

Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Present: Mr R Jarrett (Chairman), Mr M Patterson, Mr N Bankes, Mr G Page.

In attendance: Clerk, 1 member of the public

77. Apologies for absence – Apologies received and accepted from Cllr J Burnett, and Cllr R Reid. Apologies were also received from District Cllr Chapman.

78. Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None.

79. Public participation session – A parishioner advised that they are fed up with the flooding near the pond in Wardington and they think the issue is in the field and would like to know who is responsible if the issue is in the field. Cllr Bob Jarrett advised that the Parish Council (PC) have been discussing this with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for some time and they have recently agreed to do a camera investigation into the pipe and get a land drainage assessment. The Clerk chased OCC again on this yesterday and has received a reply stating that they would chase the 'CCTV inspection ordered for the area, and also a site inspection by Artur and the land drainage officer from Cherwell District Council (CDC) to locate any possible issues at the exit pipe as this may be causing the pipe to back up and therefore not drain on the road side.'

The parishioner left the meeting at 7:44pm.

80. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 26th November 2024 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

81. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings – None.

82. Play Area

82.1 Update re play equipment safety inspections – Rob Brown has agreed to complete the monthly inspections. **Clerk to send him relevant forms to complete the inspections.**

82.2 Update re repairs instructed – The work hasn't been completed yet but will be completed when the ground is in a more suitable condition.

83. Planning applications received

24/03435/TCA – 2 Mount Pleasant, Wardington. T1 x Rowan -Fell. This tree is in poor health

I was barely able to identify the few branches of Rowan visible through the thicket of Ivy. The ivy is so dominant that it would not be cost effective to remove the ivy and see what remains of the Rowan. Without being able to see what condition the tree is in, the tree/Ivy could potentially be at risk of failure and so we would like to fell. **No objection.**

84. Planning decisions received

24/00184/F and 24/00185/LB - Wardington Manor, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Rectification works to the existing failing structure of the stables building. **Approved.**

24/02645/F - High Wardington House, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of 23/02491/F - To reflect the change in fenestration arrangement. **Approved.**

85. Finance

85.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 09.01.2025 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£261.90
PC Savings	£26,331.88
Total	£26,593.78

	WPC Main	Williamscot	Total
Cashbook balances as at 09.01.25	£18,619.32	£7,974.46	£26,593.78

85.2 To confirm completion of the third quarterly (Oct to Dec) Internal Control Check – Cllr Jarrett confirmed the check has been completed and all was found to be in order.

85.3 To agree the budget and resulting precept for 2025-26 – After discussion it was proposed and agreed to set a budget of £16,493 resulting in a precept of £13,234 with the difference being funded by reserves and income. **Clerk to submit the precept demand.**

85.4 To note and approve payment of the following invoices already paid using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

29.11.24	CPRE	Annual membership	£50.00
30.11.24	Unity Bank	Service charge	£6.00
23.12.24	Wardington Memorial Hall	Hall hire Jan and Mar 25	£35.52
23.12.24	Emma Reed	Items for Williamscot event	£638.01
23.12.24	Julie Herd	Items for Williamscot event	£61.99
23.12.24	D Harris	Items for Williamscot event	£61.32
23.12.24	Kirsty Buttle	Salary December	£480.05
23.12.24	HMRC	Tax December	£2.60
31.12.24	NEST	Pension December	£18.49
19.12.24	ICO	Data Protection Fee	£35.00
31.12.24	Unity Bank	Service charge	£6.00

85.5 To note the following receipts: Noted.

31.12.24	Unity Bank	Interest	£190.77
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86.To consider adopting a Wardington Parish Council Sexual and General Harassment Policy –
Proposed and agreed.

87.To consider making a response to the consultation on the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2042 – It was agreed not to make any response.

88.Ability Bus Service - the new arrangements for Wardington and a request from Ability for a possible donation – The Ability bus service has restarted in this area. It was agreed that due to the tight budget this year the PC won't provide a donation but would be willing to provide free advertising for Ability in the Warbler over the next 12 months. If Ability could provide details of Wardington usage before the January 2026 meeting the PC can consider whether it can make a donation when setting the 2026-2027 budget. **Cllr Bob Jarrett to advise Ability of the PC's decision.**

89.Flooding on Thorpe Road and water running down the A361 – Work on the A361 appears to have been finished today and it is hoped that this has resolved the issue. The Clerk has been

chasing the Highways Engagement Team about the flooding outside Sabin's as stated in item 79.
Clerk to contact County Cllr George Reynolds to see if he can support the PC in getting Highways to complete the work asap.

90.To consider the most appropriate ways for the Parish Council to communicate with parishioners – A discussion was held about whether there is sufficient communication going out from the PC to parishioners. The Warbler is a great form of communication but due to the timing of publication it can sometimes be too late in relation to more urgent/immediate issues that are of significant concern to parishioners. It was agreed that the PC should publish information on the website relating to any issues that are likely to be of immediate concern to parishioners giving details about what the PC has done and what is being done by OCC/CDC and if there is anything parishioners can do to help. **Clerk to put together article about what OCC has agreed to re the flooding and what the current status is of the repairs to the wall opposite Yew Tree Cottage.** In future councillors should let the Clerk know if there are any issues in the village that they are aware of that parishioners may wish to receive information about. It was agreed that the full minutes of the meetings should no longer be published in the Warbler and instead the **Clerk should submit a summary of the meetings.**

91.To note a councillor vacancy due to Lexi Gordon-Finlayson's departure from the Parish Council and the dates of note in relation to the election that has been called to fill this vacancy – The councillors expressed their thanks to Lexi for her work on the PC. The closing date for applications to fill the vacancy by election must be with CDC by 4pm on Friday 17th January. If more than one person applies for the position an election will be held on Thursday 13th February.

92.Information exchange – Some of the grit bins need refilling. The Clerk advised OCC of this in December and they agreed to put them on the list for refilling.

Meeting closed @ 9:25pm

Date of next meeting – 18th March 2025

Signed..... Date.....