

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 25 April 2023

Chairman: Councillor Mr J Pugh
Councillors: Councillor Mr G Chater, Councillor Ms E Farrell, Councillor Mr C Harrison, Councillor Mrs M Lawrence, Councillor Mr P Robinson, Councillor Dr J Walmsley, Councillor A Barlow
Apologies: Councillors Walmsley, Barlow and Lawrence
Clerk: Mrs J Flanders
Attendance: Councillors P Cooper, D Blamires & A Bond
Parishioners: 16

1. Apologies for absences

Councillor Lawrence, Councillor Walmsley and Councillor Barlow sent in their apologies. There were no other apologies received.

2. Disclosure of interest on items in agenda

No Councillors present needed to disclose for any item on the agenda except Councillor Harrison due to his link with the Croquet Club.

3. Sign off Parish Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as an accurate account of the meeting held on 28 March 2023 and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Planning Applications:

4.1 **23/01037/APP** The Coach House Leighton Road demolition of store and fenestration changes to create a self contained ancillary annex. Councillor Pugh outlined the proposal and the Councillors confirmed they had no objections.

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to the Application unanimously.

4.2 **23/00976/APP** 9 Jenkins Court loft conversion with front, rear and side rooflights. Councillor Pugh outlined the application confirming the footprint was not altered and it was agreed there were no objections. It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to the Application unanimously.

4.3 **23/01094/APP** Land To The West Of Tring Road Wingrave construction of a ground mounted solar farm including associated infrastructure. Councillor Pugh stated that this was the application which followed the presentation which took place in November 2022 when the company making the application gave little information but did give the heads up that an application was imminent. There are 43 documents attached to the application containing a huge amount of information but it was obvious the applicant specialises in making solar farm applications. Councillor Pugh outlined the salient points and concluded that there were mixed views on the impact of the accumulation of solar farms in the area, construction traffic issues and the overall sight. The public have the opportunity to put their own comments forward. Councillor Cooper confirmed that the Buckinghamshire Council directed by Central Government encourage solar farms and do not consider a problem where there are several within an area and emphasised each application is considered on its own merit and not in conjunction with others already in situ or consent given. Councillor Robinson stated his concern/observation was that the area was becoming an energy hub. A member of the public suggested that it could benefit the Parish Council if they instructed or took advice from a Planning Consultant who specialises in rejecting solar farms. Councillor Chater suggested that the same response to a previous solar farm application should be given. It was agreed to object to the Application on the grounds of visual accumulation especially from the Chiltern Hills and glint effect in Rowsham and Hulcott.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would object to the Application on the grounds of visual impact to the Chiltern Hills and glint affect to Rowsham unanimously.

5. 20mph Scheme Update – Report Councillor Walmsley.

Councillor Walmsley's report is attached as Annexe A – Councillor Pugh read out the main points and confirmed that the Traffic Group had confirmed they proposed to reject the findings of the Buckinghamshire Highway's Report which indicated that the proposal put forward did not meet with their requirements and only suggested road markings using the remainder of the s106 funds available. Councillor Cooper praised Councillor Walmsley's report and suggested the rejection was based on out of date criteria albeit Buckinghamshire Council's policy was generally not to support 20mph schemes. All County Councillors confirmed they did support this Parish Council's claim for 20mph. The Traffic Group and other Councillors emphasised that Bucks Council seem to stand alone with 20mph schemes as all surrounding Counties have fully adopted it as well as other Councils throughout the UK. The Councillor's agreed to adopt Councillor Walmsley's findings and to challenge the Highways Report and continue to push for 20mph in Wingrave.

It was RESOLVED to support the Traffic Group in progressing with the 20mph scheme unanimously.

6. Recreation Pavilion & Bowls Clubhouse Funding Update

Councillor Chater confirmed that both projects now have planning consent and the Funding Group are applying for grants but there are not many opportunities. As construction costs have risen they have had three quotes for the finished buildings at £340K & £220K plus contingencies. Various options were being followed up namely, the Football Association and the Rothschild family. He also confirmed the Parish Council had put forward a proposal to the Bowls Club to help with their match funding and had offered to ringfence £90K made up from Kirby Fund, Reserve Fund and WWRSA's fund on the basis it was for the period of time of the planning consent and conditional on the Bowls Club opening the facility to members of the public during the winter time. See Annexe 'D' for full transcript of offer. The Chair of the Bowls Club expressed their disappointment that whilst £90K was a huge sum it was not enough and left the Club with massive fund raising which was frustrating and emphasised the amount of work put into the projects by Tim Jolley. Councillor Chater acknowledged the hardwork by all concerned and proposed that the terms of reference dated 19 May 2020 be amended in s2.1 to amend £250K to £300K from s106 monies, £70K of general reserve to match fund to try and get match funding. He also emphasised that the funding was still a joint effort and would be an uphill struggle. It was confirmed the next stage was obtaining Building Regulations.

It was RESOLVED that the terms of reference would be amended as suggested and all sums were stated as excluding VAT providing procurement was through the Parish Council this was confirmed unanimously.

7. Neighbourhood Plan – to be considered for revision

Discussion occurred as to when exactly the Local Plan needed to be updated and it was confirmed that when Buckinghamshire Council have adopted the overall Local Plan all Parish Councils would need to revise their Neighbourhood Plans. It was considered a good idea to upgrade the current plan to take account of green issues and be ready for the revision when required. Councillor Cooper confirmed there was funding available but only when the Parish Council is required to revise their plan.

8. Clarify access arrangements to the Recreation Ground

The Clerk confirmed that the draft of the up-dated access arrangements had not been formally adopted and agreed to share it with the residents of the Recreation Ground via their representative. A copy would also be put on the website for future reference. It was also agreed that when access for workmen to the properties was agreed that WWRSA would also be notified.

9. Correspondence received for noting – Clerk to Update

The Clerk confirmed that she had complied with the Pensions Regulator and confirmed that the Clerk did not require a pension contribution. The Clerk also confirmed she had received correspondence via email regarding the damage caused to the verge at Moat Lane/Dark Lane by a lorry trying to turn around. It was confirmed that the lorry was not in contravention of the Freight Access Scheme and was an unfortunate accident. It was also agreed that to pursue a claim for the damage would mean a lot of work with a high risk of no recompense and it would be best to request the Handyman make good the damage.

10. Bus Shelter Update and way forward

Councillor Lawrence's report was shared at the meeting and a copy is attached at Annexe B herewith. It was agreed that during Councillor Lawrence's absence and convalescent that Councillor Barlow would assist in progressing the plinth and artwork. Councillor Robinson confirmed that the path to the rear of the bus shelter had been completed and solar lights would be installed shortly. It was also agreed that the Clerk would instruct the Handyman to include cleaning the Perspex windows quarterly.

11. Financial

11.1 Clerks End of Year report. The Clerk had circulated the end of year schedule, a copy is at Annexe C and confirmed it was signed in readiness for the AGAR.

11.2 Confirmation of Internal Auditor Appointment. The Clerk confirmed that Mr A Skeggs had agreed to carry out the internal audit and she was in the process of sending all the papers/documents to him.

Meeting closed 2029 hours

ANNEXE 'A'

Report from Traffic Group to Parish Council regarding 20 mph limit in Wingrave

For Village Meeting on Tuesday April 25th 2023.

The PC proposed a 20 mph limit for Wingrave to Bucks Council. Following speed reports conducted by the Council's officers, our proposal was rejected on the following grounds

- Average speed for traffic is low overall.
- There have been only 3 road traffic accidents, none of which caused injury
- Enforcement of 20mph would require traffic calming which Parish cannot afford (other than some road markings) and Bucks will not agree to the limit without that investment
- Police do not regard speed as an issue and would not be willing to enforce a lower limit.

The Traffic Group is unwilling to accept this decision, and contrasts this with neighbouring Oxfordshire where 20 mph is to be the default for urban and village roads and where a substantial budget has been put aside to install signs and other measures. Thames Valley Police serves both Bucks and Oxon.

Our proposed actions:

Alert local media to Bucks as the outlier – Central Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire are adopting 20 mph, along with Wales and most London boroughs. What is different about Bucks?

Consider how to spend the money earmarked for traffic mitigation in the S106 allocation given we may lose it if it is not spent for this purpose. Advice is being sought from the County engineers as to how to best spend this budget.

Liaise with other parishes in Bucks to consider what further action we might take.

Jan Walmsley

On behalf of the Wingrave with Rowsham Traffic Group

ANNEXE 'B'

Bus Shelter Update Report

Councillor Mary Lawrence

Unfortunately, the handover to another colleague at Aylesbury College has proved difficult, as I have not received any draft drawings by the students interested in this worthwhile project, as promised following my emails.

I also haven't received requests for the new additional plaque information and costings that Rees was organising.

The original request for a paved pathway through the memorial garden has somewhat been halted, even though Phil had informed the Parish Council that the mud pathway was now too muddy due to the volume of rain recently.

I was aware that Phil was keen to order the solar lights agreed for the bus shelter to keep it lit at night, in order to keep any locals safe and secure on dark hours, as well as deter any vandalism.

I have looked at a variety of plinths online for the memorial garden but have not furthered this due to having two operations cancelled last minute, which has been out of my control.

ANNEXE 'C'

Clerk's End of Year Financial Report

Opening Balance		
Balance at Bank	171,296.37	
Cash in Hand		
Audit - Accountants Fees		
Audit - Internal Audit		100.00
Audit - External Audit		300.00
Clerks pay - Salary		10,143.90
Clerks pay - working from home allowanc		461.26
Clerks pay - Tax and NI		357.66
Clerks pay - Mileage allowance		
Clerks pay - Expenses		20.90
Insurance		4,571.48
legal fees		
Office maintenance - website etc		1,300.80
Training		298.00
General Reserve	4,042.60	15,577.13
Maintenance - Skate park safety inspecti		
Maintenance - Playground inspection		295.00
Maintenance - Park sewage pump		
Maintenance - Park Intruder Alarm servic		25.86
Maintenance - Park Disabled Lift Service		137.16
Maintenance - Park Boundaries and hed		
Neighbourhood Planning		
Office equipment		23.50
Sports facilities maintenance Fund		159.57
Traffic Calming		
Kirby Fund		
Parish Church cemetery bin		308.58
United Reformed Church		350.00
Wingrave Community Association		5,000.00
Heritage Association		954.00
Devolved tasks	2,166.31	7,923.25
Dog waste bins		1,555.50
Parish Handyman		2,681.34
Playground Covid-19 spraying		
Miscellaneous maintenance expenditure		858.33
Pond Maintenance		
Tree Maintenance		4,545.00
Wingrave Park rent		825.00

WWRSAI Management Fee		3,000.00	
Royal British Legion Wreath			
PTFA Scarecrow Contribution		60.00	
Street Lightin - electricity		2,456.43	
Maintenace (street Lighting)		2,432.25	
AVALC			
BALC / NALC		259.23	
SLCC		171.00	
Election Fund			
Fire Extinguisher - Wingrave park & pavil		95.00	
VAT refund	7,815.53		
Precept	56,777.00		
Wingrave Park CCTV			
Misc	6,243.50	8,252.94	
Play around the Park		460.00	
SMP Clerk	6,012.40	521.04	
Election Fund			
Bank Interest	294.27		
ICO		35.00	
Scribe Accounts fee		269.00	
Wingrave Womens Institute		113.25	
Parish General Maintenance			
Solar Generation	1,235.37	617.68	
Maintenance Infra structure (courts etc..)	4,505.00	14,996.65	
Devolved tasks BCC			
VAT		9,906.80	
	89,091.98		102,419.49
Closing Balances:			
Balances in Bank Account			157,968.86
Cash in Hand			
TOTAL	260,388.35		260,388.35

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the council as at 31 Mar 2023

APPENDIX 'D'

Letter to Bowls Club

Yvonne White,

Chair, Wingrave Bowls Club

tonywc.white@hotmail.com

12th April 2023

Recreation Grounds Projects

Dear Yvonne,

As I am sure you are now aware, both planning consents for the replacement of the Recreation Pavilion and the Bowls Clubhouse buildings have now been granted.

Theoretically, both building works can now start however securing all the funding remains an obstacle to commencing the building of both facilities.

Funds from the Precept have been saved for several years and the General Reserve is now at a point where the Parish Council feel that in addition to the s106 monies that are remaining, that there are sufficient funds for us to commence and finish the Recreation Pavilion replacement.

Whilst the Parish Council has continued to support the Bowls Clubhouse, we feel that upon due consideration the overwhelming priority of the Parish Council must be to replace the Recreation Pavilion (which is wholly owned by the Parish Council and a building whose purpose is to serve a wide spectrum of the clubs and other Parishioners using the Recreation Ground). Moreover, this is becoming more urgent since the building is currently presenting as a clear liability and is not far from being condemned as unfit for purpose in its current state.

However, the Parish Council still wishes to try to honour some commitment towards the funding to the Bowls Club Pavillion.

Therefore, I propose to put forward and discuss the following motion at the Parish Council meeting on the 25th of April:

***“The Wingrave with Rowsham Parish Council propose to ring-fence a sum of up to £90,000* towards the funding required to complete the new Bowls Clubhouse building, which would be held in reserve for the purpose of match funding the Bowls Clubhouse project for the remainder of the initial term of the existing planning consent 22/01901/APP, being 16th June 2025.*”**

The funds will be made up from a contribution of the General Reserve funds, the Kirby fund, and the recently approved Wingrave with Rowsham Sports and Leisure (WWRSAL) funding towards these projects as agreed in the WWRSAL Special General Meeting of the 4th April 2023.

It should also be recorded that this is in addition to the funds already spent on architectural design and the subsequent gaining of the planning approval.

It is the Parish Council’s expectation that in funding this project that way, the Bowls Clubhouse could remain in the ownership of the Bowls Club, but that also, in return, the Bowls Club would make their Clubhouse freely available via the Parish Council to other Parish groups, clubs and societies on a proportional weekly basis equal to the proportion of Parish funds (including s106, Kirby and Reserve funds) spent on the project and that this would be a condition of the final funding agreement.”

We trust that you will find this helpful to have a clearly stated funding allotted to the Bowls Clubhouse Project to better aid match funding activities. We look forward to continuing our support towards the Bowls Clubhouse in their endeavours to raise the remaining funds for this key project within our Parish.

Yours faithfully

Jeremy Pugh

Chair, Wingrave with Rowsham Parish Council

cc: Jill Flanders, Phil Robinson, Gavin Chater, Dave Clements, Tim Jolley

*It was agreed at the meeting that all sums are exclusive of VAT if procured through the Parish Council.