

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 Farrell & Robinson
Clerk: Mrs J Flanders
Attendance: No Buckinghamshire Councillors
Parishioners: 5

1. Apologies for absences

Councillors Farrell and Robinson sent in their apologies. There were no other apologies received.

2. Reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillor and the Police

None received.

Councillor Barlow asked if the Clerk could message the Bucks Councillors and ask for an update on the knocked over signage, bollards and gate along the A418 at Rowsham.

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 27 November 2023 and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Planning Applications:

5.1 23/02225/APP Land At Aylesbury Road Wingrave - Placement of a prefabricated mobile structure for office and laboratory kitchen, secure storage, and erection of wormery and birds coop, and an area for parking.

Councillor Pugh outlined the application and stated this was the second time this had been produced and previously the Parish Council had objected on the basis there was not sufficient information and clarification was needed as to whether this was a change of use application to business use or for an agricultural use. Discussion took place regarding the new information but concern was raised as to access onto the A418 and the presence of great crested newts. There was a thought that the buildings and car park area in particular were more permanent and out of keeping with the surrounding field. It was also stated that the proposed use did not benefit Policy 1 Paragraph 3. It was therefore decided to object to the application. IT was RESOLVED to object to the Application on grounds of Policy 1, concern over access onto a busy A418 and reservations as to Great Crested Newts 6 Councillors agreed to object and one abstained.

5.2 23/03750/ALB & 23/03752/APP Maltbys Farm 40 Mill Lane Wingrave Listed building application & planning application for single storey extension to replace existing conservatory. Councillor Pugh outlined both applications and after a brief discussion it was agreed there were no objections to this Application. It was RESOLVED to approve the application unanimously.

6. D-Day Beacon Proposal: Discussion of Location(s) & Costings

Councillor Barlow went through her Report and history as to why the D-Day Celebration was so important before outlining the costs of the different types of beacon. It was agreed subject to approval from the Pratts Charity and WWRSAL that on top of the mound at the far end of The Park would be suitable not least because of the distance from houses and buildings and the sports ground. Councillor Chater agreed to contact WWRSAL to ask if they would agree to the event being held at The Park. Councillor Barlow explained there was a 60m guidance for such Beacons from roads and buildings and she was contacting

the Fire Service for further advice. Councillor Barlow was also awaiting confirmation of insurance costs from Unity. The cost of a one use gas beacon is £549, a more permanent beacon basket on a pole approximately £1500 plus fitting. It was felt a permanent one made more sense and would be available for future events. The theme was the Celebration on 6th June 2024 is fish n chips and it was thought The Park should have first refusal to provide this before finding a suitable fish and chip mobile van. It was also agreed that Councillor Barlow would register with Pageant Master. Councillor Pugh summarised that the Parish Council would agree to a permanent Beacon, to approach WWSAL and Pratts Charity for approval as the The Park and Councillor Barlow approach the Fire Service for advice and the budget of £2100 set. Funding to be applied from the Kirby Fund and Community Board. It was RESOLVED to agree to the above unanimously.

7. WRAG – Update on Survey on Climate.

In the absence of Councillor Farrell, Councillor Pugh reminded all that the survey needed completing as it would provide useful information for the Neighbourhood Plan.

8. Update on new Pavilion & Bowls Clubhouse Project.

Councillor Chater confirmed that the tender documents were nearly complete and the Tender Portal would be open until 9th February 2024.

9. Neighbourhood Plan – Update on Working Group

Councillor Davidson confirmed she had had a productive meeting with Sally and had been assisted by some residents and Councillors. The main purpose was to update the Neighbourhood Plan to put certain items in the past tense such as the three developments and to acknowledge the ‘green’ spaces which now exist within them as designated green spaces within the village, adding photographs and thus retaining the protection. Councillor Walmsley asked if it could include aspirations to slow traffic through Wingrave. Councillor Davidson also stated it needed to be updated to include a Design Code such as insistence of solar installations and electric charging points and much more. Councillor Davidson will report more after future meetings.

10. Footpaths – Update

Councillor Walmsley was hoping to get the return of the Footpath Witness Forms by mid January 2024. She confirmed that she was due to have a meeting with Robert Honan of the Ascott Estate and very hoped to achieve agreement with more permissive paths and circular walks and would report back at the next meeting.

11. Approve draft Budget for precept.

The Clerk presented the proposed Budget and explained that whilst there was an increase in the amount of Council Tax of 5%. The precept was calculated as £64,011. Councillors showed concern that this might be too much but on reflection could see that costs had increased and this figure had been devised by ensuring costs were calculated accurately to ensure there was hopefully no shortfall in the coming year. The Clerk confirmed that the cost for the current year had matched the previous year which had been partly due to the new properties. It was agreed to accept the draft Budget as drawn and a copy would be on the website. It was RESOLVED to approve the Budget unanimously.

12. Children’s Playground Inspection.

The Clerk explained concern over the cost of inspecting not only the Children's Playground at the Recreation Ground but also the gym equipment. It was agreed that all should be visually checked weekly and the Handyman should once a month do a more thorough check and report as usual to the Parish Clerk of any defects or concerns. It was also suggested that the Clerk should investigate other companies who may offer a more competitive rate for inspecting all equipment and play areas once a year altogether.

13.Finance -

13.1 Clerk Update on balances as follows:

Community Current Account £48303.69

Kirby Fund £60069.43

Reserve Fund £65618.59.

The Clerk confirmed she was transferring £25000 from the Community Current Account to the Reserve Fund to increase the potential interest and it was agreed this was a good idea. It was also suggested that a higher interest account could be found for either the Kirby Fund or the Reserve Fund.

13.2 Payments Due:

Office Innovation for the footpath forms £75 plus VAT

Sensory Garden Project – Liz Miles £250

Sports ground maintenance – Elite Turf £1440 – to be reimbursed by Junior Football Club.

13.3 Clerks Pay Award – Councillor Pugh confirmed that it was agreed to increase the Clerks Pay from April 2024 to £11,000 to include the 'working from home' element of £500 and the Clerk agreed.

Meeting Closed 2105 hours