



Minutes of the meeting of Waters Upton Parish Council which took place on **Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 7.30pm** in **Waters Upton Village Hall**.

PRESENT: Councillors: H Roberts (Chairman)
J Quin
E Thomas
T Revitt
K Hamilton (from 21/0131)

In attendance: Angela Roberts (Acting Clerk)
8 Members of the public
Cllr S Bentley, TWC (until 21/0129)

21/0128 WELCOME

Councillor Roberts, Chairman, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. A warm welcome was extended to Sebastian Riley from Healthwatch and Mr Adam Ames, Headteacher, Crudgington School.

HEALTHWATCH

Sebastian Riley gave an outline of the role of Healthwatch, which is part of a National Organisation which helps people to access the right services, for example finding a dentist or GP or dealing with complaints. They feed back to TWC. They have statutory powers, for example if they receive concerns regarding a care home, they can visit and contact the Quality Care Commission if necessary. When asked, the meeting was informed that Healthwatch have no stance on Future Fit.

A newsletter article is to be produced to get the message out into the communities what the role of Healthwatch is and how they can be contacted.

CRUDGINGTON SCHOOL

Mr Ames said that the School has joined the Learning Community Trust, a cluster of Academy Schools which includes Erccall Wood and Charlton. All the Headteachers in the cluster meet fortnightly.

The school has been redecorated, lighting upgraded to LED and an outdoor gym installed on the school field.

The current number on roll is 128, and the school has a capacity of 156.

They have had issues during covid, but Mr Ames wished to thank the community for the support and generosity. They have received laptops and cash enabling all children to have access to technology for home working.

When covid cases in classed had reached 10%, the school introduced staggered start and finish times.

PUBLIC SESSION

Orchard Close

Resurfacing had been completed, thanks were extended for efforts to ensure this happened.

Pop-Up-Pub, Waters Upton Village Hall

This is not a Parish Council activity. However, a licence is available for anyone wishing to hold an event, although numbers will be restricted due to covid concerns.

Planning Application, junction of Catsbitch Lane and B5062

Cllr Bentley read correspondence from Mr & Mrs A Parkes with objections to the proposed change of use to allow holiday lodges. These will be taken into consideration when the application is considered within the Agenda.

Councillor Bentley left the meeting.

21/0129 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Rothwell Personal Circumstances

It was proposed by Councillor Quin and seconded by Councillor Thomas, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the apologies of Cllr Rothwell be accepted.

Katrina Baker, Clerk

Health

Thanks were extended to Angela Roberts for standing in at the last minute.

21/0130 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Quin

TWC/2021/1101

Personal and Pecuniary

Applicant

Cllr Thomas

TWC/2021/1101

Personal

Neighbour

21/0131 VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

There had been one application and the personal statement from Mrs Kate Hamilton had been circulated to all Members, for consideration.

Members had an opportunity to ask questions of the applicant, which included her strengths to which she replied objective, reasonable, good listener and a good communicator. She would like to represent the interests of Great Bolas and Meeson areas of the Parish and can be flexible and would look forward to 'growing and learning' in the role.

There were no questions for the members and Mrs Hamilton left the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Thomas and seconded by Councillor Quin, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that Mrs Kate Hamilton be co-opted as a Member of Waters Upton Parish Council.

Councillor Hamilton returned to the meeting and read and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and completed her Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests. Her term of office will end in May 2023. Councillor Hamilton will complete a DBS check application.

21/0132 MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN OCTOBER 2021

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2021 be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

21/0133 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA, FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Chairman gave an update on matters from previous meetings that were not identified on the Agenda.

a) Orchard Close and rear of the Lion Inn Car Park

It is disappointing that no action has been taken since the meeting with officers. The Chairman confirmed that responses and actions will continue to be requested as these are major concerns and have been outstanding for far too long.

b) Resurfacing of Orchard Close

During this work, damaged to the village road had occurred and this has been reported to TWC Highways Department.

c) Parish Room Croft

The Chairman and Clerk had met with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee. The Chairman of the VHMC is also a Trustee of the Village Hall and Charity and we were able to peruse the legal documents. A meeting of the Parish Council will be arranged and the VH Chairman, as a representative of the charity and Trust has kindly agreed to attend to explain the legal requirements of the Charity and the relationship between the VH and Parish Room Croft. We will report back to the next Full Council Meeting.

21/0134 FINANCE & AUDIT

a) Financial Report

The Acting Clerk reported that the Current Account Balance on the 10th November 2021 was £61,782.08.

b) Receipts

A grant of £5300 has been received from the Police & Crime Commissioner, for the continuation of the Speed Indicator Device Project.

a) Planning Applications Updates - None

b) New Applications for consideration

i) TWC/2021/1095 Burleigh Farm, Bolas Heath
Erection of a side and rear extension

Concerns were raised that a flat roof would mean loss of essential character. However, there were no objections to the proposed size.

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would have no objections to the erection of a side and rear extension, but would ask that alternative consideration be given to the flat roof proposal.

ii) TWC/2021/1101 35, The Malthouse, Waters Upton
Replacement Windows – Listed Building

Councillors J Quin and E Thomas declared an interest and left the meeting

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would have no objections, recognising that the Conservation Officer would be advising the Planning Officer and would ask that the windows be checked for safety regulations.

Councillors J Quin and E Thomas returned to the meeting

iii) TWC/2021/1114 Junction of Catsbitch Lane with B5062
Change of Use to site 9 holiday lodges and associated works

Members recalled the objections raised in the public session and added that the site is not suitable for residential development, the infrastructure is inappropriate, the objections should include light pollution, no public transport, location next to B5062 (accident black spot) close to grass track racing and significant farming establishments, also refer to Catsbitch Lane as a Quiet Lane.

Councillor Bentley has called in the application and it was proposed by Councillor Thomas and seconded by Councillor Quin, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council will support the Call-In to ensure that the application is considered by the TW Planning Committee and not delegated to the Planning Officer. A strong objection will be submitted, with reference to all policies in the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan which will not support this application.

The Chairman reminded residents of the importance that individual comments are submitted on the e-planning portal of TWC.

c) Waters Upton Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Parish Council remains confident that the Waters Upton Neighbourhood Plan meets the needs of the community. The comments made on recent planning applications have been in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan. It is important that the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan are used within the comments on local planning applications as the WUNP was written to reflect the views of the local community. This is particularly important when considering controversial applications.

d) Other Planning Matters

i) The Stackyard

Concerns remain that Stage One was not completed before Stage Two commenced, but the reasons were evident and the Parish Council continues to work with the Developer towards the completion of the car park area for the church and legal transfer.

Until completion, the landscaping on the site remains the responsibility of Days New Homes and consequently, all the Lime Trees, including the one that is adjacent to the church wall, will be maintained by their landscape contractor under direction from the TWC Arboricultural Officer.

ii) **Planning information workshops**

A series of workshops on all aspects of Planning will be arranged in the New Year, members are encouraged to attend as many as possible – dates and times will be circulated when available.

21/0136 CORRESPONDENCE

Items received for information – please contact the Clerk if you wish to read any of these documents or if you require additional information.

- a) All correspondence has been shared with Members throughout the period since the last meeting. Members have not requested that any should be included on the agenda.
- b) **Information from SALC**
SALC has continued to provide weekly updates regarding a wide range of information. Members are encouraged to peruse the information and any matters they wish to raise can be included on an agenda for discussion. The AGM took place, via zoom, on Friday 19th November 2021. The Clerk had represented the Parish Council.
- c) **Minutes of Wrekin Area Committee**
Circulated for information

21/0137 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

- a) **Update on Outstanding Highway Matters**
We are still awaiting the meeting to get up to date information on the outstanding projects and issues in the parish, these will include the A442, Cold Hatton, Shray Hill and Meeson Junction, Quite Lane Schemes and SIDs.
- b) **Speed Indicator Device**
Pressure will be put on TWC to bring this long-awaited scheme forward especially as the funding has been received. The delay is unacceptable.
- c) **A442 Cold Hatton**
Whilst it is recognised that the central refuges have been repaired and the VAS works, the synchronisation with the side roads and sensors is not correct and could result in drivers ignoring the warnings when they realise that they are not accurate. This has been reported to TWC.
- d) **A442 Swan Bridge and 40mph**
As reported at the last meeting, the completion of the Bridge is excellent and a thank you / congratulations email was sent to TWC and the Contractors.
However, the issue of the need for the 40mph to start before the junction of Sytch Lane (by Swan Bridge) is still evident. This is being pursued.
The fencing to the side of the bridge will be reported to TWC, for assessment, to ensure that it is adequate for safety reasons, especially as it is the pedestrian route from Sytch Lane to the shop and school and well used by families and children.

21/0138 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Chairman updated Members on the work undertaken by the Working Group and details of the proposed scheme which will appear in the next newsletter. It was agreed that the Working Group would also engage with Crudgington School Children.

An initial discussion took place regarding the use of eco-equipment within the Parish. Further details are required.

21/0139 PARISH PROJECTS

Noticeboards

In order to effectively communicate with residents, Noticeboards are essential as not everyone uses PCs, internet or mobile devices.

The new noticeboard in Sytch Lane is working well and appreciated by residents. It was therefore agreed that costs should be obtained to replace the noticeboard at Waters Upton (if it cannot be repaired) and at Great Bolas and to provide new boards at Crudgington Fields and Cold Hatton.

Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter Team had contacted the Parish Council because the current financial position is unviable and with the need for additional copies to be printed for extensive new homes, this will become more so in the near future. Thanks were extended to Waters Upton Stores for funding the printing costs of the December edition. Details are available as to the costs involved. The adverts are essential for the income, but may only be available if hard copies

remain available to all households in the Parish. An alternative printer has advised on costs for a bi-monthly or quarterly newsletter and current costs have been provided for 6 issues per year. It may be possible to increase the costs of advertising to generate more income.

Whilst a digital e-newsletter can be available, there will always be a need for printed copies, too.

The Parish Council has a need to provide information to all residents and the use of the newsletter is ideal and therefore the PC was pleased to consider supporting its publication. Further discussions with the Editorial Team are needed before a decision can be reached.

**21/0140 WEST MERCIA POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
Newsletter**

A copy has been distributed to Members, it will appear on the website and copies are available on request.

Neighbourhood Alerts

The Cold Hatton NW Co-Ordinator believes that this is not working well, as the system gets clogged with irrelevant information – this will be passed to the Police / NW Officer for information.

21/0141 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman had met with the Minister who has responsibility for Rural Post Offices at a visit to Waters Upton PO recently. It was agreed that rural Post Offices, in particular, are vital for local residents, especially with the lack of rural transport.

21/0142 CLERK'S REPORT

River Lane, Waters Upton

Concerns have been received regarding the speed of traffic down River Lane and the lack of respect for pedestrians who use the route as the safest into the village. An article has been included in the next newsletter. A request will be submitted for a further 'SLOW' sign on the highway as a reminder to drivers. The Parish Council is arranging for the hedges to be cut back.

Public Transport – Strategy

The Improvement Plan and Strategy are now available – comments are welcome.

Remembrance Bench

With thanks to Saputo Dairy UK for a donation, a bench has been provided at Crudgington Fields, this will be on display in the show home garden until the green open space is available and it will be re-located. Thanks are extended to Shropshire Homes for their support.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

None

21/0143 REPORT FROM TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

Councillor Bentley reported that Future Fit has been delayed again. Councillor Roberts added that Powys is distorting the consultation as putting no capital into the project.

Councillor Bentley reiterated that he and his colleagues continue to ensure that TWC is aware that the lack of rural transport causes deprivation and there are many residents feeling isolated, causing other health issues and lack of access to vital services.

21/0144 PARISH MATTERS

None

21/0145 NEXT MEETING

15th December 2021

7.30pm

Full Council

Waters Upton Village Hall

The Chairman thanked Members for their important contributions to the meeting and thanked the residents for attending. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

SignedDate

These Minutes are produced in draft form. E & OE until confirmed as a true record by Full Council at the next meeting on 15th December 2021.