

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 5th March 2024 at 7:45pm St Anne's Hall, Aylesbury Road, Wendover HP22 6JG

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

In attendance: Buckinghamshire Councillors Bowles, Newcombe

Clerk: Andy Smith

Members of Public: 2

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PC23/276 Apologies were noted from Buckinghamshire Councillor Strachan

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

PC23/277 None

3. MINUTES

PC23/278 The minutes of the Parish Council of 6th February 2024. were **RESOLVED** as a true record to be signed by the Chair.

4. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

PC23/279 Due to significant cost increases for the Library since the last meeting we need to cancel the public meeting and the Extraordinary Parish Council because we are still working on the options. At the moment it looks like we cannot afford the full Library refurbishment costs The next Councillor surgery is on the 21st March at the Library, Cllrs Worth and Williams volunteered for the next surgery

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PC23/280 A member of the public brought up about the decision about the Library meeting and asked where the decision had been made. It was noted that no decision had been made on the Library itself but the consultation had to be changed. Recent changes to the project meant that the Parish Council currently had no update or options to present and that there will be a public forum for discussion on this issue, potentially the Parish Council meeting on the 2nd April.

PC23/281 A member of the public highlighted that they had requested details about who is paying for the works for the parking review as there is a lot of refreshment works going on at the same time. It was noted that this will be covered in the reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors.

PC23/282 A member of the public highlighted issues with the Hampden park path, this was refurbished a few years ago, but there is about 40m of the path that is starting to crumble.

PC23/283 A member of the public asked if the Parish Council is happy with the state of the high street. The road is in an appalling state and action needs to be taken to improve the surface.

PC23/284 A member of the public voiced concern about the EV project parking spaces, in particular they were concerned how Buckinghamshire Council are going to monitor whether EV cars are charging whilst parked there.

PC23/285 A member of the public thanked the Council for listening to his views and the surgeries at the Library are particularly welcome. The member of the public thanked the Buckinghamshire

Councillors because the recent work in Vinetrees is much appreciated. There was also thanks Clerk for listening to the comments on the Library and the Halton SPD Consultation. The member of public had concern about Wendover being involved in the SPD process and the library redevelopment as the information was not forthcoming. The change in the meeting date for the Parish Council library consultation is frustrating for the community.

6. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

PC23/286 Councillor Bowles highlighted that the high street is the top of their list to make effective repairs to that road. The flooding in the dip on the Ellesborough Road is an issue, there is going to be monthly storm water clearance in the area which should help. The footpath and kerbs will be cleared and sorted. It was confirmed that the money to pay for the lining works is coming from separate budgets. The new lines are being paid for out of the community fund and the refresh works on the existing lines is being funded separately.

7. CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDANCE

PC23/287 The report was noted. The vandalism issues are significant. The latest vandalism around the war memorial was noted. It was noted that the vandalism issues in the parks has been concentrated on the wooden furniture and that the recycled plastic may help to resolve some of those issues

8. FINANCE AND PAYMENTS

a) Payments to consider.

PC23/288 The payments to consider, totalling £23,540.78, were **RESOLVED** and signed.

b) Latest financial reports

PC23/289 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

PC23/290 The report was noted. It was further noted that the request to HS2 to use some of the newly developed land for the Ellesborough road are being considered.

b) Wendover Business Group

PC23/291 Shops are adopting the spend £5 campaign. We now need to look into if we can provide flyers to give out to customers to re-enforce the message. This will need to be costed and a proposal brought to Council.

c) Parish Council Surgeries

PC23/292 There were many people coming and chatting with Councillors at the last surgery, the main issues were the Library, the car parking charges and Halton redevelopment– The next surgery is Thu 21st March and Councillors Worth and Williams volunteered for that role.

10. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

a) PLANNING

PC23/293 The draft minutes of the meeting on 20th February 2024 were noted

b) FINANCE

PC23/294 The draft minutes of the meeting on 20th February 2024 were noted. There was a question about the grants to the two large funding applications as to why they have been held back. It was noted that both looked on paper as if we were funding an operational cost and or deficits and we are asking for additional details.

11. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

a) Transport Working Group

PC23/295 **Streetlight EV charging trial** – The paper outlining authority for the use of specified lampposts was noted. It was further noted that there will be an app which will handle all of the charging costs and we shall be sent the income to cover the cost of the electricity. The chargers are standard chargers for charging over a 4-6 hour period. If you are parked and not charging then enforcement officers will be able to ticket the car and this could cause contention with residents. It was noted that this was only a trial and it was designed to test some of these issues. We could then request changes to the scheme based on this experience. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed locations for charging posts

PC23/296 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the EV only charging bays based on this being a trial.

PC23/297 **Traffic surveys** – this would be the first stage to undertake a full survey to collect the evidence, this will help understand who is currently driving there and why. The survey would include Icknield, Manor Crescent, St Annes Close and other local roads. It was **RESOLVED** to provide the matched funding of up to £2000 for this survey - to be taken out of 9123/359 Transport Working Group EMR.

b) Open Spaces Working Group

PC23/298 The planning application for the skatepark has progressed with the required noise and biodiversity net gain surveys being sent to the planning officer. There are no noise mitigation measures required and it was noted that this was a different construction of skate park to the one previously in Ashbrook made of metal and wood. We now await the planning determination. It was further noted to liaise with CLAW around the additional planting required by planning.

PC23/299 It was noted that the community board withdrew their funding of £25k because it had not been called upon in time. We can reapply for a maximum £15k grant after we have received planning permission. It was considered that there may be project cost increases and we should be prepared for that. It was also noted that at the end of financial year there may be surpluses that could be moved to the skatepark EMR to support the project.

c) Sustainability and Biodiversity Group

PC23/300 A recent meeting went through the Eco Audit and is looking at progressing that. The group will undertake a lot of research behind some of those issues to support the Council in its ambitions.

d) Strategic Planning Steering Group

Has not met since the last meeting due to the volume of current work.

12. OTHER ITEMS

a) Buckinghamshire Council Parking Charges Review

PC23/301 It was noted that there is a review of the parking charges, and the consultation was over a relatively short period of time. It was further noted that the parking strategy was distributed just 5 days after the close of the consultation. It was agreed that this should be a bigger and

longer consultation. Therefore, we need to get clarifications to some of the issues. We need to work constructively with Bucks Council on the issue. The suggestion is to seek further clarification from Buckinghamshire Council and review the responses. It looks like some of the new parking charges have already been changed. It was noted the model of standardising charging across all car parks does not allow for specific local considerations.

PC23/302 It was agreed that the Parish Council need to decide on impacts of the new strategy and present that to Buckinghamshire Council. It was **RESOLVED** to draft a letter and circulate for agreement by Parish Councillors before sending to Buckinghamshire Council.

b) Transfer from EMR for CLAW wildbelt gate

PC23/303 It was **RESOLVED** to make the payment of the contributory funding to CLAW of £251.88 from the Climate Action EMR (9128/364)

c) Post Lockers at Budgens

PC23/304 The issue of the lockers being in the conservation area was noted. The office had sought clarification on this issue already and it was noted that this company had worked in conservation areas before and understood the requirements. It was further noted that if the specific requirements of the Wendover Conservation Area were not met then they would remove the lockers and rethink the proposal.

PC23/305 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the offer and that the Clerk would draft a lease for circulation based on the Rumseys Lease.

PC23/306 It was **RESOLVED** to setup a minor grants EMR into which the income could be transferred and used for community projects.

d) Devolved Services

PC23/307 A member of the grounds team updated the Council on the current situation and the additional work required to fulfil the new contract. It was noted that this should not be a take it or leave it situation and there needs to be consideration on both sides of the contract.

PC23/308 It was further noted that the Buckinghamshire Councillors should be engaged to support us with the process. However a current complaint about the Devolved Services process sent via one of the ward Councillors is still outstanding.

PC23/309 It was also noted that one potential option for the Council was to take on the Churchyard works and this may impact on the ability to deliver the Devolved services, but the money could go towards part time staff or contractors. It was felt by the meeting that we should enter into negotiations with Buckinghamshire Council about this situation, It was **RESOLVED** to not accept the current agreement as presented but enter into negotiations with Bucks Council and that the office will set up a meeting with the devolved services team with Councillors Gallagher and Walker.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

PC23/310 To note the next Parish Council meeting **Tuesday 2nd April 2024**. Agenda items must be with the Clerk strictly by 9am **Monday 25th March**.

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC23/311 As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 9.22

Signed by *Clive Gallagher*
Chair to the Parish Council

Date: 5th April 2024

