

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

2nd June 2020 at 7.30pm

Online Meeting via Zoom

Present: Councillor Ballantine, Walsh, Worth, Gregory, Green, Myers, Bulpett, Clayton, Clare, Campbell.

Clerk: Keith Shelley

Chairman: Tom Walsh

Members of Public: 0

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

P20/038 Apologies were received from Cllr Duggan and they were ACCEPTED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

P20/039 None.

3. TEMPORARY DELIGATED POWER DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

P20/040 It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the current arrangements for the delegated powers to the Clerk and the agreed COVID-19 working arrangements for the staff.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P20/041 The Chairman welcomed everyone and confirmed there are two co-options for consideration. He requested the applicants be treated fairly and duly considered.

5. MINUTES

Consideration of approval of minutes of the meetings of 5th May 2020

P20/042 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. CO-OPTION

To consider two applications to co-opt onto the Council.

P20/043 Cllr Walsh reiterated the process for co-option and requested confirmation of understanding from the Council. Due the current pandemic, and in recognition of interest from Street Wardens, Cllr Clare proposed the co-option be postponed allowing the Street Wardens and other candidates that she and other Councillors had met to be considered with the two current applications. Cllr Myers raised the issue that one of the current candidates lives in Stoke Mandeville and asked whether she lived within the statutory distance. The Clerk confirmed she lived within 3 miles so was compliant. Cllr Myers also supported Cllr Clare's proposal with a further proposal to hold an extraordinary meeting to consider all the applications. Cllr Walsh expressed his concerns at postponing the co-option stating that additional applications could be considered at the July meeting and that it would be unjust on the current applicants who will be expecting to be accepted or rejected at today's meeting. Cllr Clayton proposed the current applicants continue with their presentations with no decision being made on their suitability at this meeting. Additional applicants can then

be considered at the next meeting, alongside the current applicants, and a decision be made on appointing the most suitable. Her proposal was seconded by Cllr Campbell, a vote was taken, and it was unanimously agreed to support the proposal. Cllr Walsh raised a protest against the decision stating it was not in line with the co-opting procedure and that the applicants would not have a fair hearing. Notwithstanding this he recognised the decision of the Council. Cllr Clayton objected to Cllr Walsh's comments stating he should have respect for his councillors and that all applicants would have a fair hearing. Cllr Clare reiterated that all candidates would have a fair hearing, and this would give the Council an opportunity to select the right people for the roles. Cllr Walsh reminded the Council that skills sets are not required, its keenness and willingness and anyone can join the Council. He confirmed the decision of the vote and proceeded with the co-option for the two current applicants. Having received the presentations, Cllr Walsh explained the decision to consider further applications before a final decision can be made who to appoint to the Council. The applicants then left the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to hold a separate co-option meeting within the next 4 weeks.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

P20/044 None.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

P20/045 Cllr Bowles commented on the following:

- Despite the crisis, council facilities and operations have continued, and this includes the recent opening of the Waste Transfer Stations. A postcode recovery plan is being developed to consider how these services may be delivered going forward.
- Consideration is being given to assisting restaurants and cafés to reopen taking account of the social distancing rules. Cllr Bowles has already been approached by Whitewaters to request use of the parking bays outside Tim Russ to locate their chairs and tables. He suggested further consideration should be given to Rumsey's utilising the Manor Waste. It was AGREED the Clerk would consider these requests from a Parish perspective.
- Parking charges are currently suspended, and Cllr Bowles is of the opinion that charges should not be reintroduced on day one (15th June) for businesses reopening. He is recommending the suspension should continue for a month after the opening to attract the public back into Towns and Villages to utilise the facilities and businesses.

Cllr Strachan confirmed all the committees were standing up and meeting virtually; therefore, Parishes should not encounter any difficulties in accessing Council services. He asked the Councillors if they, or residents had encountered any failings with the service provisions. Cllr Walsh commented positively on the waste collection services and street cleaning. There is are ongoing issues with the grass cutting at PMG which has been devolved to TfB; otherwise the transition has been seamless. Cllr Strachan reaffirmed that if there are any service delivery issues, whilst they may be reported online, the County Councillors remain a point of contact for reporting. Cllr Bowles thanked the officers and staff within Buckinghamshire Council for their support during the transition and crisis. He also thanks WPC for their efforts towards the community by establishing the Good Neighbour Scheme. Cllr Clare raised a question about potholes. Cllr Bowles requested she send him an email with the details. Cllr Newcombe commented that TfB are taking advantage of the low traffic levels and bringing forward their major road schemes. He also highlighted the pitfalls with the revised planning application process reminding WPC of the need to carefully scrutinise all applications and swiftly identify if they need to be 'called in'. Cllr Walsh commented on the proposed suspended parking arrangements, highlighting that if any issues arise during the period the County Council will need to address them. Cllr Bowles NOTED the comments. Cllr Gregory highlighted that the yellow parking lines adjacent to her business need repainting. Cllr Bowles requested she send him an email with the details.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

P20/046 The Clerks report was NOTED. The Clerk highlighted that the AquaServ proposal will be considered later in the meeting and that Charles Mallard is obtaining quotes for the Clock Tower wall repairs.

10. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

To receive reports from outside bodies.

P20/047 Cllr Myers confirmed the Wendover Action Group have conducted a risk assessment on their bus operation and will not be reintroducing the service until the R reduces to 0.2. He also confirmed the Dial-a-Ride bus is available for other uses, but they will not be providing drivers. Finally, they have not received any requests to transport food and medicines but they remain available to provide support should it be required. Cllr Myers confirmed he has liaised with the Deputy Clerk for payment of the Churchyard fund. Cllr Worth highlighted the possibility of the Wendover News office relocating to the Library. Cllr Clayton asked Cllr Myers if he had been in contact with the Food Bank to establish if they required any help with distribution of food etc. Cllr Myers AGREED to contact John Shaw. Cllr Clayton updated the meeting on the WYC finances and recognised Peter Swindford for his outstanding efforts.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

To consider items of correspondence listed at (Appendix 1)

P20/048 The four items of correspondence were NOTED.

- It was AGREED the Chiltern MS Centre should apply for a grant through the normal process for consideration.
- It was AGREED the Red Cross donation request will be considered by the Finance Committee.
- It was AGREED that the Chiltern MS Centre will be considered alongside all other applications as the chosen charity for the 2020 Christmas event provided it's not cancelled.

It was AGREED the Marie Curie donation request will be considered by the Finance Committee.

12. FINANCE COMMITTEE

(a) To review the final I&E report, EMRs and balance sheet for March 2020.

P20/049 The final I&E report, EMR report and balance sheet for March 2020 were NOTED.

(b) To review the I&E report, EMR and balance sheet for April 2020.

P20/050 The I&E report, EMR report and balance sheet for April 2020 were NOTED.

(c) To receive an update from the RFO regarding the year end closedown.

P20/051 The RFO'S year-end closedown report was NOTED.

13. PLANNING COMMITTEE

To note draft minutes of meeting of 5th May and 19th May 2020

P20/052 The draft minutes were NOTED.

14. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

a) Allotments

(i) To consider a revised Allotment Policy to include Livestock and Poultry.

P20/053 It was RESOLVED to adopt the policy.

(ii) To consider a suggestion from a resident to provide a Community Plot at the London Road allotments

P20/054 It was AGREED the Clerk should approach another Council which already manages a Community Plot to better understand the protocols and likely pitfalls with establishing a plot.

(b) Hampden Pond

To consider the initial works proposed by AquaServ Management for the redevelopment of Hampden Pond.

P20/055 The report was NOTED and it was **RESOLVED** to progress the works as detailed. The works are within the agreed budget put aside in the EMR, it is a three year project, the contractor is specialised and we have used them for many years. Details of the work will be advertised via FB and our website and the timing will be managed to ensure the works do not conflict with key seasonal periods such as nesting periods.

(c) Fixed Charge Index

To review the 10 Year Fixed Charge Index.

P20/056 The Index was NOTED and it was **RESOLVED** to maintain the charges as detailed.

(d) Markets

In line with Government guidelines, consider opening the weekly and monthly markets from week beginning Mon 1st June 2020.

P20/057 The clerk outlined the meeting arrangements with the Market Manager and the Buckinghamshire Market Manager to be held on Thursday 4th June. It was **RESOLVED** to open the weekly market on Thursday 11th June provided all the COVID-19 protocols could be achieved. The decision to open the Local Produce Market will be made based on how the weekly market protocols are established.

15. STAFFING COMMITTEE

Staff Holidays

To consider the Government advice on extending the holiday carry over period to 2years.

P20/058 The Clerk explained the concerns being experienced by the staff who continued to deliver an exemplary service to the Wendover Community despite the restraints being experienced by COVID-19 and proposed the revised legislation from the Government should be adopted to allay their concerns. Cllr Clare highlighted the policy referred to essential workers. Following a short discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the proposal provided the holiday and TOIL continue to be managed effectively.

16. COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

To consider and agree the continuing arrangements for the Amenities, Finance and Staffing meetings.

P20/059 It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the arrangement which will be reviewed again at the next Full Council meeting.

17. OTHER MATTERS

a) HS2

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

P20/060 Cllr Walsh circulated a report prior to the meeting, and it was NOTED. He reiterated Shardeloes lake had been polluted as a result of the HS2 drilling and boring operations. He also highlighted that it is unlikely the tunnel proposal will progress any further. Whilst meetings will continue the focus for the Government remains on COVID-19 so its unlikely any significant decisions will be made until the crisis is

over. Cllr Walsh reminded the meeting of the request from Rob Butler to provide information on any land or property issues relating to HS2.

- (ii) **To consider wider circulation of Cllr Walsh's recent message to Mark Thurston, CEO HS2.**
P20/061 Cllr Walsh generalised on whether there should be wider circulation of the HS2 Working Group efforts towards ensuring Wendover and its residents are not severely impacted by HS2. Cllr Clayton supported the proposal and Cllr Walsh confirmed he is in contact with Buckinghamshire Council and their PR / Press teams for guidance and support. It was considered too late to circulate Cllr Walsh's original letter.

(b) Policy Reviews

To review the Ashbrook, Hampden Meadow, Hampden Pond, Benches and Trees, Rope Walk and Orchard Meadow and Skate Park protocols.

P20/062 The Clerk requested the reviews be completed by Councillors prior to the meeting. Feedback has been received and the recommendations will be incorporated into the protocols. It was **RESOLVED** to close the current Skate Park protocol and replace it with an Open Space protocol pending a decision on how best to utilise the space.

(c) Time Capsule

To consider Cllr Campbells idea of providing a time capsule capturing features relating to the COVID-19 crisis.

P20/063 It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposal. Cllr Campbell will liaise with Cllrs Walsh and Myers on developing the proposal for future generations to benefit.

(d) Wendover Cricket Club Defibrillator

To consider providing funding towards a defibrillator to be installed at the Cricket Club.

P20/064. It was **AGREED** the Clerk should investigate whether a cheaper alternative could be purchased. If a cheaper alternative could not be located, then it was **RESOLVED** to provide the funding.

(e) End of Year Report

To consider the Year End draft report 2019/2020.

P20/065 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the report in its current format. The Clerk will finalise the report for publishing.

(f) Street Wardens Thank You Event

To consider a Working Party to organise a Street Wardens thank you event.

P20/066 Cllr Walsh requested all Councillors consider the format and location for an event and present them to the Clerk for review at the next Full Council meeting.

18. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

P20/067 The date for the next Full Council meeting is 7th July at 7.30pm on Zoom. The Clerk will provide details for an extraordinary meeting to consider the co-options.

19. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

P20/068 None.

20. CLOSURE OF MEETING

P20/069 As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed by *Tom Walsh*

Chairman to the Parish Council

Date: 7th July 2020

AVALC – Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils
AVDC - Aylesbury Vale District Council
BBOWT - The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
BCC - Buckinghamshire County Council
BOAT – Byway Open to All Traffic
Cllr – Councillor
CoT – Chamber of Trade (Wendover WCoT)
C&RT – Canal and River Trust
EMR – Ear Marked Reserve
MVAS - Mobile Vehicle Activated Signage
HoC or HoL – House of Commons or House of Lords
HS2 – High Speed Rail II
I&E – Income and Expenditure
LAF - Local Area Forum
LAT – Transport for Bucks Local Area Technician
LDP - Local Development Plan
MUGA – Multi Use Games Area
MVAS – Mobile Vehicle Activated Signage
NP – Neighbourhood Plan
NPSG – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

PC - Parish Council
PMG – Princess Mary Gate development
POP – Partners on Petitioning
RoW – Right of Way
S106 - Section 106
SC – Select Committee
TfB – Transport for Bucks (BCC Highways)
TWS – The Wendover Society
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HPC – Halton Parish Council
WHS2 – Wendover HS2 (action group)
TWS – The Wendover Society
WCTC – Wendover Chamber of Trade and
Commerce
WG – Working Group
WPC - Wendover Parish Council
WSA - Wendover Swimming Association