WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2024

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

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

Cllrs P Nixon, J Fryer, K Griffiths, S Hill, D Normington, C Brownsword, D Brindley (arrived 7.30)

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

Also in attendance was District Cllr P Hughes

APOLOGIES

Cllrs L Ibbs, P Brown, N Meakin

There were 5 members of the public present.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.05pm

172/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

173/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

As Cllr R Ward was not in attendance there was no report.

174/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllrs L Ibbs and P Brown were accepted. Apologies from Cllr N Meakin were not accepted.

175/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

176/23 REGISTER OF INTERESTS:

Councillors were reminded to maintain their register of interests.

177/23 ACCURACY OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the following meeting were reviewed for accuracy.

a) Minutes of the meeting held 12th February 2024

Cllr J Morrison proposed that the minutes be approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried with 1 abstention.

178/23 ACTION PLAN:

The action plan was reviewed and updated.

It was agreed to request an update on outstanding actions from Cllr R Ward.

It was agreed that a deadline of the April meeting was set for the letter of complaint to SMDC to be completed and presented to the Council.

Cllr J Fryer confirmed that the bench on Johnstone Avenue is cemented in and cannot be moved. Cllr C Brownsword stated that he would raise the issue of antisocial behaviour around the bench with Moorside High School.

The meeting with the Chief Inspector has now been cancelled by him three times. Cllr K Griffiths will try again to rearrange.

179/23 ACCOUNTS:

The following were reviewed:

a) February accounts (circulated via email)
b) March payment schedule (circulated via email)
c) Year End budget virements (circulated via email)

Cllr J Morrison proposed that the February accounts and the March payment schedule were approved. This was seconded by Cllr C Brownsword and carried.

Cllr C Brownsword proposed that the Year End budget virements be approved. This was seconded by Cllr D Normington and carried.

180/23 STAFF REPORTS:

a) The Clerk provided an update. The new signage at Meigh Road playing fields is due to be installed by the end of the month. A site is to be agreed for the new CCTV camera. The main focus for the coming weeks will be year end and preparation for the audit.
b) The Deputy Clerk had previously circulated an update. The car park needs strimming around the edges. Clerk to contact the grounds maintenance contractor.

c) Village Warden's report – Cllr P Nixon provided an update. There has been an increase in the amount of fly tipping, especially on the car park at Meigh Road. The new trees at the bottom end of the playing fields are doing well, as are the fruit trees.

181/23 HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP:

The working group have not met since the last Council meeting.

182/23 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP:

As Cllrs P Brown and N Meakin are not in attendance, and the letter of complaint has not been shared with the Council, this item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

183/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) WORKING GROUP

Cllr K Griffiths provided an update. Cllr C Brownsword is building contacts with Moorside High School and a certification scheme is planned for pupils doing well. Damage to property has been reported to Cllr K Griffiths, who has informed the resident to report it to the Police. The ASB working group have not met since the last Council meeting. Cllr K Griffiths informed the Council that once a meeting has been held with the Chief Inspector, the working group would cease to meet, unless needed.

184/23 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr K Griffiths and the Clerk provided an update. The minutes of the Annual Allotments meeting had been circulated. A discussion was held.

185/23 MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The following wording was agreed:

In memory of Tony McNicol, long-standing member of Werrington Parish Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, who dedicated his life to the people of Werrington.

It was agreed that the plaque would be situated on the planter beneath the noticeboard, on the opposite side to the current plaques.

186/23 RISK & ASSET REGISTERS

The registers had previously been circulated for review. A discussion was held regarding the asset register. It was agreed to photograph all assets.

Cllr J Morrison proposed that the Risk & Asset Registers were agreed. This was seconded by Cllr J Fryer and carried.

187/23 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting at 6pm, prior to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 13th May 24. Refreshments to be provided.

2 members of the public left the meeting

188/23 D DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Clerk had previously circulated an email regarding a commemorative flag. A discussion was held. Cllr D Normington stated that he has a contact who has a number of road worthy military vehicles that could do a drive through the village. The Deputy Clerk reported that there is a memorial bench commemorating D Day and would send the link to Councillors. Cllr J Fryer agreed to update the Council as to the plans of the WCVG with regards to a beacon, once agreed.

Cllr K Griffiths proposed the purchase of a commemorative flag and bench. This was seconded by Cllr J Morrison and carried.

189/23 CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE

The Clerk read out the statements of the previously circulated Civility & Respect Pledge. A discussion was held.

Cllr J Morrison proposed that the Council adopt the pledge. This was seconded by Cllr J Fryer and carried.

190/23 PROVISIONS FOR THE DISABLED

As this agenda item was requested by Cllr L Ibbs, in her absence it was carried forward to the April meeting.

191/23 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was considered:

a) Request to hold a charity colour run at Meigh Road playing fields – no application form has yet been received so this item will be carried forward until a formal application is made.
b) Complaint regarding the Scout & Guide HQ – the complaint had been shared with Councillors via email prior to the meeting. The Clerk provided an update from the Scout Leader regarding the Bonfire/Firework display and parking. Following a discussion, it was agreed that this is not a matter for the Parish Council, however they will put something on their website and in Village Life regarding parking in the village.

c) Offer of Portrait of the King – it was agreed to apply for a free portrait of the King, to be offered to the Village Hall for display in the meeting room. Cllr S Hill agreed to bring this up at the next Village Hall Committee meeting.
d) Thank you card – the Clerk read out a thank you card, received by GEMS for their recent grant.

192/23 COUNCILLOR UPDATES/ITEMS

The Chair reported that she had delivered flowers to a resident for a ninetieth birthday.

Cllr K Griffiths provided an update. Hedging at the entrance to the park is pushing cars onto the grass. The Clerk agreed to take a look. The Bowling Club are looking into possible grants to create a fenced off path to allow vehicle access from the car park to the club.

Cllr P Nixon provided an update regarding the roadworks. Cars are repeatedly going through the lights on red. Workers are receiving abuse from drivers and have a bad perception of the area. A discussion was held.

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

193/23 QUOTE FOR ALLOTMENTS FENCING

The Deputy Clerk provided a quote for the replacement of the fencing around the allotments. A discussion was held. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would try to get a quote to just repair the damaged fence. Quotes to plant laurel along one side should also be sought. Clerk to investigate the possibility of claiming from the insurance company for the damage to the fencing.

194/23 WEBSITE

The quotes were provided, and a discussion was held. The key questions raised were:

- Will the website belong to the Parish Council?
- Can the Council pay the hosting company directly?

Cllr J Morrison proposed purchasing a new website and support from Stef Giblin, subject to the above questions being positively addressed. This was seconded by Cllr D Normington and carried.

195/23 FOOD FESTIVAL BOOKING

Following a discussion, it was agreed to cancel the booking for a food festival at the sports ground.

Meeting Closed at 9.40pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS 8TH APRIL 2024