

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

7th November 2023 at 7:30pm

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

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

In attendance: Buckinghamshire Councillor Strachan

Clerk: Andy Smith

Members of Public: 4

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PC23/159 Apologies were received and **ACCEPTED** from Cllrs Gallagher, Walker – Apologies were noted from Buckinghamshire Councillors Bowles and Newcombe

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

PC23/160 None

3. MINUTES

PC23/161 The minutes of the Parish Council of 3rd October 2023 were considered and it was **RESOLVED** to accept them as a true record to be signed by the Chair

4. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

PC23/162 Council were updated on the strategic planning process and how that would work. We are now looking for ideas for key areas of focus from Councillors and the wider community.

Assemblies at John Colet to talk to young people about the skate park and work of the Parish Council were very well received and confirmed the importance of the young voice to the Council work.

The Remembrance parade is on Sunday 12th at 2:30pm not 2pm as mentioned in the papers and all Councillors are invited to attend.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PC23/163 A member of the public raised that in the past the Parish Council had looked into ownership of Walnut Meadow and asked where that stood at the moment. The reply from the Parish Council was that it was being looked at when it was under the previous AVDC administration. In the move to a unitary authority the project stalled. The Council will review if it would like to look at this project again and Buckinghamshire Cllr Strachan offered to look into the matter for the Council.

PC23/164 The member of the public also outlined that the old scout hut should also be considered for acquisition.

PC23/165 Another member of the public highlighted that it has been a long time since the street name plates have been updated. There are some missing and a lot of faded plates. They suggested a joint working group to replace/update the street name plates.

PC23/166 CLAW would like to thank the Parish Council for considering the tree planting and carefully considering each of the options. It was highlighted that 2 years ago the Parish Council declared a

climate emergency and CLAW would like to reaffirm it's support to Wendover Parish Council in delivering. CLAW is committed to working in partnership with the Parish Council and would like to support the Council to reinstate an environmental and sustainability working party.

6. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

PC23/167 Cllr Strachan highlighted the updates on the Buckinghamshire Council website and from Martin Tett. He offered this time as a space for questions. Regarding Walnut meadow he requested that the Clerk contact the Councillor about Walnut Meadow and he was offering his time to look into that further on behalf of Wendover Parish Council.

7. CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDANCE

PC23/159 The report was noted.

8. FINANCE AND PAYMENTS

a) Payments to consider

PC23/160 The payments to consider, totalling £17791.42, were **RESOLVED** and signed.

b) Latest financial reports

PC23/161 The financial reports were noted. It was noted that this is month 7 of 12 and we are well within the budgetary expectations.

9. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

a) HS2 Mitigation Action Group

PC23/162 The report was noted. Cllrs Walker and Porter attended a meeting with the group to concentrate on the planning of the HS2 public meeting and all councillors are asked to attend and support the meeting.

b) Wendover Business Group

PC23/163 The business group was well attended and it was noted that there was a positive atmosphere. The Clerk will be making some more invitations to hand out for the next meeting and Cllrs Williams and Porter will continue to visit the businesses on and off the high street talking to owners. One of the current ambitions is the commissioning of a map of all the businesses in Wendover with the businesses also supporting the Christmas light switch on event. It was noted by the Councillors that the road closures have changed local shopping habits and that we must be able to respond to this. Further work will be done to look at potential mitigations.

c) BMKALC Conference

PC23/164 It was reported that the Conference focused on engagement and also covered the accessibility arrangements for papers and websites, this is being checked by the Clerk for the Wendover papers and website. It was also noted that Newport Pagnell Council talked about their experience of taking ownership of community assets and they had stood firm on taking over the entirety of community assets for the benefit of the local people to considerable success.

d) Wendover Community Board

PC23/165 There was a focus on previous projects and a review and update on current expenditure. The board is currently funding projects and bids.

e) **Other groups**

- PC23/166** **Climate Action Wendover** - The meeting discussed the tree planting and reaffirmed how the Council and CLAW could work together
- PC23/167** **The Management Committee of the Memorial Hall** – The organisations on the Wendover campus are looking at solar panels for the whole of the campus and the hall is trying to get involved, but will have to be separate project. A survey of the roof showed that it would need to be refurbished to take the weight of the panels and this is at the very start of the project.
- PC23/168** **Wendover Community Car** – The team are about to start a project to raise money for a new car.

10. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

a) **AMENITIES**

- PC23/169** The draft minutes of the meeting on 17th October 2023 were noted. A minor amendment was noted and they will be corrected before being approved at the next meeting.

11. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

a) **Transport Working Group**

- PC23/170** There is a bid with the community board for a survey on behaviours travelling to the school campus. The schools are also looking to link in with bike-a-bility training to try and get more children cycling safely to school. Also working on the EV charging pilot for Wendover. The next meeting is next Tuesday for an update. Will also be looking at street lamps in the village for viability to use them. The South Street speeding issues will be progressed on the back of about 4 months of data. It was also mentioned that 2 people had been injured in the High Street in less than 6 months and a crossing further up would be helpful

b) **Open Spaces Working Group**

- PC23/171** The focus is on the skatepark and this is discussed later in the agenda

12. OTHER ITEMS

a) **Policy Renewals**

- PC23/172** Role of Working Groups - The policy was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to renew the policy.

b) **Minor Grant Applications**

- PC23/173** Minor Grant Application for Young Creative Writers - This agenda item was moved to the start of the agenda just after public participation to allow a representative to speak to the application– it was explained how they will use the money to support creative writing techniques for a series of sessions for under 11 year olds. The stories will be published, whilst keeping the young peoples names but in a way to protect their privacy. The amount is designed as seed funding and that the project will be self-sustaining when progressing the project. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application.

- PC23/174** HS2MAG Group – requested money to support the public meeting. The group are responsible for the meeting costs and this is a request to support them. The Council will have a desk as a breakout space and Councillors are requested to turn up to sit at the desk and field questions and take down comments. The delivery costs were estimated and were a worse case scenario. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application.

PC23/175 St Mary's Church – This application had been withdrawn

c) New cutting deck for the mower

PC23/176 The paper was discussed, and it was noted that the team would still keep the current flail deck for rough patches of vegetation. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the new cutting deck.

d) Skate park planning application

PC23/177 It was noted that the planning application is still live on the planning portal. This paper is to discuss with Council the approach to some of the objections and decide if it should make a comment as a consultee in the planning process. It was noted that the John Colet school and staff have been very supportive and enabled the children to engage with the planning process. We would also engage with the police, who are normally supportive of skateparks as it seems they have uploaded the wrong document to the planning portal. It was noted that we still needed to communicate with residents, including a myth busting communication with local residents in the January Wendover News. Councillors are encouraged to write their own views. It was **RESOLVED** to not make an official comment.

e) Insurance renewal

PC23/178 It was **RESOLVED** to renew the premium under the current 3 years deal.

f) Skate park fundraising

PC23/179 The decorations were shown to the Council. It was noted that being able to accept card payments was important. An amendment was proposed to include a raffle ticket with the decorations so that there is prize drawn with a budget of £50. The amendment was **RESOLVED**. The proposal as amended as **RESOLVED**.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

PC23/180 To note the next Parish Council meeting **Tuesday 5th December 2023**. Agenda items must be with the Clerk by **Mon 27th November**

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC23/181 As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 9:13pm

Signed by *Julie Williams*
Chair to the Parish Council

Date: 5th Dec 2023