**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WATER ORTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**held at the Pavilion, Openfield Croft, at 7:00pm on Thursday 29 February 2024**

**Present:** Cllr. S Stuart (Chair), Cllr. K Brown, Cllr. C Chown, Cllr.N Freeman, Cllr. R Lowe, Cllr.W Rees, Cllr. D Room

**Guests in Attendance:** 6

**Minute Taker & Clerk:** Rachel Scully, clerk@wopc.org.uk

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm

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| **Agenda Item:** | | **Minute:** | | **Action:** |
| **24.21** | | **Apologies:** | |  |
|  | | R Coldrick, D Reilly, M Watson would be attending late. | |  |
| **24.22** | | **Public participation:** | |  |
| 22a)                  22b)        22c) | | Members of the Public & Press  A member of the public mentioned Orchard Nurseries, Water Orton are open to donating a christmas tree this year if they would be able to place some advertisement on the railings. There was discussion about a christmas tree also being placed by the war memorial. SS-mentioned that he would approach Severn Trent to see if they would be prepared to donate a christmas tree.  A representative from the Heritage Culture Group, voiced their concerns about the recent application to deregister the land known as The Pound, in Attleboro Lane. The concern being the developers would still need to acquire more land to satisfy the requirements of highways in relation to access.    SS-confirmed the members of the public could also raise objections to the application as part of the process.  Reports from County and District Councillors (for information only) if present:  Flooding Report: This item was deferred until MW was able to attend the meeting later during the evening.  SS-mentioned the parish council had not received any communications regarding the recommendations about the speeding restrictions and would ask MW to provide an update when he attends the meeting later during the evening.  SS-stated that a range of services from Warwickshire County Council are sub-standard and suggested that Warwickshire County Council should be invited to attend a meeting.  Report from Police representative (for information only) if present:  A police representative did not attend the meeting, and a report was not provided. The clerk mentioned that contact had been made with Warwickshire police to establish contact details. The clerk was informed the contacts would not be able to attend the meeting, but email addresses were provided. | |  |
| **24.23** | | **Declarations of Interest and dispensations:** | |  |
|  | | SS declared his interest in Agenda Item: **24.26**, the **Tennis Court** **Development**, and invited WR to take the Chair at the time the agenda item would be discussed. | |  |
| **24.24** | | **Minutes:** | |  |
|  | | It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 30 November 2023.  It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 25 January 2024. | |  |
| **24.25** | | **Reports from Chairman, Parish Councillors**: | |  |
|  | | Cllr Freeman-reported on the Annual Parish Gathering in May. The date for the gathering was set down for Saturday 18 May 2024. The outline plan of the events and activities were designed to include the community, raise awareness in the village and to be as inclusive as possible.  The report regarding access to the park/playing field at St Blaise Road/ Vicarage Lane entrance was deferred until later in the meeting on the attendance of MW. | |  |
| **24.26** | **Tennis Court Development:** | |  | |
|  | Item chaired by WR.  It was RESOLVED to approve giving initial support to the tennis club to enable the development of detailed plans to be considered for a third tennis court. | |  | |
| **24.27** | **Correspondence:** | |  | |
|  | It was considered that that the land/footpath alongside the school, Christoper Way would be most suitable to place a community orchard.  It was RESOLVED to approve the making of an application for funding for a community orchard.  It was RESOLVED to approve the registration to receive a free portrait of His Majesty, The King, and for it to be donated to the Scout Group.  It was RESOLVED in principle to approve the Parish Council hosting NW Connect and Learn Sessions for the development of online skills at the Pavilion for the local community. | | **RS**  **RS**  **RS** | |
| **24.28** | **Maintenance:** | |  | |
|  | CC - completed monthly play inspection, Greyhound Leisure completed all works to the play areas. All works have been completed satisfactory. | |  | |
| **24.29** | **Finance:** | |  | |
| 29a)  29b)  29c)  29d)  29e) | It was RESOLVED to approve the payment schedule up to 21 February 2024, and items paid under delegated authority since previous schedule.  It was RESOLVED to approve the 2023-24 accounts and bank reconciliation to 21 February 2024.  It was RESOLVED to defer the approval of the Financial Risk Register to the next meeting.  It was RESOLVED to approve the appointment of the Internal Auditor, Kim Squires. The Clerk was tasked to make enquiries regarding audit costs.  It was RESOLVED to approve the sum of £500 as the appropriate credit limit amount that should be set on the application for the Unity Trust, Multi Pay Card account, subject to approval by the bank. | | **RS**  **RS**  **RS** | |
| **24.30** | **Clerks Report:** | |  | |
|  | The Clerk’s Report was noted.  The clerk to review and take action in relation to recent correspondence received from Wellers Hedley’s Solicitors, regarding the registration of title of the Recreation Ground and the Green. The clerk to liaise with the Heritage Culture Group. The clerk would report back and provide an update at the parish council meeting due to take place on Thursday 28 March 2024.  The clerk would continue to make enquires with Warwickshire Police regarding a police representative. | | **RS**  **RS** | |
| **24.31** | **Installation of Dog Waste Bins:** | |  | |
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|  | It was RESOLVED firstly to obtain the full costings of purchasing the dog waste bins, together with the cost of installation and any clearance, and look in to assisting the Rugby Club with other funding options.  The Clerk to correspond with the Rugby Club. | | **RS** | |
| **24.32** | **THE POUND, ATTLEBORO LANE, WATER ORTON, WARWICKSHIRE** | |  | |
|  | The Heritage Culture Group presented their draft representations, objections and comments. The parish council agreed with the representations made by the Heritage Culture Group.  It was RESOLVED that the parish council would make separate representations and comments.  Comments and representations to be sent to the clerk on or before **Thursday 14 March 2024**  The clerk was tasked to request the traffic assessment report. | | **All Cllrs**  **RS** | |
| **24.22**  22b)  **24.25c** | **Agenda Items moved during the meeting under Standing Order 10 a) vi.**  Reports from County and District Councillors (for information only) if present:  MW-the conclusion reached from the flooding report, no action would be taken to improve flooding due to the fact that it could cause problems in other areas of the village.  MW- explained that he is still waiting for the costings of implementing the works for access to the park/playing field at St Blaise Road/ Vicarage Lane. MW confirmed that once he had the costings he would need to obtain the funding. Once the costings had been received there could be further discussions about any other recommendations relating to the access.  MW-confirmed that he is waiting for the proposals regarding the speed restriction measures, and confirmed that there are better meetings now taking place with highways.  MW-mentioned that Water Orton Primary School resource provision has had an approval for an increase in number of places that may be offered 8 to 12 places.  MW-Councillor Grants had been awarded to Water Orton Parish Council and the library.  SS-mentioned about the repairs that were needed to certain areas of the village that had been damaged. MW confirmed that there is the county council website but would follow up on the repairs if the parish council provided him with the specific information.  MW-Warwickshire County Council have enforcement officers to enforce parking restrictions, and confirmed it is a matter for the police to deal with the issue of vehicles parking on the footpath if they are causing an obstruction. | | **RS** | |
| **24.33** | **Warwick County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan:** | |  | |
|  | It was RESOLVED to defer until the next meeting. The deadline for the survey has been extended until 07 April 2024. | |  | |
| **24.34** | **Planning Policy Consultations:** | |  | |
|  | It was RESOLVED to defer until the next meeting. | |  | |
| **24.35** | **Parish Council Vacancies and Committee meetings:** | |  | |
| 34a)  34b) | It was RESOLVED to defer the consideration and proposal of new members for the Maintenance Sub-Committee.  It was RESOLVED to put up a new notice for the outstanding Councillor vacancies and place a notice in the Coleshill Post. | | **RS** | |
| **24.36** | **Communications:** | |  | |
|  | It was RESOLVED to contact HS2 and Warwickshire in writing to make a complaint and voice concerns about their lack of communication and engagement with the community in providing information in relation to road closures and works being carried out around the village, and in surrounding areas. To also make a request that they improve their communications rather than place the onus and responsibility solely on the Parish Council. | | **NF** | |
| **24.37** | **Notice Board:** | |  | |
|  | It was RESOLVED to defer discussions and consideration of proposals as to the information that should be displayed on the notice boards until the next meeting. | |  | |
| **24.38** | **Planning:** | |  | |
| 38a) | To consider new applications:  **Reference:**  HS2/2024/0003  **Address:**  HS2 Marsh Lane Embankment, Land West of Junction 8 M42 Motorway, Coleshill Road, Water Orton, (Grid Ref: Easting 418220.25, Northing 290371.12)  **Details:**  Schedule 17 Plans and Specifications - Engineering earthworks to form a railway embankment (Marsh Lane Embankment), and ancillary works including construction of retaining walls, earthworks to form landscaping bunds, earthworks to form a balancing pond, ecological ponds and drainage ditches, earthworks to form a watercourse diversion, earthworks to form maintenance access tracks, provision of a track-side noise barrier, provision of road vehicle parking and location of permanent fencing.  **Comments:**  The Schedule sets out that there are only limited grounds for the refusal of an application. In the case of building works, that: (a) the design or external appearance of the building works ought to be  modified— (i) to preserve the local environment or local amenity, (ii) to prevent or reduce prejudicial effects on road safety or on the free  flow of traffic in the local area, or (iii) to preserve a site of archaeological or historic interest or nature  conservation value, and is reasonably capable of being so modified, or  (b) the development ought to, and could reasonably, be carried out  elsewhere within the development’s permitted limits    Comments are due In writing, before end of working day on 07/03/2024.  It was RESOLVED that the clerk would write to planning to request clarification of the details of the works, and for further explanation why the planning application is being made. | | **RS** | |
| 38b) | To report decisions on previous planning applications made by NWBC (for information only)  **Reference:**  PAP/2023/0545  **Address:**  37 Vicarage Lane, Water Orton**,** B46 1RY  **Details:**  Erection of First Floor Side Extension and Canopy to Front  **Comments/NWBC Decision:**  Granted - The decision was noted.  **Reference:**  PAP/2023/0524  **Address:**  Proposed Telecommunications Mast, West Side,Gypsy Lane, Water Orton  **Details:**  Proposed Installation Of A Telecommunications Base Station Comprising 25M Lattice Mast Supporting 6 No Antenna, 4 No Dishes, Together With Ground-Based Equipment Cabinets And Ancillary Development.  **NWBC Decision:**  **Refused** - The decision was noted.  **Reference:**  PAP/2022/0584  **Address:**  Land At Junction Lichfield Road, Watton Lane Water Orton  **Details:**  Application For A Certificate Of Appropriate Alternative Development Made Under The Provisions Of Section 17 Of The Land Compensation Act 1961  **NWBC Decision:**  Certificate of Appropriate Alternative Development Issued.  The decision was noted.  **Reference:**  PAP/2023/0529  **Address:**  1 Hargrave Close Water Orton Birmingham B46 1QR  **Details:**  Remove T1 Horse Chestnut Tree  **NWBC Decision:**  Granted- The decision was noted. | |  | |
| **24.39** | **Items for Next Meeting:** | |  | |
|  | Clerk to forward Agenda Item Reporting Sheet to Councillors | |  | |
| **24.40** | **Date, Time and Place of the next Parish Council Meeting:** | |  | |
|  | The next Parish Council meeting is to be held on Thursday 28 March 2024 at 7.00pm at the Playing Field Pavilion, Openfield Croft, Water Orton | |  | |
| **24.41** | **Closed Session:** | |  | |
|  | The meeting did not move into a closed session. | |  | |

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:…………………………………. Dated:………………………………….