



Minutes of the meeting of Waters Upton Parish Council which took place on **Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 7.30pm** in **Waters Upton Village Hall**.

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

In attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
7 Members of the Public
Councillor S Bentley (TWC)

23/0382 WELCOME

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

Planning Applications for development at Meeson Hall have been received and Members agreed to add these to the agenda for consideration in order to meet the deadlines for consultation responses.

23/0383 PUBLIC SESSION

The following matters were raised:

- Rural Transport – timetable due very soon (according to TWC)
- Waters Upton Noticeboard (to be repositioned in metal sockets)
- Lack of Planning Enforcement – request a meeting with the Planning Officers

23/0384 APOLOGIES

None

PCSO Collumbell is on annual leave

23/0385 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

All Members have a dispensation to take part in the budget discussions and to set the precept for 2023/24.

23/0386 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st DECEMBER 2022

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

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

23/0387 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING

Rural Bus Route

TWC confirmed, yesterday, that the timetable would be finalised very soon and the route would be published.

Drainage Issues

TWC are to deploy cameras to seek out further information regarding the issues to the rear of Shanti House and in Orchard Close.

23/0388 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

a) Payments

There were no payments for authorisation at the meeting.

b) Minutes of the Finance & Governance Meeting held on 18th January 2023

The Chairman presented the Minutes of the meeting, for information.

Recommendations

i) FG23/030 Grant Applications

The Parish Council had submitted an application for funding towards a Coronation Event on the Village Green and also towards a project to provide Village Namesigns.

ii) FG23/031 Precept

Members had considered the draft budget and had offered comments regarding the projects that were included. The Chairman presented a resume which confirmed that the Parish had set a budget of £79,705 to include a number of local projects including the contribution to the provision of a West Mercia Police Vehicle for the rural support officer which would provide a 24/7 365 day support. The Parish Council has earmarked reserves and had identified some savings which equate to £38,500. A precept of £41,205 would mean an increase of £26.04 per year on a Band D property.

Members were very aware of the current pressures and agreed that they wanted to support the community as best they could by keeping increases as low as possible. It was therefore suggested that a further £10,000 be allocated from the balances to reduce the precept to £31,205 which would mean an increase of no more than 44p per month on a Band D property. It was proposed by Councillor Quin, seconded by Councillor Revitt, Councillor Thomas voted against the proposal and it was therefore

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would set its precept at £31,205 for 2023/24.

iii) Grant Application

Waters Upton Newsletter is distributed to every house in the civil parish and is produced bi-monthly by volunteers. This is not a Parish Council publication as the newsletter has its own Constitution and Account.

The newsletter is appreciated by people across the Parish and more copies are now required for the additional houses in the Parish. It is also used by the Parish Council to communicate with the residents. It was proposed by Councillor Quin, seconded by Councillor Hamilton, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that a £500 grant be awarded to Waters Upton Newsletter.

c) Financial Report

A copy of the bank reconciliation had been circulated which showed a balance at the end of December 2022 of £51,924.33 in the Current Account. This includes earmarked reserves which are included in the budget for 2023/24.

23/0389 PLANNING

a) Planning Applications Updates

Enforcement Matters

The Clerk had requested updates from the Enforcement Officers at TWC and Members were disappointed to hear that little action had been taken in recent months, and a reason given that there have been staff changes and lack of resources. This relates to The Hall, Waters Upton, The Poplars and The Swan. Members were keen to question TWC as Legal Orders are in place from the Inspector, following appeals, and the lack of enforcement action is sending out the wrong message which is not acceptable.

A meeting with senior officers will be requested.

Right of Way, the Stackyard

The DMMO has been announced and the route will be added to the Definitive Map. TWC has placed an order to provide a suitable fence to protect the rear of Cedar Lodge and The Quarry and a fence will be erected to show the boundary of the route at the point where it joins the farmer's field. This will be essential to deter dog walkers from believing it is acceptable for dogs to run loose in the fields where their poo is then not picked up.

Shanti House

A decision has been taken by TWC that the Section 106 tie for a Manager's Residence can be removed. This is due to a change of classification to restaurant (rather than bar).

b) Planning Applications for Consideration

**TWC/2023/011 Land South of The Mount
Erection of a detached dwelling**

Members are aware of an enforcement enquiry on the site where a mobile caravan is permanently sited and is not in accordance with the planning consent.

This is also a poor application containing significant inaccurate information and similar applications on the site have previously been refused twice.

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would object to the proposals and insist that the Enforcement Officer continues the investigations regarding the drainage from the current caravan on the site.

TWC/2023/0026 The Lilacs, Cold Hatton

Change of Use from agricultural land to mixed use agricultural land, equestrian land and erection of one steel framed animal housing building.

RESOLVED to have no objections to the proposals.

Members had agreed to consider the two new applications and looked at them simultaneously

TWC/2023/0036 Meeson Hall

Creation of new flooring throughout, creation of 4no new door openings, removal of internal walls, creation of new internal walls, new lean-to roof, new roof to glass house, insulation of roof on existing, dry lining walls, new under floor heating and boiler and installation of vehicle charging point mounted on the north elevation (Listed Building Application)

RESOLVED that whilst Members have no objections to the work to enhance the establishment and expand the business, they do believe that the historical importance of the Hall and Grounds must be maintained and enhanced. The character is important and must be retained and the site must not become over-developed.

TWC/2023/0037 Meeson Hall

Conversion of the potting shed and glass house to holiday let and installation of vehicle charging point mounted on the north elevation (Full Planning Application)

RESOLVED that whilst Members have no objections to the work to enhance the establishment and expand the business, they do believe that the historical importance of the Hall and Grounds must be maintained and enhanced. The character is important and must be retained and the site must not become over-developed.

c) Waters Upton Neighbourhood Plan

The Waters Upton Neighbourhood Plan continues to offer guidance and is used to determine the Parish Council opinion on current planning applications.

As previously reported, the Parish Council will be embarking on a review of the WUNP as soon as possible.

d) Other Planning Matters

i) The Stackyard, Waters Upton

The Chairman reported that following a further site visit with Days New Homes, we are nearing completion of the outstanding works and moving towards a transfer date of 27th January 2023.

Members were clear in the knowledge that the only areas transferred to the Parish Council will be

- The car park and path, including the sandstone wall of St Michael's but not the other boundary fences
- The landscaped area between numbers one and two and the village road, including the footpath, trees and verge
- The landscaped area between the grass and highway, adjacent to the right of way kissing gate entrance

Other points to note include

- The Parish Council has right of access over the highway and path to the car park area
- The responsibility for the highway within phase one remains with the 8 properties, the Parish Council has no liability.

- The car park area will pass to the Parochial Church Council, however the maintenance will remain with the Parish Council.
- The barriers must be up at all times, unless opened by the Parish Council or PCC.

When considering the church wall boundary and central sandstone wall, it was agreed that the Parish Council would require a building surveyor to assess the walls so that the Parish Council can plan for their renovation.

23/0390

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.
- c) **Memorial Tree**
It was agreed that an ornamental flowering tree be planted in Crudgington in memory of the Late Des Smith, a former Councillor.
- d) **Old Rectory Fields – Grit Bin Request**
Residents experienced unsafe roads and paths due to the recent snow and ice and had requested a grit bin. TWC is not able to assist when in a private estate. Members could not set a precedent in case further requests are received. However, they fully supported the need for a grit bin to serve River Lane (at the junction with the A442) and this would then be available for Swan Court and Old Rectory Fields. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Quin, that a grit bin be ordered from TWC (with three refills per year), all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that a grit bin be purchased and sited on land to the rear of number 1 Old Rectory Fields, with kind permission of the landowner.

The Stackyard

A similar request had been received and Members confirmed that TWC would not provide one on a private road and also due to the fact that there is one already available in the location.

Members agreed that they would promote the role of the Street Champions / Snow Warden – anyone registered with TWC could receive 5 bags of road salt and use these at their discretion on private roads.

- e) **Parish & Town Council Conference**
This will take place at Oakengates Theatre on 4th October – please keep the date in your diaries.
- f) **Dog waste / litter bin request, Crudgington Fields**
TWC will not provide a dog waste / litter bin on an unadopted highway as the contractors cannot access it for emptying. It may be possible to have one on the end of the footpath, when it is in its correct location. However, for dog walks from Crudgington Fields, there are four bins on the route around Crudgington and a bin at Waters Upton – alternatively, it is acceptable to dispose of dog poo bags in the red top bins which are collected fortnightly.

23/0391

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

- a) **Updates**
A Highways Liaison meeting has now been arranged and an agenda will be put together to include all the outstanding issues and projects in the hope that we can establish time-scales for completions.
The 20mph zone lights outside of Crudgington School are not set to the correct timings.
- b) **Bollards on the central refuges**
The two on the middle refuge have now been replaced.
- c) **Use of My Telford**
Members and residents are asked to sign up to My Telford to report requests for action – these are then logged and used to identify priorities for our area.

d) Speed Indicator Device

The Chairman showed the pie chart of vehicles travelling along the A442 which showed that the SID is recording the number of vehicles in each speed bracket and the majority of vehicles are within the speed limit.

Members will consider a SID socket for Crudgington School at a future meeting.

23/0392 CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

The outstanding project is to provide solar panels on Waters Upton Parish Centre.

23/0393 PARISH PROJECTs

a) King's Coronation May 2023

A grant application has been submitted. An article will be included in the newsletter for volunteers to join a group to organise the event on Monday, 8th May from 12 noon on the Village Green.

23/0394 POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Update

PCSO Ivan Collumbell is currently on annual leave.

He has been shortlisted to the last three for the PCSO of the Year award, which will be announced on 27th January. Regardless of the outcome of the Quality Policing Awards 2023, Ivan is committed to the rural areas and his work is very much appreciated.

Rural Vehicle

The Parish Council has included up to £5000 in its budget to work with other Parishes to provide a vehicle so that the role can be 24 / 7 365 days of the year and ensure that a vehicle is available for the rural support office when required.

Newsletter

Copies have been distributed and are available on request.

Abandoned Vehicle

The vehicle near Crudgington Crossroads has been reported and is awaiting removal if the Police do not hear from the owner.

Neighbourhood Watch

Residents are asked to be extra vigilant during night time hours and to report anything 'out of the ordinary' at the time.

23/0395 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman's Network meeting

This meeting had been well attended, with the presenter giving information about issues across Shropshire which are relevant and interesting.

CLERK'S REPORT

a) Play Areas

Work has been undertaken, based on the RoSPA report, to ensure that the sites are safe.

b) Locality Climate Change Partnership

This partnership includes the Parish & Town Council Group and the Business Group coming together.

c) Elections

Members had briefing notes and are requested to publicise the fact that all voters will need photo ID in order to vote at the polling station. Postal vote applications will be accepted up to 18th April. The Village Hall will also need some upgrades for disabled access. More staff will be available on polling day to assist with the new requirements.

d) STW works on the A442

Completed

e) WU Footpath

Due to the weather and contractor availability, the remainder of the work to complete the footpath may be in the next financial year. Councillor Bentley had funded £2000 towards the cost and the Parish Council will receive an invoice for its contribution when completed.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Hamilton will arrange a litter pick to cover the area from Waters Upton to Bolas Bridge.

23/0396

INFORMATION FROM TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL – Councillor Stephen Bentley

Councillor Bentley had contributed £300 to the Village Hall and £50 to Crudgington School for Coronation activities. He had also purchased a second SID for the Parish to share with Ercall Magna.

This could be the last update prior to Purdah for the elections on May 4th. Steve thanked the Parish Council and residents for their support since election. He has very much appreciated the work of the Parish Council and congratulated Members on a realistic budget. He will continue to liaise with the authority and other agencies regarding the outstanding projects.

23/0397

PARISH MATTERS

- Replacement sign 'Waters Upton' required at Swan Bridge
- Work to create the roundabout is scheduled to start Mid February
- Ditches in Catsbitch Lane need clearing of the debris from hedge-cutting
- Road surface of Catsbitch Lane –previously reported

23/0398

NEXT MEETING

22nd February 2023

7.30pm

Full Council Meeting

Waters Upton Village Hall

The Chairman thanked Members for their important contributions to this meeting which closed at 8.55pm

Signed**Date**

These Minutes are produced in draft form. E & OE until confirmed as a true record by Full Council at the next meeting on 22nd February 2023.