

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

1st September 2020 at 7.30pm

Online Meeting via Zoom

Present: Ballantine, Walsh, Worth, Gregory, Green, Myers, Bulpett, Clayton, Clare, Washington, Jarratt, Moore, Chambers.

Clerk: Keith Shelley

Chairman: Tom Walsh

Members of Public: 5

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

P20/122 None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

P20/123 None.

3. TEMPORARY DELIGATED POWERS DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

P20/124 It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the current arrangements for the delegated powers to the Clerk and the current working arrangements for the staff. Cllr Gregory suggested that councillors should be made aware of any decisions made outside of the formal meetings. It was **AGREED** the Clerk will provide relevant details.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P20/125 The Chairman highlighted renewed interest in WPC providing a skate park. It was **AGREED** to establish a Working Group and have the requirement included on the next Amenities Meeting agenda.

5. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

Consideration of approval of minutes of the meetings of 7th July 2020.

P20/126 The minutes were **RESOLVED** as a true record. The Clerk will leave a copy of the minutes in the Clock Tower for the Chairman to sign.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

P20/127 Sink Hole opposite St Anne's Close. A member of the public highlighted her concerns over a sink hole adjacent to St Anne's Close. The Clerk confirmed it had been reported during March and safety barriers had been installed. He also confirmed it had been escalated to Cllr Bowles who has escalated it to Highways to have it repaired as a matter of urgency.

P20/128 Motor Bike speeding and noise issues. A member of the public representing the Wendover Society highlighted the noise and speeding issues from motor bikes using a circuit which includes Aylesbury Rd, the High Street, and the by-pass. The concerns have been reported to the Police who have acknowledged the concerns but done little to address them. The resident offered to join a Working Group to address the concerns should one be established. Cllr Walsh confirmed the issue will be considered later in the meeting at 14e.

7. REPORT FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

P20/129 No report was received and a TVP representative failed to attend.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

P20/130 Cllr Newcombe commented on the following:

- He confirmed officers previously redeployed to support the COVID-19 crisis are now returning to their primary roles. He also highlighted the financial significance of the pandemic on the Unitary budget. A major focus for the Council is the engagement with the Government to recover the councils financial loses.
- He confirmed Cllr Bowles had been appointed to Chair of the Aylesbury Garden Town board and the likely benefits this will have by the inclusion of Wendover and other surrounding villages being considered in decisions relating to the Aylesbury Garden Town project.
- Cllr Newcombe confirmed the first meeting of the Wendover Community Board had taken place. He outlines the physical boundaries of the Board and the local budgetary benefits.
- Cllr Newcombe accepted the criticisms from councils relating to the planning 'calling in' system. He confirmed a review is being conducted and he is hopeful this will address the current concerns.
- Cllr Newcombe confirmed he would represent the Unitary Authority in a Working Group to address the noise and speeding concerns previously discussed.

Cllr Walsh expressed his concerns over the less than sensitive approach to pavement licenses for Tres Corozones, No 2 and Istanbul given the current pandemic and subsequent trading difficulties. Cllr Newcombe agreed with the concerns but also recognised the liability issues associated with the licencing.

Cllr Walsh asked if the budget had been agreed for the Community Boards. Cllr Newcombe confirmed no knowledge of the budgets but will gain clarification.

Cllr Myers highlighted the detail in the Planning White Paper which encouraged localism and planning enforcement reminding Cllr Newcombe they should be considered during the review. He also expressed concern about the pavement restrictions created by the tables and chairs located outside No 2 and Tres Correzones.

Cllr Durden-Moore asked when the issues around the pavement licencing will be resolved. Cllr Newcombe confirmed the pavement licences had been issued. Cllr Bowles confirmed that Whitewater's applied for and received a Parking Suspension to locate their tables in the parking bays outside their business. They have recently applied for an extension.

Cllr Bowles reiterated his commitment to engaging with all the local villages to ensure they benefit from the Aylesbury Garden Town project. Whilst recognising the first Community Board meeting lacked clarity in its purpose, he is confident that once established it will close the previous gap that existed between the Parishes and the Council benefitting all the local communities.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

P20/131 The Clerks report was NOTED.

Cllr Clayton volunteered her services to assist with the Great British Summer Clean Up and asked if any other councillors would join her. The Clerk requested interested councillors email him and he will confirm the team.

10. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

To receive reports from outside bodies.

P20/0132 Cllr Myers attended a recent Wendover Action Group meeting on the 3rd August. He confirmed there are no plans to reintroduce the Transport Service currently and expressed concerns about the future

of the service due to the age of the volunteer drivers and a ruling which may exclude them. It was decided to maintain the status quo and meet again during October to assess the situation.

Cllr Myers and Washington are attending a Churchyard committee meeting on Wednesday 2nd September. Cllr Myers proposed that WPC thank the committee for looking after the churchyard so well during this difficult time. It was AGREED thanks should be offered.

Cllr Green raised concern about bonfires being lit under the tree in the churchyard. Cllr Myers confirmed he will highlight the concerns at the meeting.

Cllr Worth has been attending a series of presentations entitled Wilding for Parishes. One of which was Biodiversity in Planning which has been circulated. Another was on wildlife verges and how to maintain trees and hedges for wildlife. Another related to ponds but was not relevant to Wendover. Cllr Worth has all the information which he will put into a report for circulation to the council.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

To consider items of correspondence listed at (Appendix 1)

P20/133 Community Care A resident associated with the Wendover Good Neighbour Scheme identified a failing with Community Care. Particularly relating to advertising what support is available and connecting those in need to the services. It was AGREED to include this on the agenda for the next meeting.

P20/134 Climate Action Wendover requested the council provide details on suitable buildings to support their solar power initiative. It was AGREED councillors would email the Clerk with their recommendations.

P20/135 Rural market Towns Group approached the council to provide their services on a trial basis until 31st March 2021 with no charge. If the council decide to remain with the service their charge from 1st April 2021 is £130 per annum. It was **RESOLVED** to use the opportunity to assess how they may assist the council.

12. FINANCE

a) To review the final I&E report, EMR's and Balance Sheet for July 2020.

P20/0136 The I&E report, EMR report and balance sheet for July 2020 were NOTED.

b) To consider and approve the list of payments.

P20/137. The list of payments was NOTED with no comments.

c) To note the draft minutes from the meeting of 18th August 2020.

P20/138 The draft minutes were NOTED.

d) To consider the recommendations from the Finance Committee (Appendix 2).

P20/ 139 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the insurance quote of £4305.53 for the coming year.

13. PLANNING COMMITTEE

To note draft minutes of meeting of 7th July 21st July and 4th August 2020.

P20/140 The draft minutes were NOTED.

Cllr Bulpett highlighted the objection raised by the council to 50 Thornton Crescent at the meeting on 7th July. Concerns were raised about the time limit relating to 'calling in' the application and that a date should be included on the application to inform all involved. Cllr Newcombe highlighted the 28-day time constraint which applies to both levels of review, further justifying the need to have the closing date included and highlighted.

14. OTHER MATTERS

a) HS2

To receive an update and any recommendations for the working group.

P20/141 Cllr Walsh outlined recent activity relating to the HS2 WG, specifically matters relating to Kenilworth, the Environmental Statement and FOI activity with the lobbyist.

Cllr Clayton raised concerns relating to Cllr Walsh taking full responsibility for the HS2 WG activity. She commented on the perceived poor communication relating to the group's activity and volume of expenditure. She also commented on the tunnel solution, recognising it has been rejected by Government on numerous occasions and suggesting a new approach should be made with broader support from the council. Cllr Walsh responded by saying the group are creating an environment where the tunnel becomes the logical solution including subjects suggested by Cllr Clayton. By working at different levels, the object is not to propose a tunnel but to create an environment where the tunnel becomes the logical solution. Cllr Gregory confirmed she had been a member of the original Working Group and confirmed the 3 current members remained because nobody else wanted to do it. She also considers the group to be completely open in what they are doing and always open for questions.

Cllr Durden-Moore requested clarification from Cllr Clayton on why she had issues with having just one councillor on the Working Group. Cllr Clayton responded by stating the council operates as a corporate body and the responsibility for a subject as important as HS2 should not rest with one councillor. She also suggested that more effective communication may clarify how diverse the WG activities are in approaching the tunnel solution. Given her background, Cllr Durden-Moore offered to support Cllr Walsh with providing a communications strategy.

Cllr Clare highlighted the questions she asked resulting from Rob Butlers letters and confirmed her lack of understanding regarding HS2.

Summing up, Cllr Walsh confirmed all spending associated with the WG had been agreed by the council and he welcomed any councillor to join the WG to assist with the communication, warning they are a long way into the project and there would be a great deal of information to publicise.

b) **Minor Christmas and Other Events 2020**

To consider holding the events taking account of the pandemic.

P20/142 The events listed were considered and the following decisions made:

- **Best Dressed Christmas Window** – It was **RESOLVED** to hold this event.
- **High Street Christmas Lights** – It was **RESOLVED** to display the lights and given the savings gained by not holding the Christmas Light Switch on Event, WPC will purchase trees for businesses who purchased their tree last year.
- **Carols Around the Tree** – Given the uncertainty around the band being able to attend, it was **AGREED** the Clerk should investigate the use of a speaker system.
- **Christmas Songs at The Local Produce Market** - Given the uncertainty around the band being able to attend, it was **AGREED** the Clerk should investigate the use of a speaker system.
- **Staff & Councillors Christmas Dinner** – Given the numbers involved, it was **AGREED** the dinner would be cancelled and the possibility of hampers being distributed investigated by the Clerk.
- **Schools Christmas Decorations Competition** – It was **RESOLVED** to hold this event.
- **Halloween Competition** – It was **RESOLVED** to hold this event.

c) **General Powers of Competence (GPC)**

To receive an update from the Clerk on the GPC.

P20/143 The Clerk confirmed both he and the Deputy are taking the CiLCA qualification and expect to be successful next year. He also highlighted the requirement to have the elected membership equal to, or greater than two thirds of the total members of the council. There are currently six co-opted members; however, the election to be held during May 2021 should address this issue.

d) **20 mph Project.**

To receive an update from the Clerk on the 20 mph project.

P20/144. The Clerk provided an overview of the paper presented by Climate Action Wendover (CAW) and a response from Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB). It was **AGREED** the Clerk will consult with the

representative from CAW on the response from TfB and establish how this may impact on their original submission. An update will be communicated at the PC meeting in October 2020.

e) **Bypass Noise and Speeding.**

To consider establishing a Working Group to address the continuing bypass frustrations.

P20/145. Cllr Walsh outlined his concerns relating to the noise and speed issues in and around Wendover, including the bypass. His suggestion is to form a Working Group with a preponderance of community involvement to emphasise the strength of feeling and gain a positive outcome. Cllrs Ballantine, Worth, Jarratt and Myers expressed an interest in supporting the WG. Four members of the public attending the meeting also confirmed their interest. It was AGREED the Clerk would confirm membership of the group and offer some dates for the group to meet. TOR will also need to be agreed.

f) **COVID-19 Memorial**

To consider a request from Rev Sally Moring for a contribution towards memorial tree costs.

P20/146 It was AGREED Cllr Myers would provide the cost of the tree from his meeting with the Churchyard Committee and confirm this with the Clerk. A decision will then be made on how much to contribute from the council.

g) **Policy Reviews**

To review the Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy and the Co-option Policy.

P20/147 Cllr Myers submitted his observations to the Clerk. Cllr Clayton requested clarity for the definition on the age of a vulnerable adult. Her understanding is 18 and 24 if they have a disability. It was AGREED the Clerk will confirm the definition and the observations submitted would be incorporated.

h) **Time Capsule and Warden Event**

To receive an update from Cllr Myers on the Time Capsule and Warden Event projects.

P20/148 Cllr Durden-Moore provided an update from her meetings with Cllr Myers and Clare. She outlined their ideas for engagement with the local schools and the public by asking for emotive statements about what the lockdown meant for you? Some of the best stories would then be included in the capsule and maybe featured in the Wendover News and shared on the PC website.

Cllr Ballantine asked if items other than those relating to the pandemic will be included. It was AGREED that the capsule should span 2020 and include other related matters of interest.

Cllr Worth asked whether the stones would be included in the capsule, highlighting they have been removed. The Clerk confirmed the Ground Team have them stored safely and a decision on how best to utilise them would be included on the next Amenities agenda.

It was AGREED that consideration should be given to locating the capsule towards the end of this year.

Cllr Myers outlined his initial costs for providing a BBQ and supporting activities for the event to be held next Spring or Summer and requested other suggestions. Cllr Clayton suggested utilising the marques which will be erected to support Wendover Celebrates next year. They are erected on a Friday and not used until the Sunday so they could be used on the Saturday. Cllr Walsh outlined his support for the event based on the outstanding actions provided by the Wardens in supporting the community.

Cllr Bulpett reminded the meeting that figures would be required for the budget meeting to be held at the end of September.

The Clerk suggested Cllr Myers approached the British Legion who can provide bar facilities, entertainment, and a BBQ.

i) **Website Accessibility**

To consider delegating the issue of a final statement to the office.

P20/149 The Clerk outlined the requirement and the capability of Cheryl Marley to produce the statement. It was **RESOLVED** for her to produce the final statement which would then be signed off by the Clerk.

j) **Manor Waste – Commercial Agreement**

To consider a proposal from Rumsey's for the use of the Manor Waste on a permanent basis.

P20/150 The Clerk outlined the detail from his meetings with Rumsey's and No 2. This included tables and chairs not being placed around the Manor Waste on market days. He also proposed a figure of £10.00 a day for Rumsey's to forecast their finances. They replied suggesting a figure of £4.00 a day and No 2 suggested a figure of £100.00 per annum to align with the pavement licencing charges.

Cllr Walsh proposed the decision on charging should be delegated to the Clerk. It was AGREED the Clerk will negotiate with both businesses on the charging and practical arrangements for use of the Manor Waste.

Cllr Ballantine suggested the amount should be no more than £4.00 per day. Cllr Gregory suggested the £100 per annum was more appropriate in supporting the businesses.

It was also AGREED that a review of the Local Produce Market protocol should be included on the next Amenities meeting agenda.

k) **ASB issues**

To consider a request from Cllr Clare to revisit ASB actions.

P20/151 The Clerk outlined the improvements witnessed from Cllr Strachan's engagement with the local Police and subsequent increased patrols. It was AGREED to include an item for ASB on the next agenda to confirm the improvements.

l) **Community Plot Location**

To receive feedback from the council on a location for a Community Plot.

P20/152 It was AGREED the Clerk should make contact with the resident proposing the Community Plot for her to comment on the suitability of the old skate park as a location.

m) **Flo's Tantalising Gin**

To consider a request to utilise the Manor Waste for a charity event.

P20/153 The Clerk confirmed a suitable location had been secured for the event so the Manor Waste is no longer required.

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

P20/154 The date for the next Full Council meeting is 6th October at 7.30pm on Zoom

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

P20/155 None.

17. CLOSURE OF MEETING

P20/156 As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed by *Tom Walsh*

Chairman to the Parish Council

Date: 6th October 2020