

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

13th December 2022 at 7:00pm

Meeting held at St Annes Hall, Aylesbury Road, Wendover, HP22 6JG

Present: Councillors Ballantine, Bulpett, Durden-Moore, Gallagher, Thornton, Worth, Walker, Williams.

In attendance: Buckinghamshire Councillors Strachan and Bowles

Clerk: Andy Smith

Chair: Councillor Bulpett

Members of Public: 2

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PC22/311 Apologies were received and **ACCEPTED** from Councillors Goodall, Washington and noted from Bucks Councillor Newcombe

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

PC22/312 None declared

3. MINUTES

PC22/313 The minutes of the meeting of 1st November 2022 were considered. The minutes were **RESOLVED** as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

PC22/314 The Chair offered thanks to councillor Durden-Moore for standing in whilst the Chair was away in November.

It was noted that the Wendover Shed group are happy to accept the use of the Hogtrough lane site. The Wendover Shed have made an offer to rebuild the sheds that are currently on the site, which is in poor state of repair.

The Wendover Wardens have received communications about the Wendover Warm Welcome and been asked if they could help to publicise the scheme.

The date of the RAF freedom parade has moved to June because of the Coronation.

There has been an email about standards in public life and there was a call to support a change in the standards in public life and councillors are urged to support that.

RAF Halton have issued an update on the plans for the site. Whilst the council were not represented at that meeting, we have been involved in representing the parish in the discussions leading up to this update.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PC22/315 There was no public participation at this stage

6. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

PC22/316 Councillor Bowles gave an update on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council:

The council are running a welcoming spaces scheme in the public libraries and the community boards are also supporting the cost of living crisis by providing hampers. There will be a “warm box” offer for people to collect a box contain blankets and other items to support being warm and well. They will be able to be collected from county libraries. There are additional funds for the helping hands team to support people during the cost of living crisis.

During the cold snap there is an opportunity for additional grit bins.

The Pride of Bucks awards are being held and people encouraged to nominate individuals. #

Finally, the Council are looking at budgets for next year and trying to ensure there are no cuts to the services whilst not making significant raises to the council tax.

7. CLERKS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

PC22/317 The report from the Clerk was NOTED

8. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

PC22/318 Councillors Worth and Lloyd Evans visited Wendover Youth Centre to see how Council money was spent. In general they are doing exceptional work to support young people. It was noted that they are a very proactive group trying to support the issues in the area, for example they are looking at how they can support the problems of ASB being faced at the play parks. They also have strong ties with the John Colet school linking their support services. They reported on the use of the money. It goes to on a number of youth focused projects which will be fully reported on and published early in the new year.

PC22/319 Councillor Worth attended an Online biodiversity course. The presentation has been sent around to council.

PC22/320 Councillor Thornton attended the 74th AGM BMKALC online – 201 parishes belong to the association, and they delivered 74 courses plus a conference that was very well received. The subscription for the local organisation will remain the same for the next year but the national NALC subscription will increase to 20.5p per elector.

9. FINANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) To note the minutes of the meeting of the 15th November

PC22/321 The minutes were noted. It was further noted that there was a follow up meeting on the 6th Dec and these minutes would come to the next council

b) To consider the list of payments and sign cheques

PC22/322 There were no payments to consider

c) To consider the 2024 budget proposal and precept request

PC22/323 It was noted that the starting approach was to try and keep the precept the same as the previous year. However, this quickly became impossible, so the proposal has been refined by Finance to be as small an increase as possible. The precept has increased 10.04% in total but the Band D property will be paying an extra 78p per month. It is noted that this is significantly more than previous years but unavoidable. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the budget proposal and precept level as set out in the papers.

d) **To note an update on the Wendover Warm Welcome grant**

PC22/324 The update on progress was noted

10. STAFFING COMMITTEE

a) **To note the minutes of the meetings on 1st November and 15th November**

PC22/325 The Minutes were noted – The Chair expressed thanks to the Staffing Committee for their work ensuring the new staff are settled in. It was further noted that probation reviews for the new office staff are tomorrow and the appraisals for the grounds team are next week.

11. OTHER MATTERS

a) **HS2 Working Group**

PC22/326 The group met on Tue 6th Dec and at that meeting and it was agreed that the group would focus on specific strategic issues such as a “noise conference”. The day-to-day activity (such as a truck taking water from the wrong place) would be handled by the office. It was noted that the recent opportunity for lobbying was a difficult issue, and it took too long to get agreement, meaning the opportunity was missed. Councillor Lloyd-Evans has been appointed as chair.

b) **Parish Plan Working Group**

PC22/327 It was noted that the council can apply for title absolute for the manor waste and this issue will come to the next meeting. There will be a briefing to council before the meeting on the implications of that decision. The identity for Wendover is about to be implemented and next year there will be a review on the welcome to Wendover website

c) **Transport Working Group**

PC22/328 The papers from the transport working group had been previously circulated and highlighted the three priority areas for the group, which also feature in the new Term of Reference. The three priorities are:

- School Zone,
- Improved walking and cycling access
- South Street, particularly speed.

As part of those priorities the group would like Council backing to apply for funding from the Community Board.

1. Covered Cycle Racks
2. Study into the logistics of getting to and from school and the traffic around the school area

It was noted that the covered cycle racks may not fit in with the conservation area and this would have to be considered before any implementation. It was **RESOLVED** to support both bids for funding to the Community Board.

A restart of the electric vehicle charging study was noted. The Community Board have notified that a pilot EV charging project will go ahead in Wendover. More details to follow.

d) Update on the parking review and next steps

PC22/329 The project now goes to the Bucks Parking Review group. There is a defined list of works, and the costs are going to be covered by Community Board funding. Within the project there is a historical project initiation cost of £4k that will need further clarification

It was noted that we haven't communicated with the community before implementation, so the community are aware of the results of the consultation. This would be helped if there was a final map of the planned works. A member of the public voiced concern that the plan will result in reducing parking spaces in Wendover.

It was further noted that much of the implementation was for markings that re-enforce the highway code and there was uncertainty as to why Council was paying for that.

It was **RESOLVED** to find the answers to these questions before approving the implementation and that it should come back to Council.

e) CLAW Licence Agreement and Support for Funding

PC22/330 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the amended agreement and the lease was signed by both parties. It was noted that the area is now being referred to as the Wendover Wild Belt

PC22/331 There was a request for support from the Council in their bids for Community Board funding. It was **RESOLVED** to support the following bids:

- To enable pedestrian access at the north end, an accessible gate (2 part gate with option for vehicle access) in keeping with the conservation area.
- To put a water collecting structure plus storage tank on the site

f) Direct debit mandate for new energy supplier

PC22/332 It was **RESOLVED** to put the new energy supplier on Direct Debit as per previous arrangements for energy providers

g) Policy renewal

PC22/333 It was **RESOLVED** to extend the Witchell Car Park policy. Amenities Committee will undertake a thorough review and bring back to a future council.

12. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

PC22/308 The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 makes provision for excluding the public by resolution when confidential business is being considered or there are other special reasons and publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest. It was **RESOLVED** to move into a confidential session.

a) Motor insurance renewal

PC22/309 The quotes were discussed. It was **RESOLVED**, with 1 abstention, to accept the renewal quote from the current provider.

b) Skate park tender

It was noted that as only one organisation had tendered for the skate park work. It was **RESOLVED** to put the tender documents on Contract Finder with a deadline of the end of January.

The concept design was discussed and noted. It was **RESOLVED** to devolve the tender work to Amenities Committee with the final approval coming to Council when the tenders and designs had been agreed. It was noted that this will not affect the grant that has been received from the community board.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

PC22/334 To note the next Parish Council meeting Tuesday 3rd January, 7.30 p.m.

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC22/310 As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 8.25pm

Signed by
Chair to the Parish Council

Date: Tuesday 3rd January 2023