

WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL

2 Main Street, Wolston, CV8 3H
Tel: 07305 147713
Email: wolstonpc@wolstonpc.co.uk

minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd April, Main Street, Wolston

Attendees:

Councillors: Cllr Willis, Cllr Wright, Cllr Milne, Cllr Osmond, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Kenney, Cllr S Ward (RBC), Cllr Sonko (County) Clerk Malyon, RFO Ball and 1 Member of the Public

The meeting started at 19.15pm with a welcome from the Chair

178) Apologies: to receive apologies and approve reasons for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Rainey, Cllr Ramsay, Cllr Fernandez, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Poole (Borough)

179) Information items: to consider and discuss items for information and comment if appropriate:

a) County Councillor report-

Cllr Sonko confirmed that she had attended the village with the Highways portfolio holder, alongside other villages. Further to concerns from residents reported by the Clerk; they also visited the tree causing concern between meadow road and school street. Photos of the foliage were taken and sent to the forestry department.

Cllr Sonko advised that works should have been started at the turn from Brandon into Bretford. No notifications of road closure had been received.

Cllr Sonko advised that they had been looking into what can be done to support Wolston Leisure and Community Centre (WLCC) and asked for local knowledge of who may have a copy of the deeds to verify ownership.

TW declared an interest as trustee for WLCC

Residents and Cllrs raised concerns regarding the unsafe practice of lorries and coaches turning left from coalpit lane onto school street. This is causing damage to verges and increasing the risk of hazards for oncoming traffic.

b) Borough Councillor report- Cllr Ward highlighted that the annual easter egg hunt will be taking place in Caldecott Park, Rugby this is complimented by an Easter market in the town and live music which will hopefully feature some of the talent and sass displayed at the recent Wolston's got

A Cllr enquired regarding the abandoned garages opposite Bennet court being sold as general Market value rather than offered to local councils first. Cllr Willis agreed to chase D Collins regarding this item.

Main street verge near Bill's Deli- Custom designed planters were discussed, it was acknowledged that consultation will be required. A resident wrote to the highway's authority, and it was reported that the authority is happy with the current situation. Cllr Willis agreed that he would send a redacted copy of the response to Cllr Sonko

c) Local Plan – no updates to report.

d) Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire update- no updates

e) Local Elections; deadline for submitting Cllr papers is just one week away on 9th April.

180) Public participation:

to adjourn to allow public participation for 15 minutes. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this Agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chair. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself.

181) Declarations of interest

- a. To declare any personal interests or prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature. Cllr Willis – Rugby Borough Cllr, Trustee WLCC

b. To receive, consider and approve any requests for dispensation relating to Agenda items.

182) Minutes of previous meetings: To approve the minutes as circulated

a) Parish Council meeting 5th March 2026

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Osmond. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

183) Co-Option- this item is deferred until after the May 2026 election results as per agenda item 165 dated 5th March 2026- noted

184) Finance- See Appendix 1

a) To approve accounts for payment.

Supplier	Description	Amount	Comments
Hertz	Pavillion EICR	£432.00	Agreed at March meeting
Hobday	Flayling	£151.20	Cllr Wright has invoice
WALC	CiLCA Training	£540.00	C Malyon
WALC	2026/27 Subs	£968.00	Includes NALC
WALC	CiLCA Training	£540.00	T Ball
Moore	Statutory recommendation	£504.00	See item g below.

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Willis. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

b) To confirm payment of \Officers and Councillors Expenses

Supplier	Description	Amount	Comments
T Ball	Lap top, printer	£710.99	
Salaries	Total Cost	£4677.39	March 26 – increase due to correction of PWL pension and RFO starting to be paid.

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Milne. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

c) To note payments received. N/A

d) To consider any grant applications and make appropriate decision. N/A

e) Councillor Wright to present the approach for delivering improved value by reducing costs and enhancing efficiency under agenda item 167, dated 5 March 2026, and will seek confirmation from the Councillors. The finding will be presented at the June 26 meeting.

A Suggestion was made from chair to defer under the reasonable person test. Cllrs agreed that it would be sensible to continue this route and requested that finance reports are given in advance to make it clear that the councils goal is transparent and always heading towards efficiency.

Cllr Wright proposed an agreement to defer; however, requested that work on document for next the new council commencing May 2026

RESOLVED: Motion carried to defer under a recorded vote Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Kenney.

Votes for: Cllr Wright, Cllr Kenney, Cllr Osmond

Votes against: None

Abstained: Cllr Willis, Cllr Milne

f) To approve the appointment of an internal auditor for 2024-25 and 2025-26. Helen Dubois. Cllr Wright requested to see documentation/ examples of previous work; otherwise, is happy to go ahead with RFO recommendation.

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Osmond. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

g) Update regarding the 2024-25 AGAR- request move to closed session LW SO, AIF

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Osmond. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

h) War memorial lights repair quote

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Osmond. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

185) Notice of Motion- From Cllr Wright- Under Standing order No 9

Wolston Parish Council debate the need to save money and make better use of Council staff by extending the lowest grass cutting tender to include all areas of grass coloured red and purple on the current tender document map for 2026/2027.

Thus, enabling essential health and safety works and urgent maintenance works to be carried out in house.

UNRESOLVED: Motion carried to defer Proposed Cllr Willis; Second Cllr Wright. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

186) Clerks Report to provide an update on key projects in March 2026.- See Appendix 2

187) Adoption of Policies. to note the review and adoption of following policies

a. To note the review and adoption of Training policy to include a clawback clause for Wolston Parish Council. Amend to start from £35 Paragraph 4.

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Kenney. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

b. To note and review and adoption of the IT policy for Wolston Parish Council.

UNRESOLVED: Motion carried to defer Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Milne. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

188) Progress reports/information from working groups and committees, items of update for Parish Council – to consider/decide matters relating to each as required

Councillors, Officers and local groups are asked to provide a written report to the Clerk prior to the meeting for circulation.

- Update of Free Basic First Aid Courses – Cllr Ramsay/RFO- record thanks from Cllr Willis for excellent work and collaboration in making this an event for the community.
- CCTV- 16th April is scheduled for works to take place
- Live streaming of Parish Council meetings- deferred
- WLCC
- Flood Action Group- see attached
- Spitfire electrician to address some items; hopefully works are scheduled 10th April

189) Planning To receive information on planning applications and any other planning matters and decide any actions as appropriate: -

a. New planning applications to be distributed to all councillors on receipt.

R26/0213 Erection of porch at rear entrance, 47, The Beeches, main street, Wolston

R26/0214 Listed building consent for erection of porch at rear entrance, 47, The Beeches, main street, Wolston

Noted; subject to neighbours being consulted, No further comments are required via the parish council

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Kenney. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

b.

190) RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Kenney. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

a. To receive an update from the chair regarding progress regarding queries raised about Wolston Conservation area. Owner intends to submit retrospective planning permission.

191) BT Pole plans to erect a Pole on the Grass verge outside 31 Main Street - Councillors to receive a briefing note from Chair to consider the Council's position further to resident concerns raised re: installation on designated Village Green- see attached

192) Future Agenda Items Councillors are asked 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.

Request to switch bank accounts to Unity Trust bank

Fireworks

Wetpour- playground

193) Parish Council Communications (information for sharing) - To receive suggestions for items for the Village website, Parish Council Facebook Page, avon grapevine.

194)Date of Next Meetings –

5th May 7pm Annual Parish meeting

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Osmond. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Wright; Second Cllr Osmond. 3 Cllrs voted in favour, 2 Cllrs Abstained

195) Confidential matters: to consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for discussions and decisions in relation to either Personnel matters or Legal matters.

Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Parish Council is invited to Resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda items owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

TW/ SO- AIF.

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Willis; Second Cllr Osmond. All 5 Cllrs voted in favour

196) SLCC Membership Councillors are requested to consider requests to support officers in SLCC Membership application costs. This membership is required to complete learning outcome assessments during the training period.

RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed Cllr Osmond Second Cllr Milne. 4 Cllrs voted in favour, 1 Cllr voted against

Finance item moved to confidential- **RESOLVED: Motion carried Proposed** Cllr Wright proposed to pay in full, second Cllr Milne- All Cllrs voted in favour

Moore	Statutory recommendation	£504.00	See item g below.
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