

Chairman: Councillor Mr J Pugh
Councillors: Councillor Mr G Chater, Councillor Ms E Farrell, Councillor Mrs M Lawrence, Councillor Mr P Robinson, Councillor Dr J Walmsley, Councillor A Barlow
Apologies: Councillor Lawrence
Clerk: Mrs J Flanders
Attendance: Councillors Blamires, Bond and Cooper
Parishioners: 2

1. Apologies for absences

Councillor Lawrence sent in her apologies. There were no other apologies received.

2. Reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillor and the Police

Councillor Blamires confirmed that the Council Awards were well attended and that the Community Centre was a good venue. Councillor Walmsley confirmed she also attended. When questioned about the Enforcement for Hollies Farm Councillor Blamires confirmed she would chase the matter. She also said that Central Government would require all new buildings to have a carbon offset from November 2023 and could buy credits although not necessarily for the locality. It was also confirmed that the proposed cycleway from Aylesbury to Wing had reached the top 3 within the County so its onto the next stage.
The Police did not send in a report.

3. Disclosure of interest on items in agenda

No Councillors present needed to disclose for any item on the agenda.

4. Sign off Parish Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as an accurate account of the meeting held on 23 May 2023 and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Planning Applications:

5.1 23/01652/APP Wingrave Pollo Mill House 1 Floyds Barns Mill Lane Wingrave Householder application for enlargement of existing shed incl solar panels and air source heat pump installation, change existing garage door into new door and window to utility area .

Councillor Pugh introduced the application and all Councillors present thought it seemed to be acceptable and it was RESOLVED to approve the application unanimously.

5.2 23/1564/APP Post Office. 21 Winslow Road Wingrave. Display of 1 no. part halo/part non-illuminated fascia sign and 1 no. externally illuminated projecting sign. The Councillors considered the application and it was RESOLVED to approved the proposal unanimously.

6. Requirements for Sewage Plant/River Testing Working Party – brief discussion.

Councillor Walmsley confirmed that 5 volunteers including herself had been trained to take and test water samples and whilst they were enthusiastic they were also shocked by the condition and visual extent of the damage. Mr Lees provided a report, see Annexe A. It was confirmed that some tankering had occurred but not as extensive as previously experienced. Mr Lees confirmed he had purchased three ammonia test kits and other kits had been given by the River Thames Conservation Trust and his aim was to continue testing. Councillor Cooper confirmed that Thames Water's proposal for the upgrade would not require extensive tankering although there would be some HGVs with equipment and the upgrade would be carried out over a period of time but should not be too disruptive. After some discussion it was agreed to reimburse Mr Lees for

the ammonia kits although it was accepted this was not a Parish Council matter but it was helpful in keeping the pressure on Thames Water and understanding the condition of the discharges. It was RESOLVED to provide upto £500 from the Reserve Funds for the purchase of the ammonia kits unanimously.

7. WILD Report on wildlife verges & request for more

Councillor Walmsley confirmed that WILD was hoping to increase the number of verges which could be left to grow more naturally and would require the Devolved Services contractor to cut only twice a year (spring and autumn) but would need them to collect the debris. It was suggested that there could be a margin of upto 2 feet from the road edge kept cut for safety reasons. It was confirmed that the contractor currently cuts the verges 10 times a year. It was agreed that Councillor Walmsley would consider all the verges and chose some suitable areas and then it should be put to the village for comment. It was agreed that Rowsham would also join in the exercise and the area by the silent soldier was suggested.

8. WRAG Report & survey proposal

Councillor Farrell confirmed she had circulated her proposed survey questions and would include the road verges and tree planting as extra questions. The survey would be put out to the Parish via the Communique, facebook, postie and the fete. She also proposed to make it available at the Warm Spaces venues. She confirmed that she had passed the Course and would soon be able to train others and hopefully the Parish could become more eco friendly.

9. Councillor Vacancy – note deadline to show an interest.

The Clerk confirmed that there was a vacancy and the deadline to show an interest was 29 June 2023 and details were on the website.

10. End of Year accounts 2022/2023

10.1 Annual Governance Approval and Sign. Approved and signed.

10.2 Annual Accounting Statement Approval and Sign. Approved and signed.

10.3 Explanation of Variances Approval and Sign. Approved and signed.

10.4 Accounting Statement of Accounts Approval and Sign. Approved and signed.

11. Licence for Rose & Crown for area adjacent the pub – finalised.

The Clerk confirmed that the new publican had now signed the Licence and requested Councillors Pugh and Chater to sign the deed and the Clerk witnessed their signatures. She confirmed it was dated 20th June 2023 and a copy would be sent to the pub.

12. Finances:

12.1 Balance of accounts. The Clerk confirmed the following balances:

Community Acc: £49,317.95

Kirby Fund: £60,350.35

Reserve: £38,805.45. This was reduced due to payment of the exercise equipment which would be reimbursed by the Community Board and the s106 monies.

12.2 Payments made to-date from 1st May 2023. The Clerk circulated the list. See Annexe B

12.3 Handyman's invoice for April to June £415.29. It was RESOLVED to approve this unanimously.

12.4 Reimbursement for sports equipment update. As noted above in 12.1 following the installation the Clerk had requested reimbursement from Bucks Council.

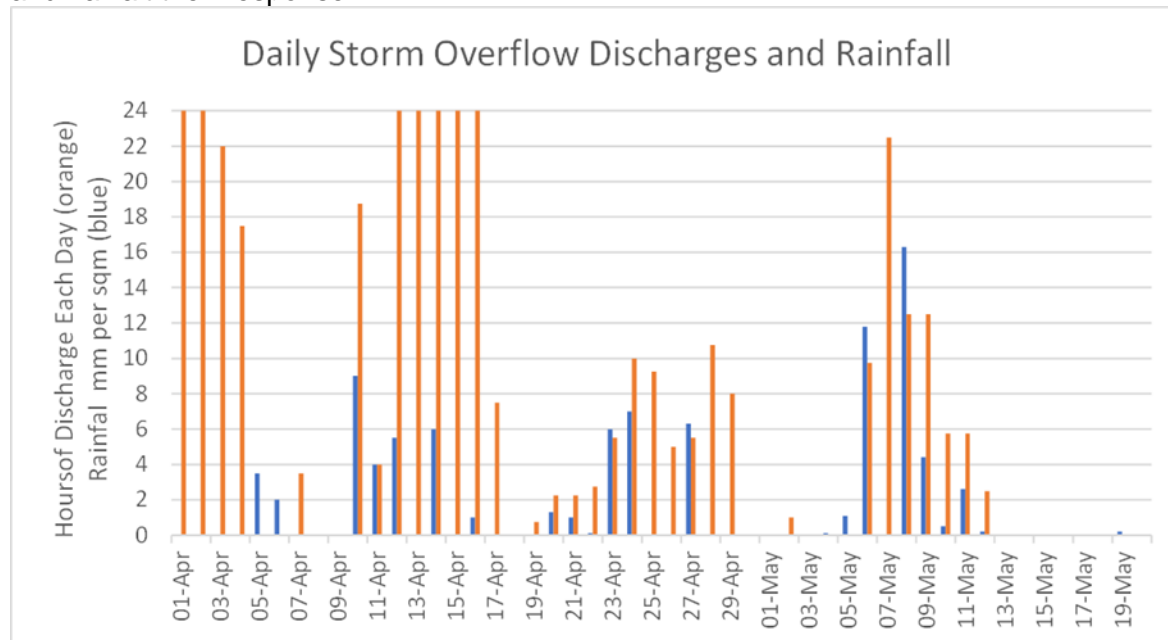
Meeting Closed 2017hours.

ANNEXE A
Sewage Discharge Report

Storm Overflow Discharges Compared to Rainfall

The following chart correlates storm discharges from Wingrave STW against the corresponding daily rainfall figure. The discharges from 1-4 April follow heavy rain on 31 March and above average rain throughout that month. Despite this the discharges look excessive. The discharges around the middle of

May appear to coincide with the taking out of operation one of the main filter beds for the filter medium to be cleaned. STW's are allowed to discharge untreated sewage in the event of equipment failure affecting treatment capacity but this does not include planned maintenance which should have been dealt with by tankering the excess waste to the Aylesbury facility. The periods of discharge 19-29 April and 6-12 May coincide with periods of rain none of which could be considered heavy therefore reflecting the difficulty the STW has in coping with average rainfall. The discharge on 2 May followed a period of eight days without rain. This is what is referred to as a 'dry spill' and potentially in breach of the STW's Environmental Permit. My complaints to Thames Water regarding these discharges have been referred to their Stakeholder team and I await their response.



Complaint to the Environment Agency

On 3 May I contacted the Environment Agency to complain about the damage caused to the watercourse and adjacent field by excessive discharges of untreated sewage. They requested copies of my photographic evidence which I provided. I received a reply on 17 May from which I quote following the key points.

'the Environment Agency are aware of operational issues at Wingrave Sewage Treatment Works that have been ongoing for some time. Officers have been to site multiple times to meet with Thames Water engineers and process managers as well as walking the tributary you mention and taking water quality samples of it.

Thames Water have also identified to us that a part of the ongoing issues at Wingrave, is the receiving watercourse has issues with blockages in the form of natural debris. The riparian owner (landowner) is responsible for maintenance of the watercourse to ensure that it can flow as intended.

A plan has been put in place for construction works at Wingrave STW to begin on a date we are still awaiting confirmation of. In the interim a semi-permanent fix has been implemented on site and should help to alleviate issues with un-consented storm discharges.

I want you to know that the activity taking place at Wingrave is also forming part of a larger investigation into historic non-compliance at sewage treatment works. Due to the nature of the investigation, I cannot go into detail with you regarding any further updates. But do be aware that the Environment Agency are working with Thames Water to get Wingrave STW back into legal compliance with its permit.'

In summary the problems with the STW are long standing and have led to un-consented storm overflow discharges (consent for storm overflow discharges is required from the Environment Agency) and a failure to comply with the legal obligations of its Environmental Permit issued by the Environment Agency which has led to the polluted condition of the watercourse and adjacent field.

In regard to the damaged watercourse and field, contrary to the assertion by Thames Water I can find no blockages from natural debris. The blockages have been caused by the deep layer of faecal sediment on the bed of the watercourse which has promoted rapid growth of vegetation leading to the blockage. Whilst Thames Water may say it is the landowners responsibility to ensure flow of the watercourse, at no time

have either Thames Water or the Environment Agency spoken to the landowner regarding the volume of untreated sewage that they knew was been discharged into the watercourse, conservatively estimated at 1,600,000 litres this year alone. The landowner will be taking action to clear the watercourse of the matter discharged from the STW but I will be seeking assurances that no further un-consented discharges and/or breaches of the Environmental Permit will occur unless under extreme conditions and then with the landowner, who grazes livestock on the field, the being made aware of the issue.

Next Actions

- Establish water monitoring teams
- Analyse Environmental Permits
- Request STW input flow volumes by time.
- Continue to monitor storm discharges and water quality
- Analyse response from Thames Water when received.

Phil Lees

21 May 2023

ANNEXE B Payments made May 2023

Date	Payee	Amount £
16/5	Office Innovation	853.20
26/5	Phil Robinson reimbursement bus shelter	58.04
26/5	Internal Auditor	125.00
26/5	Office Innovation	590.92
26/5	Landscape Construction f/path bus shelter	1500.00

The usual DD and SO and Clerks Salary were also paid – usual sums.

Income received:

Bowls Club work reimbursed from WWRSAL £2575.00

Community Board payment for hedgelaying £930.00