

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WATER ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

held on Thursday 30th March 2023 at 6.30pm at the Pavilion, Open Field Croft.

Present: Cllr. W. Rees (Chair), Cllr. C. Chown, Cllr. R. Coldrick, Cllr R. Lowe, Cllr S Stuart. Cllr K Hailstone from item 22/144, Cllr K Brown from item 22/149.

Guests in Attendance: County Councillor Watson, Borough Councillor Reilly

Public in Attendance: 4

Minute Taker & Clerk: Kate Clover, clerkwopc@gmail.com

22/143. Apologies: Cllr Bevan, Cllr Robinson.

22/144. Public Participation:

- a) **Members of the public and press:** MOP has seen someone on Mytton Road monitoring speed, representative from Speedwatch advised they were in the area around this time. Representative from WOCAG asked for an update on the Bus Shelter advised that this matter was discussed by the Maintenance Committee and has been deferred. Air Pollution concerns raised, Cllr Stuart advised that NWBC Environmental Health monitor this, he has been helping another resident regarding similar concerns and has been liaising with NWBC. Traffic, noise and light concerns expressed regarding construction vehicles.
- b) **Reports from County and Borough Councillors:** Count Cllr Watson, is looking into a 24hr speed monitoring device and looking at overall speed mitigation. Someone from WCC may well have also been monitoring speed in this area. HS2 Cllr Watson & Borough Cllr Reilly have been to a HS2 meeting and the development beyond Curzon Street has been delayed and so works in Water Orton could potentially be delayed as this is North of the first phase and is known as the Delta Junction. Met with HS2 Minister to look about the determination of the Borrow Pits. Borough Cllr Reilly advised environmental checks have been done by NWBC in the village previously and the statistics indicated that these levels were average but has advised that there is Public Health at Warwickshire County Council who may also look at Air Quality. Jubilee grants money has gone to the Library and Woodlands Close residents who applied and the concert at the Church and Rugby Club & Cricket Club have also applied so £1000 will have been spent. County Cllr Watson advised the line painting has been delayed outside the shops due to an issue with the TPO and he has been chasing this matter. Cllr Chown asked about whether Plank Lane could be a one-way system and wondered if there had been any update.
- c) **Police representative** - Apologies received from PCSO Demi Smith the following written report was submitted regarding the crime figures in Water Orton for the previous month:

X3 Road traffic collisions – minor injuries and damage to vehicle (I have seen some of the residents are doing a petition to try and get some extra traffic calming measures in place on Birmingham Rd. I am also trying to organise a date to go out with the proactive speed watch team. Once PC Howells is trained on the speed gun, we will also conduct some patrols ourselves.)

X1 Stolen vehicle – keyless entry (we are advising residents who have keyless entry vehicles to purchase a faraday bag to put their keys in. This should block the signal between your keys and vehicle. They can also get a steering lock if able to do so. The catalytic converter marking scheme is still live at the BMC garage on Marsh Lane which is free to residents of North Warwickshire.)

X1 Business Burglary at HS2 site

X2 Theft from vehicle – tools (PC Howells is conducting cross border vehicle crime operations. These operations have been ongoing since December last year with good results. Vehicle crime decrease by 26.6% in February. The figures have slightly increase for North Warwickshire but that is due to an influx at The Belfry.)

X1 fly tipping incident on Gypsy Lane (the council were made aware of this as fly tipping is a council matter.)

Report of Irish males walking & driving grey van around the village acting suspiciously. (Patrols were conducted around the village and there was no trace of the males. If anyone sees them again, could they please report it into us on 101.)

Report from HS2 representative if present

- d) **HS2 representative:** N/A

22/145. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

22/146. Minutes:

a) It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd February 2023

22/147. Reports from Chairman and Councillors (for information only):

- a) The play inspection report from Cllr Chown was noted.
- Kick fence panel has now been repaired but is loose, can caretakers tighten this?
 - Goal Post Sockets are covered, Clerk advised the new sockets would be installed after the end of the season.
 - Blue post rotting below the ground of the swing, Clerk to look into repair costs.

22/148. Co-option candidates:

- a) Keith Brown introduced himself to the Parish Council
 b) Cllr Coldrick has proposed, Cllr Stuart seconded, and it was RESOLVED to co-opt Keith Brown to the Parish Council
 c) Cllr Brown signed the declaration of acceptance of office before the Clerk.

22/149. Speeding Concerns:

- a) It was RESOLVED for the Council to sign the community petition for a safe Birmingham Road, Water Orton calling upon Warwickshire Highways Authority and Warwickshire Police to reduce vehicle speed on the Birmingham Road. The Petition will be presented to Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police, and the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner. It was noted that the Parish Council although supportive of this community petition consider there are other areas within the village which needing speed reduction measures and the Parish Council will be looking to support measures across the wider village.
- b) It was RESOLVED to defer this item until the June Parish Council meeting so this can be considered by the wider community at the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting:

22/150. Planning:

- a) The Council accepted the meeting notes from the meeting between NWBC Planning, Flexdart Ltd and representatives of the Parish Council held on 29th March 2023.
 b) To consider new application/s:

Reference	Address	Details	WOPC Comments
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 have granted extension to 2 nd April 2023 for WOPC comments. WOPC raised comments on the pre-application PAP/2022/0584 Ask about potential of an annual contribution towards the Parish Council should the application be successful, hours of operation and illumination of site. Contact Borough Cllr Reilly & NWBC Planning if a meeting can be arranged with developers for further discussion and if comments can be extended.
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)	To draft comments based upon meeting informal notes from 29/03/23
NWBC/23CM002	Flexdart Ltd, Marsh Lane, Water Orton, Birmingham B46 1NS	Proposed Remodelling of Metals Reclamation and Recycling Processing Works	Comments due by 31 st March 2023 – extension granted to 11 th April 2023 To draft comments based upon meeting informal notes from 29/03/23

It was agreed to delegate the submission of the Planning Comments to the Clerk to be agreed with the majority of Councillors via email for applications PAP/2023/0056, PAP/2021/0372 & NWBC/23CM002.

- c) To report decisions on previous planning applications made by NWBC. None.

22/151. Clerk Report – The Clerk report was noted.

22/152. Maintenance Committee: The draft minutes of the Maintenance Committee meeting held on 17th March 2023 were received and the actions and recommendations of the Committee were approved including:

- a) It was RESOLVED to ratify authorisation of small amounts of expenditure listed in the draft minutes relating to Groundsman Store lock change, ramp and spring planting. It was noted that the £40 provision for the vehicle ramp may not be sufficient and the Council RESOLVED to approve a budget of up to £60 for these.

22/153. Steerings Committee: The draft minutes of the Steerings Committee meeting held on 16th March 2023 were received and the actions and recommendations of the Committee were approved including:

- a) It was RESOLVED to adopt the Code of Conduct.
- b) It was RESOLVED to adopt the Model Publication Scheme.

22/154. Complaints Committee: It was RESOLVED to approve the introduction of a Complaints Committee in line with the council's Complaints Policy. Cllr Brown, Cllr Coldrick & Cllr Stuart were appointed to the Complaints Committee, meetings would only be convened in the event of a formal complaint being raised.

22/155. Bowls Pavilion Toilet Rebuild:

- a) It was RESOLVED to approve additional work required regarding fire safety to meet the Building Control regulations at a cost of £1450.
- b) The main works are on target to be completed on Friday 7th April, the toilets have now been plastered and floor coverings installed. The Bowls Club will be aiming to paint the first coat before the 2nd Electrical Fix & Plumbing work. Bridle Fencing anticipate installing the fencing in mid-April.

22/156. Grounds Maintenance 2023/24: It was RESOLVED to approve the Grounds Maintenance contract with NWBC for 2023/24 at a cost of £6490.17 (ex VAT) The Clerk will review the details of the service agreement once provided by NWBC to ensure details are correct.

22/157. King's Coronation, The King's Wardrobe, High Street Safari:

- a) High Street Safari would consist of ten locations which would either need to be in a window / noticeboard or an additional backing at an extra cost of £20 per location would be required. If an organisation without a window / noticeboard wished to be involved, they could make the £20 contribution for this. Cllr Stuart keen to see that the safari is geographically spread across the village to encourage exploration of the village. The safari can run from 17th April for 4-6 weeks.
- b) It was RESOLVED to purchase the High Street Safari at a cost of up to £549 +VAT. (Parish Councils entitled to a 25% discount - £412+VAT) Clerk would liaise with Councillors via email regarding this project to ensure this is pushed forward between meetings.

22/158. Church Clock:

It was RESOLVED to approve the payment of the maintenance of the clock on this occasion however future payments towards the maintenance of the clock to be reviewed due to previous arrangements regarding the provision of the newer war memorial and the Parish Council maintaining that site. Any servicing and maintenance work and proposed costs should be agreed by the Parish Council in advance of any work taking place.

22/159. GOV.UK Domain & Microsoft 365 for Councillors –

- a) Item deferred to the next meeting.
- b) It was RESOLVED to purchase Microsoft 365 business basic licences for Parish Councillors

22/160. Finance:

- a) It was RESOLVED to approve the payment schedule for March and items paid under delegated authority since the previous schedule.

Supplier	Payment Type	Invoice no.	Details	Net Amount	VAT	Total	Payment Status
M Jenkins Construction Ltd	BACs	2	Main Works - Stage 2 - Bowls Pavilion Toilet Rebuild	£ 17,760.00	£ 3,552.00	£ 21,312.00	PAID 08/03/23
Waterplus	DD	INV01388522	Water - Pavilion	£ 11.14	£ -	£ 11.14	PAID 15/03/23
BT	DD	M023 SC	Broadband – Pavilion	£ 28.21	£ 5.64	£ 33.85	PAID 20/03/23
OPUS Energy Ltd	DD	73782181	Electricity - Pavilion	£ 310.10	£ 62.02	£ 372.12	PAID 24/02/23
Staff/HMRC/NEST	BACs / DD	N/A	Staffing Costs	£ 3,695.09	£ -	£ 3,695.09	PAID MARCH
			Total Paid	£ 21,804.54	£ 3,619.66	£ 25,424.20	
Neil Hawkes Blacksmith	BACs	HB2015/408	Kickball Panel repairs	£ 358.00	£ 71.60	£ 429.60	TO PAY
Jerroms	BACs	JHBW553	Payroll Fees Q4	£ 150.00	£ 30.00	£ 180.00	TO PAY
Croner HR	DD	C000649562	HR Fees	£ 124.71	£ 22.18	£ 146.89	DUE 29.03.23
			Outstanding amount to pay	£ 632.71	£ 123.78	£ 756.49	
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 22,437.25	£ 3,743.44	£ 26,180.69	

Fuel Receipt for £7.24 (£6.03 ex VAT) received since agenda to reimburse to caretaker. To be paid and show on next payment schedule.

- b) It was RESOLVED to approve the transfer of £70,000 from Lloyds TSB to the Unity Trust Deposit Account.
- c) It was RESOLVED to approve the removal of former Clerks and Councillors and the addition of the Clerk, Cllr Neil Bevan, Cllr Wendy Rees and Cllr Steve Stuart to the Lloyds TSB Bank Mandate.
- d) It was RESOLVED to approve the closure of the Lloyds TSB account and the current account switch (including the transfer of remaining funds) to Unity Trust once the mandate issue is resolved.
- e) It was RESOLVED to approve the 2022-23 Accounts and Bank Reconciliation to 24th March 2023.
- f) It was RESOLVED to approve a transfer from the Bowls Pavilion Toilet Earmarked Reserves to General Reserves of £7,000
- g) It was RESOLVED to approve a transfer from the Elections Earmarked Reserves to General Reserves of £2,000
- h) It was RESOLVED to approve the current Asset Register and the restated asset register for 2021-22. The Parish Council will continue to build up a full inventory of assets on the register, and ensure any disposals and acquisitions are recorded appropriately in year.
- i) It was RESOLVED to authorise payment to HMRC of Employment Allowance of £1,300.44 in respect of 2022-23 (due by 22nd April) and £648.92 (2021-22), £679.78 (2020-21) and £384.64 (2019-20) when requested.
- j) It was RESOLVED to accept the offer from payroll services relating to a recent complaint.

22/161. Items for the next meeting: Allotments (Maintenance Committee), Water Orton in Bloom (an informal meeting with Water Orton in Bloom should take place ahead of this or alternatively a report from Water Orton in Bloom should be provided to the Parish Council for consideration)

22/162. Date, Time and Place of next Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 27th April at 6:30pm at Openfield Croft, The Pavilion.

22/163. Date, Time and Place of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting: Saturday 20th May at 6pm at Water Orton Primary School.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:34

..... Signed Date