

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 4th March 2025 at 7:30pm St Anne's Hall, Aylesbury Road, Wendover HP22 6JG

Present: Councillors Ballantine, Gallagher, O'Donnell, Porter, Thornton, Tipper, Wales, and Worth

Clerk: Andy Smith

Members of Public: 12

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PC24/397 Apologies were received from Cllrs Goodall, Campbell, Walker, Washington and were **APPROVED**

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

PC24/398 None

3. MINUTES

PC24/399 The minutes of the Parish Council of 4th February 2025 were **RESOLVED** as a true record to be signed by the Chair of the meeting.

4. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

PC24/400 The Chair outlined that the comments relating to the item on the Spring Chamber will be dealt with at that part of the meeting.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PC24/401 A member of the public outlined that Wendover HS2 have produced a short statement which is available via their website, which gives guidance on the planning application. They highlighted the additional 80 movements a day of vehicles other than the HGVs and the disproportionate local impact given the scale of works to be completed. Everybody is urged to make their own representations through the Bucks Council website and that the Consultation closes on the 25th March. It may also be worth making public representation at the Strategic Sites Committee

PC24/402 A member of the public highlighted the issues for people with disabilities. There are many wheelchair or mobility scooter users who have to use Dobbins Lane. The state of the paths on Dobbins Lane mean that it is difficult to navigate the path, so many people have to use the road for reasonable access. This poses significant additional risk. It was further highlighted that the venue for the consultation event by HS2 did not have reasonable Disability access.

PC24/403 A member of the public highlighted that the process has been an issue. The member of the public felt that the Parish Council has done what it can about the issue faced with a difficult challenge and that the power lies now with Buckinghamshire Council. It was felt that the HGV movements were incredibly concerning the Parish. This member of the public felt that a public meeting with all stakeholders should have been organised and that planning applications with such a large local impact should always have this sort of scrutiny.

PC24/404 A member of the public asked if the Buckinghamshire Councillors could update the meeting as to what they have been doing about this application in the build up to the planning being made.

PC24/405

PC24/406 It was noted, because of elections, what we do not know who will be on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Committee and it was unlikely to come to committee before the election.

6. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

PC24/407 Cllr Newcombe explained the legal position held by Buckinghamshire Council in the processing of planning applications. The Council cannot take a position before the application is made. HS2 are under the same obligation as any other planning applicant. It was also highlighted that a public meeting, with Bucks Council present, to discuss a planning application before the application is submitted could lead to a judicial review about how the planning application was dealt with. It is only when the application has been validated that the process of consultation on the application can begin. Members of the public can make their positions known and the Buckinghamshire Councillors can also take a view on the application. All three of the Councillors for Wendover have called in the planning application. As all three have called it in it will be a decision made in a public committee. It is important that everyone puts their view so the planners can see a range of different perspectives. The committee will decide whether planning permission is granted and being able to call on a range of viewpoints is helpful in the decision-making process. It is worth noting that planning has strict laws as to what criteria can be used when deciding a planning application. The factors that can be considered are known as material planning considerations and a planning application can only be judged on these material considerations. It is felt unlikely that this will be heard before the local government elections on the 1st May. It is also worth noting that the application to be decided is doing the works via Dobbins Lane, you cannot grant planning permission but tell the applicant to go away and consider another route.

Any new route would either require a substantial amendment to the planning application before it is placed before the planning committee (amendments are common between submission and consideration by the committee) or a completely new application. It is entirely correct for the public, parish council etc to advocate for a different route but on the day of the Planning Committee Meeting the members have to decide on the application before them

7. CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDANCE

PC24/408 The report was noted.

8. FINANCE AND PAYMENTS

a) Payments to consider.

PC24/409 The payments to consider totalling £26,798.49 were discussed and questions were answered on the transactions. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments.

PC24/410 The £8000 grant to the Library for refurbishment was included in these payments and it was **RESOLVED** to make this payment based on previous approval for the grant.

b) Latest financial reports

PC24/411 The financial reports were discussed and formally noted.

c) Flagstone Statement

PC24/412 The statements from the Flagstone accounts were discussed. The statements were formally noted.

d) End of year forecast

PC24/413 The end of year forecast was formally noted and it was felt we were in a good position financially.

9. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

a) HS2 Mitigation Action Group

PC24/414 The report was noted

b) Wendover Community Board

PC24/415 It was noted that the Community Board areas are merging, and the budget is halving.

c) Other groups

PC24/416 Business network – is growing in numbers, the group are compiling issues that will improve the businesses in Wendover. There may be opportunity to sponsor membership of the Chilterns Neuro Centre and that a proposal for Parish Council will be worked up.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

a) FINANCE COMMITTEE

i) Minutes of the Planning Committee

PC24/417 The draft minutes of the meeting on 5th November 2024 were noted.

ii) Standing Grants

PC24/418 Wendover Youth Centre – it was felt that the Parish Council would like to reset the relationship and have two parish Councillors on the board may help that process

PC24/419 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant of £7000 under the power of the Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1976 s19 to come from nominal code 4586

PC24/420 St Mary's Church – it was noted that the direction of travel is to incorporate a lot of the works they require into our estates and grounds team responsibilities. However, there are many factors at play, and we would like to start by working alongside the Churchyard to undertake any works they require support on, without any conditions on the grant. We will review this process annually.

PC24/421 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant of £7500 under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.214(6) to come from nominal code 4585

b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

i) Minutes of the Planning Committee

PC24/422 The draft minutes of the meeting on 21st January 2025 were noted.

ii) Planning application spring chamber

PC24/423 After detailed consideration of the application it was **RESOLVED** that Wendover Parish Council will object to this planning application

PC24/424 It was noted that Parish Council need to agree their response on the planning portal. It was also agreed to focus our response on the main considerations:

- Parish Council did not feel that alternative access arrangements or consideration had been made of other routes to the works site. Whilst HGV traffic has been reduced, the 2380 additional non-HGV traffic movements associated with the build are significant and have not been discussed in any briefings prior to the planning application being submitted.

- It was felt that HS2 was negligent in not considering a traffic management plan at the earliest opportunity
 - We have not contemplated the issues facing disabled users and the additional risks of harm because of this planning application.
- PC24/425** It was **RESOLVED** that as we were objecting our response would not suggest any conditions that could be placed on the planning application to make it satisfactory.
- PC24/426** It was **RESOLVED** to compile a response for the planning portal outside of the meeting, to be approved at the 18th March Planning Committee.
- PC24/427** The following notes were made to support the response:
- There was no trust in the briefings, negotiations and process that HS2 had followed in this application.
 - The HS2 approach adopted was contrary to NPPF (9) of the planning guidelines that traffic movements be considered as soon as possible in any planning application.
 - The petition raised by residents should be seen by the Buckinghamshire Council planning committee
 - Residents could forward their objections to the Parish Council so they could be considered for inclusion in the Parish Council planning response.
 - The application highlights that a track will have to be constructed for access but there is no detail of where vehicles are going to park or turn around before the track is built. Further there is no mention of parking or a turning circle on site

11. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

a) Transport Working Group

PC24/428 A brief report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and this was noted.

b) Open Spaces Working Group

PC24/429 The Group are meeting next week and will report to the next Council.

c) Sustainability and Biodiversity Group

PC24/430 No report.

d) Strategic Planning Steering Group

PC24/431 There will be a March meeting to progress works

12. OTHER ITEMS

a) Internal Audit

PC24/432 It was noted and **RESOLVED** to accept the internal audit report.

b) Community Climate Workshop

PC24/433 It was noted that as funding had not been secured that this workshop will no longer be running as planned in March. Councillors will be updated as to progress.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

a) **To consider moving the meeting into confidential session**

PC24/434 It was **RESOLVED** to move the meeting into confidential session

b) **To consider staffing arrangements for the office**

PC24/435 The paper was discussed and **RESOLVED** to establish the office support role on an initial 12 month fixed term basis

PC24/436 It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk and Chair of Staffing to advertise, recruit and appoint the new role on the appropriate level on the salary scale based on skills and experience.

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

PC24/437 The next Parish Council meeting 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st April 2025 at St Annes Hall. Items for the agenda are due into the office by 9am on Mon 24th March.

15. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC24/438 As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 8:51 pm

Signed by *Clive Gallagher*
Chair to the Parish Council

Date: 1st April 2025

PAYMENTS TO CONSIDER		Mar	Parish Council 4/3/25
BACS			
Date	To	Amount	Payment for
06/03/2025	PawPrint	£140.40	Printer/Copier Costs
06/03/2025	Val Mayland	£60.00	Cleaning
06/03/2025	Marley Design	£362.50	Web and communications
06/03/2025	Numbers	£72.00	Payroll Services
06/03/2025	St Annes Hall Hire	£60.00	Hire of hall for meetings
31/03/2025	Salaries	£7,538.99	Monthly Salaries Bill
31/03/2025	HMRC	£2,860.39	Payroll Tax and NI
06/03/2025	IAC Audit and Consultancy	£474.00	Interim Internal Audit 28/1/25
06/03/2025	Windowflowers	£270.00	Manor waste tree maintenance
06/03/2025	Chesham Fencing	£384.36	Timbers and screws for post and rail fence replacement, or
06/03/2025	Bowls Club	£250.00	Venue Hire - quiz
06/03/2025	Sparkx	£1,927.20	s/l repair 387,45,131,377,103,106,236
06/03/2025	Sparkx	£348.60	s/l repair 297, 134a
		£0.00	
TOTAL BACS AMOUNT		£14,748.44	
CARD			
Date	To	Amount	Payment for
26/02/2025	Adobe	£19.97	Acrobat Pro plan - Mar
12/02/2025	Lebara Mobile	£5.00	Office mobile plan - Mar
21/02/2025	Amazon - A&S Lighting	£18.71	Hammerite metal paint for benches
20/02/2025	Amazon - Fort Products	£13.99	Mouse/Rat bait traps
18/02/2025	Amazon - Mower Express	£27.70	Stihl Chain Oil
18/02/2025	Amazon - Absolute Supplies	£44.99	Stihl 2 stroke oil
05/01/2025	Amazon EU	£114.00	Business Prime membership
06/02/2025	Amazon Business	£449.10	Dehumidifier (site safe - black mould present)
10/02/2025	Amazon Business	£10.69	Green copier paper for the invoice slips
03/02/2025	Amazon Business	£33.68	A3 Acrylic holder for display in CT window
12/02/2025	Earth Anchors	£82.20	Bench replacement bolt down kits
10/02/2025	Chesham Fencing	£21.60	Postcrete - Hampden bin move
05/02/2025	Tuff Shop	£179.98	Craftsman trousers - estates staff
20/02/2025	Foot Logic Limited	£119.99	Steel toe work boots
03/02/2025	Sumup card fees	£3.36	Card fees for Feb
24/02/2025	Land Registry	£14.00	Land Registry Search for grant application SKP
20/02/2025	Sweeneys	£6.69	Office supplies
28/02/2025	Sweeneys	£7.78	Office supplies
27/02/2025	Wendover Motor Spares	£26.99	Battery Charger (flat battery on ride on mower)
26/02/2025	B&Q	£49.98	Saw and screws - bench repairs
25/02/2025	Land Registry	£14.00	Land Registry Search - field by Worlds End
04/03/2025	Amazon Business	£9.98	HDMI Cable
03/03/2025	Amazon Business	£19.94	Desk tidy/drawers
28/02/2025	Amazon Business	£16.42	Screwdriver bit set - professional with specialist bits
28/02/2025	Amazon Business	£20.64	Screwdriver bit set
26/02/2025	Amazon Business	£77.56	2 x Monitor mounting set (after DSE review)
26/02/2025	Amazon Business	£8.90	Fountain pen cartridges
06/02/2025	Sweeneys	£11.54	Office supplies
TOTAL Debit Card AMOUNT		£1,429.38	
DD/SO			
Date	To	Amount	Payment for
01/03/2025	SIDLEYS CLIENT THE	£135.00	Sidleys garage rent
01/03/2025	LEX AUTOLEASE	£444.29	Hilux lease agreement
07/03/2025	SMART PENSION LTD	£26.40	SMART pension admin fee
31/03/2025	SMART PENSION LTD	£925.70	SMART pension contributions
17/03/2025	BG LITE	£45.50	Manor Waste Electricity
17/03/2025	BG LITE	£544.68	Clock Tower Electricity
17/03/2025	BG LITE	£59.13	Site Safe Electricity
02/04/2025	BUCKS COUNCIL RECE	£62.75	Waste Container emptying
20/02/2025	MICROSOFT	£76.44	Microsoft 365 Licenses
20/02/2025	CASTLE WATER LTD	£21.87	Clock Tower Water
20/02/2025	CASTLE WATER LTD	£9.57	Site Safe Water
17/03/2025	BT GROUP PLC	£71.62	Clock tower phone/broadbandBroadband charges not incl
06/03/2025	BUCKS COUNCIL RECE	£8,000.00	Wendover Community Library Grant
14/03/2025	RADIUS TELEMATICS	£14.40	Vehicle trackers
Feb-2025	RADIUS UK FUELS	£183.32	Fuelcard (weekly DD)24/02/25, 17/02/25,10/02/2025
		£0.00	
TOTAL DD & SO		£10,620.67	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		£26,798.49	SIGNED BY COUNCILLORS:
COUNCIL MINUTE NUMBER			