WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 10th JUNE 2024

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Cllrs K Griffiths (Chair), J Morrison (Vice Chair)

Cllrs P Nixon, J Fryer, S Hill, C Brownsword, D Brindley, L Ibbs, N Meakin, B Hughes

G Keiher-Knapper (Deputy Clerk)

County Cllr R Ward

APOLOGIES

Cllr P Brown and Cllr D Normington

There were 6 members of the public present.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm

030/24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A Bowling Club member requested Parish Council support for three further fence panels to prevent children gaining access to the bowling green.

A member of public spoke on behalf of Rownall and Bagnall save Green Belt to provide the Parish Council with an update. A Ministerial Statement for energy conservation had been released with regards to solar farms. The purpose was to ensure that good quality growing farmland is not used as factory roofs and new homes should be used first. Soil should be assessed for quality. Our area has been successfully growing wheat for decades. The statement also said that District Councillors should consider all other relating applications which is currently at seven applications. If planning permission is granted there will be 800 shipping containers and this is not including the two-screening applications. 350 invertors, 170acres estimates 86,000 solar panels which is well over 49.999mhz which is above the limit that District Councillors can decide it should be National Government decision as they has received specialised training for accepting these types of applications. Final concern is that the UK doesn't currently have any legislation preventing the use of elastane batteries which are banned in Europe.

1915hrs the members of public left the meeting.

031/24 APOLOGIES

Cllr Brown and Cllr Normington.

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032/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr K Griffiths and Cllr D Brindley declared that they are members of the Bowling Club.

033/24 REGISTER OF INTERESTS:

Councillors were reminded to maintain their register of interests.

034/24 ACCURACY OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the following meeting were reviewed for accuracy.

a) Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held 13th May 2024
b) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held 13th May 2024

Cllr J Morrison proposed that the minutes be approved.

This was seconded by Cllr C Brownsword and carried.

035/24 ACTION PLAN:

The action plan was reviewed and updated.

It was agreed for the Deputy Clerk to submit a complaint to SMDC Planning Enforcement for the removal of the bus shelter outside the YOI by the developer and still not replacing it.

Cllr R Ward shared funding opportunities for local businesses to apply for from SMDC to improve the disability access. Cllr C Brownsword will create a flyer to share with local businesses.

036/24 ACCOUNTS:

The following were deferred in the absence of the Clerk:

a) May accounts
b) May/June payment schedule
c) 2023-24 Audit

The Deputy Clerk informed the meeting that an Extra Ordinary Meeting will be required to approve the Audit in time for the deadline. Once the Deputy Clerk has access to everything required completion of the Audit will be a priority as if the deadline is not met the Parish Council could be fined.

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037/24 To receive a report from:

a) Staffordshire Moorlands Councillor

Did not attend.

b) County Councillor

Cllr R Ward informed the Parish Council that because of the pre-election period it is relatively quiet. Other than trying to improve the relationship between Parish Councils and SMDC as it should be a listening exercise not a telling exercise.

038/24 STAFF REPORTS:

a) The Clerk provided an update. – Not in attendance.
b) The Deputy Clerk had previously circulated an update. Key points were discussed.
The D Day flag is to be removed at the end of the month.
The Deputy Clerk reminded the Parish Council about the Parish Assembly on 27th June.
c) Village Warden's report – Cllr P Nixon provided an update.

- CCTV second pole is installed, and the camera should be this week hopefully. Deputy Clerk has requested the pole to be extended.
- Cllr Griffiths agreed to look at the conifers by the pump track.
- It was agreed for the Deputy Clerk to remove the damaged Meigh Rd Playing Fields sign by the Schout Hut entrance.
- Grass verge by the doctors has not been cut.

039/24 HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP:

The working group have not met since the last Council meeting. A discussion was held regarding the condition of the pavements around the Parish and to report them using the Highways app and let the Deputy Clerk know so that it can be added onto the Parish consolidated list of defects.

040/24 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP:

Cllr B Hughes made the Parish Council aware that she is trying to establish who owns the patch of land off Salters Lane as it has not been cut for two years.

It was decided to disband the housing development working group.

041/24 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) WORKING GROUP

Cllr K Griffiths and Cllr P Nixon provided an update having met with the PCSOs and walked around Meigh Road playing fields identifying all the problem areas and ongoing issues of vandalism and fly tipping.

It was discussed about re introducing police drop-in clinics at the library again on Saturday mornings and the PCSOs are going to provide available dates to be advertised. Also the PCSOs attending the Parish Council meetings when available

It was agreed to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner with regards to the lack of police in Werrington.

042/24 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr K Griffiths provided an update that Cllr D Brindley will be taking on this role.

Cllr D Brindley agreed to work with the Deputy Clerk to number all of the plots.

Cllr K Griffiths will provide the Parish Council with quotes to move the nature corridor that is impeding on an allotment plot.

043/24 SPORTS GROUND

Covered in Deputy Clerks report and confidential.

044/24 MEIGH ROAD PLAYING FIELDS

Cllr L Ibbs raised the poor condition of the play equipment a discussion followed and it was agreed that if the additional cctv camera stops the vandalism then it is something that will defiantly be planned for and consulting with the residents for what equipment they would like.

045/24 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Werrington Parish Council approved the application for designation of a Neighbourhood Area to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

046/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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Werrington Parish Council agreed to submit objections for all 7 Solar applications on the grounds on not on Green Belt Land.

SMD/2-2/0244 No Comment

SMD2023/0267 No Comment

DOC/2024/0045 Request more information from the Planning Dept ref condition 4

Middle Tree Meadow to object on the grounds of protecting Green Belt Land.

047/24 CORRESPONDANCE

Cllr K Griffith read out a email from a resident.

048/24 CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr B Hughes informed Werrington Parish Council of a residents 90th Birthday this week.

Cllr B Hughes informed Werrington Parish Council of a property with overgrown hedges blocking the pavement and it was agreed for the Deputy Clerk to write to the property.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (PUBLIC AND PRESS EXCLUDED)

049/24 MUGA ACRO DRAINAGE

Werrington Parish Council gave Cllr N Meakins delegated authority to review the quotes and meet with contactors and decide on the best option.

050/24 WERRINGTON SPORTS GROUND V DITCH

Werrington Parish Council agreed with a contractor to go forward with the S106 application to carry out the work this summer and also to send the letter to the neighbouring landowner.

051/24 SOLAR PANELS GRANT APPLICATION

The Deputy Clerk apologised that given recent circumstances she has not had time to complete the grant application to have solar panels installed on the Sports Grounds building.

052/24 STAFFING – DEPUTY CLERK LEFT THE ROOM

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Werrington Parish Council approved the Deputy Clerk 10 hours a week acting up to be regularly reviewed.

Meeting Closed at 9pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS 8TH JULY 2024