

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

6th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Online Meeting via Zoom

Present: Ballantine, Walsh, Worth, Gregory, Green, Myers, Bulpett, Clayton, Clare, Washington, Jarratt, Moore, Chambers.

Clerk: Keith Shelley

Chairman: Tom Walsh

Members of Public: 4

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

P20/157 None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

P20/158 None.

3. TEMPORARY DELIGATED POWERS DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

P20/159 It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the current arrangements for the delegated powers to the Clerk and the current working arrangements for the staff.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

P20/160 The Chairman highlighted that he may not be available to present the Community Awards on Wednesday 28th October and requested Cllr Worth represent him. Cllr Worth confirmed his availability.

5. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

Consideration of approval of minutes of the meetings of 7th July 2020.

P20/161 Cllr Clayton highlighted two minor issues. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would make the necessary amendments and then present the minutes to the Chairman for his signature.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

P20/162 None.

7. REPORT FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

P20/163 No report was received and a TVP representative failed to attend. It was **AGREED** the Clerk should contact TVP for an update on their ability to attend the meetings or provide a report.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

P20/164 Cllr Newcombe commented on the following:

- He confirmed his attendance at the recent Community Board meeting stating the prime focus being a report from TVP and spending from the Community Board funding on highways projects. He also commented on no representation from WPC and confirmed 6 highways schemes had been agreed without any submissions from Wendover. The Clerk explained the meeting had been overlooked due to the invite not appearing in

his diary. He also confirmed that a submission to replace the white entry gates into the village was being prepared for submission to the Community Board before the 31st October cut-off date. Following a discussion, it was AGREED 2 nominees should be confirmed to attend the Boards and that interested councillors should confirm their interest with the Clerk. The Clerk will confirm future meeting dates with the nominees.

- Cllr Newcombe highlighted his concerns over the 'calling in' procedure detailed in the 15th September Planning Minutes. The minutes state that the council will be represented by Unitary Councillors which is inaccurate. Whilst the councillors have agreed to support the 'calling in' process for WPC, this does not mean they necessarily agree with WPC conclusions. Also, they do not have the option to speak on behalf of WPC; however, WPC do have the right to be represented. Finally, if the detail is a matter relating to the Central Buckinghamshire Planning Committee, which both he and Cllr Strachan are members, if they comment they will not be able to vote.
In essence, WPC should not be reliant on the Unitary Councillors representation at the 'calling in' procedure, representation must come from WPC.
- Cllr Strachan explained that due to a waste depot flooding in Aylesbury, the bin collection for this week may be delayed by a day. He also reiterated the detail for the 28-day 'calling in' period followed by the 7-day period where material reasons must be submitted. He confirmed Cllr Bowles has provided warning of 'call in' for the Village Gate development. This is for 7 dwellings which may represent over development of the site. It was AGREED Cllr Bulpett will contact him to provide material objections relating to the Neighbourhood Plan. He outlined the detail around Permitted Development Regulations (PDR's). This relates to applications where there is an assumption of approval meaning the applications are not required to be submitted to full committee. He gave the example of a third story conversion on a standard house which would previously have been rejected due to the impact on the street scene but now would be consider a PDR and approved. Cllr Strachan invited councillors to contact him should they have any questions relating to PDR's. Cllr Bulpett asked, given authority would be granted for the conversion, would the suitability of the foundations be considered. Cllr Newcombe explained that planning and building control are two entirely different things and building controls would consider the foundation suitability.
- Cllr Jarratt asked if consideration would be given to retaining elements of the original building at the Village Gate development. Cllr Strachan suggested he emails him with his request.
- Cllr Care asked if recent flooding events would be considered during the PDR process. Cllr Strachan confirmed that flooding is considered during the planning process.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

P20/165 The Clerks report was NOTED.

Cllr Clare asked for clarification on the Website Accessibility Project. The Clerk outlined the requirement and confirmed that WPC was progressing well to completion.

Cllr Clayton asked for clarification on the replacement photocopier contract. The Clerk outlined the financial and operational benefits provided by the contract. It compares favourably with the original and will provide accurate financial forecasting.

Cllr Green asked if the Ground Staff would be consulted on the replacement vehicle selection. The Clerk confirmed they had already been consulted and their suggestions were being included when deciding on the vehicle specification. Cllr Clare asked whether it would be practical for WPC to rent and share a vehicle with adjacent parishes. The Clerk outlined the complications associated with the suggestion but confirmed he would approach local parishes to consider the proposal further.

Cllr Green asked whether as agreed, the Clerk would comment on any decisions he had made relating to the temporary delegated powers during the COVID crisis. He confirmed they had been included in the Clerks Report and would be reported under the heading 'Temporary Delegated Powers' for future reports.

10. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

To receive reports from outside bodies.

P20/166 Cllr Myers included a report from the recent Transport for Bucks conference, and it was NOTED. He expressed his concerns relating to the comment 'Parish Councils might be involved with Community Boards' and how the two may interact. He also highlighted the reference to 20mph speed limits.

Cllr Bulpett attended the 'Planning for the Future' webinar. She confirmed the slide pack had been circulated to councillors but contained no information she was not already aware of.

Cllr Jarratt asked if there had been any progress on the 20-mph proposal for Wendover. Cllr Walsh confirmed the Working Group was being established and would report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Walsh outlined the recent meeting held between the Unitary Councillors and the Clerk to the Community Board. There were constructive discussions including how the Community Board will interact with the Parish Councils. The Clerk will continue to liaise with the Community Board for further clarification on the functions of the Community Board in supporting Parish Councils.

Cllr Walsh also outlined his recent meeting with Wendover Library on their efforts to gain funding from The Buckinghamshire Council for the Library improvements. If achieved this will enhance how the Library may be utilised in the future.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

To consider items of correspondence listed at (Appendix 1)

P20/167 The Clerk confirmed there was no correspondence to consider at this meeting. Cllr Clare asked whether this could be due to the Clock Tower being closed. The Clerk disagreed with the suggestion on this occasion but confirmed he would review at the next meeting.

12. FINANCE

a) **To review the final I&E report, EMR's and Balance Sheet for August 2020.**

P20/168 The I&E report, EMR report and balance sheet for August 2020 were NOTED.

b) **To consider and approve the list of payments.**

P20/169. The list of payments was NOTED with no comments.

Cllr Bulpett confirmed a budget forecast meeting for 2021/22 had been held with the chairs of the committees and the recommendations will be considered at the next Finance Meeting prior to being presented to the Full Council.

13. PLANNING COMMITTEE

To note draft minutes of meeting of 1st & 15th September 2020.

P20/170 The draft minutes were NOTED. Cllr Bulpett outlined the planning detail relating to 50 Thornton Crescent and the thorough report which had been circulated to council. It is hoped that County Enforcement will consider the conditions carefully during the construction phases. She also confirmed the application for the Village Gate development had been considered at today's Planning Meeting. Concerns were raised with the application which has been deferred until these concerns are answered.

14. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

To note draft minutes of meeting of 15th September.

P20/171 The draft minutes were NOTED.

Cllr Clare asked why the staff were working from home and the Clock Tower had been closed. The Clerk explained that following guidance from the Government and NALC /SLCC the decision was made to revert to the previous arrangements. He also outlined the staffs concerns about lone working and members of the community visiting the Clock Tower. These matters will be considered at a Staffing Meeting to be held on Thursday 8th October. Cllr Myers endorsed the revised arrangements and confirmed again that they will be reviewed at the Staffing Meeting. Cllr Clayton asked whether a deep cleaning regime should be included in the Clock Tower to protect the staff. The Clerk outlined the significant antibacterial measures being employed by the staff on their individual visits to the office negating the requirement for a deep clean. Cllr Jarratt suggested that the presence of staff within the Clock Tower working withing the constraints of COVID would send out a positive message to the residents. It was AGREED the Clerk would consult with the staff on the proposal.

15. OTHER MATTERS

a) HS2

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

P20/172 Cllr Walsh highlighted the report received from Rob Butler in which the minister's response suggested that OTB's design was unsafe. OTB have taken issue with the suggestion and replied in the strongest terms confirming the design will be utilised in many locations along the HS2 route. The minister also suggests that EK are the source of the suggestions that the tunnelling techniques are unsafe; however, WPC contacts within EK do not agree with the claims. Cllr Walsh also highlighted the claims that Barbastelle Bats are inhabiting Jones Hill Wood and the resistance group are seeking to find legal support for their action to protect the species. Finally, the Wendover HS2 representative outlined their alternative proposal for the mined tunnel. Cllr Newcombe questioned the suggestion that Unitary Officers had failed to support or reply to the issues raised by Wendover HS2. It was AGREED Cllr Walsh and the HS2 representative would email Cllr Newcombe with their concerns.

ii. To receive an update on the communications strategy from Cllr Durden-Moore

P20/173 Cllr Durden Moore talked the meeting through a slide pack outlining the current strategy encompassing all the Working Groups associated with HS2, how they will interact and the future for engagement with Parliament. It was AGREED Cllr Durden- Moore will circulate the pack to the council members.

iii. To consider whether the PC wishes to continue with the programme of lobbying and influencing parliament and contractors and any cost implications of this.

P20/174 Following a discussion it was **RESOLVED** to support the lobbying and influencing until the end of this financial year to the value of £16k. It was **RESOLVED** that the funding should be vired from the Pond EMR.

b) WPC Committees

To consider and document what committees the new councillors would like to join.

P20/175 Cllrs Washington and Chambers confirmed interest in joining the Amenities Committee. It was AGREED they will be invited to the next Amenities Meeting for nomination.

c) MW Licence Agreement for Rumseys and No2

i. To consider the draft agreement for businesses to utilise the MW.

P20/176 Cllr Gregory suggested an addition to the draft agreement should be that the users leave the area clean and tidy. She also suggested a simplified system of charging, so they pay a fixed monthly or annual fee. It was **RESOLVED** to charge both businesses a fixed annual or monthly fee to be determined by the Clerk.

ii. To review the projected weekly hire costs.

P20/177 It was AGREED the Clerk would base the annual charges for both businesses on these projections.

d) Charter Fair.

i. To consider the current charges for the Charter Fair

P20/178. The Clerk confirmed the Charter Fair had been charged £100 for the 2 days he attended which seems excessive given the reductions agreed for the other businesses. It was AGREED the Clerk would liaise with the Charter Fair to implement a reduction of 50% and organise a £50.00 refund for the original charges.

ii. To consider a request for the fair to attend additional weekends.

P20/179 It was AGREED the Clerk would liaise with the fair for additional weekends provided they do not conflict with the arrangement for No 2, Rumseys and any additional bookings.

e) Policy Review.

To conduct a review of the Petition Policy.

P20/180. The policy was reviewed by the Committee. It was **RESOLVED** not to make any changes to the policy.

f) Community Care Support

To comment on a proposal received by a member of the public relating to care within the community.

P20/181 Following a discussion on the benefits for providing a contact list for the essential care services available to the community it was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to establish a Working Group. Cllrs Myers, Clayton, and Chambers volunteered their support for the group.

g) Climate Action Wendover – Solar Power Project

To comment on a request from CAW for suitable buildings to support the project.

P20/182 The request was considered, and it was felt inappropriate for WPC to recommend buildings they had no responsibility for. It was **RESOLVED** not to make any recommendations.

h) Health & Safety – Audit Report

To note comments received post the recent H&S audit.

P20/183. The comments were NOTED, and it was **RESOLVED** to delegate the outstanding actions to the Clerk to be completed.

16. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

P20/184. The date for the next Full Council meeting is 1st November at 7.30pm on Zoom

17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

P20/185 None.

18. CLOSURE OF MEETING

P20/186 As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed by *Tom Walsh*

Chairman to the Parish Council

Date: 1st December 2020