WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 14th OCTOBER 2024

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Cllr K Griffiths (Chair)

Cllr Morrison (Vice Chair), Cllrs P Nixon, C Brownsword, D Brindley, L Ibbs, B Hughes, J Fryer

G Keiher-Knapper (Deputy Clerk)

SMDC Cllr P Hughes

SCC Cllr R Ward

There were 18 members of the public present.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A representative from Light Speed explained that they are working to bring fiber broadband to Werrington. Some areas like Heath Ave require posts rather than underground access. The Clerk requested that the details were emailed to allow the Parish Council in order to share the information with the residents and arrange a further public meeting if required. A couple of residents explained their concerns about additional posts, the representative and the residents left the Parish Council meeting to continue their conversations outside to allow the Parish Council meeting to continue.

A resident informed the meeting that for the last 5 years they have been requesting that Elizabeth House reduce the height of their trees. This has not been done and now the neighbors on all sides have no sunlight and are having to move digital dishes almost on the chimney to be high enough to obtain a signal over the trees. The Chair thanked the resident for bringing it to the Parish Councils attention and informed the resident that the Clerk will write and make the request formally to reduce the height if their trees. The resident then left the meeting.

Cllr P Hughes raised an issue to do with unauthorised tipping on green belt agricultural land off Eaves Lane. SMDC are aware and it was agreed that Werrington Parish Council will assist where possible.

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A Bagnall Parish Councillor and Werrington resident raised objections with regards to a current planning application in which permission was granted for an agricultural building which has been erected in a different location and resided in. SMDC Planning enforcement were involved however retrospective planning is now being requested. The Chair informed the resident that the application is due to be discussed on the Parish Council agenda later under planning.

A resident wished to add that on the other side of Wetley Moor agricultural buildings request was denied so applications like the one just discussed harms other working agricultural planning requirements.

A resident raised concerns about 40ft containers of batteries being passed by the planning inspectorate with no fire safety information considered. Also that no consultation was carried out by any of the solar and battery companies with the surrounding residents. The Chair informed the meeting that Werrington Parish Council held a public meeting to which Bagnall were to take the lead and keep Werrington Parish Council informed where support was required. There has been no communication until this week. The Chair said its only right and proper that another public meeting is held Cllr Ward requested a Saturday as MP Mrs. Bradley may be able to attend, a resident offered Bagnall village hall.

A Werrington resident who had submitted a request for information that was previously dealt with by the PC informed the meeting that it was thought that the information received was not properly answered and as a result the resident was making a complaint to the ICO.

Public Question Time closed at 1930hrs

Most members of public left the meeting apart from SMDC Cllr P Hughes and SCC Cllr R Ward and one member of the public.

Cllr R Ward informed the Parish Council meeting that he had sent his report to the Clerk the afternoon to be emailed to all Councillor members.

Cllr R Ward went on to discuss road markings on Ashbank, Washerwall Lane potholes, missing bus shelter and double yellow lines on Coatehill. Also that the speed limit on Leek Road is under review.

Cllr R Ward and the one member of the public left the meeting.

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109/24 APOLOGIES

Cllr P Brown apologies were accepted.

Cllr S Hills apologies were not accepted.

110/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

111/24 REGISTER OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded by the Chair to keep their register of interests up to date.

112/24 The **minutes** of the following meeting were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) Full Council Meeting Monday 9th September 2024

113/24 The **action plan** was reviewed and updated.

114/24 The following **accounts** were approved:

a) Completion of Audit Year ended 31 March 2024 including External Auditors certificate, report and competition notice was noted.
b) September 24 Bank Reconciliation was approved.
c) Sept/Oct 24 payments list.
d) Noted 2024-25 Budget Review.
e) Deferred 2025/26 Budget.

115/24 Werrington Parish Council discussed the following planning applications and had no comments: SMD/2024/0439, SMD/2024/0426 and SMD/2024/0388.

Werrington Parish Council objects to SMD/2024/0437 and support Bagnall Parish Councils appeal against App/B438/W/3335922.

116/24 Werrington Parish Council approved the following **policies and contract**:

a) CCTV Policies

Deferred until contract finalised.

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117/24 Werrington Parish Council received **reports** from:

a) District Councillor reports given in public question time.
b) Cllr R Ward reported emailed.

118/24 Staff Reports:

a) **Clerks report** was circulated – Key points were:
-Meigh Road Playing fields require a working group meeting.
-Neighbourhood plan requires a working group meeting.
-Recent FOI request took 25 hours of the Clerks time (one full week)
and 25 hours combined of the Chairs and Vice Chairs time.
-A vote was taken for a previous Sports Ground booking to be allowed to return or not. The Parish Council voted not to allow the booking to return, for reasons of previous issues and upsetting current bookings.

b) **Village Warden's report:**
-Common has lots of motor bikes recently. The Clerk to write to Wildlife Trust.
-Painting has stated at the Sports Ground.

119/24 Highways all defects are reported and ongoing.

120/24 Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Working Group nothing to report.

121/24 Allotments

Cllr Brindley confirmed that the overall house keeping has improved. However, rubbish is building opposite plot 11. The Parish Council voted to terminate the two plots that have had several warnings this year.

122/24 Sports Ground

In the absence of Cllr Meakin, Cllr Brindley met with the landowner to discuss phase 2 of the drainage project for the Sports Ground. The S106 funds have now been approved by SMDC, so the project can go ahead once Cllr Brindley has spoken with the landowner's agreed contractor. The landowner agreed for Cllr Brindley to have access to the site to take photos to make a report of the before, during and after works carried out in case it is required in the future.

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123/24 Meigh Road

It was agreed that Meigh Road playing fields rejuvenation will be included in the Neighbourhood Plan especially the consultation phase. However, a working group meeting was agreed to discuss the condition of the existing play equipment and quotes for repairs at this time.

124/24 Footpaths

Cllr Nixon is compiling a full report to deliver to the Parish Council in the future.

125/24 Christmas

Cllr B Hughes informed the Parish Council that the Christmas light switch on is to be held on Saturday 23rd November at 1600-1630hrs. Werrington Parish Council offer assistance where and when required.

126/24 Village Life

Village Life will continue to be released quarterly as Cllr D Shaw has secured funding.

WPC to confirm if they wish to submit a page for every quarterly edition once the price is confirmed at the November meeting.

Cllr P Hughes offered to deliver the 32 copies for her area of the Parish.

127/24 Correspondence

a) Remembrance bench deferred until November meeting.
b) Fenced area for dogs on Meigh Road Playing fields was refused following a vote on the grounds of planning, hazards, policing it and cleaning plus there is already provision in the area.
c) Werrington Parish Council agreed to go ahead with the offer from Mr Fradley gifting the strip of land indicated on the map registered title number SF351644.

128/24 Councillor Updates/items

There were no updates.

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129/24 Chairmans Report

The Chairman informed the Parish Council that a meeting was held with one of the Wardens arranging maintenance work to be conducted as a pair where they felt more comfortable and moving forward a quarterly meeting would be held with each of the Wardens.

Reminded Councillors that if they are taking on council functions to carry them out and if something comes up that they can no longer fulfil that function to let the Chair, and the Clerk know so that alternative arrangements can be made.

The Chair also reminded Councillors to not feel pressurised when members of public are in the room to give an answer if further investigation is required defer the answer until a later date to allow time to investigate to give an accurate answer.

The Chair stated that Parish Council has no issues with questions from members of public we welcome them as we aim to be as transparent as possible and don't claim to have all of the answers and welcome new members to assist in any areas it is felt the Parish Council has weaknesses. The Chair thanks the Councillors that are taking on Council tasks to investigate and report back to Parsh Council meetings.

Cllr P Hughes left the meeting

Confidential Items

130/24 Parish Grounds Maintenance Tender

Werrington Parish Council voted for Alliance to have the contract for the Parish grounds maintenance for the next 12 months with possibility of extending. The Parish Council has appointed on the ground of the best value for public money.

131/24 Memorial Bench

Defer until November meeting.

132/24 Parish Online Quote

The Parish Council decided to cancel the subscription.

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133/24 Items for the next agenda:

Community Office

Cllr Brownswords equipment

Hearing Loop at the Village Hall

134/24 Date of next meeting is 11th November 2024

Meeting Closed at 2130hrs