

WRESTLINGWORTH AND COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council Meeting held at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall on 13th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman Cllr J Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chairman Cllr K Puddephatt, Cllr L Chapman, Cllr J Dix, CBC Cllr A Zerny, Cllr A Ewens, Cllr M Wilson, C Dear (clerk) & 7 members of the public

Apologies: CBC Cllr T Wye

Open Forum:

Cockayne Hatley Noticeboard – after a lengthy discussion regarding the new position of the noticeboard at Cockayne Hatley it was decided that the noticeboard would remain in its current position.

Cockayne Hatley Dog Poo Bin – a new dog poo bin has been installed at Cockayne Hatley but several residents pointed out that its location is too close to the present bin. It was decided that residents should contact CBC and request to move it to a more desirable location.

Cockayne Hatley bus service – some residents of Cockayne Hatley would prefer the bus not to come into the hamlet but instead to stop at the bus shelter at the junction of Potton Road and Village Road. A survey of the residents of Cockayne Hatley will be commissioned which will then be passed on to CBC. In relation to the CH bus survey, the residents present were informed by Cllr Kirkpatrick that CBC will not take any action in response to the survey. The bus turning area was also discussed along with the option of making representation to CBC to change the location to the top of the hamlet. **ACTION KP**

CBC Cllr Zerny updated the meeting on the following topics:

- 20mph speed limit for Wrestlingworth – over 100 signatures so far which means that CBC will have to formally consider the request
 - Potton Road speed hump – drawings for this have been promised for April
 - Petition to prevent HGVs from shortcutting their way through villages is imminent
 - Advise Parish Council to put in writing complaints regarding noise pollution from aircraft
- ACTION AE**

Ethics and Standards Code: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th January 2023, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report

Cllr Kirkpatrick informed the meeting that since the last meeting he has:

- Emailed Lee Newton of CBC regarding allotment access and lease on two occasions. Now waiting on final lease from CBC legal representatives.
- Emailed Billy of CPM Playgrounds for update on play area repairs.
- Liaised via email with Adam Zerny on traffic calming measures for the village. Waiting on new contractor to be appointed in April, and confirmation from CBC that the work costs are covered and that the work is a priority

- Liaised via email with Terry McAlpine of CBC regarding clearance work at brook and clearance of brickwork removed by previous works but left on bank.
- Liaised via email with Jim Ashby (CH) on his concerns regarding:
 - Noticeboard location
 - CH Bus survey
 - Road damage
- Attended village tidy up day (morning)

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 March's meeting
- Reconciled bank statement with income and expenditure and transferred £2,500 to cover March & April's outgoings
- SAGE – transactions added to end of February
- Updated parish website with copy of draft minutes and agenda
- Completed weekly checks of defibrillator/housing in Wrestlingworth with no issues to date
- Updated PC's copy of the electoral register
- Sent planning applications to Councillors for response to CBC by deadline date provided
- Asked Joe Bibby to quote for repairs to broken roof tiles at bus shelter on Eyeworth Road and brickwork at Millennium Garden
- Completed VAT return to end of January 2023
- Sent CBC copy of grass contractor's public liability insurance certificate
- Toured the parish with 3 grass cutting contractors to discuss requirements for the coming season
- Sent Bob Thomas details of contact at CBC for access to electoral register
- Precept request for 4.5% rise (Band D) sent to CBC before deadline

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

- Emptied/inspected bins on a regular/weekly basis
- Overview of the play equipment and area for obvious damage
- Picked up additional litter
- Sourced a possible metalcraft worker to provide quotes to repair litter bins and initial enquiry to be made

Cllr Chapman added that she would chase CPM Playground Ltd regarding the repairs required to the play equipment. **ACTION LC**

MILLENNIUM GARDEN AND BROOK MAINTENANCE

Cllr Kirkpatrick informed the meeting that Terry McAlpine from CBC would be looking into the issue of debris left in the brook after maintenance work.

Brickwork at Millennium Garden – clerk asked to contact Joe Bibby to quote for repointing around the garden up to the garages to the rear **ACTION CD**

HIGHWAYS – Cllr Dix informed the Council of the following:

Updates in Fix my street reports.

- The broken kerbs on the high street opposite the Co-op track have now been fixed, however they failed to fix one part, and this has also been added to fix my street. This was reported on the 6th of February, currently awaiting an update.
- The overgrown verges on the Potton Road were deemed as not requiring attention but they have said that it will be monitored as part of their ongoing service plan.
- I have also reported the missing reflective strips on the bollards where the road narrows on the High Street near Butchers Lane. Sadly, the council have responded with, “we have now inspected the defect and no planned repair is necessary at this stage”.
- The flooding on Braggs Lane seems to have eased after last week's heavy rainfall. I haven't been advised that the drains have been cleared, however I did notice after the village tidy up day, that the drainage ditch on the corner of Braggs Lane was flowing well. I can assume that any standing water found a natural course to follow!
- Other faded road markings have been reported along with the empty and broken salt bin on Church Lane. The salt bin has now been refilled and the lid fixed.
- Finally, the petition for reducing the speed to 20mph in the village is live. It has been advertised on the social media pages in the village along with posters in the businesses around the village too, including The Chequers and Avanti the hairdressers.
- We also had an article in the Biggleswade Chronicle of which I was interviewed for the piece. We will know after the 17th of March as to how well received the campaign has been in the village and what the results are. I do intend to have a final push in reminding villagers to sign if they haven't before this Friday.

SUSTAINABILITY & GREEN ISSUES – Cllr Ewens informed the Council of the following

Village Tidy Up

The Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley annual Village Tidy Up Day took place on Saturday 11th March. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took part, it has made a big difference to our villages. The Tidy Up was organised by the Parish Walking & Wildlife Group and particular thanks are due the Chair, Nicola Adkins for all her efforts in planning along with the PWWG Committee and for managing the activities on the day. A lot was achieved, everyone felt we could do more, so planning is already underway for a bigger effort next year. It would be good to see more village residents taking part next year.

Luton Airport Expansion Plans

There was a Public Meeting in Little Gransden last month to allow residents to express their views about the relocation of the Luton airport holding arrangements and proposed expansion plans. More detail can be found in the article Adam Zerny, our Independent CBC Councillor wrote last year: <https://adamzerny.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5792c34beda77d6df3c5b79ee&id=be96f00e46&e=77e4d9e7a8>

The meeting was well attended; the main presentation can be read here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/relas.ad6/files/files>

Some of the key points were:

- The review process runs to September 2023
- Current flight volumes are “just the tip of the iceberg”. Growth to take advantage of under-utilised airspace (time) windows and addition of night flights could eventually lead to 2 aircraft per minute for 21 hours per day
- The outcome of the review is not a done deal. There are still plenty of opportunities to have your say and not to assume others are doing this

There is a lot we as individuals can do to express our views. The official channel to use to lodge complaints is the TraVis portal (<https://travisltn.topsonic.aero/>), or send an email to noise@ltn.aero. You must include your full name, address and postcode for it to be accepted. And if you are going to complain you must include how you have been impacted, for example an interrupted conversation, being woken up, broken concentration while working from home or interruption to a zoom call, etc. Complaints without any indication of impact will likely be dismissed. Ultimately this matter rests in the hands of MPs so if you feel strongly write to our MP at:

Richard Fuller MP
 MP for North East Bedfordshire
 House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

I am very grateful to James Bonfield for his comprehensive report from the meeting, which I have taken this summary from.

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

- 20mph petition posted on both Facebook and Website, with reminders for 17th March deadline. All to positive feedback.
 - Spoke via email with Simon Dear in relation to using Village Link as reminder. Agreed due to petition deadline and VL issue date to hold off, but save print space in follow up edition for feedback as to next steps following petition
- Reminder on Garden waste collection resuming shared via Facebook.
- Notice on aircraft noise public meeting 23rd February also shared via Facebook

COCKAYNE HATLEY – Cllr Puddephatt informed the council of the following:

- CH bus service survey – Electoral team at CBC still to confirm appointment with Bob. Bob is hoping to send out survey by 17th March (TBC).
- CH turn bus shelter – New shelter installed.
- CH notice board relocation – Email sent to residents asking their preference for the new location of the notice board, only 6 replies received, the highest preference was the old phone box area. I contacted the resident whose property boundary is affected and they refused to accept this location. The next highest preference was the bus stop area, CBC have no objection and notice board re-located.

Lease for allotment area

Cllr Kirkpatrick informed the Council that the lease from CBC is due to be sent out shortly. The hedge will be cut through and signs installed. Residents of Nursery Tree Close have been told that parking spaces not allocated to individual houses are for general use.

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 along with the draft budget for 2023/24 previously circulated to all councillors by the clerk.

Correspondence – None, other than periodicals which were handed out for distribution.

Any Other Business

- The grant request from Magpas was discussed and it was agreed that £200 would be given.
ACTION CD
- The request from Addiction Advocates to publicise their services was discussed and it was decided that, other than the helpline, all other services required payment and so the Council would not be advertising this site **ACTION CD**
- Wood rot on noticeboard at Wrestlingworth – Clerk asked to contact Joe Bibby to quote for repairs to the noticeboard. **ACTION CD**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.30pm at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall

Appendix A

Payments for approval – March 2023

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

February	Npower supply D/Debit		300.83
March	Npower supply D/Debit		261.47
February	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		476.78
March	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		476.78
Jan & Feb	Clerk's expenses (Telephone, Internet, Stamps, stationery)		30.00
February	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit		28.80
March	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit		28.80
March	ICO – Data Protection Fee		35.00
February	David Granger – wild area		162.00
February	CBC Grass cutting contribution	403.15	
January	Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall – Hall hire		18.00
March	Odell skip hire – Parish Tidy Up Day (Nicola Adkins)		290.00
March	Community Heartbeat Trust – Defibrillators annual support cost		360.00
March	Alan Briggs – Millennium Garden plants, bulbs, etc		64.96
March	James Wilkinson – tree surgeon - lime trees St Peter's Church		1,320.00
March	Joe Bibby – moving CH noticeboard		350.00

Appendix B

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 28 February 2023 with budget to March 2023 & March 2024

	<u>Year to 31 March 2023</u>			<u>2021/2022</u>	<u>2023/2024</u>	Notes
	Actual to 28 February 2023	Budget for year	Expected outturn	Actual	Proposed Budget	
Income						
Precept	25,300.00	25,300.00	25,300.00	24,210.00	26,577.00	1
Interest	48.28	2.00	42.00	3.29	50.00	
Grass Cutting Contribution	403.15	403.15	403.15	380.33	380.33	
Insurance Claim	6,642.67		6,642.67	263.25		
CBC Grant	1,200.00		1,200.00			
VAT refund to March 2022	387.17	387.17	387.17	88.52		
Total Income	33,981.27	26,092.32	33,974.99	24,945.39	27,007.33	
Operational Expenses						
Accountants fees & Sage	584.00	650.00	608.00	542.00	650.00	
Affiliation Fees	207.00	330.00	330.00	320.00	350.00	
Amenity Field lease		120.00	120.00		120.00	2
British Legion	19.00	19.50	19.00	19.50	19.00	
Church Clock Maintenance	296.00	300.00	300.00	282.00	350.00	
Churchyard Maintenance	100.00	300.00	100.00		300.00	
Clerk's expenses	260.00	330.00	320.00	331.47	330.00	
Clerk's salary	5,244.55	5,800.00	5,627.00	5,575.44	5,760.00	
Defibrillator maintenance		300.00		300.00	300.00	
Election expenses		65.00			2,000.00	
Electricity - street lighting	3,696.99	4,800.00	4,800.00	2,252.49	6,000.00	
Electricity/lighting - maint	1,907.50	500.00	1,600.00	868.75	2,000.00	
General Maintenance	365.39	500.00	365.39	380.00	500.00	
GDPR Data Protection		35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	
Grants (see below)	250.00	1,500.00	250.00	370.00	400.00	
Normal Grass and Hedge cutting	3,767.68	7,500.00	3,767.68	6,244.48	7,500.00	
Other grounds & tree work	315.00	500.00	315.00	850.00	500.00	
Insurance	893.66	900.00	893.66	875.66	950.00	
Memorial Hall Hire	48.00	90.00	72.00	2.00	90.00	
Millennium Garden		100.00	100.00		100.00	
Parish Tidy Up		280.00	350.00	231.67	300.00	
Playing field Maintenance	251.50	750.00	500.00	1,410.10	750.00	
Playing field lease		360.00	360.00		360.00	3
Training expenses		100.00	100.00	90.00	100.00	
Web site	310.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	

Vat expensed and not yet recovered	54.94	0.00	0.00	391.97	
Total Operational Expenses	18,571.21	26,489.50	21,292.73	21,732.53	30,124.00
Operating surplus/deficit	15,410.06	-397.18	12,682.26	3,212.86	-3,116.67
Projects & rent arrears					
Allotment lease and set up		2,500.00		2,500.00	2,500.00 4
Amenity lease arrears		600.00		600.00	600.00 2
Play Area maintenance			5,174.11	5,174.11	
Playing field lease arrears		3,600.00			3,600.00 3
Cockayne Hatley land & set up	23.00			403.00	4
Bus shelter	5,575.00		6,000.00		
Noticeboard CH	2,098.40		2,100.00		
Net Project costs	7,696.40	6,700.00	13,274.11	8,677.11	6,700.00
Overall surplus/deficit	7,713.66	-7,097.18	-591.85	-5,464.25	-9,816.67
RESERVES					
Bank brought forward	24,775.07			29,908.98	
(Deficit)/Surplus for period	7,713.66	-7,097.18	-591.85	-5,464.25	
Bank carried forward	32,488.73	-7,097.18	-591.85	24,444.73	
VAT refund due				88.52	
Total	32,488.73	-7,097.18	-591.85	24,533.25	
GRANTS PAID IN YEAR					
Village Link	250.00			250.00	250.00
Wrestlingworth Mem Hall					
History Society				120.00	
PWWG					150.00
	250.00			370.00	400.00
Bank balances					
Current account - 28/02/2023	1,135.20		31/03/2022	2,198.01	
Deposit account - 28/02/2023	31,353.53		31/03/2022	22,577.06	
	32,488.73			24,775.07	

NOTES TO BUDGET

1 - 5% (band D 4.5%) increase for 2023/24

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

Planning Applications as at 6th March 2023 for PC Meeting 13th March 2023

Application No. and Date	Location	Works Proposed	PC Comment	Status
CB/TCA/23/00092	1 Church Lane Wrestlingworth	Work to 2 Rowans, 1 apple – crowns reduced, broken and decayed limbs removed, Laurel trimmed	Comments by 23 th March	
CB/22/04445/SCN	Circa 80 Hectares of Land to the West of Wrestlingworth,	EIA Screening Opinion: Proposed solar farm.	No comment (expiry date was 07/12/22)	Pre-application Advice Released
CB/22/03676/FULL 19/09/2022	89 High Street, Wrestlingworth	First floor side extension	No comment	Awaiting decision
CB/22/02491/FULL 20/06/2022	Brook Farm 94 High Street, Wrestlingworth	Erection of 6 dwellings	No comment	Awaiting decision
CB/21/04834/Full 15/11/2021	Land to south of Potton Road, Wrestlingworth	Erection of 16 dwellings with access onto Potton Road, parking and landscaping	Parish council objection	Awaiting decision