

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 5th December 2023 at 7:30pm Meeting held at St Annes Hall, Aylesbury Road, Wendover, HP22 6JG

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

In attendance: Buckinghamshire Councillor Newcombe

Clerk: Andy Smith

Members of Public: 2

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PC23/182 Apologies were received and **ACCEPTED** from Cllrs Ballantine, Gallagher, Wales – Apologies were noted from Buckinghamshire Councillors Bowles and Strachan

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

PC23/183 None

3. MINUTES

PC23/184 The minutes of the Parish Council of 7th November 2023 were considered and it was noted and amended that Cllr Walker was not present, the minutes as amended were **RESOLVED** as a true record to be signed by the Chair.

4. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

PC23/185 The HS2 public meeting was a huge success and thanks go to the office staff for their work on that event. The recent Christmas event was also very well received. The layout changes at the event seemed to work to make the event less crowded, but still have a good atmosphere. Thanks again go to the office team for managing the event. It was noted that it would be good to get some more formal feedback from stallholders and local business to help with next year's event planning.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PC23/186 A member of the public brought up the recent changes to Hale Ln which prevent parking. It is noted that the Parish Council was not involved in the decision-making process, neither were they informed of the outcome. The Parish Council were asked if they were going to represent the anger of the people who feel it is a move to increase revenue at Wendover Woods. The member of the public felt that a lot of money has been spent on the project that could have been spent elsewhere. It was reminded that there were two sides to the issues on Hale Ln and it was not that simple as many of the Hale Lane residents were equally as strong in their support of the changes. It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council had undertaken a consultation, but that consultation appeared to be 2 years ago, so there was a disconnect between the consultation and the action.

PC23/187 A member of the public asked if the salt bins had been filled up. The clerk confirmed that Bucks Council had ensured an appropriate level in all their bins. The member of the public highlighted that there is a bin by Holland Close which is apparently padlocked. It was noted that there are

some private bins owned by local housing associations that are not controlled by Buckinghamshire Council

PC23/188 A member of the public thanked the Council for the ongoing support of the Wendover Shed. It has been noted that people with physical disabilities are having accessibility issues because of the terrain and they would like to have a shallow ramp up to the shed decking. It was noted that we would have to check with planning to ensure this would be permissible. Council were asked their view if they would support and subject to planning issues Council were in favour of improving accessibility.

6. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

- PC23/189** Council's budget – there are a lot of Councils struggling financially. At the moment Buckinghamshire has challenges with the budgets but is not in financial difficulty. The statutory services have increased significantly, but the Council is seeking efficiencies. Statutory services account for over 70% of the Buckinghamshire Council expenditure.
- PC23/190** One of the big issues in this area is the provision of primary care. There is now a consultation on the Primary Care strategy, and this will be open until the 31st January. Because of the issues that have been experienced in this area it would be worth the Parish Council making a representation.
- PC23/191** The South East Aylesbury Link Road has the go ahead to start work on the Wendover Rd roundabout and this will start next week.
- PC23/192** Halton – there has been a draft planning document on the housing that will be built on the RAF base.
- PC23/193** You can find out about Bucks Council activities by signing up to the email by Martin Tett or by reading the full council papers.

7. CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDANCE

PC23/194 The report was noted, The clerk provided an update on the completion of works on the clock and Clock Tower wall

8. FINANCE AND PAYMENTS

a) Payments to consider

PC23/195 The two batches of payments to consider, totalling £36,275.27 and £8,835.07, were **RESOLVED** and signed.

b) Latest financial reports

PC23/196 The financial reports were noted and the Clerk answered questions from Councillors

9. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

a) HS2 Mitigation Action Group

PC23/197 The report was noted.

b) Wendover Business Group

PC23/198 It was noted that there was a smaller attendance but still a good atmosphere. The group are working on a campaign to spend an extra £5 in Wendover, this will start in January.

c) Parish Council Surgeries

PC23/199 The first surgery went ahead. There was a lot of complaints about the skatepark, and some anti-social behaviour in Ashbrook Park is already impacting on the householders, given research of other skateparks it is likely that it will reduce the existing anti-social behaviour. There was another member of public who had a list of suggestions for the Council that have been circulated and will be considered as part of the strategic planning.

d) Other groups

PC23/200 Wendover Library Trustees – the rebuild has come to a halt, because of the costs spiralling it will need a re-design. The funding is still secure at the moment, however the trustees are not sure what the precise shortfall was with the current plan.

PC23/201 Wendover Youth Centre – they are considering applications for the new youth worker and a programme director. There will be some new trustees also brought on board. They are in a transition period and the Parish Council would look to support them going forward.

10. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

a) PLANNING

PC23/202 The draft minutes of the meeting on 21st November 2023 were noted.

b) FINANCE

PC23/203 The draft minutes of the meeting on 21st November 2023 were noted.

PC23/204 The external auditors report, previously distributed was considered and it was noted that there were no actions arising from the report.

11. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

a) Transport Working Group

PC23/205 Met this afternoon regarding the EV charging project, there are 3 properties who will be getting gullies to run cables through. The group are working with CLAW to identify locations for lamppost charging points, including along the high street. It was noted that the parking orders will not change, and they will not be exclusive EV parking spots so it won't reduce the general parking around Wendover.

PC23/206 Wharf road and Schools campus project has been delayed until the parking review implementation.

b) Open Spaces Working Group

PC23/207 The focus is on the skatepark. Next Tuesday is the determination date for the planning. A lot of the objections are not material planning considerations and are more opinion based. There will be a myth busting article in Wendover news in the new year. Current sales of decorations are at about 108.

12. OTHER ITEMS

a) Policy Renewals

PC23/208 Winter Policy - The policy was considered; it was noted that the addition of providing salt to local businesses on request and it was **RESOLVED** to renew the policy with the amendments.

b) New Working Groups

PC23/209 Sustainability and biodiversity group – this group would be a Parish Council led group focused on progressing issues and would underpin other working groups and the strategy. This group would also support the mission and be assigned workstreams that come out from the strategic planning. It was **RESOLVED** to establish this group.

PC23/210 Strategic Planning Steering Group – It was **RESOLVED** to formally establish this group.

c) Vehicle insurance renewal

PC23/211 It was noted that we had only actually received two quotes and other providers, including our current provider were being slow to respond. It was **RESOLVED** to devolve power to the Clerk to accept the best value quote.

d) 2024/25 Budget and precept request

PC23/212 The papers were scrutinised. It was noted that there was great concern about income for devolved services in light of the update from the Buckinghamshire Councillor. It was noted that it was a possibility that Parish Councils would be expected to do less work (such as a reduced number of grass cuts per year) in return for a freeze or reduction in the fee paid. It was noted that even if we delay the precept submission as long as possible, we would not be able to confirm the devolved services income. It was also noted that the external audit had advised that our general reserve was at the lower end of expectations with many Parish Councils having a general reserve of between 6 and 12 months of expenditure. Council considered that our reserve was appropriate but made us less resilient to a reduction in devolved services income. An amendment to adjust the income for devolved services down by £10k was the prudent thing to budget for. It was **RESOLVED** to amend income budget line 1035 to £10,158. This would mean that our total precept request was £388,445 an increase of 8.18% and increase which would mean an approximate annual increase of £8.50, about 70p a month. The total parish precept bill for a band D property is still well under £10 a month. The budget as amended was **RESOLVED** to be accepted with the renewed precept request of £388,445.

e) Planning

PC23/213 23/03479/ALB 85 Tring Road Wendover Buckinghamshire

Listed building consent for demolition of non-original rear porch, erection of single storey rear extension and internal layout changes.

Wendover Parish Council - Neutral

PC23/214 23/03478/APP 85 Tring Road Wendover Buckinghamshire

Householder application for demolition of non-original rear porch, erection of single storey rear extension and internal layout changes.

Wendover Parish Council - Neutral

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

PC23/215 To note the next Parish Council meeting **Tuesday 9th January 2024**. Agenda items must be with the Clerk strictly by 9am **Wed 3rd January**. Also to note that the venue will be the Chilterns Neuro Centre on Princess Mary Gate

14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

- PC23/216** It was **RESOLVED** to move the meeting into confidential session because of sensitive personal information being discussed. The Clerk was also asked to leave the meeting because of a conflict of interest.
- PC23/217** The Council considered offering a one-off discretionary bonus to the staff team at Christmas based on the challenges and successes faced this year. It was **RESOLVED** to make a discretionary payment of £250 for each member of staff to be put through the December pay run.

15. CLOSURE OF MEETING

- PC23/218** As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 9:25pm

Signed by *Julie Williams*
Chair to the Parish Council

Date: 9th January 2024