

MINUTES OF WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 13th February 2024

Present:	Belinda Coaten, Pauline Fury, Tony Forster, Martin Greaves, Ivan Hammond, Vince Moon, Roger Proudfoot, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald
Ward Councillors:	CLlr Sandra Bond, CLlr John Fox, CLlr Judy Fox
Visitors:	3 members of the general public.
Apologies:	Charles Coxon, CLlr Steve Lane, Jenna Maryniak, CLlr Bryan Tyler

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CHAIR'S COMMENTS

2. WERRINGTON AREA FORUM: EXTRADINARY MEETING

2.1 Progress Of Plan

Draft Plan currently out for 6-week consultation, end date 29th February. Copies are in the agreed locations. All comments have to be recorded in the Evidence Files with a response. The Forum has to consider and respond but doesn't have to change the Plan. The huge team effort to get the plan to this stage was recognised.

2.2 Establishment of New Forum

The existing Forum was established for 5 years, this ended in January. Details of the new Forum was submitted to Peterborough City Council (PCC), permission was given to go ahead with new Forum from November. Twenty-four new members joined, with half being new members. Sally expressed thanks to everyone who has joined the Forum, and especially for taking the time to come to this meeting.

2.3 Appointment of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Steering Group

Given the massive change of membership an officer appointment process took place. Currently - Chair Vince Moon, Secretary Sally Weald, Treasurer Geoff Smith

Steering Group: Above officers, and Tony Forster.

Consensus met that the above will continue in their roles until the AGM in June. In addition, Elliot Hodgson agreed to join the committee. Sally requested that if anyone wanted to be copied into emails to let her know.

2.4 Next Steps

All comments made so far were reviewed and there was agreement that they are reassuring thus far. Roger encouraged everyone to share as much as possible on social media. Sally proposed that if the steering committee felt after receiving any further comments that there were no problems then the plan would be submitted directly to PCC. The proposal was overwhelmingly agreed. Judy recognised the huge effort, work and time that Sally has put into the plan.

Sally also went through the accounts. Given the lack of problems encountered, very little of the consultancy money has been spent. Invoices have been received for the design and printing of the Plan. There will be some printer ink/paper. Therefore money will be returned to the government on 31st March. Hopefully there will be the opportunity to apply for more funding in the Summer.

Next meeting at the AGM Tuesday 4th June

3. WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

3.1 Minutes of previous meeting 11th December 2023 were agreed.

3.2 Honorary Treasurer's Report

The latest credit balance in our current account is £4,183.26. There has been one payment cleared since our last meeting being £18 to our secretary for expenditure made on our behalf. A cheque has been raised and

presented to Sally tonight in the sum of £60 being part of the payment she has made (the other part for the Forum) on promotional pens supplied by the company Twenty8Design. It was noted that a reservation for the stall at this year's Carnival had been done by Sally and the cost would be met from Forum funds as promoting the Neighbourhood Plan would be its prime purpose. He continued by making reference to further income being secured from the Co-op by Sally for environmental initiatives in the sum of £529.62 with more to come, and also £356 from PECT - he congratulated and thanked her for her efforts in securing this vital income. He completed his financial report by saying that his efforts are now being directed towards preparing the accounts for the Independent Examination process. Under his report Geoff referred to his ongoing discussions since before Christmas with Denham Hughes and others regarding the future of The Barn, and our continued use of it, in the light of the City Council's intention to dispose of or 're-purpose' various community buildings of which The Barn has been listed as being one of them. There are encouraging signs that it will continue to be available as a community facility but nothing definite is known at present. Geoff will continue to liaise with Denham (who has as always been very helpful) and he has also been given the contact details for the PCC Officer (Felicity Paddick) responsible for managing this exercise and he hoped to make contact with her soon. He concluded by saying that Cllr John Fox may be able to report on this more under his item.

3.2 Environment Group Report – update from Roger

Actively trying to recruit more volunteers. Werrington meadows has been identified as the best location for a joint PECT and River Care project on meadow making. An event is currently being organised for a Spring tidy up. In addition, Roger intends to run 4 coffee morning sessions from April to October on the subject of wildlife gardening and climate change. Roger called for volunteers to support him in this. A River care litter pick might be an additional event. The school project to develop the pond has not progressed. The bird boxes in Church Street have been used.

Sandra enquired re personal insurance whilst working on some of the projects and ad hoc work, Roger advised that River Care will cover insurance providing it is a group led activity. Any activity needs to conform to safety requirements. Nobody is currently leading the boom group, including the platform.

Sandra agreed to follow up with the Wombles regarding where they leave their litter bags, as this is potentially causing issues. Roger confirmed that a stall has been secured for the carnival.

3.3 Planning

Tente Castors, Papyrus Road: An expansion onto the next plot. No issues

Werrington Centre/Stanieland Court: Objection submitted, statement to be ratified, Tree Officer, Open Space Officer and Drainage have objected. Some strong resident objections too. Everyone in agreement with the statement. John advised there has been no further update.

Werrington Centre Nothing further has been heard especially about the damage adjacent to The Lounge following the inspection from the Building Control.

Canterbury Road Micro Pub: There are clear impacts on the immediate residents regarding potential noise, wider planning objections are hard to find. Three individuals have made approaches over the stance. The location is a parade of businesses with parking so traffic, parking, reasonable disturbance are to be expected, the locations has previously been a café. WNC previously supported Frothblowers with caveats for opening times/noise. So that stance was followed, plus raising concerns re traffic, noise and opening hours. WNC will have a voice on the licensing application, a close eye will be kept on when it goes up. John and Judy declared their neutrality. Sandra is supporting Rippon Close residents as they felt they needed representation. WNC are willing to attend the next planning meeting and will step aside to allow residents to speak.

Fields adjacent to Ken Stimpson Academy: Following the Dept for Education response regarding the ownership of the fields, the decision is that all the school fields must be fenced to achieve minimum space per pupil and for overall safeguarding. Paul Bristow now involved but he seems to be encouraging the perception that ALL the fields are being fenced which is not the case. He wants the City Council to reconsider but Council says decision sits with DfE. Also, he's pushing for a community use agreement ...one was negotiated at the time of the previous Planning Application.

Paul is also placing onus on John Fox to challenge the Council's decision, but John emphasised that despite being a Cabinet Advisor he has no influence whatsoever. WNC are attending a meeting with Paul's team this week with Save Werrington Fields.

Tony said that the DfE decision about the fields also reflected the status of fields. He provided an update on his work with Save Werrington Fields which included a concern that the City Council cannot provide a reassurance that the fields will not be built on in the future. John said that he was not aware of this.

At this point objections were raised that this was becoming a discussion of the whole fencing issue. The chair concurred and it was agreed to move on to the next agenda item.

3.4 Other items for discussion

Annual General Meeting: after discussion, no specific conclusions were reached regarding the content, timing, speakers, awards or format. It was highlighted that PECT might be a potential speaker, and the general consensus appeared to be to keep the main awards process.

Parish Council Liaison Committee including Local Plan Update

Only 2 attendees online, previous meeting at the town hall every parish council represented. The meeting covered the increased housing requirements plus the sites being nominated under the new Local Plan. Anticipated that all sites identified will not be needed.

Werrington Tree Work: A lot of tree work being done with some significant tree planting at Hodgson Avenue and Cuckoos Hollow. Concern that some leylandii had been planted along the cycle path but PCC then informed that they were expensive redwoods.

Cuckoos Hollow Bridges: Three bridges now closed. It has been known about the unsafe weir bridge for at least three years. Sally met an officer about the unclear signposting post closure. Bryan Tyler has been very active on social media and has given a statement. The initial advice was that the replacement bridges needed to be "LTM 120" which is a government guidance that any bridge over a road or water it has to be 4m wide. Subsequently it has been agreed that this will be totally out of place, however, a smaller bridge will cost more. The Ward councillors are actively involved in the design of the new bridges with WNC input to see what can be done for replacements to be in keeping with the landscape, be cost effective and be an effective design. Sandra requested trust in the local councillors and their work on this.

Funding:

Successful PECT application of £356 for seeds and rising clearance

The way that Co Op is running the community funding has changed. Now distribution of a large pot of money proportionally rather than based on buying of Co-op products so still need supporters. £529 secured for this month with the balance in November.

Werrington benches: £1000 from Waitrose, £529 from Co-op plus the balance of Co-op should pay for most of the Happy to Chat bench hopefully in the space along the Werrington Rec footpath. The retrieval of the Canterbury Road bench and put in the same vicinity would be a bonus. But City Council still not come back about a meeting.

Civic Awards: Two awards being made from WNC nominations: PE4 Wombles and Andy Petrie (Cloddhoppers Father Christmas Sleigh, lights and carol singing).

4.0 Ward Councillors Reports

Sandra outlined the current issues with flooding around Baron Court to Fulbridge Road and Bala Close.

John reported on the issues with railings missing, Highways have been involved and are aware that a permanent structure is needed.

Roger/Sandra to query the drainage of the boom area.

Judy – a new bench to remember everyone who was lost to Covid has been installed by the Post Office in the village, she is hopefully of another one to the north side of Werrington. The Davids Lane chevron has finally been replaced. Feedback was sought on any potential areas that might benefit from lack of mowing in the summer to encourage biodiversity areas. Roger to suggest some locations to Judy.

John - PE4 Wombles have £2.5K worth of equipment to encourage more to volunteer. A 20 mile an hour restriction in speed in Church Street is progressing, including Amberley Slope. A request was made to extend the area beyond Church Street and into Lincoln Road, especially the area by the fish and chip shop.

Feedback was sought on whether to utilise the community leadership fund to secure the existing lollipop person in Church Street. This idea was accepted. The Barn has been on the Asset transfer list for a long while. The list has now become public, but it is hoped there will be a successful outcome for its future will be achieved.

4.8 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Mon 22nd April, Tuesday 4th June (AGM), Monday 15th July (Post AGM and general business)