

Minutes of Worton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022 at Worton Village Hall at 6.00pm.

Present:

Cllr Suzanne Bonfield (SB)
Cllr Malcolm Powell (MP)
Cllr Christopher Collins (CC)
Cllr Barry Devine (BD) (Chair)
Liz Starling – Responsible Finance Officer
Cllr Robert Goss (RG)
Cllr Nick Stokes (NS)
Cllr Richard Slack (RS)

Apologies for absence:

The Chairman received apologies for absence from:

Cllr Tamara Reay (TR)
Cllr Patricia Goodenough (PG)
Cllr Dicky Parsons (DP)

Also present:

2 x Members of the public
Oliver Symes and 1 more member of the public for part of the meeting.

99/22/23	Apologies for absence The Chair received apologies for absences.	
100/22/23	Declaration of members interests: None	
101/22/23	Minutes of meeting held on 7th November 2022: Proposed as true and accurate by MP Seconded by NS Signed as true and accurate by BD	
	The Chairman declared that the meeting was temporarily suspended to allow for an open session for 15 minutes where members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda.	

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102/22/23	Exclusion of the press and public Resolved: Proposed by BD, seconded by NS and agreed that a resolution be passed to exclude the press and public from the meeting for item 14 of the agenda in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, in order to discuss the items.	
103/22/23	Wiltshire Councillor's Report Provided by Cllr Reay via email. 1. Dr Hill giving update on integrated care centre in Devizes 2. Alternative fuel payment of £200 for gas off-grid residents to be paid direct to their electricity supplier account. 3. WC budget current forecast indicates revenue overspend due to inflationary factors. Net overspend £3.55mil. £47.5mil expenditure at Q2. 4. Xmas care leavers voucher can be purchased via Amazon giftcard for various stores RS queried Tory MPs stance to vote on amendment on 5-year rule for Wiltshire. Asked whether Worton PC write to query this? RS to circulate letters to councillors he has received in this regard with a view to it becoming an agenda item. Any questions refer to TR.	
104/22/23	"Practical matters" Generally in response to the points raised in an email to BD by resident Roger Wilshire (who apologised for not being able to attend the meeting): • Preparation of Back Lane to enhance spring flower growth Job done. Mark Goddard has completed works. Agreed that this is an annual task. • Update on repair to planter box Resident at Cedar Close volunteered to repair. Wasp nest in situ delayed access. Progress dependent on goodwill and availability of materials to limit costs. • Maintenance of council owned benches Need maintenance (moss growing on them, sanding and re-varnishing). Consider mapping out location of all benches. Option is to either repair insitu or uplift and take to workshop for full restoration. BD will seek views via Bridge and Facebook and gauge interest. • Overgrowth onto pathways Reminder in Bridge for residents to maintain pathways in their area.	
105/22/23	Transport and Road Safety (RS/DP/SB) • SIDS update MP brought in a complete and working SIDS unit for	

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	demonstration. 1. Battery life in winter to be monitored. Solar panel location to be decided upon for best sunlight. 2. Configuration needed via Windows computer 3. Download data via cable or Bluetooth 4. Needs to be added to WC insurance; cost of insurance to be considered. In principal consensus that if premium is under £500 we would retrospectively agree. £390 in budget for insurance. £400 in budget for next year. 5. Potentially need to relocate the SIDS unit away from Sandlease location once development works commence. • Prioritising proposals with LHFIG Discussion on what we considered to be Worton PC priorities for our LHFIG submission. Next LHFIG meeting 17 January 2023. 1. Pavement widening should be a priority 2. Road markings 3. Road signage 4. 40mph speed markings at south end of Village (Woodside Timber). Work with Newland Homes. Include school zone warnings and reduced speed limits. 5. Weight restriction a. Not part of LHFIG remit. Vehicle count equivalent to an A road. Nature of High Street is narrow country lane. Market Lavington and other C roads have a weight limitation. Wellbeing of our residents is just as important as that of other villages. Need to ensure that Worton PC needs are considered in WC traffic management strategy that is being reviewed next year.
106/22/23	Leisure Facilities, Appearance and Environment (MP/NS/RG/CC) • Update on tree planting proposals RG has communicated with Oliver. Top end of field at Sandlease (below play park) now the best option with fencing to be erected. Oliver (in attendance) provided a diagram of location of tree planting of 20 new trees at bottom of Sandlease play park in addition to 65 trees. Total close to 100 trees including additional trees to replace those that have died in the previous planting. Oliver clarified that Worton PC have to apply to the Trust for the free trees. BD to contact PG re completion of application form. WPC email address to be used in the application form. Worton PC to be nominated as the party responsible for maintaining the trees. Oliver to be the delivery party address and to obtain grid reference for location of trees.

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107/22/23	Community and learning (BD/Clerk/NS/DP)	
108/22/23	Planning (DP/NS) a) To discuss the following applications:	
	App number	Address
		Description
PL/2022/08965	Ivy House, 41 High Street, Worton, Wiltshire, SN10 5RU	Holm Oak tree - Reduce by 6mtrs to prevent breaking in strong winds. WPC – no objection.
	b) To note the following decisions:	
	App number	Address
		Description
PL/2022/07506	Rose Cottage, 124 High Street, Worton, Devizes, SN10 5SE	Noted no objection to the erection of a timber pre-fabricated single storey granny annexe for ancillary use to the main dwelling. Wiltshire Council Decision: Approve with conditions
PL/2022/07507	Rose Cottage, 124 High Street, Worton, Devizes, SN10 5SE	Stationing of a mobile home within the residential curtilage of a dwellinghouse for purposes ancillary to the main use of the host dwellinghouse Wiltshire Council Decision: Approve with conditions

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109/22/23	Correspondence (BD/Clerk) a) Correspondence: 1. Bottom of Church Lane bin relocation. SB considers no issue so should be able to take place.. - LS advises to contact Paul Millard (Rights of Way) and cc rights of way email address. 2. Broken cone at pedestrian crossing has been reported by both BD and SB. 3. Broken pedestrian stile previously mention in November minutes, 96/22/23 has been fixed. b) To review the following policies: i. Reserves policy Accepted with no changes. Proposed by BD and seconded by NS. ii. Risk Management policy Should consider risk management policy in light of new SIDS devices. Add to January as an agenda item once we know what is involved with erection/installation/insurance/risk etc. Proposed by BD and seconded by SB
110/22/23	Update on clerk appointment Staffing matters – no applications for clerk role. Have not re-advertised. LS to approach Wiltshire Association of Local Councils for advice to see if there is potentially a clerk available on a part-time basis. Query what is our position if we can't get a responsible officer in the near future. Query whether we should consider advertising the hourly rate? BD to publicise role in the Bridge but change the focus as being an 'exciting opportunity' rather than charitable community focus.
111/22/23	Finance (MP) a) To approve the budget for 2023/2024 (final approval at December meeting) No change to provisional budget other than for salary increase. Discussion on donation amount in budget. Questionable benefit of taxing residents just to give the money away to charitable causes. Caveat should be that any donations should only be given to groups within the Worton village community.

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	LS confirms that she is trying to source an external auditor. Quote obtained of £500 which she considers too high. MP proposed budget, seconded by SB. Unanimously agreed. b) To approve the Schedule of Reserves for 2022/2023 BD proposes, seconded by MP. Unanimous agreement. c) To approve the Precept request for 2022/2023 MP proposed, seconded by NS. Unanimous agreement. d) To authorise the following payments:				
	<i>Payable to</i>		<i>Net</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Gross</i>
	HMRC/E M Starling	Administration costs	87.03	0.00	87.03
	TOTAL		87.03	0.00	87.03
Inter account transfer:					
			Amount		
Date:					
Approval of finances / accounts proposed by BD, seconded by SB.					
112/23/23	Press and Public were excluded from the meeting at this point to discuss the following two confidential items as per resolution at 102/22/23 above. Staffing Matters: a) The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2022-2023. Resolved: it was proposed by RG and seconded by BD that the Clerk/RFO salary be increased to the 2021-2022 rate for the scale point they are appointed on. Agreed. This increase will also apply to the current RFO and is effective from anniversary of her original appointment which is 23 June 2022. b) It was also noted that the National Joint Council (NJC) has agreed that from 1 April 2023, all employees covered by this National Agreement, regardless of their current leave entitlement or length of service, will receive a permanent increase of one day (pro rata for part-timers) to their annual leave entitlement.				

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	Items to be considered for the agenda for the next meeting and questions to the Council	
	1) Confirm WPC priority items prior to LHFIG meeting 2) Updates on trees 3) Insurance on SIDS and review of risk management policy	
	Date of next meeting: Monday 9th January 2022, 7.30pm in Worton Village Hall	
	Key messages	
	1) SIDS to be configured and installed after insurance has been arranged and best location for winter sun on solar panels has been determined. 2) BD to mention clerk position.in Bridge article 3) Application form for free trees to be lodged to Woodlands Trust. 4) Application form to be lodged for LHFIG submission for Worton PC priorities.	

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