

Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Present: Mr R Jarrett (Chairman), Mr M Patterson, Mr N Bankes, Mr G Page, Mrs J Herd, Mr R Reid, Mr M Chivers.

In attendance: Clerk, 0 members of the public.

93.Apologies for absence – Apologies were received from District Cllrs Brant and Chapman, and County Cllr Reynolds.

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

95.Public participation session – Cllr Herd declared an interest on item 104.8 so will not vote on that item.

96.To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 14th January 2025 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

97.Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- 97.1 Update re flooding on Thorpe Road and water running down the A361 – Since the last meeting a number of meetings have been held at The Hare and Hounds which were organised by Nicola from the pub. Thanks were expressed for Nicola as her involvement accelerated Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) getting work done. OCC have cleared out the drains and are having some issues with the pipe that goes to the lake at the Manor. The pipe has been inspected but OCC feel that laying a new pipe down the field would be a very expensive job so they decided they will instead enlarge the chamber on the footpath opposite Sabins and make a special outlet that when the water gets too high it will flood the field. The flood has gone for now but OCC will continue to arrange for the works to be completed to try to prevent further flooding.
- 97.2 Update re Parish Council communication with parishioners – It was noted that there was some concern about the PC's decision at the last meeting to stop putting the full minutes in the Warbler so it was agreed not to make this change and continue submitting the full minutes for publication.
- 97.3 HS2 update – There are currently around 300 vehicle movements a day – last year the peak was around 254 per day. HS2 would like to come to the village to do another presentation about the construction progress, updates on the Edgcote Viaduct, and how they are making the Chipping Warden Green Tunnel. **Cllr Bob Jarrett to advise them that the PC are happy for them to come and will suggest a date.** HS2 lorries are parking in the layby on the A361 as you enter the village from Banbury and now there seems to be a significant amount of litter there so it was agreed to ask HS2 if they could send someone down to clear the litter. **Cllr Bob Jarrett to ask HS2 if they will arrange some litter picking in the layby.**

98.Play Area

- 98.1 Update re play equipment safety inspections – Inspections have taken place and the actions raised have been dealt with.
- 98.2 Update re repairs instructed – The work has been started.

99.Discussion re the calculations used to categorise the village in the Cherwell District Council (CDC) Local Plan – Some discrepancies in the scoring system used by CDC have been raised by The Bourtons Parish Council. This has been raised with the district councillor to try to find out what impact this has on Wardington. It appears that the categorisation means limited development can take place in Wardington so under current legislation it does not appear that Wardington is at any risk but this is something worth being aware of in any future consultations.

100.Proposal to make a request to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for additional streetlights in the parish – A Cllr has suggested that more streetlights in the parish would improve safety, particularly in light of the recent spate of burglaries. It was noted that the last time a survey took place in the village about additional streetlighting there was not a lot of support for it although this was 10-15 years ago so views may have changed. After some discussion it was agreed that the first step would be to find out from OCC what their streetlighting policy is and then depending on whether their policy suggests they would be open to the idea of additional streetlighting the PC could then decide it should find out if this is something parishioners want.
Clerk to contact OCC to find out what their policy is.

101.Proposal to consider purchasing additional benches to be installed in Wardington – It was agreed that there are already sufficient benches in the parish so no further benches are required.

102.Planning applications received

25/00083/CLUE - Units 1 and 2 Coton Lodge Wardington. Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use for Use of the buildings and surrounding land for Class E (g)(iii) light industrial. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

24/03087/LB – Wisteria Cottage, Wardington. Roof repairs, replace four rear windows, replace two rooflights and insertion of one new one, replace oak window lintel to kitchen window, guttering repairs, patch pointing and chimney repairs. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

25/00470/TCA – Wisteria Cottage, Street from Banbury Road to Mount Pleasant, Wardington. T1 - Cherry- Crown reduce by 2m. T2 - Cherry. Removal of cherry suppressed by nearby walnut to ground level. T3 - Yew. Remove to a 1m pole due to close proximity to adjacent tree buttressing. **No objection.**

103.Planning decisions received

23/03391/F and 23/03392/LB – The Old Butchers, Banbury Road Through Wardington, Wardington. Old Butchers - Main house - extend rear porch, replacement of 3 no windows with facsimile replica units, install new kitchen, remove partition wall, insert new hardwood beam, remove suspended timber floor - install new floor to kitchen f.f.l. Old Barn - Remove timber cladding and temporary doors, make good stone masonry, insert new traditional timber doors and frames, repair roof - re-slate with existing salvaged slates, insert breather membrane and insulation. Cut and trim for 3no new conservation rooflights. Reduce level on floor and insert new breather floor slab. Insert new timber staircase and partition for w.c. shower, new timber window units inserted into existing and new openings. General repairs and structural repairs. **Approved.**

APP/C3105/W/24/3341576 - Barn Farm Plants, Barn Farm, Thorpe Road, Wardington. To develop the site for 7-9 dwellings with associated access, parking and amenity space. **Appeal allowed and Permission in Principle granted.**

22/02607/F – High Wardington House, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Erection of carport. **Approved.**

24/02696/F and 24/02697/LB – Wardington Manor, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of 21/02814/F - Modification of main house coats, boots and plant room, including introduction of chimney. Replacement of existing CCTV. General update of internal finishes, fitted joinery and radiators. Addition of window to stables workshop. **Approved.**

104.Finance

104.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 12.03.2025 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£255.87
PC Savings	£25,084.88
Total	£25,340.75

	WPC Main	Williamscott	Total
Cashbook balances as at 12.03.25	£17,366.29	£7,974.46	£25,340.75

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

27.01.25	Parish Magazine Printing	Warbler printing Feb 25 edition	£312.75
27.01.25	CDC	Uncontested election	£200.00
27.01.25	Kirsty Buttle	Salary January	£480.25
27.01.25	HMRC	Tax January	£2.40
31.01.25	NEST	Pension January	£18.49
31.01.25	Unity Bank	Service charge	£6.00
18.02.25	Kirsty Buttle	Salary February	£480.25
18.02.25	HMRC	Tax February	£2.40
28.02.25	NEST	Pension February	£18.49
18.02.25	Kirsty Buttle	Defib battery	£246.00
28.02.25	Unity Bank	Service charge	£6.00

104.3 To note the following receipts: Noted.

15.01.25	Smiths Newsagents	Warbler	£100.00
16.01.25	Francis Tuthill Ltd	Warbler	£50.00
20.01.25	Barn Farm Plants	Warbler	£80.00
20.01.25	Sylvan Shack Ltd	Warbler	£30.00
23.01.25	Lawrence Furnishings	Warbler	£80.00
24.01.25	Funeral Partners	Warbler	£100.00
04.02.25	E H Douglas	Warbler	£80.00

104.4 To approve payment of the following invoices:

Kirsty Buttle	Salary March	£480.05
HMRC	Tax March	£2.60
NEST	Pension March	£18.49

OALC	Annual membership	£216.00
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- 104.5 To review the spend against budget to date – The spend against budget to date was reviewed with no concerns raised.
- 104.6 To agree the following regular payments list from the 2025/26 agreed budget delegating authority to the clerk to make payments to relevant suppliers up to the budget total. All payments will need to be authorised online by 2 councillors in order for the payment to be made – Proposed and agreed.

Clerk's Salary & Tax	6,528.00
Room Hire	250.00
Insurance	650.00
Administration	100.00
Bank Charges	80.00
Audit	135.00
Training	200.00
S137	50.00
Subscriptions and donations	350.00
Playground Inspection and Maintenance	750.00
Dog Bin Emptying	750.00
Grass Cutting	3,700.00
Village Maintenance	300.00
Warbler Printing	1,650.00

- 104.7 To note the increase in prices of grass cutting to £376 per cut for the 2025 season – Noted and accepted.
- 104.8 Request from parishioner for the Parish Council to make a grant of up to £1250 to the Wardington Short Mat Bowls Club towards the total cost (£2,848 – now £2500) of replacement mats – After some discussion it was agreed that the PC should not use public funds to fund any individual groups that are chargeable for it's members therefore will not provide the funds requested for this application and the Clerk should respond to any future requests from groups who charge to take part advising that the PC does not provide grants to such organisations. **Clerk to inform the requestor of the PC's decision.**
- 105.To agree date(s) for the 2025 Spring Clean/Litter Pick** – The litter picking equipment has been ordered to be delivered on Friday 4th April and will be collected on Monday 14th April. It was

agreed that the equipment should be delivered to an easily accessible central location so parishioners can easily get the equipment. Previously Barn Farm Plants has agreed to hold the equipment so it was agreed that the **Clerk should contact them to ask if they would be willing to do that this year.** The main litter pick will take place at 11am on 5th April but those who cannot attend that day would be welcome to do their own litter picks using the equipment during the time the PC have the equipment on loan. **Clerk to advertise the event once the collection point has been agreed.**

106.Information exchange – A Cllr raised concerns that some Fixmystreet reports in Williamscot haven't been updated since Nov and Dec. The Clerk advised that Highways were chased on this and they replied on 12th March advising the issues were resolved or would be updated that day but they have still not been updated so the **Clerk agreed to chase them up again.** Cllr Chivers advised he is going to sign up to be a Fixmystreet superuser.

107.Proposal to exclude the public and the press in order to discuss a confidential staff matter – Proposed and agreed.

108.To review the Clerk's payscale for the 2025-26 financial year – It was proposed and agreed to no longer follow the NJC payscales due to them being agreed late in the year and then requiring backdated pay to April which can cause issues with tax and NI. It was agreed to increase the clerk's hourly rate by 4% to £18.74 per hour effective from 1st April 2025.

Meeting closed @ 9:15pm

Date of next meeting – 13th May 2025

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