

Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Present: Mr R Jarrett (Chairman), Mr G Page, Mr M Patterson, Mrs J Burnett, Mrs A Gordon-Finlayson.

In attendance: Clerk, County and District Cllr Reynolds, District Cllr Chapman, 0 members of the public

83. Apologies for absence – Apologies received – Cllr Nigel Bankes. Apologies accepted – none.

84. Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None.

85. Public participation session – None.

86. Election of Vice-Chairman – It was proposed and agreed to elect Cllr Julie Burnett as the Vice-Chair.

87. To approve the minutes of the PC meeting held on 28th November 2023 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

88. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- 88.1 HS2 update – Road closures will take place through the year – full details and maps can be found on <https://wardington.net/2024/01/hs2-traffic-management-affecting-wardington/>
- 88.2 Defibrillator/CPR training session – **Clerk to e-mail St John Ambulance contact details to Cllr Julie Burnett for her to organise a session directly with them and Clerk to advertise the session to parishioners when confirmed.**
- 88.3 Maintenance/repairs to the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in the village – Highways have advised that they will replace any VASs that they cannot recalibrate to the 20mph limit but they still have not fixed the broken sign in Wardington. **Cllr Bob Jarrett will contact SWARCO to see if the device that is broken can be recalibrated** if it is fixed as this may negate the need to chase up repair if it will need to be replaced anyway. **Cllr Reynolds will chase up Highways again on the need for repair of the VAS.**
- 88.4 Update on bench outside the Churchyard – Still not installed. **Clerk to chase up the contractor.**
- 88.5 Update re concerns raised by parishioners about the state of the grass outside Post Office Cottage, Mount Pleasant, due to vehicle access – As requested at the last meeting a request to planning enforcement has been submitted and they have confirmed it is recorded under reference 23/00551/ENF. Cherwell District Council (CDC) will now look into this to confirm whether or not planning permission is required.
- 88.6 Accessibility to the website for parishioners – It was suggested that anyone who would like to put info on the website should contact Andrew Steven who is the main administrator for the site to ask if he can put an item on for them or if they are a village organisation who would like to make regular posts they could ask Andrew if they could have their own login.

89. Play Area

- 89.1 Play equipment safety inspection – The Clerk confirmed that an inspection has taken place today and there are no issues to report. **Cllr Lexi Gordon-Finlayson agreed to complete the inspections going forward.**

90. Planning applications received

23/03481/TCA - Wardington Lodge, Wardington. T1 (Holm Oak) - large and grown only to one side. Now has a large split in it at the lowest union with a huge amount of weight on it. Application is to remove the tree down to a 12 foot stump and to be left for insect habitat. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

Cllr Reynolds left the meeting @ 8:07pm.

23/03061/F - Post Office Cottage, Mount Pleasant, Wardington. Two storey rear extension, garage and carriage house (revised scheme of 23/01965/F). **Comment only - The Parish Council appreciate that the proposed development will significantly improve the street scene and are keen for improvements to be made. The Parish Council has had a number of concerns about work completed on the site without prior planning permission (see enforcement case reference 23/00551/ENF) but believe that most of those items are covered under this planning application with one outstanding item being the change of use for business purposes. Should this be included within this application or does it require a separate application?**

23/03428/OUT - OS Parcel 7921 South Of Huscote Farm And North West Of County Boundary, Daventry Road, Banbury. Outline planning application for the construction of up to 140,000 sqm of employment floorspace (use class B8) with ancillary offices and facilities and servicing and infrastructure including new site accesses. Internal roads and footpaths, landscaping including earthworks to create development platforms and bunds, drainage features and other associated works including demolition of the existing farmhouse. **Object. Clerk to submit previous objection. The full objection can be found on the CDC planning portal.**

23/03574/AGN - Dsy Uk, Top Dawkins, Wardington Road, Wardington. Erection of a steel portal framed agricultural building extension, matching design, construction and materials of existing adjoining barns. **No objection.**

91. Planning decisions received

23/00568/TCA - The Mounts, Thorpe Road, Wardington. T1 x Hazel - coppice back to previous (up to 0.25 metres above ground level). **Approved.**

23/02858/F - Land South Of Sewage Works, Williamscot Road, Cropredy. Erection of new stable block. **Approved.**

Cllr Chapman left the meeting at 8:22pm.

92. Finance

92.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 03.01.2024 – Noted.

Bank balances

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| PC Current | £489.44 |
| PC Savings | £26,224.31 |
| Uncashed cheques | -£20.00 |
| Total | £26,693.75 |

| | WPC Main | Williamscott | Total |
|---|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Cashbook balances as at 03.01.24 | £19,436.30 | £7,257.45 | £26,693.75 |

92.2 To note and approve payment of the following invoices already paid using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

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|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 04.01.24 | Chacombe Parish Council | Contribution to Clerk's laptop | £112.22 |
| 20.12.23 | Kirsty Buttle | Salary December | £453.61 |
| 20.12.23 | HMRC | Tax December | £6.00 |
| 29.12.23 | NEST | Pension December | £17.61 |
| 31.12.23 | Unity Bank | Account fee | £18.00 |
| 04.01.24 | Cluster Care | Donation | £300.00 |
| 20.12.23 | Wardington Memorial Hall | Room hire Jan to Mar | £71.04 |

92.3 To note the following receipts: Noted.

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|----------|------------|----------|---------|
| 31.12.23 | Unity Bank | Interest | £189.37 |
|----------|------------|----------|---------|

92.4 To note completion and internal controls checks of quarterly bank reconciliations for Apr to Jun, Jul to Sep, and Oct to Dec 2023 – Cllr Bob Jarrett confirmed the checks have taken place and all was found to be in order.

92.5 To agree the budget and resulting precept for 2024-25 – It was proposed and agreed to set a budget of £16,450 resulting in a precept of £12,600 with the difference being funded by surplus income (due to early VAT reclaim) from 2023-24 and income in 2024-25. **Clerk to submit precept demand.**

93. Information exchange – Cllr Lexi Gordon-Finlayson advised that she is stepping down as the editor of The Warbler and this is now being taken on by Julie Campbell and Jane Mackenzie-Lawrie. The councillors expressed their thanks to Cllr Gordon-Finlayson for all of her work on the Warbler over the years. It is understood that the new editors will be making some changes to The Warbler including the frequency of publication and it was agreed that the **Clerk should invite the new editors to the next PC meeting to talk to the PC about their plans.**

It was noted that there are issues with flooding on Thorpe Road and with the weather turning colder there is now a high risk of ice in that area. Cllr George Page advised that there has been a tanker there today removing the water but within 24 hours it fills up again as the water from the spring feeding the pond continues to run and the drains are blocked deep in the system so just clearing the surface is not adequate and Highways need to arrange for drain clearing immediately after removing the water. **Clerk to contact Highways to ask if they are planning to clear the drains to prevent the problem reoccurring rather than just sending tankers out to clear the water which only provides a very short term solution.**

A Cllr asked when the grit bin that the PC has ordered to be placed just past Fernhill Farm will be installed. The Clerk has chased Oxfordshire County Council on this and they have advised that installation will take place before the end of next week.

Cllr Patterson gave his apologies for the next meeting.

Meeting closed @ 8:48pm.

Date of next meeting – 13th February 2024

Signed..... Date.....