

WRESTLINGWORTH AND COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES of the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council Meeting held at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall on 11th March 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present: Chair Cllr J Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chair Cllr J Dix, Cllr L Chapman, Cllr A Ewens, Cllr M Wilson, CBC Cllr A Zerny, C Dear (clerk) & 4 members of the public

Apologies: CBC Cllr T Wye

Open Forum: None

Ethics and Standards Code: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th January 2024, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report

Actions since last meeting:

- Responded to new planning application at the Chequers with concerns over new location for build encroaching on carpark, field access and Chequers curtilage.
- Liaised with CBC councillors regarding proposed traffic calming and road layout changes in Wrestlingworth.
- Attended village tidy-up day.
- Discussed debris in the brook with a parishioner.
- Inspected trees in the play area and on pathway adjacent to St Peters disused graveyard.
- Liaised with CBC Planning and Enforcement teams regarding high wall at 1 Hatley Road

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 £5,000 to cover February & March 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. Battery replaced.
- Updated Parish Council's copy of the electoral register
- Sent planning applications to Councillors for their consideration
- Drafted budget for 2024/25 and distributed to Councillors for their observations in preparation for the meeting in March
- Collected requests from parishioners regarding allotments – currently 8 to date
- Asked tree surgeon for a quotes for replacement tree for junction of Braggs Lane and High Street

- Completed VAT return for Dec 23 – Feb 24
- It was agreed at the last meeting that a precept for 2024/25 would be requested of £27,975 at a rate of 5% increase on Band D Council Tax charge. Clerk to requested precept from CBC and provided appropriate paperwork.

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

- Inspecting playground and emptying bins on a regular basis.
- Litter picking.
- Overview of the play equipment and area for any obvious damage.
- Clearing debris (broken branches/twigs etc.).
- Observing broken plastic cuffs at base of play equipment.
- Liaising with Highways (19.01.2024) regarding drain cover at junction of Potton Road/High Street (report 400375)– Highways called to advise they were aware; Cllr Chapman reiterated under the temporary drain cover there was no cover for the drain and the danger of a deep hole.
- Subsequently identifying the drain cover had been fixed to the pavement; and a permanent repair subsequently carried out.
- Visited resident of Hill House Farm (2nd visit) advising of the problems their overhanging hedge is causing to users of Church Lane. Provided a copy of the Village Link to the owner and identifying details of adverts for hedge cutting/gardening assistance. There has been no progress since the visit to Cllr Chapman asked to contact owners once more with request in writing. **ACTION LC**

MILLENNIUM GARDEN AND BROOK MAINTENANCE

No further updates on either Millennium Garden or the brook maintenance.

HIGHWAYS – Cllr Dix informed the Council of the following:

- Emailed Chris Dorow, the Rights of Way officer for Sandy, at CBC about the rotting footbridge on the fields. – The bridge is still open, albeit I received an email advising that the footbridge/path had been closed off. This is not the case and after asking which bridge/path has been closed, I have not received a reply.
- Emailed Adam Zerny to see if there is anything further on the 20mph speed limit along with the planned speed bump. This is still in planning and there is no further update since the last time I asked in January.
- The blocked drain on the High Street/Co-op track, that was reported late last year for the second time, after the initial report was closed off due to change of contractors. Fix My street has come back with the following. *Our engineers have inspected the area and are satisfied that no further action is required at this time. The gully is now running clear.* If this is the case, then when we have a downpour that drain cannot handle the amount of water coming off the fields.
- The Blocked Drain opposite Number 88 High Street that was also reported to Fix My Street late last too had the same response. *We have now inspected the defect and no planned repair is necessary at this stage. Please be assured that we will continue to monitor and inspect the road in line with our established service plan. The gully now runs clear.*
- On Friday the 1st of March there was an RTA at the crossroads and the speed camera has been severely damaged. I have emailed Adam Zerny to ask whether this is already with

CBC and he confirmed it is. As to when this will be replaced, he is not sure, as this is more than likely going to involve an insurance claim against the driver. This maybe some time before we see a replacement. This is going to make the crossroads even more susceptible to speeding drivers, especially the regular commuters who now know it is currently out of action!

- Emailed Adam Zerny regarding the parking at the bottom of Church Lane/High Street and advise on who we should contact as the visibility coming out of Church Lane is marred by the number of vehicles. I have been advised of a name at the council to contact but we need photographic evidence of the issue. **ACTION JD**
- The man-hole cover of the corner of The High Street and Potton Road has finally been tarmacked in, after sitting as a loose plastic cover.
- Last week I dealt with a call from a resident of Potton who wanted to share their experience of being a passenger on the Herberts bus as it went into Cockayne Hatley. He was very alarmed at a resident and their attitude to the bus driver as he attempted to manoeuvre the bus to turn round. This has been escalated to CBC and Adrian Hardy.

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

- Village tidy up.
 - The publicity in Village Link was very good, however the number of volunteers who came forward before the event was still disappointing.
 - The weather on the day did not help – is this right time of year? This was discussed amongst Councillors, and it was decided to see if the Walking Group would consider a similar event in the Autumn. **ACTION AE**
 - The two skips were reasonably full.
- EV Charging point – No update.
- Street lighting. Check on energy bills still outstanding.
- Solar Farm between Wrestlingworth and Sutton. No further update in the last 2 months.
- Potton Community Energy Project
 - The next meeting is scheduled for 12 March 24 which I will attend.
 - Also, there is a Community Energy South event at Weatherly Centre in Biggleswade, March 27, 6.00pm. I may not be able to attend. Anyone interested see <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/communityenergysouth/1166466>
- Aircraft Noise – I've done some research into Luton Airport Expansion plans and aircraft noise issues. Data on the number of complaints about aircraft noise is published Luton Airport Monitoring. The most recent data available shows complaints fell from 6,179 in Q3 2022 to 5,004 in Q3 2023.

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

- Various posts made on Village Website & Facebook page as required, including;
 - Allotment interest
 - Parish Council vacancies
 - Village tidy up on the 2nd March
- Reached out to Central Beds Planning to understand status of 16 house plan on Potton Road.
- Provide update for Village Link communications

Lease for allotment site

So far 8 parishioners have contacted the clerk and responded positively so hence the need to search for land for the requirement of allotments. The area behind Tree Nursery Gardens was discussed particularly with respect to vehicular access. It was agreed that Cllr Kirkpatrick would contact CBC to see how to progress with this. **ACTION JK**

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 2024/25 previously circulated to all councillors by the clerk. The Council agreed on the budget for 2024/25.

Correspondence – None, other than periodicals which were handed out for distribution and emails sent to Councillors between meetings.

Any Other Business

- The Council agreed to join, with Gamlingay Parish Council, the A428 legacy funding pot which supports West Cambridgeshire Hundreds/Greensand Ridge biodiversity audit and action plan – Clerk to contact Gamlingay Parish Council to arrange. **ACTION CD**
- Clerk to contact tree surgeon for quote on replacement tree for junction of Braggs Lane and High Street. **ACTION CD**
- Flooding at junction of Church Lane (Butcher's Lane end) and High Street – The Council discussed this and agreed to CBC should be contacted to clear out the blocked drain at this junction. Clerk to provide Cllr Zerny with details and contact the resident who logged the complaint. **ACTION CD**
- Trees hanging over path towards graveyard from Church Lane – Cllr Kirkpatrick said that he would review the trees once they have started to grow to see which ones have dead branches. **ACTION JK**
- The Leisure Recreational Open Space Strategy was discussed at length. Even though our parish statistics highlight the fact that there is little for older children, the Council concluded that along with lack of funds, the council does not have available land for extra facilities.
- The Parish Council agreed to rescind the offer of a place on the Council to Mark Kelly because he has not attended the last 2 meetings provided little communication (one email only) over the last 3 months. **ACTION JK**
- Charging for garden waste collections – Cllr Zerny informed the meeting that instructions for this would be gong out with the Council Tax letters in March.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 13th May at 7.30pm at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall

Appendix A

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

February	Wrestlingworth memorial hall		30.00
January	Alan Briggs – Millennium Garden supplies		70.00
February	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		557.70
March	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		557.70
January & February	Clerk's expenses (Telephone, Internet, Stamps, stationery)		30.00
February	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit – UK-04181464		31.20
March	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit – UK-04292716		31.20
January	Information Commissioner's Office - GDPR		35.00
January	Terry Seymour – Street light maintenance – W2 Eyeworth Road		360.00
January	Terry Seymour – Street light maintenance – W1 High Street		360.00
January	Terry Seymour – street light quarterly maintenance check		64.50
February	Smith of Derby – St Peter's Church clock maintenance		391.20
February	Npower – IN09612914		475.86
March	O'Dell & Sons Ltd – skip hire x 2		708.00
March	Npower – IN09852760		405.14
March	The Society of Local Council Clerks		112.00
March	D J Granger – grass cutting – INV024525		703.80

Appendix B**FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 29 February 2024 with budget to March 2024 and proposed 24/25 budget**

	<u>Year to 31 March 2024</u>			<u>2022/2023</u>	-	Notes
	Actual to 29 February 2024	Budget for year	Expected outturn	Actual 2022/23	Proposed budget 24/25	
Income						
Precept	26,577.00	26,577.00	26,577.00	25,300.00	27,975.00	1
Interest	479.71	150.00	500.00	62.72	700.00	
Grass Cutting Contribution		403.15	403.15	403.15	403.15	
Insurance Claim				6,642.67		
CBC Grant				1,200.00		
VAT refund to March 2023	458.65	458.65	458.65	88.52		
Total Income	27,515.36	27,588.80	27,938.80	33,697.06	29,078.15	
Operational Expenses						
Accountants' fees & Sage	640.00	650.00	670.00	608.00	714.00	
Affiliation Fees	328.00	350.00	328.00	207.00	350.00	
Amenity Field lease		120.00	120.00		120.00	2
British Legion	19.99	19.00	19.99	19.00	19.99	
Church Clock Maintenance		350.00	300.00	296.00	350.00	
Churchyard Maintenance		300.00	100.00	100.00	300.00	
Clerk's expenses	265.00	330.00	300.00	290.00	300.00	
Clerk's salary	6,524.67	5,760.00	7,080.00	5,721.33	7,000.00	
Defibrillator maintenance		300.00		300.00	300.00	
Election expenses	64.82	2,000.00	64.82		2,000.00	
Electricity - street lighting	2,519.70	6,000.00	4,800.00	3,914.88	5,000.00	
Electricity/lighting – maint.	911.25	2,000.00	1,600.00	1,907.50	2,000.00	
General Maintenance	1,249.50	500.00	1,250.00	715.39	1,200.00	
GDPR Data Protection		35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	
Grants (see below)	600.00	600.00	600.00	250.00	1,100.00	
Normal Grass and Hedge cutting	6,856.50	7,500.00	7,000.00	3,902.68	7,200.00	
Other grounds & tree work	400.00	500.00	400.00	1,415.00	500.00	
Insurance	1,017.28	950.00	1,017.28	893.66	1,300.00	
Memorial Hall Hire	76.50	90.00	72.00	66.00	150.00	
Millennium Garden		100.00	100.00	64.96	100.00	
Parish Tidy Up		300.00	350.00	241.67	500.00	
Playing field Maintenance	2,376.50	750.00	2,376.50	251.50	1,500.00	
Playing field lease		360.00	360.00		360.00	3
Training expenses	35.00	100.00	70.00	90.00	100.00	

Web site	325.00	360.00	360.00	310.00	360.00	
Vat expensed and not yet recovered	27.86		0.00	391.97		
Total Operational Expenses	24,237.57	30,324.00	29,373.59	21,991.54	32,858.99	
Operating surplus/deficit	3,277.79	-2,735.20	-1,434.79	11,705.52	-3,780.84	
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	720.00	2
Play Area maintenance	775.00			5,174.11		
Playing field lease arrears		3,600.00			3,960.00	3
Cockayne Hatley land & set up				23.00		4
Bus shelter				5,575.00		
Noticeboard CH				2,098.40		
Net Project costs	775.00	6,700.00	0.00	15,970.51	7,180.00	
Overall surplus/deficit	2,502.79	-9,435.20	-1,434.79	-4,264.99	10,960.84	
RESERVES						
Bank brought forward	29,106.16			29,837.50		
(Deficit)/Surplus for period	2,502.79	-9,435.20	-1,434.79	-4,264.99		
Bank carried forward	31,608.95	-9,435.20	-1,434.79	25,572.51		
VAT refund due	27.86			88.52		
Total	31,636.81	-9,435.20	-1,434.79	25,661.03		
GRANTS PAID IN YEAR						
Village Link	250.00	250.00		250.00	100.00	
Magpas	200.00	200.00				
History Society				120.00		
St Peter's Church					1,000.00	
PWWG	150.00	150.00				
	600.00	600.00		370.00	1,100.00	
Bank balances						
Current account - 29/02/2024	738.63		31/03/2023	2,238.19		
Deposit accounts - 29/02/2024	30,870.32		31/03/2023	26,867.97		
	31,608.95			29,106.16		

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

Application Ref	Date Submitted	Location	Works Proposed	PC Comment	Target Decision Date	Status	Date Granted / Refused
CB/23/03012/FULL	13/09/2023	1 Hatley Road, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2EH	Erection of a wall over 1m high adjacent to the public highway (retrospective)	Comments Provided (JK)	08/11/2023	Application Withdrawn	
CB/23/02447/FULL	21/07/2023	12 Braggs Lane, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2ER	Erection of an outbuilding to rear garden	No comment	04/10/2023	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	
CB/22/04445/SCN		Circa 80 Hectares of Land to the West of Wrestlingworth,	EIA Screening Opinion: Proposed solar farm.	No comment		Pre Application Advise Received	
CB/23/03662/FULL	13/11/2023	The Chequers, High Street, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2EP	The erection of a one and a half storey single dwelling house with associated parking and new private access onto the High Street. Part of the pub car park is to be re-modelled to suit. Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Ts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9 Leyland and Deodar Conifers - Reduce tops and sides of by max 5ft; T7 Cedar (dying) to be felled. T5 Leyland - reduce height by 10ft. T6 Leyland - reduce height by 15ft. Yew - minor reshaping. T8 Conifer - reduce height by 2-3ft.	Comments Provided (JK)	08/01/2024	Refused	08/01/2024
CB/TCA/23/00581	06/12/2023	47 High Street, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2EP				Awaiting decision	
CB/23/02447/FULL	11/12/2023	12 Braggs Lane, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2ER	Erection of an outbuilding (annex) to rear garden		01/01/2024	Awaiting decision	
CB/23/03670/FULL	13/11/2023	The Chequers, High Street, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2EP	Erection of a two bedroom detached dwelling with associated parking, new private access into the High Street and re-model part of the pub car park		16/02/2023	Refused	14/02/2024
CB/24/00607/FULL	08/03/2024	1 Eyeworth Road, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2HG	Single and two storey side and rear extensions, with three velux roof windows with associated internal alterations		03/05/2024	Consultation Period	
CB/24/00591/FULL	04/03/2024	1 Randalls Close, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2BZ	Single storey front extension and rooflight to existing rear roof slope		29/04/2024	Consultation Period	
CB/24/00271/VOC	01/02/2024	10 Water End, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2HA	Variation of condition numbers 2 and 5 of planning permission CB/23/00451/FULL (Demolition of existing first floor accommodation and roof structures with new 2-storey gable front extension and new first floor accommodation under gable roof extension) - Amendments and alterations to the previously approved plans and materials.		28/03/2024	Consultation Period	