



## Clerk Report

### 1. Decisions made under delegated authority.

#### Planning -

PAP/2021/0372	Flexdart, Marsh Lane, Water Orton, B46 1NS	Development of 5 industrial units and extension to unit D for Class E (g) (i) (ii) and (iii) (offices, research and development and industrial processes. Class B2 (general industrial) and class B8 uses (storage or distribution). Application for replacement metals reclamation and recycling processing works dealt with by WCC (reference)
<a href="#">NWB/23CM002</a>	Flexdart Ltd, Marsh Lane, Water Orton, Birmingham B46 1NS	Proposed Remodelling of Metals Reclamation and Recycling Processing Works

Comments submitted to WCC for application NWB/23CM002 and to NWBC for application PAP/2021/0372 as agreed with the majority of Councillors via email.

PAP/2023/0056	Land At Junction Lichfield Road, Watton Lane, Water Orton, (Grid Ref: Easting 418776.93, Northing 291134.95)	Battery Energy Storage Site, substation compound, with associated infrastructure, fencing, access off Watton Road, drainage and landscaping	NWBC granted extension to 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2023 for WOPC comments. WOPC raised comments on the pre-application PAP/2022/0584
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Requested extension and mentioned potential meeting with Developers & NWBC however only received a response from one Councillor who felt a meeting would be useful, so no meeting has been arranged and no further comments raised. Planning Officer was open to extend the time at the beginning of April however I haven't been able to give her an indication of when any further observations would be submitted. Planning Officer noted that application in Lea Marston is seven times larger in scale to the proposal for Water Orton. S106 agreements are only appropriate when it is not possible to make an application acceptable in planning terms without this.

#### Purchases / Payments -

Sundry purchases verbally agreed with members following the meeting on 30.03.23:

Kyocera Toner – Amazon £55.02

CEF Workboots - £41.34

Regular sundry purchase by caretakers to operate work vehicles: Fuel - £7.24

Van Ramps – Amazon, previous agreement by full council, refund of first purchase necessitated a second order for goods

M Jenkins Construction Ltd Stage 3 payment – continuing contract

All other payments made / to pay are either regular DD / Salary payments or pre-approved expenditure and are listed on the schedule for payment.

A list of all regular payments will be drawn up for the Annual Parish Council meeting for approval.

### 2. Bank Account

Lloyds TSB Bank Mandate updated 18/04/23, instructions issued to Unity Trust to action the current account switching service this is due to be completed by 26/04/23. Closure form for the remaining Lloyds TSB account completed and Clerk will collect signatures at the meeting.



All BAC's payments since 01/04/2023 have been made via the Unity Trust Account and have been authorised by two councillors from the bank mandate (Cllr Chown & Cllr Rees)

### 3. Maintenance

- a) A resident reported a trip hazard on the Green near the swings. Village caretaker has driven the old post back into the ground and covered with some topsoil and will continue to monitor the area. To dig the post and concrete out completely would be a large job, it is likely the recent weather has eroded the topsoil away and the end of this redundant post had resurfaced due to this.
- b) Lock change Playing Field Pavilion, handyman is awaiting parts and will contact Village Caretaker to complete this job in due course.
- c) Quote has been sought from Neil Hawkes Blacksmith re: rust issue on the swing post at the Playing Field. Clerk will chase this.

### 4. Training

County Council officers have offered training dates in May for the village caretakers to complete half a day of relevant Health & Safety training in order for them to carry out duties as part of the lengthsman scheme.

Induction / Refresher day for Parish Councillors to be arranged in May 2023.

### 5. Elections

Parish Council election is uncontested as 9 nominated candidates submitted for 9 seats, nominated candidates will be duly elected in May.

The Council remain in the pre-election period of heightened sensitivity, Communications from the Parish Council as a corporate body should continue to come from the Clerk (including any request for comment from the press/media.

Candidates must remain clear that they are speaking as an individual and not on behalf of the Parish Council in any communications.

### 6. Emails / Website

Microsoft 365 purchased on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. All Councillors now have an official email address from our website domain wopc.org.uk. The Clerk's email address has been updated to [clerk@wopc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wopc.org.uk) and an automatic reply with the new contact address and email forwarding has been applied to the Clerk's previous Gmail account. The website has been updated with the new contact email addresses for the Clerk and Councillors.

Signage around the parish will need to be updated in due course.

Further training may be required for Councillors which will be arranged in due course.

### 7. Land / Property

- a) Clerk has raised query with WALC regarding playing field covenant and other conveyancing queries re: unregistered land and leases and common land
- b) Cllr Bevan attended Birmingham Library for further information relating to The Green, a map from 1802 indicated the estate of Water Orton belonged to Lord Bradford. Surveys in 1832-34 list no proprietor for Water Orton Green and state the green comprises 3 acres, 3 rods, 30 perches of common land, underground rights belonged to the Earl of Bradford and the village green had noticeboards displaying notices signed by the Clerk and the name 'The Green' has been in common use since the 1830's. Land registration was not introduced until 1862 and so



## 8. Payroll

Invoice from March payment schedule of £180 to Jerroms has not been paid as this has been credited. Clerk has contacted HMRC as both employer and payroll agent details were out of date and had been for a significant length of time. Clerk has advised payroll company to update their details with HMRC and is waiting for further correspondence from HMRC regarding PAYE now that the Parish Council's address has been updated.

## 9. Correspondence

- i) Correspondence received from Bowls Club regarding reclaiming VAT for maintenance costs if they reimburse us for this via their lease rental, Clerk advised that on her understanding this is not something we can do as per HMRC VAT legislation and guidance.
- ii) 1<sup>st</sup> Water Orton Brownies have chased up their grant payment, have advised that we are awaiting a response regarding their acceptance of the grant and BAC's details to make payment.
- iii) Enquiry received regarding the landownership of Hidden Park, Attleboro Lane. Clerk has requested map / plans – any further info on this from Councillors with local knowledge would be appreciated.
- iv) General correspondence from WCC, NWBC, NALC, WALC, HS2 and other organisations circulated to Councillors & communicated with residents via website & social media where possible.