

Minutes of Worton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7 November 2022 at Worton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllr Suzanne Bonfield (SB); Cllr Robert Goss (RG); Cllr Malcolm Powell (MP); Cllr Christopher Collins (CC); Cllr Patricia Goodenough (PG); Cllr Nick Stokes (NS); Cllr Dicky Parsons (DP)

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Barry Devine (BD) (Chair); Cllr Richard Slack (RS)

Also present:

Cllr Tamara Reay (TR) and 7 x Members of the public

87/22/23	Elect temporary chair Due to both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman being absent it was resolved unanimously that Cllr Malcolm Powell (MP) would act as temporary chair for this meeting.
88/22/23	Apologies for absence The Chair received apologies for absences.
89/22/23	Declaration of members interests: None
90/22/23	Minutes of meeting held on 3 October 2022: An error was discovered in the October minutes which indicated that the entire balance of the Community Infrastructure Levy funds be used whereas the intent was that only the sum of £1,200 be donated to the village hall kitchen improvements. Accordingly, the October minutes are amended as under: Item 85/22/22 (c) was amended to read: <i>Worton and Marston Village Hall trustees had requested a donation of £1,200 toward the kitchen improvements. MP suggested that some of the £2,012 Community Infrastructure Levy funds be used.</i> <i>It was proposed by MP, seconded by CC, With the exception of BD who abstained as his wife is a village hall trustee, it was agreed that a payment of £1,200 be paid to Worton and Marston Village Hall.</i> Resolved: It was proposed by CC, seconded by MP, and agreed by all that, with the above amendment, the minutes were an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed.
	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. 1. Tree planting at Sandleaze. An attending member of the public voiced an opinion that the play area does not need any more trees given the likely increased use of the play area following residential growth from Sandleaze development. Given concerns about too many trees in the Sandleaze play park different areas were proposed by members of the public including adjacent to the school which would have the added benefit of the school

Signed:

Date:

	children becoming involved in the planting project. Suggestion of calling it the "Jubilee Wood". 2. Discussion was had about resident access to PC agenda and minutes and whether they could be added to Worton Community Facebook. MP confirmed the minutes are easily accessible from the Parish Council website. It was suggested that a brief piece could appear in the Bridge re location / viewing of PC minutes.
91/22/23	Wiltshire Councillor's Report TR apologised for missing the last PC meeting as it conflicted with the Devizes Area Board meeting. Cost of living is a key focus for WC. Energy advice / grants being advertised. Suggested baby/toddler group / coffee meeting etc for warm space. WC committed more money to parish stewards. Parish steward is responsible for minor remedial works on roads/pavements. In future larger 'double man' teams will provide extra resources for more significant works. Confirmed to TR that planning application for Sandlease development had not yet been issued but was expected to come through by end of year. Member of public raised issue that quote for solar battery through collective buying via WC Solar Together scheme wasn't competitive. Also feed-in tariffs of 2p per kw not really an incentive.
92/22/23	Transport and Road Safety (RS/DP/SB) a) SIDS update SG update: RS went to LHFIFG meeting. WC have placed works order to place posts including new location for #5. b) To consider updated quote from ElanCity for purchase of twin pack of Evolis Radar Speed Signs. Current offer is to purchase 2 x speed indicator devices at £4,000 plus vat, a discount of about £1000. Motion proposed by SB to purchase now in expectation that the sockets for the poles will soon be implemented. Seconded by PG. Unanimously agreed. Discussion on difference between SIDS and auto speed watch. SIDS purely influences driver behaviour by displaying vehicle speed whereas auto speed watch takes photos, records reg numbers etc for creation of reports that can be given to police. c) Update from Devizes LHFIFG meeting WC application re road improvements in the village, e.g. signage, widening of pavements, weight limits. WC generally supportive of proposals although cost will obviously be a factor. Imposition of a vehicle weight limitation on Worton High St not popular with LHFIFG given inevitable transfer of HG vehicles to another area. WC to undertake a review of freight management strategy during 2023.

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Date:

	Suggest widening pavements as a priority. Creation of a school crossing must be driven by school rather than PC. PG to raise at school level in her role as school governor. LHFIG have asked for the road safety improvement list to be prioritised by Worton Parish Council. This will be added to the December Agenda. d) Bob Mitchell confirms that at recent community speed watch meeting the Police confirmed that we could use ASW but that they would not accept the data. TR confirmed possibly some confusion still around this area and that perhaps WC and Police need to discuss and agree what is meant by "handling the data". Very clear message that WC wants action on speeding.
93/22/23	Leisure Facilities, Appearance and Environment (MP/NS/RG/CC) a) Sandleaze Tree planting proposal Background to proposal given by MP. RG confirms his family rents the PC land towards river. RG proposed part of this area by the brook for planting trees. He would erect fencing to protect the trees and build an access gate. Caveat is that this piece of land is not accessible by residents as it is a working farm so public access would be by permission only. Oliver Symes, who has created the tree planting initiative, was given the floor in order to give his view on the different proposals for number and locations of trees. He confirmed that "free" trees (available via Woodlands Trust) are only available to publicly accessible land. MP confirmed that not enough room at Sandleaze play park for any great quantity of new plantings. Whatleys playing field could house a limited number of plantings but focus must be on not converting a playing field into a wooded area. Another option is replanting trees in the existing area at the bank at the bottom of the Sandleaze play area as several of the new plantings have not taken. Reiterated that housing development will result in existing play area potentially being improved. Agreed that Oliver will review the proposed planting areas and revert with maps showing proposed plantings at different areas after site visits at Whatleys and at area proposed by RG. No great urgency but need to decide by March 23.
94/22/23	Community and learning 1. Update on Jubilee path celebration proposals. Decided to shelve plans for a separate celebration. Donor list (given to MP) to go into notice board (BD has key). PG confirmed that donors have given permission for their names to be displayed as donors.
95/22/23	Planning (DP/NS) Note that CC has taken on responsibility to update WC website re planning applications and has had training in this regard from BD.

Signed:

Date:

a) To discuss the following applications:

App number	Address	Description

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.
PL/2022/05381	Roslyn, 168 High Street, Worton, SN10 5SE	Removal of single storey side extension. Creation of two storey side extension. (Re-submission of PL/2022/02850)
PL/2022/07021	Manor Farm House, 63 High Street, Worton SN10 5RU	T1 Tulip Tree - Remove lowest branch T2 - Cherry Tree - Remove lowest 4 branches T3 /T4 Weeping Birch Trees - tip back lateral branches by 1m to reduce crown spread over lawn & pond

96/22/23

Correspondence (BD/Clerk)

Resident queried whether the village would consider the creation of a “warm space”. This is a government initiative to provide a safe place in a warm area, coffee etc in the time of increasing energy prices.

Agreed that likely not enough use of such an initiative in the village to warrant the staffing/resources needed to have it open consistently. Also, village hall is largely booked out.

Pathway to byway (2nd stile) land has eroded away and is now a risk to cross over. Possible responsibility of landowner. NS / MP to discuss with him.

Gardening club to plant a tree (small ornamental) near bench at Church. Not PC land so doubtful anyone would object provided no issues with roots.

97/22/23

Update on clerk appointment

Unfortunately, the one applicant we had has withdrawn. The advertisement has therefore had its close date extended by 4 weeks.

LS to try to get the role advertised on the Community Matters newsletter.

98/22/23

Finance (MP)

Signed:

Date:

- a) To provisionally approve the budget for 2023/2024 (final approval at December meeting)

MP proposes provisional budget. CC seconds. Unanimously agreed.

- b) 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
Worton & Marston Village Hall	Payment towards kitchen improvements (from Community Infrastructure Levy)	1200.00	0.00	32.00
Playsafety Limited	Annual playground inspection	73.50	14.70	88.20
Mark Goddard	Grass cutting 21/7/22; 7/9/22; 10/10/22	480.00	96.00	576.00
TOTAL		1840.53	110.70	1951.23

Inter account transfer:

<i>Date:</i>		Amount	
31/10/2022		£2000.00	

Approval of finances / accounts proposed by MP, seconded by DP.

Items to be considered for the agenda for the next meeting and questions to the Council

Gardening club to plant a tree (small ornamental) near bench at Church. Not PC land so doubtful anyone would object provided no issues with roots.

1. Update on purchase of SIDS
2. Reprioritisation of road safety items
3. Oliver tree project
4. Approve budget and precept
5. Review of Reserves Policy and Risk Management Policy

Date of next meeting:

Monday 5th December 2022, 6.00pm in Worton Village Hall

NOTE: Early meeting so as not to coincide with Xmas carols at R&C.

Key messages

1. SIDS purchase agreed.
2. SIDS post installation / work order proceeding.
3. Tree planting initiative by Oliver Symes - subject to his review of the different sites.
4. Continue search for new Clerk.
5. Jubilee path donor list to be put on display on village noticeboard.

Signed:

Date: