

WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Wolston Parish Council held at 7:15pm on

Thursday 11th January 2024 at The Baptist Church, Main Street, Wolston

Present: WPC Councillors: Mr T Willis (Chair), Mr G Rainey (Vice Chair), Mrs A Milne, Mr L Wright, Ms S Dobinson Ms J Galliford and Mrs D George (Clerk)

RBC Cllrs: Mr S Ward, Mr D Poole

WCC Cllr Mrs H Timms

Plus 18 members of the public

The Chair thanked all in attendance and the meeting began with the Public Forum at 19:15 hrs

The WPC Meeting began at 20:22hrs

152 Apologies -To receive apologies

Apologies noted from Cllr T Ramsay.

153 Declarations of Interest (existence and nature) on items on the Agenda –

Councillors to declare any personal and/or pecuniary interest on items on the agenda.

Cllr G Rainey declared an interest as Chairman of the Brandon and Wolston Village Hall

Cllr T Willis – Declared blanket interest as a Borough Councillor

Cllr L Wright declared an interest as a trustee of the Brandon and Wolston Village Hall

154 Co-Option of Parish Councillors – to discuss and consider co-option of prospective councillors, to receive any expressions of interest, and, if necessary, vote and co-opt a councillor (TW)

Proposal: To co-opt Mr S Osmond as a Wolston Parish Councillor

Proposed: Cllr A Milne

Seconded: Cllr J Galliford

Unanimous

Resolved: To co-opt Mr S Osmond as a Wolston Parish Councillor

Cllr S Osmond signed the declaration of acceptance of office signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

155 Minutes – To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 14th December 2023

Proposal: To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 14th December 2023.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr G Rainey

7 in favour

1 abstention

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the meeting of Wolston PC held on 14th December 2023.

156 2nd January 2024 Flooding – To consider events of 2nd January 2024 and make any appropriate decisions with regard to next steps (TW)

In light of public forum WPC agreed a date for a public meeting 23rd January 2024. Cllr G Rainey suggested WPC create a list of questions to submit to the panel at the meeting.

Cllr L Wright requested WPC send the draft letter to the Spitfire regarding the recent flooding. Cllr T Willis reported that he had read the contents of the letter to the Technical Director of Spitfire and sending the letter would depend upon receiving satisfactory responses at the meeting with Spitfire tomorrow.

Cllr A Milne was concerned by the last paragraph of the draft letter.

Cllr S Dobinson requested clarification of the purpose of the meeting with Spitfire tomorrow. Cllr T Willis reported that Allotments Association do not want the electricity easement to be signed until the four issues discussed on 15th December 2023 are dealt with. Chair will be meeting with the MP for rugby at 1pm tomorrow.

Proposal: That WPC send the letter to Spitfire minus the last paragraph if there is no satisfactory outcome of the meeting tomorrow.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr A Milne

7 In favour

1 abstention

Resolved: That WPC send the letter to Spitfire minus the last paragraph if there is no satisfactory outcome of the meeting tomorrow.

157

Finance

a) To approve payments made in December 2023.

Proposal: To approve payments made in December 2023

Proposed: Cllr G Rainey

Seconded: Cllr L Wright

7 in favour

1 abstention.

Resolved: To approve payments made in December 2023

b) To note payments received.

Proposal: To note payments received.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr G Rainey

7 in favour

1 abstention

Resolved: To note payments received.

c) Budget and Precept 2024/2025 – To consider and if appropriate approve the Budget and Precept for 2024/2025

A discussion took place, Cllr T Ramsay had expressed concerns regarding grants, however Cllr G Rainey reported that this had no bearing on the precept. Cllr G Rainey explained how the Finance Working Group had arrived at the figure for the 2024/25 precept.

Proposal: WPC to increase the precept by 2% on the previous year as recommended by Finance Working Group, the precept for 2024/2025 will be £102,871.

Proposed: Cllr A Milne

Seconded: Cllr L Wright

5 in favour

2 abstentions

Resolved: WPC to increase the precept by 2% on the previous year as recommended by Finance Working Group, the precept for 2024/2025 will be £102,871.

A discussion took place regarding the £315.00 which had previously been donated for the village planters but had gone missing. It was agreed this would be documented in the accounts as being transferred to donations from the Chairman's allowance by a journal entry.

d) To agree and name new signatories on WPC Bank Accounts – All Councillors to become cheque signatories.

Proposal: To name all serving councillors as signatories to the WPC bank accounts, namely Cllr T Willis, Cllr G Rainey, Cllr L Wright, Cllr S Dobinson, Cllr T Ramsay, Cllr A Milne, Cllr J Galliford and Cllr S Osmond.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr G Rainey

Unanimous

Resolved: To name all serving councillors as signatories to the WPC bank accounts, namely Cllr T Willis, Cllr G Rainey, Cllr L Wright, Cllr S Dobinson, Cllr T Ramsay, Cllr A Milne, Cllr J Galliford and Cllr S Osmond.

e) To consider and if appropriate approve a grant application for £5,000.00 for the Brandon and Wolston Village Hall (GR)

A discussion took place. The Vice Chair of the Brandon and Wolston Village Hall presented the grant application. Requested £5000.00 donation as a deposit on the replacement of the roof at a total cost of £60,000. Cllr G Rainey added that the village hall has been inspected and received a positive response from the original donor.

Proposal: To approve a grant application for £5,000.00 for the Brandon and Wolston Village Hall

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr A Milne

Unanimous

Resolved: To approve a grant application for £5,000.00 for the Brandon and Wolston Village Hall

Cllr G Rainey reported that the Village Hall is designated as a safe space with Warwickshire County Council.

- 158 Review of Dyers Lane Hedge** – To receive an update from the Emergency Working Group regarding immediate remedial work required and make any appropriate decisions. (TW)

A discussion took place. Met with contractor on site 27th December 2023, received a quotation for works. Proposal is to restore hedge which may take 10 years, no decisions to be made until final figure of the quotation is received.

- 159 Dogs at Dyers Lane Recreation Ground** – Councillors to consider any insurance implications and make any appropriate decisions. (TW)

Cllr T Willis has been in touch with the community safety team leader from RBC and raised the question would WPC be liable for any event occurring between out of control dogs and people on or off the lead on the recreation ground at Dyers Lane? Cllr S Dobinson asked if we are liable as the owner of the recreation ground if a dog is out of control whether on or off a lead. Cllr T Willis will report back to WPC with the answer to these questions.

- 160 Planning** – Councillors are to review planning applications prior to the Parish Council meeting. All planning applications and consultations can be viewed on the RBC Planning Portal Website www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk. To discuss and if appropriate comment on any planning applications received.

R23/1202 Proposal at: Mickle Hill Farm, Fosse Way, Wolston, Rugby, CV8 3GD
For: Variation of Condition 2 of R21/0089 (Demolition of existing dwelling including rear projection, and erection of replacement dwelling with associated parking area and landscaping.) Changes to windows and doors. Increase height by 0.4 metres. Roof light changes.

A discussion took place.

Proposal: WPC have no objection subject to neighbour consultation.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr G Rainey

5 in favour

2 abstentions

Resolved: WPC have no objection subject to neighbour consultation.

- 161 **Working Group Delegates Reports** – To receive updates from working groups including NDP (GR), Allotments Working Group (SD), Finance Working Group (GR), Open Spaces Working Group (GR), Communications Group (TR), and HR Group (LW), and make any appropriate decisions.

Communications Group Report was deferred.

NDP – Cllr G Rainey reported that they have re-established contact with consultants, lead representative has had a dialogue and had a response back from the consultants. Undertake to have something for next WPC meeting in February. Electronic evidence trail needs to be recovered. The document is being re-defined. Once the plan is received it will be communicated to residents via the communications group. There will be a document which covers the key points. There will be a consultation period and eventually it will go to referendum. Cllr L Wright placed on record thanks to Mr Ingalls and Miss T Ball for their support and diligence in the work on the NDP.

Finance Working Group.

Cllr G Rainey reported issues with open spaces on budgeting, lacking a schedule of work. Within the grass cutting area which is contracted out there is a schedule of work. Will present to Cllrs an appropriate schedule of work linked into budgeting and linked in to staffing.

Allotments Working Group

Cllr S Dobinson reported issues with the Electricity Easement, Compound Licence, SLA, meeting required with Cllrs and Allotment Association members. Key documents to all Cllrs will happen. Cllr S Dobinson will attend the site meeting tomorrow. Drainage system is not working, will be discussed at the meeting with the contractor tomorrow.

HR Group – would have to have a private and confidential meeting to discuss.

Working Groups – a discussion took place.

There are two vacancies on the WBBJBC.

Cllr L Wright proposed Cllr G Rainey be added to the WBBJBC committee and

Cllr S Dobinson proposed Cllr A Milne be added the WBBJBC.

Proposal: That Cllrs G Rainey be added to the WBBJBC.

Proposed: Cllr L Wright

Seconded: Cllr A Milne

Unanimous

Resolved:

Proposal: That Cllr A Milne be added to the WBBJBC.

Proposed: Cllr S Dobinson

Seconded: Cllr J Galliford

Unanimous

Resolved: That Cllr A Milne be added to the WBBJBC.

Action: Clerk write to Chair of WBBJBC to inform him of the newly appointed Cllr G Rainey and Cllr A Milne.

Action: Clerk to Write to BT Telephone exchange manager – The security lights are illuminating Brook Street and Lamas Court, can they be adjusted so that they illuminate only their own curtilage and road frontage.

- 162 **Future Agenda Items** – Councillors are requested to use this opportunity to raise items for future agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision-making.

Deferred to after the public meeting.

- 163 **Date of Next Meetings** – To consider and confirm the date 1st February 2024 at Brandon and Wolston Village Hall, Main Street, Wolston at 7:15pm. If an interim meeting is required, an agenda will be sent to Councillors and be put on the website and in the Main Street noticeboard three clear days before the meeting is held.

The date of the next ordinary meeting will be 1st February 2024 at Brandon and Wolston Village Hall was agreed unanimously.

Meeting closed at 21:50hrs.

SignedChair Date

Notes on the Public Forum Thursday 11th January 2024

Cllr T Willis – Spoke about the recent flooding in the village. Extended the public forum to one hour. An extra public meeting of agencies and stakeholders has been arranged for Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 7pm. Sample questions will be posed in advance to the stakeholders and will include: why cannot the brook be dug deeper? Why cannot we build a wall on the chip shop side of the brook?

Cllrs S Ward and Cllr H Timms had no feed back to give, just here to listen and support. Cllr S Ward, there are updates on the Wolston and the Lawfords Cllrs Facebook page.

Cllr T Willis as Borough Councillor met with the cabinet on Monday and work is underway – the focus is recovery and prevention, more details will be shared on 23rd January 2024.

Government have indicated there will be flood money but distributed via WCC.

MOP 1 – Sewerage in back garden – foul water on road drain full up – houses numbers 12, 14 and 16 had 3 inches of water all around the properties – when will the Brandon pumping station be improved it is not big enough or in the right place.

MOP 2 – 2018 Borough council leaflet through her letter box indicating work required– Silt and growth increases flood risk to village – work should have been done outside the village. Borough Council are responsible, has anything been done?

Video footage of the floods the next day, drains still blocked. Drainage needs addressing.

The new builds on flood plains – the reports from current site is that sewage pipes were damaged end December 2023 and left to free flow, this is reported as hearsay not a fact.

3rd January 2024 – behaviour of people Gulley was dug to allow surface water to drain onto the road.

Farming going on around – farmers want to protect their crop – the way the rainfall is directed into rivers.

Maintenance of ditches – lack of the correct depth. Why cannot we as a community draw farmers to upkeep the ditches to protect the residents? As a community this issue needs to be addressed. Millions and millions of pounds of damage.

Cllr T Willis asked the member of the public to put all her questions in an email ready for the meeting on the 23rd January 2024.

MOP 2 – Observed three weeks there was a torrent of water coming down Warwick Road which is nothing to do with the Brook. Other issues have contributed to the flood. Lack of ability to unlock a door to retrieve sandbags.

MOP 3 – Absolutely zero support from any local council. He himself rescued an 80 year old lady from her house. No emergency services around at all, no police or fire brigade.

Two fire engines went to Kenilworth to pump out a flooded road not even houses.

Brook Street it was flooded to above the waist.

WCC – things go wrong – put out that they had a crisis team and they had been round to all the houses affected and organised centres for relief. It was a lie, no one came to help at all. Its not about property but more about lies.

MOP 1 – have tenants in a hotel and still do not know if they are insured.

MOP 2 – only had help from one member of the public from the pub.

MOP 3 – no emergency services – WPC should look at this.

MOP 4 – On main Street on the evening – watched from the Rose and Crown side – the speed of the flood was alarming. I watched people I knew in the village helping people in the centre putting themselves at risk, showed the community spirit in the village, makes me very proud. After that the Rose and Crown opened its doors to the helpers. The sandbags came from WCC 5:30pm, it was like shutting the door after the horse had bolted.

MOP 3 - there were only 20 sandbags delivered by WCC.

MOP 5 – Answers on 23rd January 2024 – All the drainage was backing up before the brook broke its banks. The water was coming off the housing estate in torrents – need to know why this happened.

Cllr T Willis thanked and sympathised with the resident and asked that they email the questions into WPC and let the experts on 23rd January come back to us as a community with guidance as to what we need to do.

Cllr L Wright – Flooded in late 90's – WPC got a flood alleviation scheme fitted on the Fosse which reduced the flooding in Wolston up to this point. A sleeper wedged in the bridge which may well have contributed to the brook flooding.

The brook in the church field needs cleaning out and fencing to allow the flow to the river. We are battling with EVA to write to the landowners. The sewerage station after the priory development (Severn Trent) is unlikely to be refurbished – we have two further phases before that will be looked at.

Water coming off the allotments was from a broken pumping main, sewerage was coming down Warwick Road.

Water was coming out of the pathway in Meadow Road.

Coalpit Lane – the ditch is blocked up because the gateway has been extended – the gulley is too high to take the water.

Brook Street and Main Street - WPC asked the EVA to put flood protection barriers on the houses.

MOP 6 – Sewerage on Main Street – Tankers come and pump away. Is it the amount of new development causing the drains to be overwhelmed?

Cllr T Willis reported that the planning authority will have approved the development.

MOP 6 – Did not complete the CSW resilience plan. The emergency group did not do the emergency resilience planning. We are all to blame. If plan was in place everything WCC said would have been correct.

Cllr T Willis – wrote the Business Continuation Plan for Covid – he will be in touch with the resilience officer and get something put in place. Part of an emergency plan relies on alerts. He received an emergency floodline alert at 15:08.

MOP 1 – Tenants in Brook Street at 13:08 reported a problem – the sewers were failing – not flood water but sewerage. 13:20 drainage was bubbling up – looked for sandbags in the pavilion. 14:20 flood began.

MOP 5 – Why was nothing done to repair the damaged sewerage main on the allotments site?

Cllr T Willis is looking at that question and will be meeting with the contractor on site. Point will be explored with the experts on 23rd January 2024.

Cllr J Galliford – Thanked the community who worked together to help each other.

Cllr H Timms – The questionnaires that have been posted through the letter boxes of those affected – please fill them in and send them back in order to obtain DEFRA funding. If water went into the house you must fill in the questionnaires and send them back in order to obtain the funding. There is flood relief.

MOP 6 – Properties affected are in the conservation area – can the planning department give a blanket authority to install flood defences in all properties? Cllr T Willis reported that this would be asked of the experts on 23rd January 2024.

Cllr L Wright – If enough people complain about the flooding and the sewerage to the Local Plan – it might make them think before allowing more development. Write to the Parish Council and we can submit that in support of our objections to further development in the local plan.

Cllr T Willis – Chief Executive will be here on 23rd January 2024. It is imperative that those directly affected by the floods be at the meeting.

Cllr A Milne – Individual letters count far more than a petition.

MOP 4 – Bring your letters to the meeting on 23rd January 2024 and give them directly to the Borough Council Local Plan representatives.

MOP 1 – Norwich Union – questionnaire – if you lived so many meters from a water course you might not get insured.

Could a letter be sent to residents explaining that they need to write to WPC supporting objections to the local plan.

Public forum closed at 20:22hrs