

## MINUTES OF WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Charles Coxon, Pauline Fury, Martin Greaves, Ivan Hammond, Vince Moon, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald
<b><u>WARD COUNCILLORS:</u></b>	Cllr Judy Fox, Cllr John Fox
<b><u>VISITORS:</u></b>	Four members of the public
<b><u>APOLOGIES:</u></b>	Cllr Sandra Bond, Tony Forster, Cllr Steve Lane, Roger Proudfoot, Cllr Bryan Tyler

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:** Vince Moon thanked everyone for attending.
- 2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING:** No questions were raised.
- 3. WERRINGTON AREA FORUM:**
  - Following correspondence and a meeting with City Council Officers, amendments have been made but there remains four outstanding policies to sort: Sustainability, Green energy, car/cycle parking, trees. This feels difficult given the Consultant did extensive work on these.
  - There is currently no government money available which means that all the rewrites will have to be done by the Forum and will be hard for the publicity going forward.
  - Next steps: Plan Approval, Community/interest groups consultation, City Council Consultation, Independent Examination, Referendum.
  - Whilst it is PCC's preferred way forward, referendum need not take place alongside local elections. The timing feels tight anyway and there are concerns that publicity will not reach all electors resulting in potentially damaging 'knee-jerk' voting.
  - Following circulation of the submission of the redesignation of the Neighbourhood Plan's area, this was approved by Forum members.
  - Clarification was requested about what the Plan consists of and this was explained further with reference to the evidence files and policies including highlighting the 6 designated local green spaces. In response to John Fox stating that Ken Stimpson Fields was not a public space, Sally advised that PCC had accepted the designated area being the public space covered by the covenant on the Education Authority's map. She had requested confirmation from the Education Team that this still remains the same given the legal challenge; the Planning Team was having a similar conversation with Michael Britton Open Space Officer.
  - The importance of the new parking policy can be seen with the approval of the new 3 bed roomed house in Lewes Gardens with only two parking spaces (instead of a garden) with Highways saying that the road was suitable for parking despite it being so well used by school cyclists.
  - Sally was thanked by John and Judy Fox for her work on this ...and also for sharing her work with Newborough Parish Council as they begin their Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **4. WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL POST AGM MEETING APPOINTMENTS**

The following Officers, Committee Members and Representatives have been elected to serve for the ensuing year 2023/24

##### **OFFICERS**

*Chair - Vince Moon*

*Vice-Chair - Vacant*

*Secretary - Vacant*

*Honorary Treasurer - Geoff Smith*

*Press & P R Officer – Sally Weald*

**REPRESENTATIVES**

PCC Parish Liaison Meetings - Vince Moon, Martin Greaves

Werrington Community Association – Pauline Fury

Community Policing & Neighbourhood Watch Liaison – Pauline Fury, Geoff Smith, Ivan Hammond

Other Committee/Meetings - any approved/selected WNC Elected or Co-opted Member.

**COMMITTEES**

PLANNING - Vince Moon, Sally Weald, Martin Greaves, Charles Coxon, Tony Forster

ENVIRONMENT - Roger Proudfoot, Charles Coxon and Ivan Hammond

**CO-OPTION:** None

It is clear that there will be some difficulty with the vacant Secretary role and Geoff's desire to step away from the treasurer's role. There is a piece in Spotlight encouraging people to come forward including the option of a minute secretary. Sally had also suggested that Vince writes a letter to residents via Spotlight.

**5. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**5.1 Minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023:** Approved with no matters arising

**5.2 General Report**

- AGM went well but despite the handouts and displays there was little engagement
- Planning: Decision is awaited for Mason Mowers site although clearly there have been adjustments behind the scenes as Highways now seem to be in agreement with the application. Still not intending to call the decision in.  
No decision yet on the Davids Lane mast – it is concerning that only two people objected.
- The following future meeting dates will be clarified as the Neighbourhood Plan evolves and Roger's presentation date also needs confirming (see below)  
Probable September Meeting, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, Tues 20<sup>st</sup> Feb, Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June (AGM), Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July (Post AGM and general business)
- As indicated previously a Mental Health funding bid has been submitted to Co Op. Outcome known in October, 1<sup>st</sup> instalment in April, 2<sup>nd</sup> in October, expected to be £1,000. Waitrose has also asked for a mental health application for £500.

**6. HONORARY TREASURER**

Geoff reported the following :

- There is currently a total credit balance of £4,649.77 showing in our current account ;
- Payments made since our last meeting and included in this balance are the various AGM costs and the £5 annual membership fee paid the Werrington Community Association at its AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> July at which he and Pauline Fury attended on our behalf ( Pauline was re-elected as our official representative ) ;
- Included in this sum is income of £60 donated by Councillors John & Judy Fox for the Good Citizenship Youth Award for which we are once again most grateful
- Cheques issued but not as yet presented/cleared consist of 2 No. totalling £55 paid on behalf of the Werrington Neighbourhood Watch Cluster Group, plus the annual insurance premium to Zurich in the sum of £297.92, and £201.48 paid out on environmental project items ;
- There is a small deficit of £8.95 of cash-in-hand ;
- When taking all of the foregoing into consideration this leaves an updated credit balance of £4,086.42 ;
- The good news is that the WCA have confirmed that they have once again granted us the £297.92 insurance premium cost which is of tremendous help to us ;
- Members were however advised that once ring-fenced sums had been taken into consideration then our working capital was getting less and less and that we may have to consider cutbacks on AGM expenditure next year – particular on the awards we make ;
- In addition to his financial report Geoff reported that going forward the Princes Trust were no longer to be delivered by the City Council and their projects were finishing at The Barn. He read out his communication with Denham Hughes ( PCC's Targeted Services Team

Manager ) earlier in the day in which he had received assurances that we will continue to have access and use of the facility ;

- He finished his report by referring to the information received concerning the sad loss of our former Chair, Lawrence Wright ( 1989-91 ), and his long-time association with him. Details of his family's Celebration of Life Service will be circulated when known.

## 7. ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT

- Roger has presented the following report:

*We put together a popular carnival stall and drew in lots of children to view the moths and invertebrates from the Brook. A good day was had by all. The free seeds went down well with residents with 90 packets being distributed and lots of promises of pictures of future results. Michael Wicks had written to me about his efforts with free seeds from last year and he has done a great job establishing his wildflower patch in his garden. At 88 he is house bound and gets much enjoyment out of watching the wildlife visit his garden and wildflowers especially the bees and butterflies*

*The promised climate change talk is still to be scheduled sometime in October. If you would like to hold a forum Meeting at the same time then That's fine. I was thinking Werrington centre and will be making it a free EventBrite event so I know how many will come (I won't run it if not enough).*

*The next event is Friday 6th October and we will be looking into the fruit trees (PECT are coming to help and Environment Agency are having it as a volunteer day too). The fruit trees might have to be planted in Jan/Feb and I was going to buy 10 (£17.50 each I think) - the fruit tree seller wasn't taking orders yet but expects to be July/Aug. There will be another £100 for collecting risings.*

- In response a question, the reasons for the private collection of the risings was clarified.
  - Charles added that work at the boom was ongoing but needed more people. Sally said that she could help promote it more widely.
- John asked if any shoals of fish were about as he is concerned that the contamination has affected them. Charles advised a few fish are about with several newts. It was also noted that the relinment and slowing of the Brook might also have affected this.

## 8. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

### Judy Fox:

- Stagecoach has been asked to remove the unnecessary bus timetables from lamp-posts.
- Sally added that the Conservation Management Plan precludes unnecessary street furniture.

### John Fox:

- He and other residents have been cutting back the over grown grass edges back to the original brick around Cuckoos Hollow using an especially acquired tool. Another resident has been working at the fields adjacent to Ken Stimpson. The overgrown state is due to the PCC grass cutting contract not specifying that edges are to be included. The view was raised that in some areas a less formal edge is more in keeping with the natural surroundings, but John stated that too many cost cutting measures are being made in the name of biodiversity.
- CLF money at £3,000 per Councillor has brought two benches (including a Covid one) and 5 bins. There was a debate about where benches could be placed and the problems attached to them being in close proximity to other houses. It was asked that consideration to be given the newer parts of Werrington.
- Councillors will be meeting Highways to discuss using CLF to support the signage of a 20 mph area across Amberley Slope/Church Street. It was queried what notification/consultation would be needed on that especially given the lack of PCC support previously. It was noted that Parish Councils can progress such signage through precept and Vince added that Parish Liaison has been told that Highway's focus is on accident hot spots.
- John is attending Cambridgeshire Travel Strategy meetings so there was a discussion about the Thorney/Newborough/Maxey bus routes, the lack of a speedy bus route to town, the problems of the one way bus route and the need to retain the Werrington Centre bus circle to facilitate some of these routes.

## **9. POLICY REVIEW AND REAPPROVAL**

The following policies were approved for one year:

Equality Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Sustainability and Environment Policy.  
Safeguarding Policy, Risk Assessment

## **10. ANY OTHER MATTERS:**

- Sally said that The Green was lacking in crocus bulbs and patchy daffodils and needs work given the Neighbourhood Council crocus plaque there. £40 was agreed to buy bulbs
- Sally said that the Neighbourhood Plan money had supported the development and hosting of the WNC website for the last five years amounting to £350. The Consultation needs printed copies and the need to encourage someone to do the design. Given that the Plan money has supported WNC expenses, £200 was agreed to support this.

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** To be advised