

**MINUTES OF WATER ORTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING ON 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

**PRESENT** Cllrs Robinson (CH); Rees; B O’Meara; C O’Meara; Chown; Freeman; Stuart;  
Hailstone

**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE** 3 Members of the public. C. Cllr Watson

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Complaint made regarding the condition of the pavements, left by replacing gas pipes by Cadent. For this resident no notice had been given by letter, just contact by knocking on the door. C Cllr Watson said this was a Highways responsibility, he will report the concerns. All utilities should complete work to a high standard.

Cllr Robinson welcomed a new resident to Water Orton to the meeting.

Rev P Tullett wished to remind all at the meeting of the Remembrance Sunday service at the Memorial. March from The Digby at 10.30a.m. to the Memorial. Service to start just before 11.00a.m. Cllr B O’Meara to lay WOPC wreath. Cllr Watson will attend.

22.61 **Chairman’s Remarks.** Cllr Robinson noted that crimes seem to be increasing in the village. There had been antisocial behaviour around the shops.  
The next meeting will be on 5.1.2023. Extra meetings to be arranged to talk about and set the budget for 2023.

22.62 **Apologies:** Cllr Bevan (away). PCSO Demi Smith.

22.63 **Declaration of interests and requests for dispensation on items to be discussed.**  
None declared.

22.64 **Report from Police:** Cllr H read the report received from the Police:  
2 x damage to vehicles; 1 road traffic collision at Biker’s World – no injuries;  
1 burglary at Biker’s World.  
Youths breaking into old school, causing damage and nuisance. Patrols increased.  
Contact made with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue re fire risks, on site security, and have contacted landowner re plans for demolition. Also visited a couple of the youths’ parents.  
Parking at shops still an issue. Posters given to shops to inform re illegal parking.  
Advice given re parking on zig zags. Delivery people should be asked to move.  
Had meeting with HS2, now have Community HS2 Officer’s contact number.  
Antisocial behaviour behind shops – patrols increased, no-one found as yet.  
Landlords of flats above the shops contacted re making area safer for their tenants.  
Slight increase in vehicle crime. Plain clothes operations to take place.  
Community Speed Watch recently caught 18 speeding drivers.  
Asked to inform meeting that free catalytic converter marking can be done at BMC Garage, Water Orton.

Cllr Stuart remarked that there is nothing for young people to do, hence increase in antisocial behaviour.

22.65 **Report from HS2.** No representatives at meeting to report.  
It was noted that any notifications from HS2 are posted on the Parish Council Website.

22.66 **To approve the minutes of the following meetings:**

- a. Parish Council Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022
- b. Extraordinary Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

- a. No comments on minutes for 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 meeting received.
- b. Cllr Stuart reported not receiving the minutes for the meeting 12<sup>th</sup> October.  
Approval deferred until next Parish Council meeting.

- a. Proposal for acceptance: Cllr C O'Meara. Seconded Cllr Freeman. Resolved.

Cllr Robinson commented on report of hedges being cleared Coleshill Road near the Rugby Club. Highways requested removal of hedgerows – too close to junction. Rugby Club reported that hedges will be replaced further away from road. Allotments: Re water supply, further investigations needed.

C Cllr Watson reported on the entrance to the Playing Field, Vicarage Road/St Blaise Avenue – conclusion made that this entrance was originally meant for vehicles.

22.67 **To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors.**

C Cllr Watson reported that unfortunately there are a lot of disruptive road works currently in Water Orton.

Work planned to be done by Highways – Island at Birmingham Road/Mytton Road to be altered to slow traffic down; dropped curb across the road from Orchard Nurseries; Island at White City to be improved.

Also noted more flooding in Plank Lane.

Works at Old School buildings – Frontage of school building to be preserved.

Increased security to be arranged. It was noted that an interest had been shown in converting this to a private house. The school buildings behind will be demolished very soon.

C Cllr Watson informed the meeting that when the Government is “stable” WCC will engage with them re jobs, the surf/wave park, Transport for West Midlands.

Borough elections will take place next May – He thought that 2 new Councillors may be needed.

Cllr Robinson asked if road markings could be re-painted outside the school.

Also reported that some people have been asking if the Village Car Park could be made free to use all day at weekends. C Cllr Watson to contact Cllr Reilly.

Cllr Chown reported that there has been dangerous parking along Plank Lane at school times.

22.68 **To receive an update from the maintenance committee including the playground equipment.**

Cllr Chown reported his inspection had been done. Nothing new to report. However, the graffiti on the fenced area notices on the playing field had not been cleaned. The kicking wall is still waiting to be repaired – parts have been unavailable. Something equivalent to be found.

Cllr Robinson reported that the Christmas lights are ready to go. Switch on at 4.30p.m. 27<sup>th</sup> November.

22.69 **Financial Matters**

a. To approve electronic and future invoice payments.

Cllr Freeman queried “office expenses/working from home”, ? Vodafone costs. Cllr Robinson to check on this.

Cllr Stuart queried Building Regulations – why £766. Response - Included for the purpose of HS2 grant for Bowls Club refurbishment. Perhaps should be highlighted in the list of invoices.

Approval of payments – Proposed by Cllr B O’Meara Seconded Cllr Chown  
Vote: 7 in favour 1 against.

22.70 **To receive an update of the refurbishment of the Bowls Club toilets.**

Cllr Robinson reported: Still waiting for Building Regulations approval. When received will need 3 quotes. As work will be over £25,000 Cllr Robinson will publish on “Contract Finder”.

22.71 **To agree to set up a steering group to review council policies for approval of full council.**

Cllr Robinson introduced the item. Cllr Stuart provided extra detail and thoughts behind the motion and proposals. The Chair invited questions, these centred around:

1. The suggestion of having non councillors on any committee
2. The role of the Clerk in the creation of policy
3. The reason around this being raised at this time

Cllr Stuart welcomed the questions and detailed that he felt that there was a need to address these outstanding matters before the end of the Council term, to provide the best opportunities for any new council to have a strong governance structure. The reason behind having the potential to add non councillors to the committee would allow for bringing in specialist skills within the community and external bodies such as WALC. The proposal would also allow for an increase in capacity which given the timescales could be useful.

Cllr Stuart was keen to stress that any Steering Cttee would bring back any policies to full council for approval/adoption.

It was decided to take the proposed resolutions individually.

1. To create a Steerings Committee to lead on the review of council policies.

Proposed: Cllr Stuart. Seconded Cllr C O'Meara. Passed.

2. To accept the proposed interim terms of reference.

Proposed: Cllr Stuart Seconded: Cllr C O'Meara. Passed

Due to the next general meeting not being scheduled until January 2023 the following scheduled proposals were amended.

1. To make appointments in line with the interim terms of reference.
2. To have a standing item on the agenda of the council up to and including April 2023 - In November – Formally accept terms of reference and make appointments to the steering committee. After November – to consider and where appropriate and after due consideration approve, any new policies.

These were amended to:

An extraordinary general meeting will be called for November to allow for:

- a. The making of appointments in line with the interim terms of reference.
- b. Setting the initial priorities and actions for the steerings committee

Proposed: Cllr Stuart. Seconded: Cllr Freeman. Passed.

22.72

**Exclusion of Public and Press**

Update on staffing issues (Appendix 1 – confidential report)

It was RESOLVED nem. con. to accept the recommendations from the confidential report.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**