# Werrington neighbourhood council

PROVIDING OVER 50 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF WERRINGTON



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

## **TUESDAY 4TH JUNE**

## **MEETING PAPERS**

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## WERRINGTON neighbourhood council

**OVER 50 YEARS SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF WERRINGTON** 

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024 - 7.15pm for 7.30pm

## **AGENDA**

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME : VINCE MOON ( including Apologies for Absence )
- 2. PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION: ASSET TRANSFER PROCESS
- 3. PETERBOROUGH ENVIRONMENT CITY TRUST CELEBRATING 30 YEARS : TONY COOK
- 4. WERRINGTON ENVIRONMENT GROUP PRESENTATION : ROGER PROUDFOOT
- 5. OFFICER ANNUAL REPORTS (Written reports in the Meeting Pack)
  - 5.1 CHAIR VINCE MOON
  - 5.2 RECEIVING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023
  - 5.3 PLANNING REPORT TONY FORSTER & SALLY WEALD
  - 5.4 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT- GEOFF SMITH (including the appointment of the Independent Examiner)
- 6. ELECTION OF WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD MEMBERS
  - There are ten elected positions on our Council. There are FIVE vacancies needing to be appointed to at this meeting.
  - All of the existing members who are due to seek re-election have been nominated.
  - Any other nominations must have been submitted on the official form and in the possession of the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2024.
  - An election will take place with Werrington residents attending the meeting able to vote
    Up to 6 co-opted members are appointed annually at Council Meetings.

  - Our six Ward Councillors are automatically installed as ex-officio members of the Council
- 7. WERRINGTON AREA FORUM
  - 7.1 ANNUAL REPORT Including Financial Statement
  - 7.2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY, TREASURER and STEERING GROUP
- 8. ANNUAL AWARDS
  - **GOOD CITIZENSHIP YOUTH AWARD**
  - **COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARDS (2)**
  - COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD •
  - **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**
  - THE WERRINGTON AWARD
- 9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS ( and not covered by earlier agenda items )

Matters to be considered under this item must be received by the Secretary by no later than 15 minutes before the start of the meeting and may be included only at the discretion of the Chairman.

#### AGENDA ITEM 5.1

## **CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

The last 12 months has been a busy period for Werrington Neighbourhood Council (WNC) and we have continued to provide residents with many of the services that a Parish Council would provide, but at no cost to them. This is only possible because a small band of public spirited individuals volunteer their services and expertise free of charge, but some of us are aging while few new recruits are stepping forward to share the load. There has to be a real concern that we are rapidly reaching a point where this may no longer be possible. Some may well feel that this does not matter and Werrington does not need such a body. I hope that my report will give a flavour of the services that WNC has been involved with providing and the disappearance of such an organisation would be a real lost to the community.

WNC continues to be an official planning consultee to Peterborough City Council (PCC). To this end Tony Forster has been our planning lead, ably assisted by Sally Weald on a number of occasions, as well as the rest of our planning committee. All



planning applications in the Werrington area are scrutinized and suitable responses submitted where necessary. Using the data gathered from community surveys along with keeping informed from various media outlets together with a membership that has representatives from across Werrington we try to give an effective voice to views in our locality. This has been particularly challenging recently as a couple of major issues has produced a split of views in the community. We have tried to be as even-handed as possible in these cases reflecting the views of both sides in our submissions. We don't have the resources to hold consultations on every issue nor are we allowed to act as a campaigning body with regard to any proposal. We're volunteers doing our best for the community but on planning matters it is not always possible to please all the people all the time.

The involvement of our members with the Werrington Neighbourhood Forum has continued and this body is near to completing the Neighbourhood Plan for Werrington. The Plan is based on the responses we received from the community in consultations and will provide additional protection for the features people identified as being important characteristics of our area when any new developments are considered. It is likely to be put to a public referendum sometime in the next 12 months. I would strongly urge all residents to vote for this document. It is the culmination of several year's hard work and special thanks should be given to Sally Weald who has been the driving force behind this project.

As we are not funded by local or national government we have to raise any money we need for projects ourselves. Thanks to Sally, we have been successful on obtaining a number of grants to this end and examples of the work this has enabled can be seen in our Environment Group Report. Our special thanks are due to Waitrose, the Co-operative Group and Central Co-operative for their support for these activities. The Environment Group is led by Roger Proudfoot whose considerable knowledge and professional expertise we are very lucky to benefit from in a number of projects this group is working on.

Although not a Parish Council we are represented on the Peterborough Parish Council Liaison Committee. This enables us to know what Parish Councils are doing around Peterborough as well as being briefed by important local officials about developments and the provision of services in the area. Recently, for example, 3 WNC members attended a meeting at the Town Hall explaining the process for producing a new PCC Local Plan.

We have continued to take part in Community events and have had stands at the Werrington Scout and Guide Festival in the Werrington Primary School field and also at the switching-on the Christmas tree lights ceremony on the village green. Our meetings are open to the public and there is an opportunity for input from the public. They are advertised in Spotlight and on social media websites. These have been held on Mondays or Tuesdays at The Barn in the Hodgson Centre and some have included outside speakers. For example, Councillor Andy Coles gave us a talk about the City Council budget. We hope to continue meeting at The Barn but are awaiting to hear how the PCC asset disposal programme affects this property.

A special welcome to Belinda Coaten who has provided some much appreciated secretarial assistance to us recently. At the moment the roles of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chair all need filling and it is difficult to see how we can continue in the future without filling these vital posts. Anyone over 18 and resident in Werrington is welcome to attend our lively and informative meetings.

So my thanks to all the current Neighbourhood Councillors for their attendance and support at the meetings and activities of the Council and its associated bodies. Also our appreciation of the assistance and regular attendance of the City Councillors, John and Judy Fox and Sandra Bond. Also thanks for the input and support from the departing City Councillors; Steve Lane and Bryan Tyler. We welcome and look forward to working with our new councillors; Sarah Hillier and Ann Shaheed in the future.

#### WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT WERRINGTON PARISH VILLAGE CENTRE ON TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023

#### PRESENT:

Cllr Sandra Bond, Pauline Fury, Tony Forster, Ivan Hammond, Cllr Steve Lane, Vince Moon, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald and residents of Werrington.

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Charles Coxon, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Judy Fox, Martin Greaves, Roger Sale, Jane Squirell, Cllr Bryan Tyler

GUESTS:

Award Winners with their family and friends

#### 1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:

Vince Moon welcomed everyone. The apologies were accepted as above. Vince reflected on the general theme for the evening. Whilst Werrington is a good place to live with great community spirit, the awards will show our resident's volunteer work reaches out even further.

#### 2. PETERBOROUGH HOMELESS HELPER'S PRESENTATION

Fiona Winchester made a presentation about the Homeless Helper's whose mission is that no one should be on the streets. Often a trauma in the past is a trigger for homelessness, rather than a choice. The group tries to create a caring relationship acting as a bridge between the homeless and the authorities. They provide proper hot food, provide hugs, gives support to access appointments, supports access to A & E, provision of basic phones. There are lots of reasons for being homeless but often it is not a choice and trauma is often a root cause. The team will always be when and where they say they will be, with food, clothing, support and also a pack-up for the next meal. Often homeless people don't have access to water so water distribution is key. She went through the history of the group's origins pre-Covid. They were often able to provide support during Covid when more formal arrangements couldn't. The increase over the years however is dramatic. Social media is at the centre of connecting needs of the group. She went through the ways that people are able to donate from individuals donating cakes and ingredients to a church donating cake and various supportive businesses. She highlighted the Blue Bell in particular as being a longstanding supporter providing hot meals once a month. It is emphasised that the recipients are receiving a special chef prepared meal. To find out more about the work, how to support and make donations then join the Facebook page for regular updates. Fiona was thanked for her informative presentation. Donations had been made by attendees of the meeting.

#### 3. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AWARDS PART 1

#### COMMUNITY APPRECIATION AWARD : John Lawrence

John provides 60 hot meals to the homeless of Peterborough every month. These are cooked and dished up by Sabs, his chef, into 60 individual takeaway containers (which he provides). Initially starting back in November 2020 when he first started supporting, it was virtually half that number of meals. Then it crept up to 40.... and now 60! Peterborough Homeless Helpers can rely on the Blue Bell every month and are so grateful. So having wonderful hot meals regularly provided free is a massive help. With only a short break the Blue Bell is one of the longest standing supporters. They are about to start a targeted appeal process with Blue Bell. So many of the service users need clean, stain free clothes to change into, having the support of the Blue Bell clientele in providing these will be a brilliant help. This will be another example of John supporting the Peterborough community.

#### GOOD CITIZENSHIP YOUTH AWARD: William Law Primary School Earthquake Fundraising Team

As a Church school, William Law encourages children to be courageous advocates for change. In light of the turkey/Syrian Earthquake, two pupils in year 3 wanted to do fundraising for the cause. This was totally off their own initiative and as a result nearly £800 for the appeal was raised These two pupils are an example to us all of how to be selfless and think of others before ourselves. Their Headteacher of the school was very proud of their selflessness and how they will hopefully continue this into their future years in education but also into adulthood.

#### 4. OFFICER ANNUAL REPORTS

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Vince Moon said that residents often weren't aware that the Neighbourhood Council exists nor what it does. He highlighted: the work of Roger and the Environment Group on improving Werrington, Geoff as treasurer, even though he had 'retired', Tony who is continuing the long tradition of due diligence in the Neighbourhood Council's role as Planning Consultee and Sally as a moving force especially in funding areas. He thanked the Prince's Trust for the use of The Barn, Spotlight for the local publicity, the local Ward Councillors for all their support and finally all Neighbourhood Council colleagues for their supportive roles. It is good to get back to face to face meetings.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sally Weald advised that the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 had been circulated and accepted as a true record. She drew attention to the Secretary's Report previously circulated and seen in Appendix 1. She highlighted the fact that it is exactly 12 months since the painting of the Davids Lane underpass although this has been the most problematic of all the underpasses for damage. She further commented on the Neighbourhood Council's place within the wider community and support of local events. She highlighted the Neighbourhood Council's participation in the popular scarecrow trail and encouraged everyone to come and visit the carnival stall.

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#### 4. OFFICER ANNUAL REPORTS ( continued )

#### PLANNING REPORT

The report had been circulated. Tony added that nothing has happened with Werrington Centre flats and the fence adjacent to Ken Stimpson School. He said that it was increasing of new plots being created out of larger gardens which creates a dilemma. He added that Sally's input was still important as she sees things that aren't immediately obvious.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Geoff read out his report in its entirety highlighting the ring-fenced amounts and the money being held on behalf of the Neighbourhood Watch. He added that his retirement didn't materialise. He extended his special thanks to Sally, Vince, Ward Councillors John and Judy Fox - who have once again generously donated towards the costs of our Good Citizenship Youth Award - and the Werrington Community Association (WCA) for their donations towards our insurance costs and the commemorative plaque on The Green. It was duly agreed that Richard Collingridge be appointed as Independent Examiner.

#### 5. ELECTION OF WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILLORS

There are ten elected positions on Werrington Neighbourhood Council. There are currently six vacancies needing to be appointed to at this meeting which were advertised via social media and Spotlight. The following people were duly elected:

Vince Moon (re-elected until 2025)

Roger Proudfoot (re-elected until 2025)

Charles Coxon (re-elected until 2025)

Pauline Fury ( elected until 2025 )

There remain two vacancies. Up to 6 co-opted members are appointed annually at Council Meetings. The six Ward Councillors are automatically installed as ex-officio members of the Council.

#### 6. WERRINGTON AREA FORUM : See separate minutes

#### 7. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AWARDS PART TWO

#### ENVIRONMENT AWARD: Malcolm Rash

Malcolm is a member of the PE4 wombles group. He is out wombling which is picking rubbish up from the streets every weekend and weekdays if he has time. He can walk up to 7 miles around Werrington keeping as clean as possible. He also reports all the fly tipping, discarded trolleys. He liaises with local Councillors over damaged bins and benches and helps identifying new locations for them. The person who nominated Malcom says 'I believe his commitment to Werrington is just marvellous and the community benefits enormously from his efforts. I really believe he thoroughly deserves an award for his efforts even though he does not ask for anything. A thank you from passing pedestrians is always received with a smile and a thank you back.'

#### COMMUNITY APPRECIATION AWARD: Carol Cook Werrington Joggers

In the Spring a Werrington Jogger had a heart attack at the Sports Centre during the Tuesday night club run. Carol Cook, a long-standing member of Werrington Joggers, gave him CPR for almost 30 minutes until the ambulance personnel arrived with their kit to take over. That evening he had surgery at Papworth and is well on the road to recovery. Without Carol's cool, calm manner and her ability to successfully perform CPR it would have been a very different story.

During the incident she was supported by other coaches, members and sports centre staff and their assistance must also be acknowledged and celebrated !

#### COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARD: Neil McCulloch Insurewise

Neil has been a great supporter of community events in Werrington and continues this year on year. He supports the Scarecrow Trail and Village Show each year and provided a new trophy last year for the junior category of Werrington Show. Neil and his team also financially support Werrington Carnival with sponsorship and provide a safety car at the front of the possession. When they needed Carols on the Green needed help, he was there. Neil also supports local and sports teams including England Deaf Rugby 7's, Peterborough Rugby Union, Nene Valley Racers, "Freekicks Charity Golf Day". Neil doesn't wait for people to ask for help, he offers it. He does so much in Peterborough and nationally but his commitment to Werrington should be recognised .

#### WERRINGTON AWARD : Lise Alexander Smith

Has countless community hats on being actively involved in so many Werrington groups and events over so many years. Let's try to list them ... Fireworks committee/helper / organiser, Carnival committee / helper/ organiser, Spotlight Editor, Spotlight distributor and deliverer, Werrington Community Association Chair and Events Committee, Werrington Local History Group Research Chair and Publicity, Administrates the Werrington Noticeboard Facebook, Scarecrow Trail Committee, Christmas Lights Switch On Committee, Carols on the Green helper, Carol Wagon helper/collector and keeps an eye out for the Werrington Parish Village Centre.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT

Roger said that he had been going to deliver a presentation on Climate Change but he now intends to deliver this as a separate evening and asked that everyone attends.

Roger highlighted the following aspects from his report:

Whilst the Boom in the brook looks unsightly it prevents the debris from flowing into the Lake. This means that plastic does not enter the streams, rivers and ultimately the sea where it affects marine life. The boom group is led by Charles Coxon and the debris is removed, allowed to drain to allow the critters to crawl out and then removed to the woodland.

The litter picking previously undertaken by the Rivercare group is now removed by the PE4 Wombles and they have set the pattern for the rest of Peterborough.

He would like to encourage to put ponds into gardens even just a shallow bowl to encourage frogs etc. He is looking to work further with David Gwyer to produce another video.

The meadow area at Werrington Recreation Ground is looking great at the moment especially with the ox eye daisies. As it is becoming established it is hoped that people no longer see it as unsightly. It supports so much more wildlife than the mown grass alongside. The invasive species such as the creeping thistle need to be removed. There will be a volunteer event at the end of September to remove this. The Council will be paid to remove the grass risings.

The remaining nest boxes will be installed if anyone knows of a good location with thanks to the Co Op Local Community Fund. Come along and see the stall on carnival day. Just drop an email if you want to join the group as a volunteer.

Vince thanked Roger for his presentation and for all the work that he does. Werrington is very lucky !

#### 9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other business and there were no further questions from the floor. Vince closed the meeting at 8.50pm

#### **APPENDIX ONE**

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

2022 has seen activities return more to normal as we recover from the Covid era and are able to hold face to face meetings regularly at the Barn. Werrington Neighbourhood Council has continued to provide residents with many of the services that a Parish Council would provide at no cost to them. Clearly the absence of a Parish Council precept on community charge bills is welcome, especially in these austere times, but it is only possible because a small band of public-spirited individuals volunteer their services and expertise free of charge.

Tony Forster's contribution as Planning Lead has been much appreciated and many local planning applications have been reviewed and responded to as necessary as you can see from his report. Possible future development of the Werrington Centre and the fencing of part of the Werrington Fields area by Ken Stimpson School remain as major issues of local concern that we will continue to monitor closely.

Although not legally a Parish Council we are a member of the Peterborough Parish Council Liaison Committee as representatives of the Werrington community. This body recently held an online summit on Climate Change and the sort of measures that can be implemented locally to address the twin crises of climate change and nature loss. Both Sally Weald and I attended as Werrington representatives.

Sally has continued to do an excellent job as Council secretary and there is little doubt that the Council's success in obtaining grants for various local projects has been largely down to her professionalism and administrative expertise. Work on some of the underpasses has been one of the most visible examples of this work. She has also kept residents informed about activities through press and publicity work, but we really need someone to take on the post of press and publicity officer to assist with our efforts.

A new activity for us this year was the Christmas lights switch on where we had a gazebo and gave out sweets and postcards advertising our Council. This was a very successful event with lots of people attending.

Our thanks as well to Roger Proudfoot for his work with Environment group who continue to make a valuable contributions through various projects across our locality. Most recently work has been undertaken clearing the Boom in Cuckoo's Hollow and, with the City Council's assistance, the erection of a nature Board in the wild flower meadow.

Much work has been done with our Involvement with the Neighbourhood Forum and the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Werrington, particularly by Sally and Tony. The work on this so far is detailed in the Forum report, including the next steps that are needed to be taken and we hope to see this undertaking completed in the foreseeable future.

Bill Mercer, our former vice-chair has now moved to Whittlesey and so left the Council. We have also been unable to find someone new to take up the Treasurer's post so we urgently need to fill these positions. I greatly appreciate Geoff Smith for soldiering on as Treasurer, but it is vital for our continued existence that we find someone new to take on this role as soon as possible.

Hopefully this report has given a general indication of the sort of things that we do. We are a friendly bunch on the Council trying to do our bit for the community and we would welcome anyone interested in the Council to come to meetings and maybe join us if they so decide.

So my thanks to all the Neighbourhood Councillors for their attendance and support at the meetings and activities of the Council and its associated bodies. Also our appreciation of the assistance and regular attendance of the City Councillors, John and Judy Fox and Sandra Bond. Also thanks for the input and support from the other Werrington and Gunthorpe Councillors.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

I know that Chair's report, along with the other reports, details many of the activities undertaken by the Neighbourhood Council. It has been a busy year and shows how valuable that the Neighbourhood Council is in the absence of a Parish Council .... accessing funding, planning consultees, tackling community projects.

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#### SECRETARY'S REPORT ( continued )

We are delighted that the painted underpasses still remain appreciated by the community. Davids Lane is the most recent underpass completed in May 2022 which was funded by a Tesco Community Grant and depicts Werrington scenes old and new. Residents once again enjoyed seeing Nathan Murdoch of Street Arts Hire and his team undertaking the work and thanks are extended once again to them.Vince has already extended thanks to officers but I would like to acknowledge Vince's vital input and for undertaking the Chair's role with a competent and steady hand for a further year !

#### PLANNING REPORT

**Overview:** During 2022 Werrington Neighbourhood Council reviewed 47 Planning Applications. Of these applications : eight were tree applications, 25 were extensions or lofts, five were industrial de-velopment, four were outbuildings/garages and five were for internal works. Comments were submitted on FOUR of these applications.

**Werrington Centre:** After many meetings and consultations, the planning application for the flats proposed for Staniland Court (adjacent to Werrington Centre) went to Planning Committee in February 2022. Many residents had submitted comments and Werrington Neighbourhood Council and the Ward Councillors spoke at the meeting about the concerns relating to potential parking problems, the high density three storied building being out of keeping with the area, the impact on Werrington Centre and lack of open space. The application was subsequently refused by the Committee. Since then further meetings with the agents have taken place but no new firm proposals nor planning application has been received. However John Fox has pursued PCC and other interested and responsible parties and encouraged the creation of a Werrington Centre Action Group to monitor and pressurise the Centre owners, and prepare for any future application.

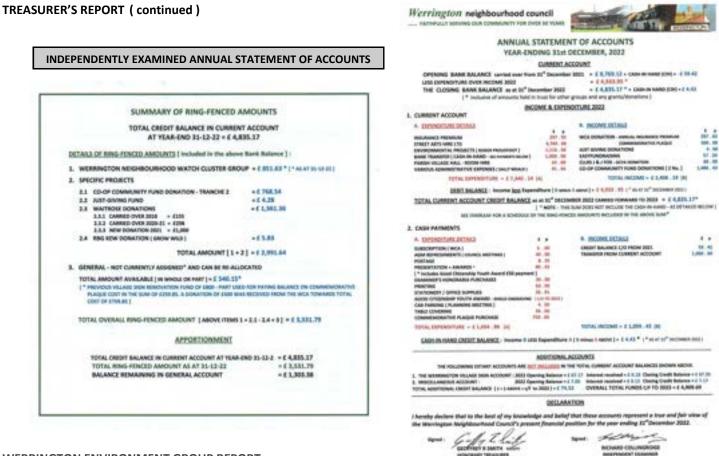
**Other Applications** : Objections were sent in for the new telephone mast down David's Lane, which was refused by the Planning Department. The application for a telephone mast down Goodwin Walk went to appeal and the refusal was upheld by the national inspector

There has been a trickle of applications to build in large back gardens: we have usually objected on the basis of loss of green space and inadequate road access. One has so far been approved (Lincoln Road). A related application discussed in detail was the proposed blocks of flats on the old Lambes lawnmowers site, where the Neighbourhood Council raised concerns about the density of build and problematic road access and provided advice and guidance to local residents who are concerned.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

I hadn't expected to be making this report to you as although my retirement from this position didn't materialise in time for our 2022 AGM it was hoped that a successor would be found in time for this year's. Unfortunately this hasn't happened so I've pressed on despite the " sands of time running out ever quicker " for me !!

As I said in my report last year I'll be more than happy to help with the transition from me to the new Treasurer and from the old arrangements to something more up to date as we really do need to move to online banking in some form but its better done by the new incumbent. Having occupied this role since 2002, and serving in most if not all of the other key WNC positions since first being elected on 13th November 1989, age is now well and truly catching up on me with a very big birthday coming up in five days time (the least said about this the better !). The signed Annual Statement of Accounts is featured overleaf and is based on our books having once again been thoroughly and professionally inspected and approved by Richard Collingridge, our Independent Examiner. As on all previous occasions these accounts cover our finances over the calendar year which in this case ended on 31st December 2022. The current account at that time was showing a credit balance of £4,835.17 with £3,531.79 of this sum being ringfenced. They shouldn't be regarded as our current state of affairs but are nevertheless still representative of our present financial position albeit that over the intervening period several of the ring-fenced amounts shown in the following table have now been expended. The updated figures are now - in round terms - (a) Current Account is about £4,670, plus (b) Cash-in-Hand of £33.15, and the ring-fenced amount is approximately £ 3,476 with two payments having been made on behalf to the Neighbourhood Watch Cluster Group since Christmas. As you will see we do now in fact only have a very small operating fund. I feel that the future occupier of this post should look at seeking a change to our year-end to that of the 31st March as I believe the current arrangement was linked to us having an earlier AGM in the past and also to City Council grants that we no longer receive and haven't done for a number of years. It falls on me to make a proposal for the appointment of the Independent Examiner for the current financial year and I would recommend Richard Collingridge be appointed to this role once again - I have duly approached him and he has confirmed that he is happy to continue in providing this essential service, something he has done for over 24 years. This was agreed by all of those present. In closing I would sincerely thank Sally once again for all her hard work and efforts both with her secretarial and many other official duties, such as planning, and also in continuing to obtain funding for our environmental work. Also thanks to our Chair, Vince Moon, and fellow WNC members for their continued commitment and support. Councillors John and Judy Fox, have once again donated £60 towards the costs of our Good Citizenship Youth Award and we are most grateful to them for continuing to provide this very generous support. The Werrington Community Association (WCA) have again provided us with another generous donation to pay for our annual insurance premium - much appreciated, as was their £500 contribution towards the cost of our commemorative plaque on The Green. We continue to hold and administer the Werrington Neighbourhood Watch Cluster Group's funds and this sum is held in our current account and is duly ring-fenced. However this arrangement is likely to come to an end soon with the Group appointing a new Treasurer at their recent AGM and deciding to have their own account going forward. The Werrington Area Forum is independent of the WNC as are its accounts and I am its current Treasurer. A separate report on their activities is featured under the Secretary's Werrington Forum report that follows.



#### WERRINGTON ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT

Over the past year, WEG has had some incredible wins thanks to the support of the Co-op and Waitrose. Their funding has been instrumental in our efforts to transform Werrington into a wildlife haven, complete with vibrant wildflowers and thriving ecosystems. We've been hard at work, focusing on essential tasks like reducing litter, managing the meadow, and procuring important signs to raise awareness of the meadow's precious wildlife. Working closely with RiverCare, we have made it a priority to clear the boom from litter and debris at Fulbridge Road, led by our dedicated Neighbourhood Councillor, Charles Coxon. By preventing litter from polluting Cuckoo's Hollow, the River Welland, and ultimately the Wash estuary and North Sea, we're not just safeguarding our precious river wildlife, but also our marine wildlife too. Whether it's clearing out unsightly debris or protecting vital waterways from pollution, we're committed to doing our part to preserve this beautiful corner of the world. Fortunately the PE4 Wombles have joined us in this mission and litter rarely gets left for long before a Womble happens by! We're also encouraging Werrington residents to get involved in re-wilding their own gardens and green spaces. By planting wildflowers, you can make a real difference to local biodiversity - and help combat the devastating effects of climate change and pollution. We've already seen amazing results from our work and have encouraged residents with free wildflower seeds, but we know that there's still so much more we can do together. The conservation efforts around Cuckoo's Hollow, Werrington Brook and the Paddocks have unfortunately been stall-ing due to limited funding and community participation. We are constantly on the search for enthusiastic residents who want to lead and support local projects, and we can provide equipment and wildflower seeds. As part of our Mindfulness Meadow Campaign recently, thanks to funding from the Co-op, we were able to procure a wildlife sign for our beautiful Werrington Meadow. We're now just finalising a date for it to be erected by the City Council's contractors. With the assistance of the equipment provided by the Co-op, we tended to the meadow, managing individual plant species, such as creeping thistle and ragwort. This prevents any one of them from overpowering the rest in an attempt to try and keep the meadow ecosystem in balance and maximise its potential for as wide a range of wildlife as possible. Hunting frogs were found to be abundant again in the grassland amongst the rich and varied insect population. We've also been monitoring bird and bat boxes that we have located throughout Werrington, and it's been fantastic to see them being used for nesting during the spring and shelter during the colder months. We're still on the hunt for new locations to place some of the remaining boxes we have left, so please let us know if you have any good suggestions. Plus, we're still looking for the perfect home for our new hedgehog box! Looking into the future, we are are continuing to manage the meadow and encouraging new projects. We've been in talks about revitalising the coppice and pond in Werrington Primary School's grounds. We're always thrilled to hear new ideas from residents, and encourage everyone to volunteer and help out in any way they can. If you managed to see David Attenborough's recent Wild Isles series, you'll know how important volunteering to help out can be and that every little helps. Now more than ever, let's support our incredible local wildlife. It provides residents so much enjoyment and wellbeing which helped us during the pandemic. If you're interested in leading a project or volunteering, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Why not start to spot Werrington Wildlife and help us record species on Naturalist - we have a dedicated group. Join us on this exciting journey towards a brighter, more sustainable future for people and wildlife ..... a Wildlife Friendly Werrington

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## WERRINGTON AREA FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Werrington Area Forum continues to develop a Werrington Neighbourhood Plan. In early 2023 a well-developed Neighbourhood Plan had been written but progress was stalled whilst the City Council appointed a new Neighbourhood Plan Officer. Securing further belated government funding allowed further work with a Neighbourhood Plan consultant to tie up various issues. During Autumn 2023 the City Council approved the draft Plan and various agencies undertook their consultations.

By January 2024 everything had been tied up allowing the formal consultation with residents and other interested parties. A great response generated about 50 comments and further changes to the Plan. Some of these changes have been challenging but it is hopeful that City Council approval will be secured in Summer 2024. This will allow the final formal submission to the City Council, another round of formal consultations, an independent inspection followed by a resident's referendum through late 2024/early

2025. An Area Forum had to be established to develop the Plan as the Neighbourhood Council is not authorised to develop the Plan itself. The Forum was originally established for five years and thus expired in Autumn 2023. Therefore a new Forum had to be established of 25 residents and duly approved by the City Council. Thanks are given to everyone who has become a member. The main work is, however, done by a steering group comprising of Vince Moon, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald and Tony Forster, recently

WERRINGTON AREA FORUM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/2024				
INCOME		EXPENDITURE		
Government Funding	£ 3,220	Consultancy	£ 630	
		Website	£ 50	
		Meeting Expenses	NIL	
		Carnival Stand	£ 30	
		Promotion / Plan Printing	£ 805.71	
		Return Government Funding	£ 1,704.29	
Total	£ 3,220	Total	£ 3,220	

joined by Elliot Hodgson. It is thanks to their sustained work overcoming the many hurdles that Werrington now has a Neighbourhood Plan undertaking its final few stages and poised to become part of Peterborough's Planning Policy.

The current version of Werrington Neighbourhood Plan together with its Evidence Files can be seen on the website <u>www.werrington.org.uk</u>

AGENDA ITEM 5.3

### PLANNING REPORT 2024 TONY FORSTER AND SALLY WEALD

During 2023 Werrington Neighbourhood Council reviewed 54 Planning Applications. Of these applications: 6 were tree applications, 33 were extensions or garages, 2 were industrial development, 6 were visual/internal works, 2 were for phone masts and 4 were for new houses. Comments were submitted on nine of these applications.

**Phone masts** : Following the turning down of the phone mast in Davids Lane a similar application was rejected in Hodgson Avenue. A confusing duplicate application was received for the Coniston Road mast. Despite WNC and Cllr Sandra Bonds attempts to

raise awareness of the initial application there was little resident engagement. Following the mast's installation however, a resident's campaign supported by local Councillors and MP became active. This continues to highlight the need for residents to engage with planning applications,

**Ikea Lockers :** Comments were submitted raising concern about its location and prospect of anti-social behaviour. The application was approved.

Houses at 1440 Lincoln Road : Objections sent about the density, parking and traffic access. Planning officers approved the outline planning application although the site is now up for sale.

**Staniland Way :** After the Planning Committee's rejection of the flat application, a further application was submitted for a care home. Objections were submitted about the parking, loss of open space, enclosing of Werrington Centre, design and the three storey building being out of character. The application was turned down by Planning Officers earlier this year on many counts.

Werrington Centre : The lack of improvement continues to raise concerns especially with the continuing anti social behaviour. A meeting with various interested parties took place with Andy from the Ploughman leading a tour showing the deterioration of the Centre. Engaging with the owners is proving more difficult.

**Fence adjacent to Ken Stimpson Academy :** This continues to be problematic with the issues of the land ownership, the longstanding community access, the loss of community land, the visual impact of the fence, the responsibility for the fence cost, the needs of the Academy verses the community use and the political implications. Despite meetings and communication in early 2024 made with the MP, Council officers, the Academy and Save Werrington Fields there remains no conclusion. WNC continues to support the fencing of an area the size of the original application of 2.5 fields with the lowest fence height possible. WNC does not support the fencing of the whole area to the south of the Academy due to the loss of the community space, lack of reasonable public access and the visual impact.

We already know that 2024 will be just as busy as already our objections have included new houses in Lincoln Road, the disposal of public land adjacent to Ken Stimpson Academy and concerns over a new micro pub.
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#### AGENDA ITEM 5.4

### HONORARY TREASURER'S 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

#### **GEOFF SMITH REPORTS**

The signed **Annual Statement of Accounts** is featured overleaf and is based on our books having once again been thoroughly and professionally inspected and approved by our Independent Examiner -Richard Collingridge. As on all previous occasions these accounts cover our finances over the calendar year ending on 31st December 2023. Incorporated in these examined accounts is the schedule below summarising the various amounts that are ring-fenced for specific projects and work which grants have been obtained for. These are therefore presented to the AGM as an approved true and fair view of the current state of our accounts



#### Our present financial position

Since the closing of last year's accounts, and onwards into the current financial year i.e. from 1st January, further grants have been secured by Sally - another big 'well done' to her for this. One is from the Co-Op Local Community Fund, who have supported us considerably over the last few years, and we have already received the first part of this in the sum of £529.62 with more to come. PECT are the other donors and they have paid us £356. The total income received is therefore £885.62. Payments have been made for promotional items and environmental project materials totalling £117.98 which leaves us with a current total credit balance in our current account of **£4,968.90**. As usual there are payments yet to be made for this year's AGM and last year's accounts ( as featured overleaf ) will provide an indication of what's to come in this respect. We are, as they say, still ' hanging on in there ' but further economies on

expenditure will almost certainly have to be made if we are to continue to exist - and there isn't much left to do this on as little or no expenses are claimed by our members who are all volunteers.

It should be noted that the Werrington Area Forum is independent of the WNC as are its accounts and I am also its current Treasurer - the financial situation of this group is featured in a separate report by Sally and that we no longer administer the Werrington Neighbourhood Watch Cluster Group's funds as they have now organised their own bank account and so are independent of us.

SUMMARY OF RING-FENCED AMOUNTS TOTAL CREDIT BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT AT YEAR-END 31-12-23 = £ 4,201.26 DETAILS OF RING-FENCED AMOUNTS [included in the above Bank Balance]:					
1. SPECIFIC PROJECTS					
1.1 CO-OP COMMUNITY FUND DONATION =	£ 232.57				
1.2 WAITROSE DONATIONS 2022-23 =	= £ 1,204 . 74				
1.3 WAITROSE DONATIONS 2022-23 =	= £1,000.00				
1.4 JUST GIVING FUNDED MURAL REPAIRS =	£ 4.28				
TOTAL AMOUNT [ 1.1 - 1.4 ] = <b>£ 2,441 . 59</b>					
2. GENERAL - NOT CURRENTLY ASSIGNED AND CAN BE RE-ALLOCATED [* SEE BELOW ]					
TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE [ IN WHOLE OR PART ] = $\pm$ 540 . 15					
[* PREVIOUS VILLAGE SIGN RENOVATION FUND OF £800 - PART U	JSED FOR PAYING BALANCE				
ON COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE COST IN THE SUM OF £259.85. A DONATION OF £500 WAS					
RECEIVED FROM THE WERRINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IN 2022 TOEWARDS THE					
TOTAL COST OF £759.85 ]					
TOTAL OVERALL RING-FENCED AMOUNT [ABOVE ITEMS $1+2$ ] = $f_{2,981}$ . 74					
APPORTIONMENT					
TOTAL CREDIT BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT AT YEAR-END 31-12-23 = £ 4,201 . 26					
TOTAL RING-FENCED AMOUNT AS AT 31-12-23	= £ 2,981 . 74				
BALANCE REMAINING IN GENERAL ACCOUNT = £ 1,2					

Finally it falls on me to make a proposal for the appointment of the Independent Examiner for the current financial year and **I would recommend Richard Collingridge be appointed** to this role once again - I have asked him if he is willing to continue in providing this essential service (something he has done for over 25 years) and he has confirmed he is happy to do so.

In closing I would once again sincerely thank and pay tribute to Sally for all her hard work and efforts in both securing a number of vital grants to support our various environmental initiatives and also on the Neighbourhood Plan together with many other official duties such as planning. Also thanks to our Chair, Vince Moon, and fellow WNC members for their continued commitment and support. Councillors John and Judy Fox have continued with their support in meeting the costs incurred of our Good Citizenship Youth Award and we are most grateful to them for this. In addition we are most grateful to the Werrington Community Association (WCA) for their much valued and appreciated support in paying our annual insurance premium.

#### INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOLLOW OVERLEAF

**INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023** 

Werrington neighbourhood council

..... FAITHFULLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS



### ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR-ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 2023

#### CURRENT ACCOUNT

OPENING BANK BALANCE carried over from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 = £ 4,835 . 17\* + CASH-IN HAND (CIH) = £ 4.52 THE CLOSING BANK BALANCE as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 = £ 4,201 . 26\* + CASH-IN HAND (CIH) = £ 2.53 (\* inclusive of amounts held in trust for other groups, residual CLF allocations and other grants/donations)

#### **INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2023**

#### 1. CURRENT ACCOUNT

A. EXPENDITURE DETAILS

#### **B. INCOME DETAILS**

	£ p	
INSURANCE PREMIUM ( ZURICH )	297.92	- 3
TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO N/HOOD WATCH CLUSTER	R GROUP 755 . 74	- 3
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS [ ROGER PROUDFOOT ]	608.46	3
BANK TRANSFERS ( CASH-IN-HAND - SEE TWO PAYMEN	TS BELOW ) 350.00	

E P
297.92
4.60
1,000.00
15.69
60.00

[A] TOTAL EXPENDITURE = £ 2,012.12

[8] TOTAL INCOME = £ 1,378.21

DEBIT BALANCE : Income less Expenditure [ A MINUS B ABOVE ] = £ 633 . 91\* (\* AS AT 31<sup>III</sup> DECEMBER 2023 ) SUMMARY : CREDIT BALANCE CARRIED OVER FROM 2022 OF £ 4,835 . 17 LESS £ 633 . 91 = TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT CREDIT BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023 CARRIED FORWARD TO 2024 = £ 4,201 . 26 \* [\* NOTE : THIS SUM DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CASH-IN-HAND AS DETAILED BELOW ]

#### SEE OVERLEAF FOR A SCHEDULE OF RING-FENCED AMOUNTS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE TOTAL SUM

#### 2. CASH PAYMENTS

A. EXPENDITURE DETAILS	£p	B. INCOME DETAILS	£p
SUBSCRIPTION ( WCA )	5.00	CREDIT CARRIED OVER FROM 2022	4.52
AGM REFRESHMENTS ( COUNCIL MEETINGS )	15.00	TRANSFER No.1 FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT	250.00
WERRINGTON FORUM REFRESHMENTS	35.00	TRANSFER No.2 FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT	100.00
POSTAGE	4.10		
EXAMINERS HONORARIA PURCHASES	30.00		
PRINTING	30.00		
ANNUAL AWARDS - CERTIFICATE FRAMES	32.93		
GOOD CITIZENSHIP YOUTH AWARD - CASH PAYMENT	50.00		
GOOD CITIZENSHIP YOUTH AWARD - SHIELD ENGRAVING (2)	10.00		
GOOD CITIZENSHIP YOUTH AWARD - NEW SHIELD	50.00		
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CLUSTER GROUP	50.00		
BULB PURCHASES	39.96		
(A) TOTAL EXPENDITURE = £	351.99	[B] TOTAL INCOME =	£ 354.52

CASH-IN-HAND CREDIT BALANCE : Income B LESS Expenditure A [ B minus A ABOVE ] = £ 2.53 \* (\* AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023 ) C/F

#### ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTS

THE FOLLOWING EXTANT ACCOUNTS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES SHOWN ABOVE.

1. THE WERRINGTON VILLAGE SIGN ACCOUNT : 2023 Opening Balance = £67.35	Interest received = £0.58	Closing Credit Balance = £ 67.93
2. MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT : 2023 Opening Balance = £7.17 Interest receive	d = £0.12	Closing Credit Balance = £ 7.29
TOTAL ADDITIONAL CREDIT BALANCE (1+2 ABOVE = c/f to 2024) = £ 75.22	OVERALL TOTAL FUI	NDS C/F TO 2024 = £ 4,276 . 48

#### DECLARATION

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief that these accounts represent a true and fair view of the Werrington Neighbourhood Council's present financial position for the year ending 31st December 2023.

Signed :

GEOFFREY R SMITH MRSPH HONORARY TREASURER

Signed :

Theley

RICHARD COLLINGRIDGE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

14.26 nac 2024

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Dated :

2024

Dated :

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

### **ENVIRONMENT GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2024**



#### **ROGER PROUDFOOT REPORTS ...**

The Werrington Environment Group continues to be actively involved in conserving and enhancing the natural environment of Werrington for the wellbeing of both residents and wildlife.

Activities in 23/24 have continued to focus on enhancing Werrington Meadow with a successful event in October to continue to build the presence of wildflowers in the meadow. Around 20 volunteers, some from the Environment Agency along with support from PECT helped to create more wildflower patches in the meadow.





More recently in the spring plug plants have been added to the meadow to further enhance the patches created in the autumn.

We held a successful stall at the Werrington Carnival where residents were able to interact with river invertebrates and moths and pick up free wildflower seeds.

Our meadow and wildflower seeds have been made possible through the generosity of the Loxley Cooperative and their customers nominating the Environment Group for their community fund together with Waitrose Community Fund. We are also grateful to PECT their ongoing support including a further donation from their 30 for 30 grant scheme.

We were successful in acquiring 120 hedge plants from the Woodland Trust which will be planted in the Autumn of 2024. These plants are destined for the area at the side of Lincoln Road which is now being rewilded following agreement with Peterborough City Council providing space for the wildlife hedging, more meadow area and PCC have already planted some trees.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help support the group so if you are interested in taking an active role please get in touch at <u>rogerproudfoot@vahoo.co.uk</u> or come and see us at the Werrington Carnival and pick up some free wildflower seeds.

## PHOTO GALLERY

### SOME OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING









... MORE OVERLEAF : PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS

## PHOTO GALLERY ... CONTINUED

#### PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PRESENTATIONS MADE AT THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

[ OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE TO SEE UPON REQUEST ]



C GEOFF SMITH