WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024

AT WERRINGTON LIBRARY

PRESENT

Cllr B Hughes (Chair)

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

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

Also in attendance was District Cllr P Hughes

APOLOGIES

Cllrs J Morrison, D Normington, C Brownsword

There were 3 members of the public present.

THE MEETING WAS MOVED TO THE LIBRARY AT SHORT NOTICE DUE TO BEING UNABLE TO USE THE VILLAGE HALL

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:15

151/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident informed the Council that their hedge had been ripped up by the contractors working on the new development. They now have Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) on three of their trees. They have requested a fence is erected by the developers alongside their current low wall.

A resident asked if the planning application for the new Co-op had been reviewed by the District Council. It was confirmed that the planning meeting had not yet taken place.

A resident asked about planning application SMD/2023/0563. It was stated that the application had only recently been received by the Council and had not been reviewed. The Clerk agreed to resend the email containing details of the application.

152/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllrs D Normington and C Brownsword were accepted. Apologies from Cllr J Morrison were not accepted.

153/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

154/23 REGISTER OF INTERESTS:

Councillors were reminded to maintain their register of interests.

155/23 ACCURACY OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the following meetings were reviewed for accuracy.

a) Minutes of the meeting held 8th January 2024
b) Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held 8th January 2024
c) Minutes of the ASB Working Group held 16th January 2024
d) Minutes of the Highways Working Group held 16th January 2024

Cllr K Griffiths proposed that minutes a) be approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Brown and carried with 1 abstention.

Cllr K Griffiths proposed that minutes b) and c) be approved. This was seconded by Cllr D Brindley and carried with 1 abstention.

Cllr B Hughes proposed that minutes d) be approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried with 1 abstention.

156/23 ACTION PLAN:

The action plan was reviewed and updated.

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would look into solar powered lighting for the Millennium Rock.

The monitoring of the Planning Portal would be extended by 1 month.

Agreeing the wording for the remembrance plaque for former councillor Tony McNicol to be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

157/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

As Cllr R Ward was not in attendance, there was no update.

158/23 ACCOUNTS:

The following were reviewed:

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

Cllr P Brown proposed that the January accounts were approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Nixon and carried with 1 abstention.

Cllr D Brindley proposed that the February payment schedule be approved. This was seconded by Cllr P Brown and carried with 1 abstention.

159/23 STAFF REPORTS:

a) The Clerk provided an update. VAST, who currently host the Council's website, will no longer be offering this service. Alternative quotes will be reviewed at the March meeting.

b) The Deputy Clerk provided an update. It was agreed to invite the organiser of the Food Festival, due to take place in August, to the next meeting to answer any questions.

Cllr P Hughes and 1 MOP left the meeting at 8pm

No objections have been received regarding the new fencing to be erected at Meigh Road car park. It was agreed to state this on the website. The car park will be closed on 3rd, 4th and 5th of March for resurfacing. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would liaise with Cllr J Morrison regarding the Climate Change working group. The Deputy Clerk agreed to arrange for Hannah Barton to attend a forthcoming meeting regarding the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that Councillors would take the lead on this due to the workload of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

c) Village Warden's report – Cllr P Nixon provided an update. The large fridge-freezer that is currently outside the old post office is due to be removed. Two of the fruit trees of the community orchard have been uprooted. Large stones keep being moved onto a path at Radley Way and are a trip hazard in the dark. Cllr P Nixon keeps putting them back, but it is ongoing. The car number plates found by the wardens have now been collected by the police. A discussion was held regarding lighting up the new defibrillator at Meigh Road. It was agreed not to install lighting at present. The Deputy Clerk offered training on using a defibrillator if anyone was interested.

160/23 HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP:

There is an ongoing issue with the drainage at the bottom of the Village Hall car park, made worse by the new development. Cllr S Hill reported that this matter was being dealt with by the Village Hall Committee.

161/23 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP:

An update was provided by Cllr P Brown. Issues are still ongoing regarding generator noise, lighting, and flooding of gardens as a result of the new development. A resident complained about the attitude of the workmen. Cllrs P Brown and N Meakin visited the site to investigate the complaint and reported that the site manager was involved in the issue.

It was agreed that Cllrs P Brown and N Meakin would draft a report to go to the Chief Executive of the District Council, highlighting all of the issues with the new development and lack of action by District Council departments. This draft would be reviewed prior to the March meeting before being sent.

162/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) WORKING GROUP

Cllr K Griffiths provided an update. Cllr S Hill reported ongoing problems with antisocial behaviour around the bench at the end of Johnstone Avenue. A discussion was held. It was agreed that the Clerk would email Cllr J Fryer, asking that this matter is discussed by the Community Volunteers Group Committee.

163/23 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr K Griffiths provided an update. It was reported that the mains tap would not turn off. The Deputy Clerk agreed to contact Severn Trent Water to report this. It was agreed that the Clerk would leave a notice on plot 15, asking the person tending the plot to contact them. Slabs have been laid by a tenant at the entrance to the allotments. It was decided that these could be potential trip hazards or raise up and damage a vehicle accessing the allotments as they have not been cemented down. It was agreed that the tenant must remove the slabs as they were laid without permission.

164/23 MEIGH ROAD PLAYING FIELDS

A discussion was held regarding the original gifting of the playing fields to the Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would email a copy of the solicitor's letter to Councillors. Land Registry documents should be ordered.

Cllr K Griffiths provided an update on the Bowling Club. A discussion was held regarding vehicle access for disabled users through the park. The Council's insurers have stated that this should not happen.

165/23 CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

It was agreed that the previously set up working group should now meet. The Deputy Clerk agreed to liaise with Cllr J Morrison to set this up.

166/23 ROADWORKS ON THE A52, ASH BANK ROAD

A discussion was held regarding the ongoing roadworks on Ash Bank Road. Key issues reported were the difficulties had by residents in accessing their driveways and the noise generated by idling heavy goods vehicles linked to the works. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would contact Highways to request that the lights are moved further up to allow access to properties and the timings of the lights are changed to reflect the traffic flow, especially around rush hour.

167/23 BUS SHELTER OPPOSITE THE OLD POST OFFICE

A discussion was held regarding the missing bus shelter. It was agreed that the Clerk would try to find out where the shelter has gone, if there will remain a bus stop there, and if the shelter would be replaced.

168/23 CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr S Hill provided letters of thanks from Ash Café for their recent grant.

A formal request had been received from the Young People's Support Group to hold the Fun Day at Meigh Road park on 1st June.

Cllr L Ibbs proposed that permission to hold the Fun Day be given. This was seconded by Cllr S Hill and carried with 1 abstention.

169/23 COUNCILLOR UPDATES/ITEMS

There were no Councillor updates.

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

170/23 S106 UPDATE

Cllr N Meakin reported that there is £84,273 of Section 106 funding available in relation to the new development. 50% of this can now be claimed. The Deputy Clerk agreed to obtain quotes for the drainage work at the MUGA and to find out the exact criteria for this funding.

171/23 ROUGH SLEEPER

A discussion was held regarding the current rough sleeper in the village. It was agreed that all of the relevant authorities and organisations were involved and that there was nothing that the Parish Council were able to do in addition to this.

Meeting Closed at 21:50

DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS 11TH MARCH 2024