WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2024

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Cllr B Hughes (Chair), Cllr J Morrison (Vice Chair)

Cllrs C Brownsword, P Nixon, J Fryer, L Ibbs, K Griffiths, P Brown, D Brindley, S Hill, D Normington, N Meakin

Z Grindey (Clerk), G Keiher-Knapper (Deputy Clerk)

County Cllr R Ward (arrived late)

Also in attendance was District Cllr P Hughes

APOLOGIES

Cllr J Fryer

There was 1 member of the public present.

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:20

129/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public.

Due to the late arrival of County Cllr R Ward, his report was presented during the meeting.

130/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr J Fryer were accepted.

131/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

132/23 REGISTER OF INTERESTS:

Councillors were reminded to maintain their register of interests.

133/23 ACCURACY OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the following meeting were reviewed for accuracy.

a) Minutes of the meeting held 11th December 2023

Cllr K Griffiths proposed that the minutes be approved. This was seconded by Cllr C Brownsword and carried with 1 against and 1 abstention.

134/23 ACTION PLAN:

The action plan was reviewed and updated.

It was agreed that Cllr K Griffiths would send the wording for plaques remembering former councillors J Hodgetts and T McNicol to the Deputy Clerk.

Further meetings are to be arranged to complete the five-year plans.

The Chair agreed to check with Cllr J Fryer if anything had been received at the library regarding the new housing development.

Approval was given for the Deputy Clerk to order Councillor ID badges.

Priority was to be given to setting up new bank signatories, new Councillor email accounts, and Councillor business cards, and a deadline of 24th January set for the Clerk to provide an email trail for complaints regarding the new development.

135/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr R Ward provided an update. There is likely to be an increase of 4.99% to Staffordshire County Council's council tax, mainly to be spent on Child and Adult Services. This year, Cllr R Ward has funded Werrington Players, Werrington Scouts, and the Girl Guides. A small amount of fly-tipping has been reported. The new District Council have agreed an increase of £400k over four years for District Councillor expenses, backdated to 1st May 2023. This will be coming out of Council reserves.

Cllr R Ward agreed to find out how to access the Highways complaints system and inform the Deputy Clerk.

Cllrs N Meakin & R Ward left the meeting

136/23 ACCOUNTS:

The following were reviewed:

a) December accounts (circulated via email)
b) January payment schedule (circulated via email)

Cllr J Morrison proposed that the December accounts and January payment schedule were approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Brown and carried.

Cllr N Meakin rejoined the meeting

137/23 BUDGETS & PRECEPT

The recommendations from the Budget & Precept meeting were considered.

a) ***Cllr J Morrison proposed that the recommended budgets for 2024/25 were approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Brown and carried.***
b) ***Cllr J Morrison proposed that the recommended precept increase of 7.5% was approved. This was seconded by Cllr K Griffiths and carried with 1 against.***

138/23 STAFF REPORTS:

a) The Clerk provided an update. She will be attending a training course on Levelling Up at the end of January. It was agreed to continue the Clerk's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks.
b) The Deputy Clerk had previously circulated her report and this was noted with no questions or comments.
c) Village Warden's report – Cllr P Nixon provided an update regarding littering and antisocial behaviour. Cllr P Nixon agreed to remove the old, dead Christmas tree from by the Millennium Rock. Cllr P Nixon raised the lack of litter bins on the new development. Cllr N Meakin stated that as the development was not yet complete, and the roads not adopted, the wardens should not be entering the site. This was agreed.

139/23 HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP:

The next meeting is due to be held next week.

140/23 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP:

The second letters to residents were delivered before Christmas. No responses had been received by the Clerk. The Chair agreed to check with Cllr J Fryer to see if anything had been handed in at the library. Cllr N Meakin agreed to share the new Section 106 document with the Deputy Clerk.

141/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) WORKING GROUP

The next meeting will be at 9.30am on 16th January. The Chair is to arrange a meeting with Cllr K Griffiths and the Chief Inspector.

142/23 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Crossroads Café and GEMS had been lost following the November meeting. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would drop new forms off with Cllr S Hill to be completed again. With information provided by Cllr S Hill, the Council agreed to review the projects.

a) Crossroads Café - £200 approved
b) GEMS - £260 approved
c) Werrington Primary School - £750 approved out of Christmas budget.

The above a) and b) were approved subject to new forms being submitted and meeting the grants criteria.

143/23 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr K Griffiths provided an update. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with plot holders for 7pm on 4th March.

144/23 TREE PLANTING AT MEIGH ROAD PLAYING FIELDS

The Clerk provided an update on the proposed tree planting to take place on the morning of 9th January. A discussion was held regarding making a donation to the charity group supplying and planting the trees.

Cllr J Morrison proposed making a donation of £334 from the Power Fund budget. This was seconded by Cllr L Ibbs and carried with 1 abstaining.

145/23 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received.

146/23 COUNCILLOR UPDATES/ITEMS

A discussion was held regarding planning. It was agreed that for a period of one month, the Deputy Clerk would carry out weekly checks on SMDC's planning portal to ensure that we are receiving all relevant applications.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (PUBLIC AND PRESS EXCLUDED) – The remaining members of the public left the meeting.

147/23 FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION GRANT

The Deputy Clerk provided an update. The Council need to accept the Grant Offer Letter to access the funding.

Cllr J Morrison proposed that the Council accept the Grant Offer Letter. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried with one abstention.

148/23 QUOTE FOR REPLACEMENT SIGNAGE AT MEIGH ROAD

Cllr J Morrison proposed accepting the quote by Signs Express. This was seconded by Cllr L Ibbs and carried.

149/023 SECTION 106 FUNDING

A discussion was held regarding the S106 funding for the new development. Cllr N Meakin informed the Council that it is for a total sum of £139,128.08, to be spent on sports facilities within 2km of the development.

150/023 BOTTOM ENTRANCE TO MEIGH ROAD PLAYING FIELDS

The Clerk provided an update following her discussions with Mr Fradley's solicitor. A discussion was held. It was agreed that the Council should formally request that the land be gifted to the Parish Council. It was also agreed that documents relating to the park should be requested.

Meeting Closed at 21:20

DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS 12TH FEBRUARY 2024