

Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th June 2024 at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

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

In attendance: Clerk, 2 members of the public.

29. Apologies for absence – Apologies received - Cllr Lexi Gordon-Finlayson. Apologies accepted – None. Apologies were also received from District Cllr Phil Chapman.

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

31. Public participation session – The parishioner who owns Post Office Cottage referred to in item 33.4 advised that the tree stump is going to be removed on 20th June, the wall will be rebuilt and the drive will be left as it was. The planning permission recently submitted on this property was refused so the parishioner is not going to continue with this.

1 member of the public left the meeting at 7:33pm.

A parishioner asked what the Parish Council (PC) considers a reason to explicitly support planning applications as he has noticed that over the last 4 ½ years the PC has only supported 5 applications and they appear to be applications that relate to parish councillors. Cllr Jarrett advised that the only time the PC actively support planning applications is when it appears that they would be beneficial to the village. Some councillors expressed the view that when the PC submits a 'no objection' response that is also supporting the application. A discussion was held about the impact that the different planning responses have on how the planning application is dealt with by the planning team at Cherwell District Council (CDC).

A parishioner raised concerns about unauthorised excavations completed by Cllr George Page down the Chacombe Road with all of the dug material having been left strewn across the Highways verge. The parishioner advised that Cllr Page did not seek permission from the landowner or Highways before completing the work. The parishioner would like the situation rectified within the next 4 weeks by a licensed contractor and asked if the PC could help with this matter. Cllr George Page disagreed with the parishioner's version of events but as this is a personal matter it was agreed that it was not appropriate to go into the details of the disagreement. It was also agreed that although the PC does not have the power to officially instruct anyone (which includes parish councillors) in relation to any matter that is not Parish Council related, the parish councillors were willing to have an informal discussion with Cllr Page after the meeting to see if they could help move things forward to some kind of resolution.

The Clerk advised that the PC has no power to instruct any individual, whether or not they are a Parish Councillor, to do any work on property that is not PC owned.

It was agreed that in this case the PC would have a private discussion with Cllr Page after the meeting to see if they can help get this issue resolved amicably.

32.To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 21st May 2024 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

33.Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- 33.1 HS2 update – The PC has been invited on a tour of the site which has been arranged for 5th July at 11am. If any other councillors wish to attend they should let Cllr Bob Jarrett know.
- 33.2 Defibrillator/CPR training session – **Cllr Julie Burnett will speak to the person who was trying to organise this to see if they still want to go ahead.**
- 33.3 Maintenance/repairs to the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in the village – No further update.
- 33.4 Update re concerns raised by parishioners about the state of the grass outside Post Office Cottage, Mount Pleasant, due to vehicle access – Given the information provided by the parishioner at item 31 it was agreed that the **Clerk should respond to the planning enforcement team advising that the parishioner has attended the meeting and advised that the issues are going to be dealt with but that the PC request that they don't close down the case until the work has been completed.**

34.Play Area

- 34.1 Play equipment safety inspection – Defer to next meeting due to Cllr Gordon-Finlayson's absence.

35.Planning applications received

24/01492/F - Pubstuff, Williamscot Road Industrial Centre, Williamscot Road, Cropredy. Warehouse/industrial storage and light assembly/workshop. **Objection.** The application says that you can't see the site from the road but that is incorrect. The application refers to 'light assembly' which suggests a different use of the site from its current use which the PC believe is likely to create additional vehicle movements, particularly in relation to large vehicles. This is inappropriate for the rural roads and road fronted dwellings leading to the site which can only be accessed using these roads due to the weight restrictions on the Cropredy bridge. The PC disagrees with the applicant's statement in their travel plan/transport assessment that there will only be a nominal increase in vehicle movements and wonders how they can suggest this if the capacity of the site is going to increase? Surely a higher capacity requires a higher number of deliveries?

APP/C3105/W/24/3341576 - Barn Farm Plants, Barn Farm, Thorpe Road, Wardington. To develop the site for 7-9 dwellings with associated access, parking and amenity space. It was noted that many parishioners want the business to stay in the village as it is valued facility but there are also some parishioners who have contacted councillors advising that they would like to see some housing on the site. It was agreed that there will be no response from the PC on the appeal.

36.Planning decisions received

24/00424/F – Fern Hill Farm, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Extension to existing agricultural building by way of a lean-to. **Approved.**

37.Finance

- 37.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 12.06.2024 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£96.17
PC Savings	£28,228.69

Total	£28,324.86
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	WPC Main	Williamscott	Total
Cashbook balances as at 12.06.24	£21,067.41	£7,257.45	£28,324.86

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

29.05.24	Annette Reed Bookkeeping	Internal Audit 23-24	£125.00
29.05.24	Kirsty Buttle	Salary May	£459.61
31.05.24	NEST	Pension May	£17.61
03.06.24	Surface Clean Banbury	Playground equipment clean	£375.00
04.06.24	Jack Goode	Repair to posts in play area	£160.00

37.3 To note the following receipts: None.

37.4 To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

N R Prickett	Grass cutting 17th and 29th May	£859.20
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38.Proposal to adopt new Financial Regulations – Proposed and agreed.

39.Information exchange – It was agreed that councillors should make friendly requests to parishioners who are responsible for overgrown vegetation that is impacting the Highways and footpaths, to ask if they will cut it back.

Fairport tickets have been confirmed at £25 each. A note will go out advising people how to get tickets when they become available. Emma Reed is the contact.

A parishioner has asked if one of the ‘Thorpe Road’ signs could be replaced as it is in poor condition. **Clerk to report on Fixmystreet.**

A Cllr asked if anything is happening re the possible grants from HS2 re the play area. As the equipment still has a few years of life left this has not been progressed. It was agreed that **Cllr Malcolm Patterson should obtain some quotes for new equipment and bring back to a future meeting for the PC to consider making an application to HS2.**

A Cllr advised that a parishioner has spoken to him about the footpath from Wardington to Prescott not being easily walkable due to the amount of rapeseed there. **After the meeting the landowner contacted the clerk and acknowledged the issue and advised that the area will be harvested soon.*

Meeting closed @ 8:53pm.

Date of next meeting – 23rd July 2024

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