

**WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT WERRINGTON PARISH VILLAGE CENTRE ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Sandra Bond, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Judy Fox, Pauline Fury, Tony Forster, Ivan Hammond, Cllr Sarah Hillier, Vince Moon, Roger Proudfoot, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald and residents of Werrington.

**APOLOGIES:** Belinda Courten, Charles Coxon, Cllr Ann Shaheed

**GUESTS:** Award Winners with their family and friends

**1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:**

Vince Moon welcomed everyone. The apologies were accepted as above.

**2. PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S TREES PRESENTATION**

Darren Sharpe of Peterborough City Council gave a presentation covering: the tree and woodland strategy, tree stock management, canopy cover, planting targets, the amenity value of trees and threats. In response to questions, he advised that:

- Over hanging trees need to clear pavements by the height of someone holding an umbrella and clear roads by the height of a double decker bus.
- Newly planted trees will be watered and maintained for three years,
- Whilst there are differing views, a decision has been made to plant non-native trees to give variety thereby avoiding diseases decimating an area and to combat climate change.
- He had seen the Werrington Neighbourhood Plan which identifies the trees in the Church Yard, the Chapel Lane Oak and the Welbourne willows as being important local trees along with the importance of the tree avenues.
- He notes the importance of tree avenues but a problem for these will be when these trees grow even more... is severe pruning a way forward? A resident observed the maintenance of trees in Fulbridge and Dogsthorpe Road – the difference being the width of the verge.

Darren was thanked for his interesting presentation which was of great interest to the Neighbourhood Council and residents.

**3 OFFICER ANNUAL REPORTS**

**3.1 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Full Report can be seen in Appendix A. Vince Moon especially mentioned the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, the continued work of the Neighbourhood Council started over 50 years ago by Alfred Savage and gave thanks to all the members of the Neighbourhood Council.

**3.2 RECEIVING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025**

The minutes were approved as a true record.

**3.3 PLANNING REPORT**

The report had been circulated and included as Appendix B. Sally said that although the number of applications were slightly down, the fence adjacent to Ken Stimpson has taken up a lot of time with five council meetings with WNC speaking at two of them.

**3.4 TREASURER'S REPORT**

The report is included in Appendix C. He highlighted the ring-fenced amounts and advised that the Neighbourhood Council is no longer the holder of the Neighbourhood Watch funds. He especially extended his thanks to the members and officers of Neighbourhood Council. It was duly agreed that Richard Collingridge be appointed as Independent Examiner.

**4. ELECTION OF WERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILLORS**

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

Vince Moon (re-elected until 2027)  
Charles Coxon (re-elected until 2027)  
Elliot Hodgson (elected until 2027)

There remains 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.

Sally encouraged anyone who was interested in the Neighbourhood Council to come along to a meeting to find out more.

5. **WERRINGTON AREA FORUM:** Please see the separate minutes in Appendix D below

6. **PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AWARDS**

**ENVIRONMENT AWARD: Roger Proudfoot** - Roger has been a stalwart member of WNC for a number of years. He has brought a combination of personal enthusiasm and commitment along with a wealth of professional knowledge and expertise in his inspirational leadership of the Werrington Environment Group. He has organised activities and events and has used his expertise in projects all over Werrington including Cuckoo's Hollow, Sobrite Spring, Werrington Paddocks and Recreation Ground attracting the interest of many in the community across age ranges from the very young to the more mature residents in the area. The many successful enterprises he has undertaken have included the creation of a community orchard as well as the creation and maintenance of a wildflower meadow. Instructional events and competitions have been held online and at the Village Centre; fascinating displays put on the Carnival field and films produced about Werrington wildlife and group activities. He has worked with a range of agencies and organisations to achieve his objectives including City Council, PECT, Rivercare, the Woodland Trust, Waitrose, The Coop Group and Central Co-op. We are very grateful for all the things that he has done and all that has been achieved for Werrington.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD: Jackie Sidney** - Jackie's has been the Werrington Community Association Treasurer since 1993, which is an amazing amount of time to dedicate to our community. Jackie has recently decided she will be stepping down and she will be retiring in July. She has always been a rock to those on the Executive Committee, ensuring the finances are kept in perfect order and ensuring the solvency of the WCA. In addition, she has supported The Spotlight publication both in terms of managing the finances and also delivering a round for many years too! WNC are presenting this award in recognition of Jackie's many, many years of service to The WCA and Werrington, this award acts as a 'thank you' for this. (Jackie was not at the meeting so this will be presented at the Community Association's Annual General Meeting in July).

**COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARD: Werrington Clodhoppers** - Andy Petrie and his merry band of Werrington Clodhoppers, who do the street collection and Carols on the Green event each December, have been raising funds for local charities since 1985. In that time they have raised over £60k for good causes. Taking Santa round Werrington in the runup to Christmas, and also Christmas Eve, brings a great deal of joy to the Werrington Community as well as raising money. For Christmas Eve 2024, the WCA arranged for the road to be closed and as a result, even more people attended the outdoor Carols, estimated to be 2.5k attendees at least.

It takes a lot of organising and commitment to do both the nightly collections and especially the event on The Green, their anniversary and also the £60k they have raised should be acknowledged.

**COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARD: Pauline Fury** - Geoff introduced this presentation by saying ..... "About time too! I am delighted to introduce this award to Pauline which is well overdue. She has been a true star in and for our community over many years now. Our paths probably briefly crossed about 30 years ago when I was encouraged to participate in the school lottery she was running for Ken Stimpson Community School and I won! So that was a great start. Since then we have met up on various Committees etc and she has been of particularly great help and support to our Neighbourhood Council and to the local Neighbourhood Watch both as an active Co-ordinator and Secretary to its Cluster Group for over some 11 years until her recent retirement as reported in the latest issue of Spotlight. She has always been available to help and assist in various other community capacities including the Scouts & Guides, this despite at times have some debilitating health issues. You will have seen when you arrived tonight that she has once again assisted with the refreshments something she has done for several years now and for which we are most grateful. So it's with immense pleasure that we present this award to you and wish you well for the future. "

**WERRINGTON AWARD : WERRINGTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP** - 2025 marks WLHG's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and I am sure you will all agree that this achievement needs recognition. The work they have undertaken looking into the history of our local area has provided educational and social benefit to Werrington residents. They provide talks and displays (the most recent one being very successful and drawing huge numbers here to the Werrington Centre, last month), on local history and by completing

projects like The Village Trail and other publications, this has allowed local groups and schools alike to gain further knowledge of Werrington. As a Committee they support the Remembrance Service with the local school by talking about our War graves and information on the social history of those men. They also provide information on request to residents and other groups on the history of our area. Three years ago they came close to folding, but due to the determination of some old and new committee members, they continue to grow their numbers each year. I am sure you will agree that this award is very well deserved, given their 40 year commitment to Werrington and the community.

## 7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other business and there were no further questions from the floor. Vince closed the meeting at 9.10pm. **The next meeting will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> July.**

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A: CHAIR'S REPORT

Since my last report Werrington Neighbourhood Council (WNC) has continued to have a strong influence in local affairs.

The Werrington Neighbourhood Plan, whilst not directly a WNC project, has nevertheless been a major enterprise for many of our members. We were delighted that nearly two thousand residents came out to vote in the referendum and that ninety-three per cent of these supported the plan. This vote not only gives the plan considerable force but also makes WNC's claim to be a voice for the community credible and should assist us so that we are able to continue to provide some of the services that a Parish Council would provide. All this at no financial cost to our residents. Many thanks to all those who came out to vote. You did us proud and we are very grateful for your support. However, our small band of public-spirited individuals, who volunteer their services and expertise free of charge, is diminishing. I know this is part of a national pattern but it still has to be a real concern and I wonder how long we can continue if the situation does not improve? I hope that my report will give examples of the good work that has been done by our members and show that we are a relevant and worthwhile body in the community that should be continue to be supported by it.

One of the main roles of WNC continues to be as an official planning consultee to Peterborough City Council (PCC) for the Werrington area. Tony Forster has been our planning lead, and along with Sally Weald and other members of our planning committee, they have scrutinized all planning applications in the Werrington area and have submitted suitable responses submitted where necessary as can be seen from the planning report. This can be particularly challenging especially where there is 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. With few resources we can't hold consultations on every issue. Further, as an official consultee, we are not permitted to be a campaigning body with regard to any proposal.

The Environment Group has been led by Roger Proudfoot whose considerable knowledge and professional expertise we have been very lucky to have benefitted from in a number of projects this group has been working on. Sadly Roger, due to health issues, is stepping down from this position and we urgently need someone to take on this role in the future. Concern for the environment has long been a major part of WNC's activity and Roger's work has been highly regarded locally and recognised in the City as well as being noticed by national bodies. We are represented on the Peterborough Parish Council Liaison Committee where, while not a parish council, we are identified as a body that represents the area. This enables us to know what Parish Councils are doing around Peterborough as well as being briefed by important local officials about current policies and issues.

The new PCC Local Plan is currently being developed and this will identify possible sites for development 2024 -2044. I recently attended the latest briefing for Parish Councils on this. Werrington is not greatly affected although there are concerns about possible development of sites in Brookside and the Werrington Centre that we are monitoring. Major possible developments in the Rural Peterborough area are also being considered. We made submissions to the recent public consultation on the Local Plan, as well as to the PCC Budgets consultation.

We have continued to take part in Community events and have had a stand at the Werrington Scout and Guide Carnival in the Werrington Primary School field.

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. We hope to continue meeting at the Barn. We are very grateful to PEDS (Personalised Eating Disorder Support Charity) who currently rent the building and with whom we have a friendly relationship, but it is still not clear how the PCC asset disposal programme will eventually affect this property.

We are very pleased that Belinda Coaten has taken on the position of Minute Taker. A vital central role in our organisation. Special mention should also be made of Elliot Hodgson who has made valuable contributions to the Neighbourhood Plan, as well as to a number of other planning matters. His expertise in these field has proved to be of great value and we greatly appreciate the input he has made on numerous occasions. Sally Weald also continues to do sterling work on a variety of issues as well doing a great job as our press secretary. Geoff Smith has continued to very professionally carry out his duties diligently as Treasurer but we urgently need someone to take over the treasurer position from Geoff, who has indicated a wish to pass on this position on for a number of years. Further 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. Last, but certainly not least, I should mention our appreciation of the assistance and support of the City Councillors, John and Judy Fox, Sandra Bond, Sarah Hillier and Ann Shaheed. Their involvement and encouragement has made a huge difference in enabling us to fulfil our role as a neighbourhood council working for the benefit of the community.

## **APPENDIX B: HONORARY TREASURERS'S REPORT**

The signed Annual Statement of Accounts is featured overleaf and is based on our books having been thoroughly and professionally inspected and approved by our Independent Examiner - Richard Collingridge. These accounts cover our finances over the calendar year ending on 31st December 2024. Incorporated in these examined accounts are various amounts that are ring-fenced for specific projects and work which grants and donations have been obtained for undertaking community and environmental projects. These accounts are therefore presented to the AGM as an approved true and fair view of the current state of our finances and I am most grateful to Richard Collingridge for his help and assistance once again.

Our present financial position - I would now comment on our current financial position since the closing of last year's accounts, and onwards into our current financial year i.e. as from 1st January of this year. I have provided update reports on our accounts at all of the WNC meetings held this year and it has been noted that there has been little movement to report on. Only two payments have been issued to date the first being £125 for one of our environmental projects (wildflower seeds) as yet un-cashed and the other being £55 to the Werrington Neighbourhood Watch Cluster Group being reimbursement due to them for un-cashed cheques issued on their behalf some time ago - this now ends our arrangement with them whereby I acted as their Treasurer whilst they were without their own bank and we held and managed their funds for them. I should mention that as well as no longer acting as their Treasurer I finally stood down from my local Neighbourhood Watch involvement having played an active role for over 35 years. Our latest credit balance in our current account therefore now totals £3,973.37 (£3,848.37 once the outstanding cheque has been presented). In addition you will see from the Annual Statement overleaf that we have a sum of £76.30 held in some small separate historical accounts. We also currently have a £16.77 cash-in-hand balance having received £60 as a cash donation from Cllrs John & Judy Fox for our 2025 Good Citizenship Youth Award and having paid out for the Independent Examiners honoraria of £30.50.

A summary of the Ring-fenced amounts as at 31st December 2024 is as follows :

TOTAL CREDIT BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT AT YEAR-END 31-12-24	= £ 4,028.37
TOTAL RING-FENCED AMOUNT AS AT 31-12-24	= £ 2,880.90
BALANCE REMAINING IN GENERAL ACCOUNT AT YEAR-END 31-12-24	= £ 1,147.47

Payments made as from the 1st January 2025 to date give updated totals of :

TOTAL CREDIT BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT AT YEAR-END 31-12-24	= £ 3,848.37
TOTAL RING-FENCED AMOUNT TO DATE	= £ 2,755.90

I now turn to the requisite appointment of an Independent Examiner and recommend and propose that our current Independent Examiner, Richard Collingridge, be re-appointed to undertake this vital role for us once again until our next Annual General Meeting in 2026 - he has confirmed his willingness to continue in providing this essential service which he has now done with due diligence for over 26 years, so my personal thanks to him.

I am also acting as the Treasurer of the Werrington Area Forum and for your information I have included in subsequent pages the final financial statement produced for this group.

In closing I would once again like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to several people. To Vince Moon who has now joined the ranks of one of our longest serving Chairs ( not far behind me now ! ) and who has done it so well. To Sally for all her fantastic work in continuing to secure a number of vital grants and donations in support of our various environmental projects and also on the successful completion of the



Neighbourhood Plan together with her planning involvements. To fellow WNC members for their continued commitment and support especially to Belinda for helping with secretarial duties. To our Ward Councillors for their continued help and support and John and Judy for continuing to sponsor the Good Citizenship Youth Award. In addition we are most grateful to the Werrington Community Association (WCA) for their continued much valued and appreciated support in paying our annual insurance premium ( our biggest routine outlay), and finally to PEDS for our continued presence and use of The Barn.

## ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR-ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2024

### CURRENT ACCOUNT

OPENING BANK BALANCE carried over from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 = £ 4,201 . 26\* + CASH-IN HAND (CIH) = £ 2.53

THE CLOSING BANK BALANCE as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 = £ 4,028 . 37\* + CASH-IN HAND (CIH) = £37.29

(\* inclusive of amounts held in trust for other groups, residual CLF allocations and other grants/donations)

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2024

#### 1. CURRENT ACCOUNT

##### A. EXPENDITURE DETAILS

	£	p
INSURANCE PREMIUM ( ZURICH )	297	. 92
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS [ ROGER PROUDFOOT ]	307	. 02
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS [ SALLY WEALD ]	78	. 00
PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL [ NEW BENCH ]	1,596	. 00
BANK TRANSFERS ( CASH-IN-HAND - SEE TWO PAYMENTS BELOW )	100	. 00

[A] TOTAL EXPENDITURE = £ 2,378 . 94

##### B. INCOME DETAILS

	£	p
INSURANCE PREMIUM ( WCA )	297	. 92
PECT GRANT FUNDING	356	. 00
CO-OP GRANT FUNDING	1,524	. 18
EASYFUNDRAISING INCOME	27	. 95

[B] TOTAL INCOME = £ 2,206 . 05

**DEBIT BALANCE** : Income less Expenditure [ A MINUS B ABOVE ] = £ 172 . 89\* (\* AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024 )

SUMMARY : CREDIT BALANCE CARRIED OVER FROM 2023 OF £ 4,201 . 26 LESS £ 172 . 89

= TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT CREDIT BALANCE AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024 CARRIED FORWARD TO 2025 = £ 4,028 . 37 \*

[ \* 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
SUBSCRIPTION ( WCA )	5	. 00
AGM REFRESHMENTS ( PAULINE FURY )	15	. 00
POSTAGE	6	. 65
EXAMINERS HONORARIA PURCHASES	29	. 75
PRINTING [ A4 PAPER ]	4	. 20
ANNUAL AWARDS - CERTIFICATE FRAMES	9	. 64
GOOD CITIZENSHIP YOUTH AWARD - CASH PAYMENT	50	. 00
GOOD CITIZENSHIP YOUTH AWARD - SHIELD ENGRAVING	5	. 00

[A] TOTAL EXPENDITURE = £ 125.24

##### B. INCOME DETAILS

	£	p
CREDIT CARRIED OVER FROM 2023	2	. 53
TRANSFER FROM CURRENT ACCOUNT	100	. 00
CLLRS J & J FOX - GCYC SPONSORSHIP	60	. 00

[B] TOTAL INCOME = £ 162.53

**CASH-IN-HAND CREDIT BALANCE** : Income B LESS Expenditure A [ B minus A ABOVE ] = £ 37.29\* (\* AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024 ) C/F

TOTAL CREDIT BALANCES C/F TO 2025 = £ 4,065.66 [ CURRENT ACCOUNT CREDIT BALANCE £4,028.37 + CASH-IN-HAND £37.29 ]

### ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTS

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

1. THE WERRINGTON VILLAGE SIGN ACCOUNT : 2024 Opening Balance = £67.93 Interest received = £0.96 Closing Credit Balance = £ 68.89

2. MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT : 2024 Opening Balance = £7.29 Interest received = £0.12 Closing Credit Balance = £ 7.41


TOTAL ADDITIONAL CREDIT BALANCE ( 1 + 2 ABOVE = c/f to 2025 ) = £76.30

TOTAL FUNDS C/F TO 2025 = £ 4,065.66 + £76.30 = £ 4,141.96

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.*

Signed :

  
GEOFFREY R SMITH MRS PH  
HONORARY TREASURER

Dated : 20th May 2025

Signed :

  
RICHARD COLLINGRIDGE  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Dated : 20th May 2025

## APPENDIX C: PLANNING REPORT

During 2024 Werrington Neighbourhood Council reviewed 36 planning Applications (25% lower than the previous 12 months). Of these applications: 6 were tree applications, 17 were extensions or garages, 4 were commercial, 2 were for new houses and 9 were other applications including solar panels. Comments

were submitted on seven of these applications. The main applications were as follows:

- Butchers Arms Micro Pub: This application has attracted wide ranging views. It is great that a new business has opened in an otherwise empty unit but the extended opening hours with outside seating has created concerns over disturbance for the closeby residents. Certain conditions imposed by the Planning Dept have been upheld by an Appeal Inspector.
- Werrington Centre: The lack of improvement continues to raise concerns especially with the continuing anti social behaviour. As indicated in last year's report, an application for a care home was turned down for many reasons in early 2024. Two applications for shop units, a sports bar and a taxi office in early 2025 on the Ploughman site were turned down mainly on the basis of lack of parking provision and the usage of the adjacent car park access road.
- Fence adjacent to Ken Stimpson Academy: It is disappointing that the City Council still has not been able to conclude the decision about how much of this area will be handed to the Academy as part of the Academisation Order and how much will be fenced. This decision process 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. WNC spoke at the Cabinet meeting and the scrutiny committee against the fencing of the whole area to the south of the Academy giving support to the compromise of four football pitches. WNC also attended the further two Council meetings in early 2025. Further progress, consideration and negotiation on the part of the City Council is now awaited.

The long awaited City Council draft Local Plan was published in Spring 2025. A lot of time and consideration has been given to the review and final submission both from a Werrington perspective and a wider City view – with thanks to those involved in that. In amongst the many comments, reference was made to the high density housing allocation for Werrington Centre and Brookside. Any subsequent changes to the draft Local Plan following the consultation period will be awaited with interest.

#### **APPENDIX D WERRINGTON AREA FORUM**

The Werrington Neighbourhood Plan has had a highly successful 2024/25. Following the formal public consultation in January/February 2024 slight amendments had to be made to the Plan. The complex requests from City Council and the Environment Agency were eventually resolved to everyone's satisfaction and the Plan was formally submitted to Peterborough City Council in September 2025. The final formal consultation undertaken by the City Council gave very few problems and likewise the final examination by an Independent Examiner also went through with only minor comments. Following the final adjustments the Plan went to the resident's referendum in February 2025. There was a great response from Werrington Residents with 21.1% of Werrington residents taking part in the referendum with over 93% voting in favour of the Plan. Following its adoption by the City Council the Plan is now part of the statutory development plan for Peterborough, and will be used (alongside local and national policy) to determine planning applications in the Werrington neighbourhood area. For an urban area to get a Plan in place is such a great achievement and sends a strong message about the character and strength of the Werrington community. It was a long journey over the last six years delayed by COVID, lack of funding, sporadic support from the City Council, difficult requests presented by the City Council and certain Agencies and just the complexity of understanding and managing the process. Ultimately there was great team work especially from Elliot, Geoff, Sally, Tony and Vince who were supported by all the other members of the Area Forum. Thanks are due to all of these ... BUT the biggest thanks must go to the Werrington residents who support the questionnaires, consultations and the ultimate referendum.

The Area Forum will continue to exist to address any problems and to get involved in any opportunities PLUS in just four years we will be doing it all again when the Plan starts to undergo its review.

**Financial Report:** Whilst £10,000 funding was available from the government, it was never enough to support the professional advice needed from consultants and the cost of publicity and design. Thanks are given for the assistance and goodwill from designers, print suppliers and advertisers over the years especially to 28 Designs. The only money given back to the government was the Consultant's contingency fees earmarked for any problems in the last rounds of consultation which wasn't needed.

**GEOFF SMITH REPORTS:** The following table shows the final payments made and the balance returned at the end of this project. Our sincere thanks to the Werrington Community Association for their help with these arrangements

Tranch 6

INCOME OPENING BALANCE (TR6)     £1,882.00

FINAL CLOSING BALANCE (TR6)       £ 857.83

BALANCE OF £1,024.17 WAS PAID BACK TO GROUNDWORK UK