

## MINUTES OF WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**PRESENT:** Charles Coxon, Pauline Fury, Martin Greaves, Ivan Hammond, Vince Moon, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald

**WARD COUNCILLORS:** Cllr Sandra Bond, Cllr Judy Fox, Cllr John Fox

**VISITORS** One member of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Tony Forster, Cllr Steve Lane, Roger Proudfoot, Cllr Bryan Tyler,

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:** Vince Moon thanked everyone for attending. He especially welcomed Sally from the Co Op who is the Community Pioneer Member.
2. **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING:**  
**Neighbourhood Plan**
  - a) The Consultant's suggested adjustments have been made. Some amendments have been made to the named areas such as the Biodiversity Areas. The revised documents are on the website and this has been publicised via Facebook and mailing list.
  - b) Resident's feedback include more questioning of the designation of Brookside Sports Ground and the overgrown area. These can't be designated as Green Space as they just don't fit the criteria but the Sports Ground has already been given its own policy and the overgrown area being noted as a Biodiversity area could be a way forward. These will be discussed with City Council along with the other open space assessment.
  - c) The Planning Team's new Neighbourhood Plan lead has started but contact has not been established. The inability to get a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and a health check (especially on the Open Space Assessment) has stalled any progress along the consultation route for six months.
  - d) This is also complicated correspondence being undertaken by the Parish Council Liaison Committee with the City Council (via Adrian Chapman) who says that PCC will not undertake any Neighbourhood Plan work whilst the Local Plan is being worked on, this being in line with national policy. This stance however does not stack up with guidance issued by Local Government Association about working on neighbourhood plans alongside emerging Local Plans. It is concerning that only Werrington has responded to PCLC when Newborough and Bretton are both starting with others awaiting their 5 year review. Werrington only needs statutory support. The government strongly encourages urban neighbourhood plans and, whilst it is 'very likely' that funding will be available this year it is not clear what the funding future will be if any. There is 5 days consultancy left if the full funding is offered again.
  - e) If worse happens, all the documents are well-written and complete and can be left for the next phase of Neighbourhood Plan work whenever that will be.

### 3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Minutes of the meeting of 21 February 2023:** Approved with no matters arising  
**Annual General Meeting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

It was suggested that the format could be

- Peterborough Homeless Helper Presentation
- Award Presentations
- Reports
- Award Presentations
- Environment Report
- Roger's Climate Change Champions Presentation

Sally hasn't got confirmation of speakers yet but she will follow up.

It was agreed that refreshments would just be a drink and a savoury/cake on the way in and Pauline will arrange.

**Membership.** There are five vacancies and this includes the ends of term of office for Vince Moon, Charles Coxon and Roger Proudfoot. Pauline Fury indicated that she would consider returning as a member.

**Awards:** There was a discussion about the 4 nominations for Youth, Environment and Community. The Werrington Award was agreed. It was noted that the Environment was again dominated by litter picking but there is a lack of other nominations. Some other potential nominations were explored. Nominations involving businesses are always difficult given that people are paid to do a job. Whilst the closing date is past there is still the opportunity for more to be added.

#### 4. HONORARY TREASURER

Geoff reported that he had completed his books, including the annual statement for year-ending 31st December 2022, ready to see our Independent Examiner (Richard Collingridge) with on the following Wednesday afternoon when he was due to meet him. He had hoped to circulate a draft copy to members at the meeting for their information in advance of the AGM but he had run out of inks for his printer. He therefore provided a verbal summary of the key points saying that at year-end we had £4,835.17 in our current account and a sum of £3,241.03 of this balance was ring-fenced for various projects and the Werrington Neighbourhood Watch Cluster Group funds ( £851.63 ). A small amount of petty cash was also held by him. There had been little in the way of transactions since then with a small sum of £4.60 being received from JustGiving and two payments made on behalf of the Cluster Group totalling £55. The latest credit balance in our account now totalled £4,839.77 of which £796.63 was the Cluster Group's funds. He continued by advising members that at the recent Cluster Group AGM it had been decided that they would be setting up their own bank account soon so this ring-fenced sum will be removed from our account. It is hoped that a new Treasurer (Richard Coles) will be taking over their Treasurer's role from Geoff but it currently didn't appear likely that he will be doing likewise with the WNC post.

Sally asked about the Waitrose money as she would like to see this allocated to a project. She asked John Fox about the benches he is proposing to install including the new one being discussed for Werrington Recreation Ground. John said that CLF funding covered the benches and bins being proposed. Sally suggested a 'talking bench' would compliment the Mindfulness in the Meadow project and could be a future Co Op funding application.

#### 5. ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT

In the absence of Roger, Sally reported that the meadow information sign was about to be installed subject to arranging of dates.

#### 6. PLANNING REPORT

##### **Planning Applications:**

- **1281 Lincoln Road** (a new house off Rivendale) was turned down being out of character with parking issues
- **1303 Lincoln Road** (opposite to Cock Inn) Objection sent copying the previous application sent by Alan Smith for overlooking/loss of amenity and lack of parking. No decision yet but revised plans have been submitted and Highways are still objecting.
- **Mason mowers site:** Objections sent for the density and access road. Despite the residents' comments only ten objections were submitted and no supportive comments. Councillors had no approaches from residents despite the comments made to WNC.
- **Werrington Centre:** There have been no further discussions between the parties nor any information about any potential planning application. The Ploughman's difficulties with the owner have been in the press and social media. This pub is a real community hub with core support from customers, community meetings, Werrington joggers plus all the fundraising supported. If it was to close then it would be a huge community loss.

#### 7. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Parish Council Liaison Committee:** The Planning Dept issues have been reported. The climate change conference took place on line with Vince and Sally attending. There were only 15 or so other Parish Council members in attendance with of course no networking

opportunity with no encouragement to introduce over the chat function. Whilst the presentations were interesting it was very intense with no break in over three hours. The presentations are expected to be put online at some time and will be circulated.

**Scarecrow Trail:** Theme is music and suggestions are needed for something appropriate.

## 8. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

**Sandra Bond:** Many pot holes have been reported and action is being taken. She has spent CLF at the Allotment Garden, Werrington Primary School, cricket club and Gunthorpe Play House. She added that she values WNC's work and would like to set something up similar in Gunthorpe.

**Judy Fox:** Work undertaken on painting utility boxes and cleaning signs.

**John Fox:** Travellers are on Werrington Recreation Ground with entry via sheered off bollards. Police need to enforce the new legislation. Paul Bristow is involved. Clearly there will be a clear up operation afterwards. Any anti-social behaviour needs to be reported. The powers lie with the police and not with Councillors.

CLF money spent on coronation and covid death bench, 5 new bins, children's florescent jackets and litter pickers.

Skate park bin been replaced.

## 9 ANY OTHER MATTERS:

Sally has received a poster to encourage people to volunteer for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

## 10 DATES OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 6th June (AGM), Monday 17th July