

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 Councillor S Davidson
Apologies: Councillors Pugh, Walmsley & Lawrence
Clerk: Mrs J Flanders
Attendance: No Buckinghamshire Councillors
Parishioners: 5

1. Apologies for absences

Councillors Pugh, Walmsley and Lawrence sent in their apologies. There were no other apologies received. Councillor Chater was appointed Chair for the meeting.

2. Reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillor and the Police

None received.

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 12 December 2023 and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Planning Applications:

5.1 23/03879/APP 73 Winslow Road Wingrave for garage conversion, new front porch detail and fenestration alterations to left side elevation. Councillor Chater outlined the application and after a brief discussion the Councillors agreed unanimously to approve the Application.

5.2 23/03482/ALB Seabrook Farm Bennetts Lane Rowsham Listed building application for demolition of existing metal clad barn and Part demolition of existing dilapidated timber framed barn and replacement with new oak framed barn for use in connection with horse breeding. Councillor Chater outlined the application and reference was made to Councillor Lawrence hoping to visit the site and whilst there were no objections to the proposal it was thought the addition of bird nest boxes and/or bat boxes would be a good idea. The Councillors had no objection to the Application unanimously.

5.3 23/03956/APP Floyds Farm Cottage Mill Lane Wingrave Householder application for demolition of conservatory and erection of part single storey, part two storey side extension. Councillor Chater outlined the Application, and it was agreed there were no objections to the proposal, unanimously.

5.4 24/00006/ALB Pond Cottage, The Green Wingrave Listed building application for replace existing windows and doors on a like for like basis. No objections were raised.

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to any of the Planning Applications, unanimously.

6. Offer to improve pathway from the Recreation Ground along the front of The Green properties by Tim Jolley – to be considered & approved.

Mr Jolley explained his proposal and confirmed he does have a self-interest in this however the idea was to put stepping stones along the grass pathway from the Pub to the car park at The Green. These should be non-slip and he agreed to help with the installation. Councillor Robinson raised concern about future maintenance and it was thought this would be minimal. The general consensus was that it was a good idea and Mr Jolley agreed to provide costings for the project in both materials and labour costs and present to the Parish Council at a later date. He expressed his gratitude for the tentative support.

7. Thames Water Sewage Update – Phil Lees

Mr Lees presented a precis of his report (a copy of which is annexed here Annexe A) and confirmed that he would continue to follow up with Thames Water, Environment Agency as to progress with the proposed works. It was thought that the PC should wait to see if TW kept to their promise of work starting in March 2024 and if not to then reach out the MP. Councillor Chater agreed to try and speak with the Regional Manager for confirmation of TWs proposals. In the meantime, the Clerk agreed to contact Bucks Councillors to ask them how to proceed with the Contamination as Bucks Council are also responsible for surveying contamination.

8. D-Day Beacon Proposal Update

Councillor Barlow confirmed she had applied for Community Board funding and had notified the Pageant Master of the intention to hold the event. A Certificate would be issued and would be displayed at The Park. Councillor Chater confirmed that WWRSAI were keen to help at the event but not provide the Fish n Chips. It was thought outside caterers may be able to help with this. Councillor Barlow confirmed that the Fire Service had not responded to her request for help and advice. She also confirmed that the Bell Ringers would also be involved with the event. Pratts Charity had been asked to approve the proposal as well and a response awaited.

9. WRAG – Update on Survey on Climate.

Councillor Farrell confirmed that she had received 142 responses to the survey and was very please with this and the results. She read out some of the thoughts which showed the level of concern for Climate Change matters. See attached Report (Annexe B). She was proposing to put together a Working Group and it was suggested these be held on Thursday evenings at The Park. The results of the survey would be uploaded to the website.

10. Neighbourhood Plan – Update on Working Group.

Councillors Davidson and Chater outlined the plans for a meeting with Aecom later that week to initiate the design code review. It was stressed that the NHP update is required to keep the plan relevant and ensure it reflects the current tense for the 3 main developments now having been completed under this NHP.

11. Footpaths - Update – Confirm PCs deadline for return of forms from residents.

In Councillor Walmsleys' absence Mr Phil Lees who is part of the Working Group confirmed that the meeting with Rob Honan had been productive and reasonably positive. It is hoped that it was the start of a closer and beneficial relationship with the Ascott Estate/Farms. Discussions for circular walks using permissive paths were taking place.

It was not clear whether the Estate would raise objections to the Footpath Forms being completed. However, it was stated the deadline for the return of the forms was the end of January 2024.

12. Pond Railings – Accident and approval for insurance claim.

The Clerk confirmed that she had made an interim request with the insurance company that a claim may be made once she had obtained more information concerning the accident. The only information to hand was that a car had over-shot the junction of Winslow Road and Leighton Road and ended up in the Pond breaking the railings. Concern was raised as to contamination issues of the pond. It was agreed a claim should be pursued. Councillor Robinson agreed to find costings/quotes for the repair work and the Clerk would continue to find out mor details.

13. Approve Final Budget & Confirm Submission for precept.

The Councillors RESOLVED to approve the draft Budget as drawn and the Clerk agreed to submit the precept in the sum of £64,011.00 to Bucks Council.

14. Finance -

14.1 Clerk Update on balances. The Clerk apologised due to computer issues she was unable to provide an up-to-date note of all the balances but confirmed these would be emailed to Councillors.

For information the balances are as follows:

Community Account: £18084.83

Reserve Fund: £90618.59

Kirby Fund: 60069.43

14.2 Payments Made to-date. The Clerk reported the usual S/O and D/D had been made together with Building Regulations fees for the Pavilion and Bowls Clubhouse, Structural Engineers fees and Sensory Garden design costs.

Meeting Closed 8.50pm

ANNEXE A – Thames Water Sewage Works Report:

Visit to Wingrave Sewage Treatment Works

Following the detailed report sent to Thames Water's Chief Executive Officers a visit to Wingrave Sewage Treatment Works (STW) took place on 20 December 2023. I together with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, County Councillor Peter Cooper, the President of our local WI, the two local farmers whose farms have been affected by the poor performance of the STW and Geoff Tombs of Windrush Against Sewage Pollution met with Richard Aylard, Sustainability Director, Paul Hampton, Healthy Rivers Community Manager and Amanda Smith, Manager, Operations Manager for our area. Operation of the STW was explained together with some detail of the proposed upgrade.

Proposed Upgrade of STW

Contrary to the information on Thames Water's website we were told that the proposed upgrade would begin in March 2024 and take 12 months. The 97 page report on the upgrade was in Amanda Smith's in box awaiting review before the funds for the upgrade could be released. There appear to be three main components to the upgrade. Firstly improvements to processing when the flow first reaches the STW. This will include improved screening which should prevent the instances of sanitary items and condoms being seen in the watercourse as happened during December. Secondly the oversized pumps fitted to the storm overflow tanks in September, which can only safely operate when flow to the STW is low leaving the tanks full when they are most needed, are to be replaced by variable speed pumps. This will reduce the number and duration of storm discharges. Thirdly improved tertiary treatment aimed at stripping phosphates. There does not appear to be a strong need for this at Wingrave STW. There are no plans to increase the flow to treatment (hydraulic) capacity which Thames Water previously identified as an issue in their EDM annual return for 2022. This issue has been exacerbated by the increase in population from the three recent housing developments in Wingrave. Most worryingly Thames Water appears to have agreed with the Environment Agency that following the proposed upgrade the new Environmental Permit for the STW will stipulate the same population equivalent as when the existing permit was issued in 2019 thereby ignoring the increase in population recorded by the 2022 census and the increase from the additional 130 houses built and occupied since the census. The new permit would leave the overflow setting and dry water flow setting unchanged making it easier for Thames Water to comply with the permit but still resulting in excessive storm overflow discharges. I will be writing to the Environment Agency, and alerting Ofwat, advising them that leaving the population equivalent level unchanged in the new permit could be seen as negligence, implicating them for damage to the environment from future excessive discharges. Thames Water did undertake to liaise closely with the Parish Council regarding implementation of the upgrade. They also undertook to advise Peter Cooper of the population level the STW would be able to cope with post upgrade.

Report to Thames Water CEOs and Future Actions :

Thames Water have failed to respond to my detailed report on the poor performance of the STW by the date they promised. I will therefore be writing to the Environment Agency regarding the problems identified including • major maintenance activity on one of the large trickle filtration units during the Winter which, as Thames Water acknowledged on our visit and as it proved to be, the most difficult time of year to reestablish

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Signed by Chairman

the microorganisms necessary for the aerobic treatment process, plus failure to take effective action to prevent storm overflow discharges during that period • taking six months to replace the failed automatic storm return pumps, an unacceptable delay for such a critical component, then installing oversized pumps which can only be used when flow into the STW is very low, the antithesis of what is needed, raising questions of engineering competence • the long term frequent failure to process flow at the overflow setting when the overflow tanks are filling or discharging, as required by the Environmental Permit, a situation which has worsened, in October 2023 when the STW failed to achieve that rate during 83% of the storm discharge hours • the increasing number of storm discharges which totalled a record 2,200 hours in 2023 for Wingrave STW (including 250 hours in late October/early November which Thames Water 'missed' when their engineers incorrectly set the monitor following a problem) Rest assured I will continue to monitor performance of the STW and pursue the issues identified with those I consider to be at fault.

Phil Lees 2 January 2024

ANNEXE B – Climate – SWAG Report:

A full report and ideas of how to take things forward will be produced after the next working group. The next meeting of the working group will be on 25th January, at 7pm to which individuals who expressed an interest in being part of things will be invited.

We can begin think what steps to take next and where to focus our energy, including connecting up with the climate work that Bucks council is doing. We will come back to the Parish Council once we have done that. There is a good level of interest in wanting to take part in and learn about changes in the climate and how we might benefit both the Parish and the wider world.

Its suggestions and proposals of next steps will then be brought back to the next Parish Council Meeting in February.

Any thoughts on location for future working group meetings and would PC be willing to fund meeting room for the next one?

Do you think it would be a good idea to upload the raw data from the survey onto the website? It is currently in an excel spreadsheet.

Question One was 'What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of climate change?' It I have arranged the answers into 4 prose poems using every answer given. Here is one.

1. The End of the World.

Extinction.

The world ending.

My grandchildren.

Parts of the world becoming uninhabitable for humans and wildlife. Disaster for the human race.

Future generations. Threat to life. Next generation. Threat to life on earth

Terrible suffering for future generations.

Disaster.

Global disaster.

Horrifying consequences if we do not change the way we live.

Exaggerated. Crisis. Doom and gloom. Hype and exaggeration. It's a natural evolution. It might be an earth cycle and not man made. Exaggeration. Anti-Human Ideology

Disruption of our planet's delicate balance induced by human behaviour. Fear for my kids' future. The likely effect on my offspring, Destruction of the planet as we know it.

The damage we have already caused to the planet and concern for the future of our planet and children. Scary - Scare mongering. Uncertainty

Greed and ignorance has got us where we are. People, companies and governments ignoring the facts for profit.

Fear. Fear. Worry. Denial and greed.

Sad. Not sure. Confusion. Inevitable.

Concern for future generations of my family and the wildlife and ecosystems of our planet.

It's perfectly natural.

Questions 2 to 18.

To be brief and not overwhelm with too many numbers I have arranged the responses to the remaining 17 questions into 3 sections.

Information gathering,

Individual emissions make up 27% of the carbon emissions total and just over 30% of people got this right. The most watched documentary was David Attenborough' *Frozen Planet* series. 89% had watched it. Less than 20% people had seen *Breaking Boundaries: The Science of our Planet. A David Attenborough and Johan Rockstrom Documentary* and *Joe Lycett and Big Oil*.

There were 8 suggestions for climate heroes in the Parish.

Over 80% of people would support the Wingrave with Rowsham initiative to manage road verges to support biodiversity.

Taking Part

There were people wanting to take part on short projects on energy usage, food, transport, local verges and finance. The first two were the most popular.

We have had 8 people come forward wanting to be involved in education or an open day.

There was one passivhaus owner who is willing to be visited.

75 people who completed the survey wanted to know their carbon footprint and 14 people already use an app in the Parish, with the majority using the UN carbon footprint calculator.

Out of the 142 replies only 10 people wanted to train to be carbon literate.

The idea of a climate club for children was answered by less than 50% of respondents and there were just 3 yes'.

What people want

Just under 100 people answered the question on talks or an open day and it was split 50 50 between yes and no. There were some interesting written answers and suggestions which I think it would be good to pursue and that we will bring back next time.

There was some interest in visits. The top two being Arla and the Recycling Centre.

77 people said they would like recommendations on what to read and watch and the same number were interested in learning about greenwashing and how to spot it.

There were 3 comments directed at the Parish Council criticising its failure to support solar farm developments and planning requests involving roof insulation.

Poem number 2.

The Future

The young adult novel Exodus by Julie Bertagna, about a teenager living in a world flooded by rising sea levels. I read it when I was 14 and have wanted to do something about climate change ever since

I feel really worried.

We must do more.

How can I make a difference?

More green matters. Sustainability.

That perhaps what we are all trying to do isn't enough. Politics.

There are 2 more prose poems *Our Environment*, and *Weather Weather*.