History Group are thinking about a jubilee event on the Thursday but there was concern about how much display material there would be. Sally had said about the Neighbourhood Council's 50th anniversary and said that we could put together a display of photos if it helped so similarly this could be offered to the library.

9. OTHER MATTERS: RAILWAY ACTION GROUP

Bill handed out the report seen in Appendix A. He said that he had been knocking on doors and people were noticing a difference in the railway noise. This is a new railway line and therefore needs a noise reduction fence. He asked Councillors about approaching Network Rail to insist on a noise test and also said that he intended to deliver a petition asking if John could draw this up. John said that he hadn't had any complaints and couldn't get involved in any petition. He added that if people were ringing up Network Rail then they would be responding. Sally said that she had added Network Rail's helpline number to the last Spotlight article so if people had a problem the number was there. She added that petitions had to be in a certain format to be accepted by the City Council and had to be worded correctly.

4.. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes of 18th January 2022: These were approved as a true record.

50th Anniversary: Geoff said that he had been in contact with the plaque company for a quotation for a blue plaque. He wanted to know who was going to be doing the unveiling so that it could be put on the plaque. There was a discussion if an 'official unveiling' is needed and who would do so. It was suggested that it should be the Chair and it could be done around the carnival. There was concern about the suitability of the plinth as the plaque would be low down and could be vandalized or stolen. It was agreed that this was a risk but there isn't any where else obvious for this and the original sign/Village Sign remains untouched.

Annual General Meeting 2022: Sally said that she had heard that morning that Matt Gladstone isn't able to attend the Annual General Meeting. She said that it had taken 3 months to get that decision. After a discussion Roger suggested approaching the Langdyke Trust as they were doing something at the environment group meeting on Wednesday.

Underpasses: Paston Parkway Underpass project is now complete. The arts workshop was well attended with 25 families and over 50 people taking part and had brilliant feedback. The underpass was painted at the weekend and was well received. There is an article in Peterborough Telegraph about it, The Davids Lane underpass funded by Tesco will be painted by end of May.

Membership: Sally asked for consideration to be given to the co-opted membership for Tony Forster. He attended the last meeting but can't attend Mondays. He had given a lot of support on Planning over the last few weeks. Vince agreed that the future of Planning looked stronger given this support. This was agreed unanimously.

Correspondence: Sally had received an email from Sally Jackson of Peakirk Parish Council about a new trail being proposed to John Clare Countryside from Sobrite Spring to Deeping via the Peakirk, Glington and Northborough footpaths. They were asking for the Neighbourhood Council's support which she had given. It will encourage countryside access from Werrington.

5. HONORARY TREASURER

Vince welcomed Howard Fuller to the meeting apologising for not introducing him at the start. Howard gave a brief overview of his previous roles in local government, as a Councillor and supporting local organisations. He is happy to help and confirmed his commitment to the group.

Geoff made the following report:

- He has communicated with Howard and hopes to see him for a briefing session before our AGM. Up until then he will continue in the position and complete the current independent examination process. After the AGM he hoped to continue (probably as a co-opted member) to provide assistance to Howard with the transition of duties. Howard welcomed this
- He reported on the following state of the accounts:
The current account is showing a credit total of £8,207.36 of which a number of items were ring-fenced. In particular the Neighbourhood Watch Cluster Group had £851.63 in our bank with £128.04 held by me as Petty Cash. Since the last meeting payments had been made against the Community Arts Project sum leaving £64 remaining. The following ring-fenced amounts had credit balances as follows : Tesco Donation = £1,000; RBG Kew - Grow Wild Fund = £5.83 ; Co-Op Community Fund = £399.64 ; Just Giving Mural Damage Repair Fund = £68 pence ; Waitrose Donations = £1,453. Small payments totalling £42.20 had been made out of Cash-in Hand leaving a credit balance of £17.22. Some new income had been received from Easyfunding totalling £57.24.
- Geoff informed members that he had been in touch with Richard Collingridge our Independent Examiner and agreed that he should complete the examination of our accounts by not later than 20th May which would then leave time for the Treasurer's annual report to the AGM to be prepared and pre-circulated ". He referred to Richard Collingridge as being the auditor/independent examiner for such a long time and asked that his name was considered for an award at the AGM.
- Sally informed members that there should be some further funding forthcoming from the Loxley Co-Op sometime in April.
- Sally said that the exact Loan Shark funding had been spent so there shouldn't be any left in the account and if any more was needed then the Underpass Maintenance Fund should be cleared as well. Geoff will review the figures. [Update: Since the meeting Geoff had reviewed his files and hitherto unallocated amounts had been included in the Community Arts Project (Underpass Mural) and the Just Giving Mural Damage Repair Fund which now show that these accounts were now spent-up and duly closed]

6. ENVIRONMENT

Roger reported as follows:

- A joint Environment Group/Rivercare/PE4 Womble took place down at the Paston Parkway Underpass and 20 bags of rubbish was taken away. Some reported fly tipping has now been removed. Some wild flower seeds have been sprinkled down there.
- It is disappointing that Anglian Water compound looks such an eyesore. Sally said that Nathan had previously approached engineers and she had also contacted Anglian Water asking about repainting the pumping station which Nathan has offered to do for free. Sally however ended up with an email from a land agent sending her land ownership maps giving conflicting messages about the ownership of underpass so she didn't progress any more for fear of jeopardising the mural project.
- The boom has been cleared and there was a lot of material. There is a need for more volunteers with wheel barrows to help move the material
- He now has a lot of equipment which he would like to find space for. Sally said that the fees for the local storage firms has been explored but it is expensive.
- After the success of the art workshop, he was wondering if Rivercare could do something similar. Sally said that Nathan is keen to do further workshops but the materials are expensive so the cost of doing it would exceed any charge made so sponsorship would be needed.
- Some more birdboxes will be going up in the Loxley area.
- Spotlight had said that there was no room for the Environment Group's article in this issue as it was full with Jubilee Events. This is annoying given the way that it was done and the amount of time given to the articles. It is questionable how much notice is actually taken of Spotlight and if there are better ways of the group's promotion. Sally said it does reach those people who are not on facebook and gives the opportunity for small businesses to advertise. She certainly gets contacts from articles.
- Werrington Environment Group Zoom meeting Tuesday 1st March 7.00pm

7. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (Cont)

Sandra Bond said that she had nothing to report to the meeting.

8. ANY OTHER MATTERS (Cont)

- i) Howard asked if anything was known about the former Doctor's surgery on the Cock Inn corner as work had stopped on it. Sally said that the Neighbourhood Council had sent comments for the planning application but knew nothing otherwise about the development. Roger added that the work on his neighbour's property had stopped due to building supply issues.
- ii) **PARISH COUNCIL LIASON GROUP MEETING:** Vince reported on the last meeting as follows:
The terms of reference of the group have now been revised and with the Neighbourhood Council's position being less clear, it will need clarifying going forward. The City Council are now only able to give limited support to the group so the option of using the Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough to maintain and administer the group had been considered in detail. This Good Neighbours was led by Neil Boyce and now has Cate Harding supporting who had previously been the responsible City Council officer. A vote was taken to agree the Good Neighbours giving the support for 12 months and Vince's vote made the difference in favour. Vince was worried that his voting is now being questioned but Sally suggested that if it was equal votes the Chair's casting vote had brought about the same conclusion. So it remains to be seen how the Group moves forward with this. The lack of face to face meeting clearly is a concern as it excludes many people. There was a suggestion of an event happening in April/May.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 11th April 2022, TUESDAY 17th May 2022

APPENDIX A: REPORT FROM NORTH WERRINGTON RAILWAY GROUP

1. Since the opening of the new railway line and tunnel on December 2021, Network Rail Contractors have completed all the necessary earthworks, fencing and access tracks and pedestrian access steps and handrailing.
2. Clearance of the two temporary site maintenance office, and storage areas adjacent to Lincoln Road and all temporary buildings is current reaching its conclusion.
3. The new railway line is now fully completed with all security fencing and access gates in place.
4. A noise/vibration review will follow the new works opening to full use with a comparison to the old railway traffic noise prior to the start of this contract. It is expected that this will result in the necessary requirement for a full noise abatement fence to be installed to cover the railway boundary alongside Foxcovert Road to the rear of the following privately owned housing estates of Gasgoigne, The Paddocks, Kingsbridge Court, Sunnymead, Redbridge, Tarrant and Livermore Green (471 houses).
5. A final review of replacing the trees and shrubs to the rear of Gasgoigne to Sunnymead, and Redbridge to Livermore Green, which were removed by Peterborough City Council two years ago to protect adjacent properties foundations with more suitable sized trees to absorb the CO2 and noxious gases from this increased rail noise and vibration due to the increased gradients of the new rail to and from the new rail tunnel.