

WRESTLINGWORTH AND COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council Meeting held at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall on 5th September 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Chair Cllr J Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chair Cllr J Dix, Cllr L Chapman, Cllr M Wilson, C Dear (clerk), CBC Cllr A Zerny & 5 members of the public

Apologies: CBC Cllr T Wye & Cllr A Ewens

Open Forum: Comments were received from residents of the High Street, Wrestlingworth regarding the state of the Millennium Garden. Their concerns were over the weeds coming through the paving tiles, the overgrown shrubs and also the ivy that has grown out of the garden and into their garage. Cllr Kirkpatrick agreed to find a volunteer to deal with this. **ACTION JK**

It was pointed out that the hedge on the footpath leading from The Slade to the school was overgrown. A volunteer at the meeting offered to cut it back.

Cllr Zerny informed the meeting that CBC will look to approve proposals to reduce traffic speeds and make the roads safer for motorists and pedestrians, in Wrestlingworth, at a meeting on 24th September. He also added that the broken speed camera issue was now in the hands of the insurance company and that the drains in the parish were due to be looked into next month!

Ethics and Standards Code: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th July 2024, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman. The Clerk thanked Cllr Wilson for stepping in to complete the minutes at short notice after the Clerk was taken to hospital.

Chairman's Report

- 1) Discussed further damage to St Peters churchyard wall with Mick Bister
- 2) Sent details of culvert brickwork damage (tree growth) to Jack Bowers (CBC Highways)
- 3) Arranged for trees to be cut back on High St (thanks Oscar!)
- 4) Discussed Millenium Garden with two parishioners
- 5) Emailed CBC legal department for update on allotment lease – twice
- 6) Replied to LCWIP email informing them the feedback link does not work

Clerk's Report

- Forwarded relevant emails including parish crime statistics to Parish Councillors and dealt with general queries.
- Completed agenda, budget and financial statement for July's meeting.
- Reconciled bank statement with income and expenditure and transferred £7,000 to cover September & October's outgoings.
- SAGE – transactions added to end of August.
- Updated parish website with copy of draft minutes and agenda
- Completed weekly checks of defibrillator/housing in Wrestlingworth with no issues to date – ordered new sets of pads

- Resident of Cockayne Hatley checked defibrillator in Cockayne Hatley with no issues to date – new pads delivered.
- Updated PC's copy of the electoral register
- Sent planning applications to Councillors.
- Confirmation from external auditors that accounts for 2023/24 have been approved without queries. Completion notices placed on both noticeboards.
- Collected requests from parishioners regarding allotments – currently 8 to date.
- Met with tree surgeon - 12 July – to discuss work required on church path towards burial site and also on Chapel Close
- Liaised with grass cutting contractor and owners of car parked in area leading to amenity field
- Asked Steve Brown to go ahead with repairs to churchyard wall
- Completed VAT return
- Replied to resident regarding grass cutting at Tree Nursery Gardens
- Re-arranged Memorial Hall bookings for Parish Council
- Arranged for zip-wire to be re-tensioned
- Contacted CBC regarding fallen apple tree at Amenity field.
- Liaised with Mick Bister and Steve Brown regarding repairs to churchyard wall – to be repaired in September
- Emailed warden at St John's Church re booking in September
- Reported 2 faulty lights at Hatley Road to electrician – both now fixed
- Spoke to potential new Councillor regarding vacancy and subsequently sent relevant details
- Made contact with new PCSO
- Responded to resident regarding the offer of a bench for the play area and trees interfering with telephone cables

PLAY AREA – Cllr Chapman informed the Council that she had:

- (a) Inspecting playground and emptying bins on a regular basis;
- (b) Litter picking;
- (c) Overview of the play equipment and area;
- (d) Clearing debris (broken branches/twigs etc.

Cllrs Chapman and Kirkpatrick agreed to walk around the Children's play area and discuss the issues brought to their attention by the recently conducted ROSPA report. **ACTION JK & LC**

MILLENNIUM GARDEN AND BROOK MAINTENANCE

(see Open Forum section)

HIGHWAYS – Cllr Dix informed the Council of the following:

Reported to Fix My Street, foliage cover on signs on bend as you enter the village from Potton. To date there has been no update to advise if this has been completed.

There has also been no update regarding the parking issues on the high street from CBC, and the potential for any double yellow lines.

Regarding the speed through the village, I felt that the rumble strips they laid to survey were not in the correct place to catch speeders, and asked if they could carry this out again.

I had an email back from Matthew Simkus at CBC

I will flag your below email to our Traffic Management Colleagues for their consideration of the comments, and feedback on whether an alternative traffic/speed count can be arranged.

While I can't offer any commitment at this stage, please be assured that should we agree to collect further data, as a rule, we do not collect data in periods not reflective of standard traffic levels (i.e. school holidays). I'll feedback further once I have comment from the team.

There is still also no update as to when the speed camera at the crossroads will be replaced.

Email sent to Cllr Zerny, regarding the blocked drain at the bottom of Church Lane/High Street. Requested for him to pass to the relevant department within CBC to get this investigated before the winter.

SUSTAINABILITY & GREEN ISSUES – no report received.

WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS - Cllr Wilson informed the Council of the following:

- 1) Various posts made on Village Website & Facebook page as required, including.
 - a. Changes to PC meeting dates from Monday to Thursday
 - b. Central Bedfordshire Rural Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Survey
- 2) Provide update for Village Link communications

Lease for allotment site

Cllr Kirkpatrick informed the meeting that the lease is currently being drawn up by CBC and that he would distribute it amongst Councillors for comment when received. **ACTION JK**

Dyason Development

A message has been received from Dyason Developments who own the 20 acres of land that fronts both the Potton Road and High Street in Wrestlingworth. The message, concerning the future of the land, was discussed, and it was agreed that Dyason Development should be invited to hold a presentation of their proposals in the Memorial Hall and invite residents to come and have their say. Clerk asked to contact Dyason and give contact details for the Memorial Hall and Village Link. **ACTION CD**

Planning

The current Planning applications were discussed. **(Appendix C)**

Finance

Councillors approved the payment of invoices **(Appendix A)**

The Financial statement **(Appendix B)** was reviewed

It was noted that the audit for accounts for the council for the year ended 31st March 2023 has been concluded by the External Auditors with no outstanding issues. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local Government elector of the area of the Council on application to the clerk. Notices to this effect have been placed on noticeboards in Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley.

Correspondence – Other than periodicals which were handed out for distribution and emails sent to Councillors between meetings, the following correspondence was discussed:

The Clerk reported that she has received a message from a resident regarding trees from the children's play area interfering with telephone cables in their garden. It was agreed that the clerk would visit the area and discuss what was needed. **ACTION CD**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received an offer of a wooden bench for the children's play area. It was agreed that the clerk would look at the bench and see if it met with health and safety regulations. **ACTION CD**

A request has been received from St John the Baptist Church in Cockayne Hatley with regards to a grant to go towards urgent tree work required. The Council asked the Clerk to reply and ask the Church to apply for a grant in the usual manner but completing a grant request form and supply necessary financial documents. **ACTION CD**

Any Other Business

Replacemet Tree – Cllr Chapman to order the replacement tree for junction of Braggs Lane and High Street when available. **ACTION LC**

The access code for the memorial hall, supplied to the hall chairman, did not work this evening. The clerk was asked to inform the chairman and request another code. **ACTION CD**

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 7th November at 7.30pm at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall

Appendix A

Payments for approval – September 2024

The following accounts are to be paid and the clerk requested the council's endorsement.

July	CPRE – affiliation fee		36.00
August	CPM Playgrounds Ltd – cableway wire re-tensioned, INV5465		180.00
August	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		557.70
September	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		557.70
July & August	Clerk's expenses (Telephone, Internet, Stamps, stationery)		30.00
August	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit – UK-04848036		39.60
September	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit – UK-04960027		39.60
May	D J Granger – grass cutting – INV-024856		703.80
July	D J Granger – grass cutting – INV-025099		703.80
August	D J Granger – grass cutting – INV-025218		703.80
August	D J Granger – grass cutting – INV-025285		703.80
August	Npower – IN11201258		316.87
September	Npower – IN11412416		321.35
June	Memorial Hall Hire - 598		30.00
July	D J Granger – grass cutting – INV-025156		703.80

Appendix B

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 31 August 2024 with budget to March 2025

	<u>Year to 31 March 2025</u>			-	
	Actual to 31 August 2024	Budget 24/25	Expected outturn	Actual 2023/24	Notes
Income					
Precept	27,980.00	27,980.00	27,980.00	26,577.00	1
Interest	346.67	700.00	500.00	531.69	
Grass Cutting Contribution		403.15	403.15	403.15	
Insurance Claim					
CBC Grant					
VAT refund to March 2024	483.60		483.60	458.65	
Total Income	28,810.27	29,083.15	29,366.75	27,970.49	
Operational Expenses					
Accountants' fees & Sage	287.00	714.00	670.00	666.00	2
Affiliation Fees	183.00	350.00	350.00	440.00	
Amenity Field lease		120.00	120.00		
British Legion		19.99	19.99	19.99	
Church Clock Maintenance		350.00	350.00	326.00	
Churchyard Maintenance		300.00	100.00		
Clerk's expenses	170.00	300.00	300.00	295.00	
Clerk's salary	2,788.50	7,000.00	7,080.00	7,082.37	
Defibrillator maintenance	300.00	300.00			
Election expenses		2,000.00	64.82	64.82	
Electricity - street lighting	1,683.25	5,000.00	4,800.00	2,905.55	
Electricity/lighting - maint	107.50	2,000.00	1,600.00	1,565.00	
General Maintenance		1,200.00	1,250.00	1,249.50	
GDPR Data Protection		35.00	35.00	35.00	
Grants (see below)	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	600.00	
Normal Grass and Hedge cutting	4,105.50	7,200.00	7,500.00	7,443.00	
Other grounds & tree work		500.00	400.00	400.00	
Insurance	1,032.39	1,300.00	1,017.28	1,017.28	
Memorial Hall Hire	60.00	150.00	150.00	106.50	
Millennium Garden		100.00	100.00	70.00	
Parish Tidy Up		500.00	600.00	590.00	
Playing field Maintenance	114.00	1,500.00	2,376.50	2,376.50	3
Playing field lease		360.00	360.00		
Training expenses		100.00	70.00	35.00	
Web site		360.00	360.00	325.00	

Vat expensed and not yet recovered	21.69		0.00	391.97	
Total Operational Expenses	11,952.83	32,858.99	30,773.59	28,004.48	
Operating surplus/deficit	16,857.44	-3,775.84	-1,406.84	-33.99	
Projects & rent arrears					
Allotment lease and set up		4,500.00			4
Amenity lease arrears		720.00			2
Play Area maintenance					
Playing field lease arrears		3,960.00			3
Bus shelter					
Picnic bench				775.00	
Net Project costs	0.00	9,180.00	0.00	775.00	
Overall surplus/deficit	16,857.44	-12,955.84	-1,406.84	-808.99	
RESERVES					
Bank brought forward	28,205.54			29,812.55	
(Deficit)/Surplus for period	16,857.44		-1,406.84	-808.99	
Bank carried forward	45,062.98		-1,406.84	29,003.56	
VAT refund due				458.65	
Total	45,062.98		-1,406.84	29,462.21	
GRANTS PAID IN YEAR					
Village Link		100.00		250.00	
Magpas				200.00	
History Society					
St Peter's Church		1,000.00			
PWWG				150.00	
	0.00	1,100.00		600.00	
Bank balances					
Current account - 31/08/2024	411.99		31/03/2023	1,880.09	
Deposit accounts - 31/08/2024	44,650.99		31/03/2023	26,325.45	
	45,062.98			28,205.54	

NOTES TO BUDGET

1 - 5% (band D 4.5%) increase for 2024/25

2 - Lease expired September 2016 with annual rent of £120. Yet to be renewed by CBC and no rent paid.

3 - Lease expired March 2011 with annual rent of £360. Yet to be renewed by CBC and no rent paid. The last email from CBC dated 19 Nov 2018, refusing our request for a reduction and time to pay. No invoice from CBC to date.

4 - Estimated costs

Appendix C

Application Ref	Date Submitted	Location	Works Proposed	PC Comment	Target Decision Date	Status	Date Granted / Refused
CB/24/01372/FULL	10/05/2024	1 Eyeworth Road, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2HG	Single and 2-storey side and rear extensions with associated internal alterations		08/07/2024	Refused	05/07/2024
CB/24/01666/DOC	07/06/2024	10 Water End, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2HA	Discharge of Condition 3 against planning permission ref. CB/24/00879/FULL (Erection of replacement dwelling and alterations to materials of garage)		02/08/2024	Discharge of Condition Decision Released	11/07/2024
CB/24/01553/LDCE	28/05/2024	Water End Farm, Water End, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2HB	Lawful Development Certificate Existing : Use of existing buildings for agricultural purposes		24/07/2024	Consultation Period	
CB/24/02086/DOC	16/07/2024	Brook Farm, 94 High Street, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2EJ	Discharge of Condition 12 against planning permission CB/23/02386/VOC (Variation of condition number 15 of planning permission CB/22/02491/FULL (Erection of 6 dwellings with access road following demolition of existing house.) Variation sought to the great crested license)		10/09/2024	Consultation Period	
CB/24/02250/OUT	01/08/2024	Land at Church Farm, Potton Road, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2EY	Outline Application: Development of up to seven serviced plots for self-build and custom-build dwellings, all matters reserved except access	Objected	26/09/2024	Consultation Period	
CB/24/02049/LB	14/08/2024	12 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2EU	Listed Building: Demolition of attached garage and construction of a detached double garage with driveway and new access. Creation of a cottage garden and new boundary wall with gates		09/10/2024	Consultation Period	
CB/24/02048/FULL	14/08/2024	12 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2EU	Demolition of attached garage and construction of a detached double garage with driveway and new access. Creation of a cottage garden and new boundary wall with gates		09/10/2024	Consultation Period	