

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

2nd November 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting held at St Anne's Hall

Present: Councillors Ballantine, Bulpett, Durden-Moore, Gallagher, Lloyd-Evans, Malleson, Washington, Williams and Worth

Clerk: Louise Hayday

Chairman: Sheila Bulpett

Members of Public: 10

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PC21/193 Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Standen and Goodall, no apologies were received from Cllr Walker.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

PC21/194 Cllr Durden-Moore declared an interest in item 15b as a member of the Wendover HS2 Mitigation Group.

3. MINUTES

Consideration of approval of minutes of the meeting of 5th October 2021

PC21/195 The minutes were RESOLVED as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PC21/196

- 1) A member of the public expressed concern over the Council declaring a Climate Emergency without consulting the parishioners. Cllr Bulpett explained that the emergency was in relation to Council operations and there was an item for an eco audit of the council operations later on the agenda.
- 2) A member of the Wendover HS2 Mitigation Action Group introduced the group to the Council and explained a little on the history of the group and its aims for Wendover. They went on to explain that the current estimate is around 1000 homes will directly be affected from the noise of HS2 when it is completed, a plan was outlined that would involve a vertical wall on the Wendover side of the cutting. The group would like a six-week period of lobbying at a total cost of £2500 to get the option in front of the right people, half of this would be funded by the group themselves.
Cllr Worth expressed his concern that 1000 was a very conservative estimate. Cllr Malleson expressed her concern over noise from the Wendover Dean viaduct.
- 3) A resident of South Street expressed his concerns over traffic on that road, giving a series of facts and stated that speeds between 40-60mph were common, in the mornings there are on average 600 vehicles an hour coming into Wendover from that direction and half of these were exceeding the 30mph limit. He also raised concerns over the number of HGVs using the road stating the road is often used as a 'lorry park'. He cited Gt Kingshill, Princes Risborough and Longwick as examples of benchmark villages where speeding is under control with more and better positioned signage and a police presence.

PC21/197 The Council AGREED to bring item 14b forward, a discussion took place over the proposed plan which was to run in parallel with the current lobbying from the WPC HS2 Working Group as a 'plan B' should the tunnel not gain approval. It was RESOLVED to fund the lobbying for the HS2 mitigation for £1250 which would be taken from the HS2 EMR.

5. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

PC21/198 Cllr Bulpett gave an update on the LED lights, stating that the current lights are the correct ones for the environment of Wendover and have not failed since the upgrade was completed and it was RESOLVED to keep using the current specification. A small section of the canal path has been repaired by the Canal and Rivers Trust, this is a temporary repair for the winter months. A reply had been received from the Wendover Men's Football Team regarding the pitch fees and this would now be left in the hands of the school. Finally a plea was made for more Councillors to join the WPC Quiz Team for the quiz on the 19th November.

6. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

PC21/199 Cllr Bowles presented a report from the Buckinghamshire Councillors

Community Boards – Community Boards continued to form a keystone of the council's localism agenda with lots of great projects proposed.

Hardship Fund – Buckinghamshire has been awarded £2.4 million as a Household support fund. This fund is to support those households most in need this winter, more details will be available soon.

Planning Service – The planning service continues to operate under significant pressure. There is no way to short cut the system and residents need to be patient when waiting for applications to be processed.

HS2 - The Planning Inspector has upheld HS2's appeal against the Council non determine of a number of applications on the grounds that it had not received sufficient information and reassurances regarding the cumulative impacts of the lorry movements on the Council's highway network. The Council is now taking legal advice and considering a Judicial Review about the Inspectors decision.

Local Area Technician (LAT) - Our new LAT (Lewis Minney) has made his mark already by his investigation of flooding in Brudenell Drive, Stoke Mandeville he has also been very helpful with work in Wendover. Please report issues on FixMyStreet website.

Climate Change - As part of Peter Strachen's Cabinet Portfolio, he has had our Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy adopted by Cabinet. Recently he has launched our Bucks Climate Challenge campaign to raise awareness and encourage everyone to make a change in their lives to reduce their impact on the climate and the environment. Whilst we will eventually all move to electric vehicles for example, we know that for many this is not an affordable option today. However, we are keen to highlight that there many things we can all do to reduce our impact on the climate, and these include many low or no cost measures.

COP 26 - The COP26 climate conference in Glasgow has started where global attention will turn the negotiations in Glasgow, and on 10th November in support of this conference we will be holding our own CPO 26 regional roadshow event – *Green Wheels in Motion*, hosted by the Lunaz Group at their facility in the Silverstone Technology Park, where we will be showcasing how approaches to decarbonising transport are being developed and trailed in Buckinghamshire.

7. CLERKS REPORT

PC21/200 The Clerks report was NOTED

Helicopter Park at Princess Mary Gate – A call had been received from Wing Commander Jackie Wren from RAF Halton regarding the Helicopter park at Princess Mary Gate. The park has been subject to vandalism over the past couple of years resulting in a repair cost of £8k. The RAF have now reached the decision that any further damage will result in the removal of equipment that will ultimately lead to the closure of the park. The residents on the estate will be told this news on 1st November and a strong reaction was expected along with calls on the Parish Council to help. The Clerk has asked the Wg Cdr to investigate if the RAF would be willing to gift the park to the Parish Council, an update will be given to the Council as soon as more is known.

Christmas Lights – Issues were being had with the mini Christmas tree lights, and replacement parts were not available as the lights are now obsolete, the staff were currently looking at ways to address the issue. A request was put out to ask the Council if any members would be available to help with install if needed later in the week commencing 22nd November, Cllr Williams kindly offered to help. The small Christmas trees take a large amount of organising and manpower, probably in excess of 100 hours, with the lights being obsolete and the sustainable issues around real Christmas trees, the question was asked is it time to rethink Wendover's Christmas decorations.

Hampden Pond - The new fencing, tree work and lily maintenance is now complete at Hampden Pond. Not all the trees that were earmarked for work were completed in the time (as expected) but the work that has been done has made a real difference. A quote has been requested for the remaining work with a view to completing next year.

Training – All Councillors were reminded that if they are booked onto training they must attend as the Council will still be charged.

Land Surrounding the Clock Tower – The landowner had been in touch to offer the Council first refusal of the land before it is put up for sale, the cost was quoted at £450,000. A local estate agent had valued the value at between £50,000 - £75,000. Item to be placed on the December agenda for a full discussion.

8. REPORT FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

PC21/201 None

9. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

PC21/202

Cllr Durden-Moore reported from the latest BMKALC meeting, the slides and written report from which were shared prior to the meeting, the next liaison meeting would take place on 19th January 2022.

Cllr Ballantine reported from the Churchyard Care Committee that a memorial tree was to be planted next week in memory of those who had lost their lives to Covid 19

Cllr Bulpett had attended the re-dedication of the Rennie Grove plaque which was now sited in the community orchard. There had been a request from Rennie Grove for further trees and a bench in the area, this would be added to the next Amenities agenda.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

PC21/203 Correspondence from a local resident on South Street was NOTED

11. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) To consider the list of payments and sign cheques

PC21/204 It was RESOLVED to accept the list of payments; the list and cheques were duly signed. BACS payments to be made on next working day.

b) To note the September 2020 I&E, EMR and balance sheet.

PC21/205 The September I&E, EMR and balance sheet were NOTED

12. PLANNING COMMITTEE

To note draft minutes of the meetings of 5th October 2021

PC21/206 The draft minutes were NOTED.

13. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

To note draft minutes of the meeting of 19th October

PC21/207 The draft minutes were NOTED

14. OTHER MATTERS

(a) HS2 Working Group

PC21/208 Councillor Bulpett updated on the HS2 Working Group progress, a letter calling for an independent enquiry is due to be sent at the end of the week, Rob Butler MP is currently refusing to sign it. There is a meeting scheduled with Lord Berkley on Friday 5th November to discuss posing questions to the House of Lords. A letter has been received from Laura Leech, Head of Major Projects at Buckinghamshire Council, a meeting has been requested to clarify various points in the letter relating to schedule 17 (9) and Bringing into Use.

PC21/209 A member of the HS2 Working Group explained the implications that the Laura Leech letter could have on timelines for lobbying, it was RESOLVED to defer the decision on funding further lobbying in 2022 until the December Full Council meeting when more information on this matter would be available and a schedule of proposed works from the lobbyist could be obtained.

(b) Wendover HS2 Mitigation Action Group Proposal

PC21/210 Brought forward, see item 4.

(c) Speed & Noise Working Group

PC21/211 An update was given that the 20mph survey had now closed with 455 responses and the data has been fed back to the group for discussion at their upcoming meeting.

(d) Policy updates and reviews

PC21/212 It was RESOLVED to approve the amended Role of a Working Group document.

PC21/213 It was RESOLVED to approve the Community Action Plan with a small update to Community engagement to remove Councillor surgeries in light of recent tragic events.

(e) Climate Emergency

PC21/214 Cllr Lloyd-Evans had attended the CLAW AGM and spoke of how informative the guest speaker had been. CLAW had produced a budget proposal for consideration by the Council, The Clerk is to meet with a representative the following day to fine tune the details before presentation to the Council.

PC21/215 The Eco-audit quotation was discussed, it was felt that three quotes should be obtained and accreditation should be in place for any company conducting the audit. Item deferred until the next meeting.

(f) Ward Areas

PC21/216 The proposed ward areas were discussed and the Council RESOLVED to accept the areas with one change of Councillor ward.

(g) Community Awards

PC21/217 The Councillors looked at the existing and proposed Community Award categories, it was RESOLVED that for 2022 the categories would be:

Service with a Smile

Lifetime Achievement

Volunteer of the Year

Outstanding Young Person

Community Business of the Year

The Parish Council Award

(h) Parasol fixings on the Manor Waste

PC21/218 Cllr Durden-Moore summarised the position with the Manor Waste and the requests for usage that have come through. It was RESOLVED to look at the Manor Waste usage in general and develop a policy for its use, including hire rates for April 2022 onwards. Cllrs Durden-Moore, Washington and Gallagher would work on this together with the Clerk.

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

PC21/219 The date of the next Parish Council meeting is to be 7th December 2021

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

It was RESOLVED that further to s1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that the public be excluded and the matter be dealt with in a confidential part 2 meeting.

PC21/220 A confidential discussion took place surrounding the LGPS

17. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC21/221 The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed by *S. Bulpett*

Chairman to the Parish Council

Date: 07.12.2021