

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY 2ND JULY 2020 AT 6.00 PM**

All Parish Council meetings will be held virtually via Zoom until further notice, in accordance with Government Regulations.

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

Plus: Cty Cllr Mrs H Timms, Borough Cllrs A Bearne, D Poole and Mrs S Bragg, Mr T Willis and 2 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 6:40pm.

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The apologies of Cllr Miss S Cross and Cllr Mrs M White were approved.

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

Cllr Milne declared a personal interest in agenda item 41) and Cllr Wright declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 40). The Chairman advised that Councillors could declare an interest later in the meeting should this become apparent for any agenda item.

31. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND NOTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

All Councillors had been given the opportunity to review the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2020 prior to the Parish Council meeting. Cllr Wright requested that under agenda item 19 it be noted that he asked for a 'growth and capacity evaluation' rather than a sewage capacity study.

Following a brief discussion Cllr Cross proposed approving the minutes, subject to the amendment, which was seconded by Cllr Fewkes and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th June 2020 having been approved for adoption by those who had been present at the meeting subject to the amendment requested by Cllr Wright, be signed by the Chairman.

32. NOTICE OF MOTION

Cllr Wright raised concerns that he felt the Allotment Working Group had been involved in decision making and negotiations without the consent of the Parish Council, and he understood Working Groups should be there to advise the Parish Council and make recommendations. The Chairman agreed that Working Groups should not make decisions, as stated in the Good Councillors Guide, and he was not aware that any decisions had been made by the Working Group, that the Parish Council was always updated at Parish Council meetings – and that no decisions needed to be made as yet. The Chairman asked Cllr Wright what decisions he was referring to.

Cllr Wright noted that in previous minutes Rosconn had advised Councillors that there was a finite amount of money available, and he raised the issue of the compensation package which he said was being negotiated between the Allotments Association and Rosconn, and he wanted to know if members would be compensated. The Chairman confirmed that the Allotments Association would receive financial compensation for the disturbance and would be responsible for dispersing any compensation to their members as appropriate. The Working Group were simply supporting the Allotments Association in their attempt to get fair dealings if the planning application was successful and they are acting only as facilitators and no decisions had been made.

Cllr Wright asked about the allotment land rent, which he felt was too high for allotment land, and he felt that the rate should be negotiated to try and achieve a better deal and that there should be some form of compensation for giving up the lease. The Chairman confirmed that the lease had not been given up, and that the rent was set by Godfrey-Payton on behalf of the Wilcox Trust and the Parish Council had no part in the decision making for the rent. A further discussion took place, including the possibility of instructing a land agent to negotiate compensation if the lease is terminated and assist with negotiations for a new lease should the planning application be successful. Cllr Wright and Cllr Miss Ball thought a Land Agent should be instructed now, but as the allotment lease had not been given up or terminated and there is no intention by either party to end the lease contract at the current time, other Councillors was felt it was too premature to agree to instruct a Land Agent at this time. It was agreed that if it becomes necessary in the future the issue of instructing a Land Agent could be discussed then, but at the moment it is too early to know.

33. PROGRESS REPORT

The progress report was noted.

The Clerk provided an update in relation to the re-opening of the play areas. More clarification is being sought by WALC, NALC and the SLCC in relation to the Government Guidelines for re-opening the play areas, as the current guidance is unclear and it would not be possible to make the play areas Covid-compliant. The Clerk is in the process of carrying out a risk assessment, and has ordered signage so that the play areas can be opened as soon as is practicable. All Councillors agreed that the play areas should remain closed until it is confirmed as safe as possible to open them.

Cllr Wright asked about the surface water drains, and where the water runs and goes to. The Clerk agreed to contact Severn Trent to see if they have any plans and further information in relation to this.

Cllr Wright highlighted that residents in Larchfields had been asking for a bollard to prevent vehicles driving over frontages and grass, and over the footpath. The Clerk agreed to speak to RBC about this matter.

34. PLANNING

a) *R20/0418 - Erection of single storey rear extension and garage conversion at 11 Mill Close, CV8 3PA.*

Following a discussion, Cllr Miss Ball proposed supporting the application subject to neighbour consultation, which was seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: For the Parish Council to support this application subject to neighbour consultation.

b) *RBC20CM010 – Proposed erection and operation of a sand and gravel processing plant and weighbridge with associated silting facilities at Wolston Fields Farm, Wolston Lane.*

Councillors discussed the application and felt that the proposals would lead to less lorry movements, and should not impact on Wolston. Councillors agreed to review the application further and get any comments to the Clerk by 12th July 2020, although in general Councillors were supportive.

RESOLVED: For Councillors to get their comments to the Clerk by 12th July 2020.

Cllr Wright raised a query about the footpath diversions in relation to the quarry. Cllr Parker has the maps and information, and agreed to get the information to Cllr Wright.

35. CORRESPONDENCE

A discussion took place about PA Housing agreeing to cut the hedge and vegetation along School Street. Cllr Miss Ball suggested that residents be advised when the hedge cutting is likely to take place so they can move their vehicles. The Clerk agreed to make this request to PA Housing.

Correspondence from residents about the allotment land was noted, and also about a WALC academic study. Information about re-opening halls and community centres was also noted, including about legionella testing.

36. FINANCE

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

a) *To approve accounts for payment in June 2020.*

01/06/2020	Mrs M Fewkes	War Memorial Plants	105884	£54.78
01/06/2020	Rugby Pest Control	Mole Control - Cemetery April and May	105885	£48.00
01/06/2020	Arco	Facemasks - PPE	105886	£30.15
01/06/2020	Rugby Pest Control	Mole Control - PC and WBBJBC June	105887	£72.00
01/06/2020	M Spencer	Internal Audit	105888	£250.00
01/06/2020	Mrs M Meede	Zoom subscription	105889	£14.39
02/06/2020	Mr P Owen	Fence paint	105890	£127.20
15/06/2020	JK Timber	Wood for noticeboard legs	105891	£252.00
15/06/2020	Shell Energy	Broadband and Telephone	105892	£27.98
15/06/2020	Lakeside	Grass Cutting - May	105893	£960.00
15/06/2020	Mrs C Payne	Millstone Beds Plants	105894	£100.00
15/06/2020	Mr J Milne	Compost for Flower Boxes	105895	£5.25
15/06/2020	Arco	Antiseptic and surface wipes	105896	£21.80
15/06/2020	P Dixon	Fence work - Dyers Lane play area	105897	£180.00
15/06/2020	E-ON	Pavilion Electric Supply	105898	£40.97
19/06/2020	Vision ICT Ltd	Data Backup (Laptop)	105899	£144.00
19/06/2020	Parish Council Employees (x5)	Staff Salaries	105900-5	£2,606.88
19/06/2020	HMRC	PAYE	105905	£361.39
19/06/2020	WCC Pension Fund	LGPS	105906	£348.79
19/06/2020	Staples	Printer Ink	105907	£26.39

Following a brief review Cllr Fewkes proposed supporting the accounts for payment, which was seconded by Cllr Milne and agreed unanimously.

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

b) *To consider payments received in June 2020.*

There were no payments received to note.

37. PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2020-2021

Following a review of the End of Year 2019-20 budget, it was established that the proposed 2020-21 budget is still valid and a realistic budget for the Parish Council, and the information included and the expected income were unchanged from the budgeting meeting in December 2019.

Cllr Wright asked if the money in the budget for play area repairs was accurate as less than expected would have to be paid for the play area repairs. The Clerk confirmed that some work was still due to be completed in the near future, and following the next annual play inspection there is likely to be more work highlighted to be carried out. The Recreation Working Group had also been looking at getting picnic furniture for the Dyers Lane playing fields, as this had been requested by residents following a survey. Once figures are known the Clerk will advise what the costs are likely to be.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the 2020-21 budget be re-endorsed.

38. RELOCATION OF WASTE BIN BY THE WAR MEMORIAL

Residents had requested that the Parish Council look at relocating the bin which is situated between the War Memorial and flag pole, as the location is not aesthetically pleasing and can get in the way when events such as Remembrance Sunday take place. Cllr Wright felt it was in the correct place and should be left where it is. Cllr Parker mentioned that there were some wood and wood effect bins that could be purchased to replace the current bin, but other Councillors agreed with the residents and felt that it is actually the location that is the problem rather than the bin itself, and did not think it was worth replacing if it would be in the same position.

The Clerk had sent out information to Councillors about bin options, including types of bins and prices, and Councillors agreed to look again at the information sent by the Clerk.

39. PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

A discussion took place about Working Groups and it was noted that information about Working Groups including powers and responsibilities should be in the Standing Orders.

40. FENCING ON DYERS LANE PLAYING FIELDS

Councillors discussed the need to install new fencing at the top of the Dyers Lane Playing Field, including looking at the quotes and specifications. Cllr Wright also highlighted the need to get permission from the landowners to gain access to their fields in order to clear out the ditch when necessary.

Cllr Wright had declared a pecuniary interest in this agenda item, as a family member may be assisting one of the contractors with installing the posts.

Cllr Grainger proposed agreeing in principle to PD Fencing installing the new fencing, subject to clarification of costs and the final decision to be made by the Clerk using delegated powers. The Clerk agreed to seek the opinion of Councillors before making the final decision. Cllr Fewkes seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: For the Clerk to liaise with Councillors via email to get their final opinions on the fencing which should be used, and to then instruct PD Fencing to carry out the work.

41. DELEGATES REPORTS

The NDP had been discussed in the Public Forum part of the meeting.

a) Allotments Working Group -Cllr Milne provided a brief update, including the fact the Allotments Association were still liaising with Rosconn about the specifications for the new allotments site – should the planning application be successful. The Parish Council will have sight of the documents once they are out together, and the Parish Council as a whole will then make the any decision, and will be guided by the Parish Council Solicitor.

Concerns were raised about rumours going around the village in relation to the Allotment Land lease, and it was confirmed that the lease was still in place, and there were no plans for the lease to be terminated. Cllr Grainger confirmed that the full Parish Council would have to make any decision in relation to the lease being amended or terminated, and that the lease would at the very least need to be revised at some point to take into account the smaller area of land. Cllr Miss Ball felt that with the changes being proposed in relation to the lease, she thought a new lease would be required rather than

just amending the current lease. Cllr Milne advised that the Parish Council Solicitor would be involved with any decisions being made in relation to the lease.

Cllr Wright queried the cost of the lease and felt that notice should be taken of the Emerging Local NDP – which should be given consideration.

42. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

43. HUMAN RESOURCES AND STAFFING MATTER

Councillors agreed to defer agenda items 42 and 43 to the next Parish Council meeting.

44. INFORMATION FOR UPLOADING TO THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

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.

- Play areas being shut, and information about re-opening.
- Web-links to WCC reporting site

45. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

During this time only essential items will be put on the agenda, in line with guidance. Councillors should advise the Clerk of any essential items for the agenda as soon as possible.

- HR and staffing.
- Christmas tree and lights.
- Discuss roads and pathway problems.
- Planting and village planters.

46. DATE OF NEXT MEETING/S

The Chairman confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 6th August 2020 via zoom. If an interim meeting is required, an agenda will be issued to Councillors and put on the website three clear days before the meeting is held.

As there were no further items on the Agenda the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:05 pm.

Signed:..... Chairman

Date:

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

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

Borough Cllr Poole has reported the rubbish which is being left by the viaduct and river by Bluemels to the Environment Officer, and he is awaiting a response.

Authorities are monitoring the fact pubs can open from the weekend. This includes the fact there should be no tables on the footpath and social distancing should be adhered to.

Borough Cllr Bearn reported that the fly tipping reported on the Fosse had been removed, and he then advised that the Army are back in Rugby to assist with Covid-19 testing. Buildings such as the Museum and Art Gallery will be opening soon.

Cllr Wright noted that Dunchurch Parish Council have an office in their Library building. Cty Cllr Mrs Timms explained it is a community Library run by the Parish Council and volunteers. Wolston Library building is also used as a Children's Centre and due to this and its location there are no plans for it to close.

Mr T Willis then provided an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and went through the highlight report – which is available for viewing on the village NDP website (www.wolstoneighbourhoodplan.co.uk) or from the Parish Council Clerk. Mr Willis advised that the NDP aims to present the first draft of the NDP to the Parish Council on 23rd July 2020 at 6pm. Before this the plan needs to be reviewed by Avon Planning Services, and so he explained Councillors will receive a copy of the draft plan on 16th July 2020. The Chairman felt this was not much time to review the document, and other Councillors also felt that due to the amount of work put into the document by the NDP Working Group, they should have enough time to review it and give the document the due attention it deserves. There was also a discussion about the evidence base, and Mr Willis said he would speak to the Planning Consultant about whether the supporting evidence should also be sent with the draft plans.

Signed.....

Cllr Cross raised concerns again about the data relating to the school, as he said the School have the actual figures rather than just estimated. The Chairman said that as the NDP got the information from the Education Authority (the official department for this information) it should be down to the School or the School Governing body to raise the concern with the Education Authority. Cllr Wright asked if the data in the document about school children included the fact many children go to school outside of Wolston and Mr Willis agreed to take this query up with the lead for this area.

Mr Willis said he would speak with the Planning Consultant about the issues raised by the Parish Council, and the Consultant was also looking at the issue around the Allotments Planning application which had been supported by the Parish Council, and the fact the Parish Council had also supported the NDP with the designation of Local Green Spaces – which may be in conflict with each other.

Another discussion took place about the timescales and the fact most Councillors felt they would need longer than a week to give the plan justice. Cllr Wright said he had already read the document and had a few comments to make on it. Cllr Poole said that the plan still has to go to RBC Cabinet and then Full Council, who won't be seeing it for a long time due to the coronavirus, but he felt there was merit in getting the plan signed off when possible.

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 6:40pm.

Note: Cty Cllr Mrs Timms, Borough Councillors A Bearne, D Poole and Mrs S Bragg and Mr T Willis (NDP) gave their apologies and left the meeting at this point.