



Minutes of the meeting of Waters Upton Parish Council which took place on **Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 7.30pm** in **Waters Upton Village Hall**.

PRESENT: Councillors: J Quin (Vice Chairman)
K Hamilton
E Thomas
T Revitt

In attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
10 Members of the Public
PCSP I Collumbell

23/0097 WELCOME

The Acting Chairman extended a warm welcome to members and the public and thanked everyone for attending.

Nichola Ward was to attend, to give a presentation from Recruitment and Family Finding in TW, but had sent apologies from the Team, due to health issues. It is hoped that attendance will be possible in the future.

23/0098 PUBLIC SESSION

The following matters were raised:

- The importance of re-opening the footpath from Pinfold Croft to Swan Court – using River Lane is not a safe pedestrian route
- Poor condition of roads, especially Catsbitch Lane and Meeson Road
- Condition of the Swan site
- The proposal for additional housing in the draft Local Plan

23/0099 APOLOGIES

Councillor H Roberts	Holiday	Accepted
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It was proposed by Councillor Quin, seconded by Councillor Hamilton, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the apologies, as listed, be accepted.

PC McNally
Councillor S Bentley - attending Planning Committee at TWC.

VACANCY

One vacancy exists, anyone interested in applying should contact the Clerk for details of how to apply.

23/0100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None

23/0101 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25th OCTOBER 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Thomas, with one abstention, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the October meeting be accepted and signed by the Chairman.

23/0102 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING

None.

23/0103 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

a) Financial Reports

- a) Payments
There were no payments for authorisation
- b) The Current Account has £46,019.15
- c) The interest received on the CCLA was £205.86 for October.
- d) Community Governance Review
Members had discussed this initially at the last meeting and agreed that no changes to the boundary were necessary. Further thought had been given to whether 6 Councillors is the appropriate number of members for a Council of this size. It was proposed by Councillor Quin, seconded by Councillor Hamilton, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would respond to the consultation to confirm that no changes are required.

23/0104 PLANNING

a) Planning Updates

- i) TWC/2023/0684 2 Terrill Cottages
TWC had responded to the Parish Council's concerns that no drainage plan was included in the application and confirmed that TWC has ensured that the agent is aware that there is a need for a septic tank / treatment plant as it is not possible to use the existing system.

b) Planning Applications for Consideration

- i) **TWC/2023/0841 Hilltop, Land South of The Mount**
Erection of a detached dwelling

Councillor Quin had visited the site in order to understand its size and location. Members discussed the proposal to replace a static caravan with a detached dwelling. Cold Hatton is not a named settlement identified as suitable for development and therefore any proposal on this site would be contrary to policies in the Waters Upton Neighbourhood Plan and the TW Local Plan. There have been previous applications for this site, all refused (including on appeal).

In addition to being contrary to policy, the proposal appears to be overdevelopment of the site and the drainage scheme appears to take up the garden area.

Members are also aware of outstanding matters relating to the drainage of the holiday let and would question the access to the site, from a private lane.

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would strongly object to this application as it is contrary to the Waters Upton Neighbourhood Plan and TW Local Plan.

c) Waters Upton Neighbourhood Plan

- i) The Parish Council continues to monitor the Neighbourhood Plan for effectiveness and its policies are used in the determination of planning applications.
- ii) The next meeting regarding the review of the Neighbourhood Plan will take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 6th December 2023 at 7pm. All residents in the Parish are encouraged to attend. This will also be an opportunity to consider the draft Local Plan which is currently out of consultation. Members are keen to understand the knock on effect of a significant number of properties being developed at nearby Shawburch and Wappenhall. The additional properties will bring about more vehicles at Shawburch Roundabout particularly and they will put further strain on the highway network and on the nearby Princess Royal Hospital. Members are keen to hear all local views and opinion. Other comments for consideration included the lack of appropriate infrastructure – dentists and doctors etc. and the use of green spaces. It is important that there is a defined boundary for the rural area, to protect it from urban sprawl. It will be important to confirm the boundary of the villages.

d) Other Planning Matters

i) Enforcement Matters

TWC had confirmed that the legal case has been completed in a local enforcement matter and that a date will be announced in the near future.

ii) Local Plan Review – Consultation

The Chairman proposed that a drop-in session be arranged in the Village Hall with TW officers available to answer any questions and to enable local residents to comment on the draft Local Plan which will be effective from 2031 to 2040..

23/0105

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) All correspondence received for the attention of the Councillors has been circulated and no requests had been received for items to be added to this agenda.**

b) Information from Shropshire Association of Local Councils

All information and News Bulletins are shared with Members and useful information and guidance is included in the publications, which include advice from NALC and other organisations. The AGM took place on 3rd November, on Zoom, and was well attended.

c) Wrekin Area Committee AGM

The Minutes and a copy of the Community Governance Review presentation had been circulated to all Members.

d) Crudgington School – request for raffle prizes

It is not possible for the Parish Council to donate raffle prizes, however members and local residents may choose to do so.

It was proposed by Councillor Thomas that £200 be donated direct to Crudgington School for the purchase of books for the library in order to enrich the education of the pupils. This was seconded by Councillor Hamilton, with three members in favour it was

RESOLVED that the Parish Council offers a grant of £200 (from investment interest) direct to Crudgington School for the purchase of books for their library.

e) Changes to Elections

Following the introduction of Photo ID for voting in person from May 2023, ID is now required for postal and proxy votes – you can apply on line at www.gov.uk. It is recommended that you take the opportunity to do this as soon as possible not to wait until an election is called, when the system will be very busy.

23/0106

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

a) Updates

The current road closure in Waters Upton is for STW to complete water connections. The contractors have been understanding and helpful and have opened the road as much as possible.

b) Secondary School Transport

Councillor Bentley has attended a meeting with the Safeguarding Team at TWC to explain the concern of parents. It appears that punctuality has improved, but there are still days when the bus does not arrive and parents had not been notified which is not acceptable.

c) Rural Bus Service and Bus Shelter

There remains a current request for the bus to travel to Great Bolas from Cold Hatton and then to continue to Waters Upton. A request for a bus shelter to be provided on the A442 opposite the Swan for a new bus stop is being considered.

d) Speedwatch Sessions

Thanks were recorded to the volunteers who had undertaken sessions recently, a further session will take place at the weekend.

23/0107

WATERS UPTON PARISH CENTRE

The Chairman of the Waters Upton Parish Centre Management Committee, Lynda Baker Oliver, had forwarded a recommendation to the Parish Council following a number of meetings which had taken place with officers of TWC to gather information relating to the TW request for a temporary 'fix' solution to the current sewerage issues from Pear Tree Development.

There remain unanswered questions with regards to this serious environmental issue and no one has admitted the responsibility for allowing the use of a storm drain for sewerage. The treatment works in Upton Stones is at capacity and STW have to visit regularly to ensure it is working effectively for the current connections. It was proposed by Councillor Quin, seconded by Councillor Hamilton, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would support the recommendation from the Management Committee and would not allow a temporary connection to the treatment works via the Parish Centre sewerage system.

Members believed that a permanent solution is needed and there are a number of options available to TWC and STW to achieve this and therefore do not need to do this via the Parish Centre and Upton Stones Treatment Works.

23/0108

WEST MERCIA POLICE

a) Rural PCSO Report

The meeting welcomed PCSO Collumbell and thanked him for taking time to attend the meeting. Ivan gave a short report from PC McNally. This included details relating to agricultural thefts nearby (but not in this parish). If anyone sees anything suspicious or 'out of place' this can be reported on 101 or by email. Many tractors now have in-built technology – such as immobilisers and trackers which are a great help in recovery.

b) Using Neighbourhood Matters

It is important to be registered for Neighbourhood Matters. This is a two-way communication system and is a useful way to gain and share information.

c) Rural Parish Vehicle

The Clerk reported that Inspector Sanders is working up a business plan to bring this project to completion. A maintenance plan has now been agreed for the vehicle. However, there is a wish to use the current vehicle (from Newport) and that the funding from the Parish Councils would be used to replace the vehicle. Members were concerned as this was not the original proposal.

The Clerk was instructed to inform Inspector Sanders that a new project plan and proposal would be needed for the Parish Council to consider the funding that could be available to assist.

23/0109

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Quin had represented the Parish Council at the Remembrance Sunday service at Waters Upton.

23/0110

INFORMATION FROM TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL – Councillor Stephen Bentley

Councillor Stephen Bentley has been representing the community on the following topics:

Secondary School Transport, Rural Bus Provision and Bus Shelters, Condition of the Highways, Planning Applications and enquiries, Local Plan Review and the Swan ACV

23/0111

PARISH MATTERS

Fly-tipping – Crudgington Lay-by on A442

Dog Fouling

Speed concerns on road from A442 to A53

23/0112

NEXT MEETING

6th December 2023

7pm

Neighbourhood Plan

WUVH

20th December 2023

7.30pm

Full Council

WUVH

Followed by light refreshments – everyone welcome

The Chairman thanked Members for their important contributions and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

SignedDate

These Minutes are produced in draft form. E & OE until confirmed as a true record by Full Council at the next meeting on 20th December 2023.