

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY 2020 AT 7.15 PM**

PRESENT Cllr T Harvey-Smith (Chair), Cllr Miss T Ball, Cllr D Cross, Cllr Miss S Cross, Cllr G Fewkes, Cllr R Grainger, Cllr J Milne, Cllr A Parker, Cllr L Wright, Cllr Mrs M White and Mrs M Meede (Clerk).

Plus: Borough Cllr D Poole, Mr T Willis (NDP) and 16 members of the public.

After members of the public and Councillors had been given the opportunity to raise any issues, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and the Parish Council meeting commenced at 7:55pm.

163. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The apologies of Cty Cllr Mrs H Timms and Borough Cllrs D Poole, A Bearne and Mrs S Bragg were noted.

164. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (existence and nature) for items on the Agenda

Councillor Wright declared a personal interest in agenda item 168b – Planning. The Chairman declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 170c – Finance. The Chairman advised that Councillors could declare an interest later in the meeting should this become apparent for any agenda item.

165. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

All Councillors had been given the opportunity to review the minutes prior to the Parish Council meeting. Cllr Wright requested to add in an additional statement to the minutes of 5th December 2019, but the Chairman felt this was not required. Cllr Fewkes proposed approval of the minutes which was seconded by Cllr Cross. All Councillors who had attended the meeting were in favour - with the exception of Cllr Wright and Cllr Miss Ball who both abstained.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th November 2019 having been approved for adoption by those who had been present at the meeting, be signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Finance meeting held on 19th December 2019 were discussed before Cllr Wright proposed approving the minutes, which was seconded by Cllr Fewkes and agreed by all those who had attended the meeting.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Extraordinary (Finance) meeting held on 19th December 2019 having been approved for adoption by those who had been present at the meeting, be signed by the Chairman.

166. PROGRESS REPORT

The Clerk has still received no response from the Co-op about replacing the village clock on the shop front, and so the Clerk will be writing to the landowner/landlord to follow the matter up.

Some residents have been complaining for some time about the smell of sewage on Meadow Road and there have been issues with some manhole covers since the sewer pipe issue. The Clerk agreed to contact Severn Trent to raise the concerns and to request a meeting to discuss the issues.

The removal of vegetation on Manor Estate (from Paddocks Close to the top of the estate) has still not been completed, and the Clerk will chase up RBC in relation to this matter.

The Emergency Planning Working Group are reviewing the Disaster Plan template from WALC, and the group are looking to feedback at the next Parish Council meeting.

167. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 8.

Cllr Wright requested information about the planning policy of the Parish Council, particularly in relation to Planning Gain, as he noted that Planning Gain hadn't been discussed or a consideration when it came to previous planning applications – such as at Ling Hall. Cllr Grainger advised he is not aware of any planning policy as each application should be discussed on its own merit, and this is why each application is discussed at Parish Council meetings and Councillors should be guided by the Local Plan, NDP and the NPPF. The NDP are carrying out work in the area of planning. Cllr Wright stressed there should be consistency. It was noted that Planning Gain is a relatively new concept, but that the Parish Council had looked for gains/advantages in the past where possible – such as with the Smith's quarry where agreements were in place such as improvements to footpaths and the wheel wash. Cllr Parker noted that if the Parish Council had worked with the developers on the Bluemels Estate, the village may have got more in terms of housing mix, style and possibly some other benefits.

The motion was noted.

168. PLANNING

Councillors were given the details of all planning applications to review prior to the meeting. All planning applications can be viewed at www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk.

- a) *R19/1503 – Hard bound surface around Gallipoli Monument with associated landscaping at junction of A45 and Fosse Way, London Road, Stretton on Dunsmore.*

Councillors discussed the application and concerns were raised about visibility and ensuring the landscaping didn't cause an obstruction. Cllr Grainger proposed supporting the application on the condition that visibility is not impacted and that concerns be raised in relation to landscaping that may have negative consequences on visibility (which can be seen at other roundabouts such as the Ryton roundabout). This was seconded by Cllr Cross and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council support this application subject to the highlighted conditions.

- b) *R19/0952 – Proposed siting of stud manager's temporary dwelling (resubmission of R18/1041) at Yardley's Meadow, Stretton Rd, Wolston.*

Cllr Wright had declared a personal interest in this planning application.

Following a discussion, Councillors agreed that the reasons cited for objection to the application in the Parish Council's last consultation response letters dated 2nd August 2019 and 1st November remain, and the Parish Council's stance had not changed and remained as valid objections. Therefore, it was agreed that both of these previous letters be sent again with confirmation that Councillors wish them to be taken again as the Parish Council's response to this application.

In addition to the previous letters, Cllr Wright noted that in the last paragraph of the letter from 'British Breeding' dated 17th December 2019 there is a reference made to stud services – this is contrary to information given in the past and Councillors were not aware of the stud services.

Councillors also noted and raised concerns that residents living next to Yardley's Meadow were not made aware of this latest application or consulted this time.

Cllr Grainger proposed the Parish Council should continue to not support the application, due to the reasons and comments previously given still being valid, and taking into account the previously undeclared reference now made to stud services. The Clerk was also asked to highlight the fact that not all consultees were given the proper consultation information. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Fewkes and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council do not support this application for the reasons cited in previous correspondence, and for queries to be raised about the consultation process and the stud services.

169. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk noted that correspondence sheet will include all relevant external correspondence from the last meeting (to record correspondence that may be missed between the distribution of the list and next Parish Council meeting).

A new planning application should be submitted in the next few weeks for the Ling Hall quarry.

Cllr Wright noted that the streetlights on School Street as you come into the 30mph zone are all on one side of the road, and it was felt they should be staggered/alternating from one side of the road to the other. He also noted that there are no lights on the gateway signs as you come into the village – as WCC had determined lights were no longer necessary. The Clerk agreed to follow this up with WCC Streetlighting.

170. FINANCE

Councillors reviewed and discussed the accounts for payment and considered payments received.

a) *To approve accounts for payment in December 2019*

Date Issued	To whom payable	For what purpose	Cheque No	Gross £
05/12/2019	E-ON	Streetlight Maintenance - Q2	105748	£735.05
05/12/2019	Britannic Security Systems Ltd	CCTV Supply and Install	105749	£9,008.40
05/12/2019	Rugby Pest Control	Mole Control	105750	£48.00
05/12/2019	St Margaret's PCC	Photocopying	105751	£276.00
05/12/2019	WLCC	Room Hire - Allotment Meeting	105752	£63.00
10/12/2019	St Margaret's PCC	Purchase of a Chair - in Memory of Mr Stilgoe	105753	£73.98
10/12/2019	Mr P Owen	Bolts, Paint and Materials	105754	£79.89
10/12/2019	Mr J Huddleston	Christmas Tree Install - electrics & physical work	105755	£100.00
10/12/2019	Mr R Jesson	Christmas Tree Install - chain saw	105756	£15.00
10/12/2019	Cheque Cancelled	Cheque Cancelled	105757	£0.00
10/12/2019	Mr Posthethwaite	Christmas Tree Install - fork lift	105758	£10.00
10/12/2019	Cadeby Trees	Christmas Tree Install - assistance	105759	£10.00
10/12/2019	Mr Halford	Christmas Tree Install - cherry picker	105760	£25.00
10/12/2019	Rugby Salvation Army	Christmas Light Switch on - donation	105761	£50.00
10/12/2019	Wolston Baptist Church	Christmas Light Switch on - donation	105762	£20.00
19/12/2019	Mrs M Meede	Signs (CCTV and Footpath Only)	105763	£173.64
19/12/2019	Mr P Owen	Drill Bit, Painting Equipment	105764	£49.30
19/12/2019	Shell Energy	Telephone/Broadband Services	105765	£53.56
19/12/2019	Water Plus	Water Supply - Pavilion	105766	£24.95
19/12/2019	E-ON	Streetlight Maintenance -Q3	105767	£735.05
19/12/2019	Staples	Stationery	105768	£233.04
19/12/2019	Staples	Cleaning Equipment/Bin Bags	105769	£121.54
19/12/2019	Parish Council Employees (x5)	Staff Salaries	105770-4	£2,583.76
19/12/2019	HM Revenue & Customs only	PAYE	105775	£388.10
19/12/2019	WCC Pensions	Staff Pension Scheme	105776	£386.39
19/12/2019	Mrs G Waddilove	NDP - Domain Renewal	105777	£17.88
19/12/2019	Mrs G Waddilove	NDP - Printer Ink	105778	£42.00
24/12/2019	Geosphere Ltd	Parish online Subscription	105779	£162.00
24/12/2019	Team Sport Play	Repairs, Parts, Maintenance - Play Areas	105780	£613.20
				£16,098.73

RESOLVED: The accounts, as listed above, be approved.

b) *To consider payments received December 2019:*

Date Received	From whom	For what purpose ?	Reference	Amount
06/12/2019	HSBC	Business Account Interest	15	£25.39
				£25.39

RESOLVED: The payment, as listed above, was noted.

RESOLVED: The latest bank reconciliation was noted.

c) *Chairman's Allowance/Honorarium.*

The Chairman left the room, and the Vice Chairman (Cllr Fewkes) led this agenda item. Cllr Fewkes summarised the excellent work carried out by the Chairman and the amount of extra time and money he puts into his role. All Councillors agreed that the Chairman does an excellent job and recognised that the £500 in the budget does not cover his expenses in any way or compensates for his time. Cllr Wright felt that the allowance should be increased and proposed £600. He also proposed that £600 should be put in the 2020-2021 budget. This was seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: For the Chairman's to be awarded £600 for the 2019-20 financial year, and for £600 to be in the budget for 2020-21.

On his return to the meeting, the Chairman was informed of the decision and gave his thanks to Councillors. However, he said that he assumes the duties of Chairman for the good of the village and he felt unable to accept the money as he doesn't wish for residents to feel he is gaining from his position. The Chairman could not be persuaded by the other Councillors, but thanked them again for their confidence in him that he was doing a good job – and that was enough for him at this stage.

Signed.....

171. PARISH COUNCIL STREETLIGHTS

Cllr Fewkes gave a brief update and asked for this item to be deferred to the February Parish Council meeting, as he and Cllr Grainger are still looking at the options for upgrading the lights, and are awaiting more information.

RESOLVED: For streetlights to be on the agenda for the February Parish Council meeting.

172. VILLAGE CLOCK

The Clerk confirmed that the Co-op were still awaiting permission from their landlords about replacing the clock on the shop front. A discussion took place about the possibility of installing a new clock on a column on the village green, and the Clerk had received three quotes for this option. However, following the discussion it was proposed that the Clerk should go directly to the Landlord/owner of the Co-op building to seek permission. Councillors felt it was important to keep this bit of history in the village if possible and this would be the preferred option (as long as further access for maintenance is also granted). Cllr Grainger proposed making contact with the owner of the building (details to be sought via the Land Registry) in order to get permission to replace the village clock. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: For the owner of the Co-op building to be contacted for permission to replace the clock.

173. PLANTERS TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council has been awarded £315 which was raised by residents attending the Wolston village quiz held at the Rose and Crown pub. The money is to be put towards replacing the three planters at the entrances to the village. The proposal by the volunteers who tend the planters is to replace them with brick planters. Following a discussion Cllr Cross said that the generosity of residents would be put to good use and proposed that work to replace the planters progresses when weather allows. This was seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: For the village planters to be replaced, and part funded by the village quiz fund.

174. PLAY AREA SURFACING

Cllr Cross provided the update as Chair of the Recreation Working Group. He summarised the work carried out by the group, including the fact they had reviewed the quotes received. Cllr Cross then proposed that the play surfacing at Dyers Lane recreation ground (enclosed area) and at William Cree Close be replaced as per detailed in the quotes from Team Sport Play, at a cost of £15,148.80. The costs would be split across the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 financial years. Cllr Fewkes seconded the proposal and all Councillors were in agreement.

RESOLVED: For Team Sport Play to be instructed to carry out the play resurfacing works.

175. CHRISTMAS TREE

Cllr Miss Ball reported that some residents had concerns about a disposable Christmas tree being used each year, and were requesting that Councillors considered planting a permanent tree that could be used a Christmas tree. Following a discussion, Councillors concluded that planting a permanent Christmas tree would not be viable for a number of reasons. A non-indigenous tree would not be permitted within the conservation area, and if an alternative tree was to be planted it would be quite small and would take many years to get to a reasonable size. It was also noted that utility services run under the area and so planting a tree would potentially interfere with buried services. Councillors recalled that the pavements and road along Main Street used to have a different layout, and the bed of the former concrete road is only a foot or so under much of the grassed area which would inhibit the root growth of any tree. Reassurance was given that the village Christmas tree is always obtained from a renewable/sustainable source, where the trees are grown with the sole purpose of being harvested and replaced – and then the tree is responsibly disposed of. Following the discussion, Cllr Wright proposed sourcing a real Christmas tree for Wolston each year, which was seconded by Cllr Grainger and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: For a Christmas tree to continue to be sourced each year.

The Clerk advised Councillors that Eagles Arboriculture had agreed to take down and chip this year's Christmas tree free of charge for the benefit of Wolston. Councillors were very grateful for the offer and thanked Eagles for their kind offer.

The Chairman suggested that a tree could be planted in the village as part of the VE Day celebrations.

176. ROAD GRITTING

Cllr Wright stated that a resident had offered to grit pavements and paths within the village as and when required on an evening if frost/ice/snow is expected. He is qualified to undertake this task. Councillors discussed the issue, and said that meeting expectations of residents and being consistent was essential. There was also a discussion about how the decision would be made in relation to what areas are gritted and what areas are left. It was felt that the equipment would have to be purchased by the contractor – as any equipment purchased by the Parish Council needs to be secured in the compound and only used by Parish Council employees. Cllr Grainger proposed that an official quote be requested, which should detail costs to the Parish Council, confirmation the contractor is insured and qualified, the scope of exactly what would be involved and when/where, approximately how many hours would be required and to confirm consistency (in terms of location and when the gritting would take place). This was seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: For the proposed contractor to be contacted to see if they would be willing to undertake the task and to establish answers to the questions raised by Councillors

177. FLOODING IN THE AREA

Cllr Miss Ball advised that a resident had asked her to establish the situation in relation to flooding in the village. It was noted that the Parish Council had received grant funding to commission an independent Flood Mitigation Study which was available to view on the village website. The Environment Agency (EA) and Flood Alleviation team at WCC have also been involved and the EA have confirmed they will continue with their vegetation spraying programme – but have no real concerns about the Brook. WCC have advised that they have been contacting relevant land owners and have been checking the road side gullies – which will be cleared and cleansed where necessary. WCC are also regrading the ditches causing premature siltation and they have noted that there has been a lot of road surface water this year, and so drains are also being looked at. It has been recognised that there has been lots of flooding in places and areas that have not experienced flooding before – but they have been pleased with how the Brook has been coping in these unusual and exceptional circumstances (it is a good sign for Wolston the Brook has not breached when other areas have suffered). Cllr Grainger explained that since the major floods of 1997 and the subsequent flood alleviation scheme was introduced and commenced the Brook has not breached and the scheme appears to be working efficiently and effectively. He also advised that WCC will supply door shutters and he also gave information about a valve that can be installed in the sewage pipes of properties to stop sewage getting into houses in flooding situations. It was noted however that certain farmers plough and cultivate right up to the Brook, and as part of the flood alleviation study it was recommended that there should be a boundary of a couple of metres between the edge of the brook and work on the land.

Cllr Grainger proposed that WCC be asked to contact relevant farmers and request that they do not plough/cultivate the land within a couple of metres of the edge of the brook, which should reduce the silt within the Brook. This was seconded by Cllr Miss Ball and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: For WCC be asked to write to the relevant farmers to request they leave a boundary of a couple of metres.

RESOLVED: For Councillors to get a list of any drains they think are problematic/blocked to the Clerk within the next two weeks.

178. DELEGATES REPORTS

- a) **CCTV** – Cllr Grainger advised that the CCTV has now been installed and is working. There are minor issues such as spider webs and focus, but these are easy to resolve locally. Other villages are now showing an interest in joining the scheme
- b) **NDP** – The NDP are requesting a meeting with Councillors to discuss some issues.
- c) **WBBJBC** – Cllr Wright raised concerns about drug related offences taking place in and around the Cemetery. A reminder was given about ringing the Police on telephone 111 to report any issues.

179. INFORMATION FOR UPLOADING TO THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

- CCTV
- Flooding
- Police Consultation
- New planters for village.
- Minutes and Notes from Allotment meetings

Cllr Grainger appreciates Councillors providing him with information and articles for the website as soon as they are available – rather than waiting for the Parish Council meetings.

180. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Village Clock
- VE Day
- Emergency Planning (Disaster Plan)
- Spring Clean
- Streetlights

181. DATE OF NEXT MEETING/S

The Chairman confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 6th February 2020 at the Village Hall. If an interim meeting is required, an agenda will be issued to Councillors, displayed in the noticeboards, on the website and be sent to Wolston Library three clear days before the meeting is held. As there were no further items on the Agenda the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10:25 pm

Signed:..... Chairman Date:

**Notes on the Public Forum and Parish Matters held during the
Parish Council Meeting on 2nd January 2020**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited representations from all who were present.

The public forum discussions were mainly relating to the planning applications that had been submitted in relation to a new development on the allotment land. A query was raised about the minutes taken at the joint meetings about the Allotments. Cllr Grainger agreed to put these on the website. A discussion then took place about the information sheets that had been shared with residents from the Parish Council, and the fact it had been amended on a number of occasions. Cllr Grainger confirmed that the document had evolved and changed when new information had come to light and following liaison with the Planning Consultant.

Residents and Councillors discussed the applications and comments in support of the Parish Council decision and against the decision were voiced. Concerns were also raised about some of the comments made about Councillors on Facebook as it was felt this was not an appropriate medium to make personal comments.

The Chairman reiterated that the Parish Council's decision was just one response to the consultation, and residents were again encouraged to respond individually.

It was confirmed that no Parish Councillor or Borough Councillor had any connection with the Wilcox Trust or personal interest in any development.

Mr T Willis, Project Manager from the NDP read out a statement on behalf of the NDP. In summary, the NDP were asking for clarity as they felt the decision made by the Parish Council to support the proposed development was contrary to the decision made by the Parish Council in August 2019 to support the NDP in taking forward 5 sites (including the allotment land site) for designation as a Local Green Space. Mr Willis said the NDP was unsure on how to proceed and was seeking guidance and recommendations from the Parish Council. Cllr Wright agreed with Mr Willis that clarity was required.

The Chairman agreed that Councillors would meet in the next couple of weeks with representatives of the NDP to discuss the matter.

Borough Cllr Poole advised that the Police and Crime Commissioners Office was in the process of budget setting, and an online consultation was currently live until 17th January 2020. Details will be sent to Councillors and Cllr Grainger agreed to put the information on the village website.

Fly tipping was discussed, and Cllr Poole stated that the Police had been made aware of the incidents.

The Christmas lights were discussed, and the Chairman advised that lights by the War Memorial will need to be in place for next year.

An update was requested in relation to the large hedge by the Library. The Clerk advised that Cty Cllr Mrs Timms had reported that WCC were aware and were liaising with the Library Authority.

Cllr Wright raised concerns about on Coalpit Lane and asked if any progress had been made since the last meeting. Cllr Poole confirmed that he was not aware of any progress and he would approach Cty Cllr Mrs Timms on the matter.

A resident advised that they had not been consulted over the Yardley's Meadow planning application. The Clerk agreed to follow this up.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman closed the public forum part of the meeting and all Councillors agreed to start the Parish Council meeting at 7:55pm.

Note: Borough Councillor Poole and Mr T Willis gave their apologies and left the meeting at this point.

Signed.....