

# WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm St Anne's Hall, Aylesbury Road, Wendover HP22 6JG

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**Present:** Councillors Ballantine, Goodall, Lloyd-Evans, O'Donnell, Porter, Thornton, Wales, Walker, Williams (Chair) and Worth.

**In attendance:** Buckinghamshire Councillors Strachan and Bowles

**Clerk:** Andy Smith

**Members of Public:** 15

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**PC23/257** Apologies were received and **ACCEPTED** from Cllrs Gallagher, Standen and Washington – Apologies were noted from Buckinghamshire Councillor Newcombe

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**PC23/258** It was noted Councillor Worth is a trustee of the community library and would not vote on item 12a

### 3. MINUTES

**PC23/259** The minutes of the Parish Council of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024. were **RESOLVED** as a true record to be signed by the Chair.

### 4. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PC23/260** The next Councillor surgery is on the 15<sup>th</sup> February at the Library, Cllr Worth answered the call for extra volunteers to staff the stall.

### 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**PC23/261** A member of the public highlighted the Halton SPD response but there are a few queries and ask for the support of the Council. The relatively short length of time of the consultation was a concern as it is such a big impact on the area. As Buckinghamshire Council will consider the decision at Council in April – there is concern that it gives no time to follow up on any issues raised in the consultation. Finally, the Consultation is not available to read at the Wendover library which seems a significant oversight.

**PC23/262** A member of the public requested that the 3 minutes allowed should be extended so people can have longer to talk, however it was explained that with the number of views to be heard we had to stick to our standing orders to get a wide range of views.

**PC23/263** A member of the public wanted to support the paper to turn off the street lights and also wondered if could engage the business group regarding turning off some of the shop lights as some are very bright and not really necessary.

**PC23/264** It was requested by a member of the public that the library paper be brought forward on the agenda and that was agreed.

**PC23/265** A member of the public thanked the Clerk for the work in bringing together the response paper. This person uses the library and wants to see improvements. The member of the public has put together their thoughts in a letter, and thoughts of the others they have spoken to. This has been sent round to the Councillors. The project has been going on for 2 years plus and a

substantial commitment. Going ahead Buckinghamshire Council should ensure the full details of the project should be disclosed – budgets and design and there should be public meeting. This is important and people should know the score.

**PC23/266** Buckinghamshire Councillor Bowles stated he was fully supportive of the Library. The issue is that the materials costs have escalated and that is the main driver of the costs. It would be a great community hub for Wendover. If the total scheme was not implemented, then this would be a loss to Wendover.

**PC23/267** A member of the public outlined they had followed the library project closely. The loan idea has been considered in the past, but the Council should also consider the reserves as why should we have reserves if the community needed the money. They stated that if the consultation would cause delay to the project then the Parish Council should lead rather than follow because of timescales.

**PC23/268** Councillor Strachan talked to the Halton Wood SPD. There is no doubt that Halton has a huge impact on Wendover and also that the development is vital if RAF Halton is to close. For planning we have to make the assumption that Halton will close. The SPD is a detailed document. It has been worked through with Halton PC who support it as it stands. However, it is essential that everyone puts their input into that consultation. When these initial comments are considered and put into the next version of the SPD that is when it is the time for Wendover Parish Council to engage.

**PC23/269** It was noted that if Halton doesn't close in 2027 but significantly later will the SPD be reviewed as that is one of the current assumptions made by the SPD.

## 6. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

**PC23/270** Councillors had nothing to add over the comments made in the public participation. But welcomed any questions from the Parish Council. None were asked at this time.

## 7. CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDANCE

**PC23/271** The report was noted.

## 8. FINANCE AND PAYMENTS

### a) Payments to consider.

**PC23/272** The payments to consider, totalling £23,895.95, were **RESOLVED** and signed.

### b) Latest financial reports

**PC23/273** The financial reports were noted and Councillors were happy with the financial position.

## 9. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

### a) HS2 Mitigation Action Group

**PC23/274** There are still concerns about the detour on the Ellesborough Rd. The group are looking into the possibility of some parking being incorporated into the scheme for the long term benefit of residents.

**PC23/275** There are concerns about ground water levels and flows towards Stoke Mandeville to be monitored and resolved

### b) Wendover Business Group

**PC23/276** The last meeting had a relatively poor turnout and the businesses are finding difficult to commit time to the meetings. They are now looking at meetings every 2 months.

**c) Parish Council Surgeries**

**PC23/277** There were two direct enquiries – one relating to street lighting, presented in the paper later in the meeting and one concerned about speeding on South St

**d) Other groups**

**PC23/278** Meeting of the Memorial Hall committee – the hall is working well for the community.

**PC23/279** Wendover Community Car – looking to replace the car next year and will be asking for a grant next year to support that.

**10. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

**a) PLANNING**

**PC23/280** The draft minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were noted.

**PC23/281** The response to the SPD was discussed – it was noted that there is a meeting with the Chair of Halton PC after the half term to try and join up the response.

**PC23/282** It was **RESOLVED** to give the authority to liaise with other Parish Councils on the response and that the office and Chair would lead on that process.

**PC23/283** Whilst there will be amendments to make based on engagement with other Parish Councils and feedback from residents it was noted that the draft presented in the papers was a good response and the basis of our final submission. It was **RESOLVED** to give the authority for the Planning Committee to approve the final version of the response which will be submitted after the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**PC23/284** It was noted that all residents are encouraged to make their own personal submissions to the engagement and attend the drop in session at Halton Village Hall 2pm – 8pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> February

**b) AMENITIES**

**PC23/285** The draft minutes of the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 were noted.

**11. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

**a) Transport Working Group**

**PC23/286** It was noted that channels in pavements for charging cables were being installed tomorrow in 3 locations. The project has identified some locations for streetlight charging and this will be circulated to Council. The project wants to create EV parking only bays by the lamppost charging points. It was noted that this may be an issue for residents.

**b) Open Spaces Working Group**

**PC23/287** It was noted that because we had not called on the funds for the skatepark from the Community Board we no longer have the funding of £25k for the skatepark. We are welcome to reapply when we have planning permission but the current maximum grant is £15k.

**c) Sustainability and Biodiversity Group**

**PC23/288** There was a successful first meeting which focused on forming the group and setting out workstreams.

**d) Strategic Planning Steering Group**

**PC23/289** The meeting notes have been previously circulated. The next steps are to consult with stakeholders and Councillors will be asked to support that process.

## 12. OTHER ITEMS

### a) Wendover Library

- PC23/257** It was noted that the Finance chair was not in attendance but had the view that we don't have vast reserves and that borrowing £150k will in effect wipe out the reserve so the Council should be cautious in its considerations. It was also noted that if the council office does move – the clock tower is a significant community asset that should require equal consideration. The Parish Council do have to consider the value for money. This is a lot of money it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to deliver a community library. We are custodians of the money and resources for the people of Wendover. However this would have benefit for future generations and therefore we should at least explore this opportunity.
- PC23/258** The budgets for the scheme were noted. It was further noted that if the Arts Council funding is not spent by Mar 25 then the funding will be lost. There are two potential schemes that could be delivered. The full scheme with the new entrance space as originally proposed and a "fallback" scheme which sets out a good refurbishment of the space (including the new Children's section). The financial gap between those two schemes is £150k. Unfortunately time means there is no opportunity to plan and draft a "third way". However, the full project has a landscaping and outdoor element that could be completed as a discrete project at a later stage and this could be fundraised for separately.
- PC23/259** It was noted that a public meeting would be a quicker way to engage with more people in a meaningful way than a survey.
- PC23/260** It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should investigate this opportunity (without obligation) and authority was given to the office and Chair to make the necessary consultations to present back to Council.
- PC23/261** It was **RESOLVED** to give authority to the office and the Chair to explore the moving of the Parish Council office from the Clock Tower to the Library
- PC23/262** It was **RESOLVED** to give the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer and Chair of Finance to research the financing of the Library project.
- PC23/263** It was **RESOLVED** that the public consultation should be in the format of a public meeting to ask the question if the public are happy with the Parish Council spending the money. It was **RESOLVED** to give the office the authority to organise the meeting, potentially based in the Library
- PC23/264** It was **RESOLVED** that the final decision should be made at an extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### b) Wendover News

- PC23/265** The Council sought reassurance about why the funding was needed and satisfied itself that more won't be needed in the future. It was noted that cash was used from Wendover News Ltd to setup the volunteers and get the new structures in place and so there is no cash to hand over to the new corporate entity which is a CiC. It was further noted that the crowdfunding is still ongoing, and a subscription model has been investigated but rejected. It was noted that Wendover News is a vital community asset that is not looking to make money; but to add value to the community. The publication is still aiming to keep the advertising rates low so that local businesses and sole traders can afford to keep advertising.
- PC23/266** It was **RESOLVED** to pay Wendover News £5000 from the Major Grants budget line and that whilst this would take that line over budget we were within the Section 137 payments limit and cost savings in other lines would cover this overspend.

**c) Rifle Club**

**PC23/267** It was noted that any agreement would set out the responsibility for the Rifle Club to fully maintain the hedge, allow reasonable access by Wendover Parish Council and return the ground to its current state should the lease no longer be renewed. It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the office to draft an amendment to the lease and for this to be circulated for comment before being signed by the Clerk as Proper Officer.

**d) Summer Placement roles**

**PC23/268** It was noted that this was a pilot project and it was **RESOLVED** to recruit and implement the two project roles as set out in the paper to work over summer 2024.

**e) Make Wendover Smile**

**PC23/269** It was **RESOLVED** to implement the project in line with the budget of £980 as set out in the paper

**f) Streetlights**

**PC23/270** It was noted that turning off the streetlights reduced energy consumption, reduced light pollution and impact on wildlife and reduce costs to the Council. It was further noted that in areas where lights had been switched off there had been no increase in crime or Anti Social Behaviour, and in some cases, there had been a reduction.

**PC23/271** It was **RESOLVED** to authorise investigations into identifying which lights could be turned off with 9 votes for and 1 vote against the motion

**PC23/272** It was **RESOLVED** to authorise a public consultation on part night lighting with 9 votes for and 1 vote against the motion

**PC23/273** It was **RESOLVED** to research a bulb replacement plan that uses amber LED (below 3000k) and authorise Amenities committee to consider that plan.

**13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**PC23/274** To note the next Parish Council meeting **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. Agenda items must be with the Clerk strictly by 9am **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February**.

**14. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

**PC23/275** As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 9.27pm

Signed by *Julie Williams*  
Chair to the Parish Council

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

PAYMENTS TO CONSIDER		Feb	Parish Council 06/02/2024
<b>BACS</b>			
Date	To	Amount	Payment for
08/02/2024	Val Mayland	£80.00	Cleaning
08/02/2024	Marley Design	£337.50	Web and communications
08/02/2024	Numbers	£72.00	Payroll Services
08/02/2024	Salaries	£9,156.67	Monthly Salaries Bill
08/02/2024	LGPS	£880.29	LGPS Pension Costs
08/02/2024	HMRC	£3,486.20	Payroll Tax and NI
08/02/2024	Phoebe Sharps	£25.00	Eye test (re DSE policy)
08/02/2024	Andy Smith	£70.90	Eye test and contribution towards glasses (re DSE policy)
08/02/2024	Sparkx	£2,292.60	Light repairs 347, 69, 72, 24, 43 (missing previous inv)
08/02/2024	Sparkx	£1,186.80	Light repairs 38, 33, 73
08/02/2024	Sparkx	£1,316.26	Christmas lights - final invoice
08/02/2024	Mediaport	£24.00	Wendover wildbelt sign name change
08/02/2024	Chinnor Silver Band	£250.00	Carols round the tree
08/02/2024	Smith of Derby	£334.80	Annual clock service
08/02/2024	Sparkx	£601.80	Light repairs 388, 477
08/02/2024	Sparkx	£367.80	Credit note for duplicate repair invoice 5180
<b>TOTAL BACS AMOUNT</b>		<b>£19,747.02</b>	
<b>CARD</b>			
Date	To	Amount	Payment for
26/02/2024	Adobe	£19.97	Acrobat Pro plan
13/02/2024	Lebara Mobile	£5.00	Office mobile phone
05/02/2024	Suffolk Marine Safety	£59.63	replacement throwing lines for pond as per H&S report
31/01/2024	Budgens	£22.17	Office supplies
24/01/2024	Land Registry	£6.00	hedge enforcement search
28/01/2024	Amazon Business EU	£9.86	Laminating pouches
29/01/2024	Amazon Business EU	£5.80	Fountain pen ink cartridges
02/02/2024	Amazon Mktpfce	£20.97	Sunflower magnets (noticeboard Make Wend Smile)
04/02/2024	Amazon Mktpfce	£9.99	Lock for playpark gates
<b>TOTAL Debit Card AMOUNT</b>		<b>£159.39</b>	
<b>DD/SO</b>			
Date	To	Amount	Payment for
3 Feb 2024	SIDLEYS CLIENT THE	£135.00	Sidleys garage rent
3 Feb 2024	LEX AUTOLEASE	£444.29	Hilux lease agreement
6 Feb 2024	BE FUELCARDS LTD	£361.07	BP Fuel Card
7 Feb 2024	SMART PENSION LTD	£26.40	SMART pension admin fee
12 Feb 2024	SMART PENSION LTD	£835.64	SMART pension contributions
15 Feb 2024	BG LITE	£55.77	Manor Waste Electricity
15 Feb 2024	BG LITE	£543.92	Clock Tower Electricity
15 Feb 2024	BG LITE	£61.12	Site Safe Electricity
19 Feb 2024	DRAX ENERGY SOLUTI	£1,271.53	Street Lighting Electricity
02/03/2024	BUCKS COUNCIL RECE	£62.75	Waste Container emptying
16/02/2024	CASTLE WATER LTD	£63.58	Clock tower water - previous months DDs not collected and this is being investigated
17 Feb 2024	BT GROUP PLC	£128.47	Clock tower phone/broadband
<b>TOTAL DD &amp; SO</b>		<b>£3,989.54</b>	
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£23,895.95</b>	SIGNED BY COUNCILLORS:
<b>COUNCIL MINUTE NUMBER</b>			