

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER
2023 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT WISTASTON MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr. J. Moore (Chairman)
 Cllrs. D. Lucas, D. Millington, G. Roberts, R. Squirrell, D Houston,
 J Robinson

In Attendance Kerri Wilcox (Clerk)

76 APOLOGIES None received

77 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2023, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / POLICE MATTERS / CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS

No-one present

79 Planning Matters

The following item was **RESOLVED**.

(i) New Planning Applications

23/4274N - Rear single storey demolition + construction of new single storey extension – 24 Church Lane – **No Comments**

23/4515N – Certificate of lawful proposed use for extension to right hand side & Front Porch – 2 Sandringham Drive – **No Comments**

(ii) The following planning decisions have been notified from Cheshire East Council

23/3976N – Two storey side and rear single storey extension, storm porch to front elevation 45 Church Lane – **approved with conditions**

80 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report was received by the Council.

i Wistaston Conservation Group

The Chairman informed the Council that the Conservation group had been awarded an outstanding achievement in the 'It's your Neighbourhood awards' from Northwest in Bloom.

ii Wistaston In Bloom

The Chairman informed the Council of the plan for the Wistaston in Bloom and that the Clerk will be presenting the quotation in the Clerks Report.

The Chairman's report was accepted.

81 CLERK'S REPORT

i Co-opted Councillor Apologies - The Clerk informed the Council that the recently co-opted Councillor has sent their apologies as a change in circumstances means they are no longer able to join the Council.

ii Inspection Report – Cllrs Lucas, Roberts, Squirrell and the Park Ranger will continue to conduct the monthly inspection reports.

iii Wistaston in Bloom Planting – The Clerk presented the quotation for the Wistaston in Bloom planting for 2024. Quotations were requested from ANSA (did not reply), Minshulls Nurseries (not interested in quoting and Crewe Road Nurseries (quotation was included). Cllr Houston voiced concerns over the increase in costs on previous years, Cllr Moore explained this is due to the increase in costs and more work being requested of the Contractors due to Bill Heath stepping down from the WIB team, it will be looked into over the course of the next year to see where costs can be reduced for the next financial year. Cllr Moore will organise the co-ordination of maintenance and Cllr Houston has volunteered to water the beds near to her property. Cllr Moore gave Council a history of how the beds were decided within the Parish. Council **APPROVED** the Crewe Roads Nurseries quotation.

iv Meeting Dates – Clerk informed the Council of next years meeting dates but there were some errors so the Clerk will email them to the Councillors when rectified.

v Wistaston Parish Police – Clerk informed the Council of the PC's who are responsible for the Wistaston Parish and that one of them hopes to make it to our January Meeting.

Cllr Roberts asked about the Civic Service, the Clerk will include it for discussion at our January Meeting as the School Choir are unable to perform at any future Civic Services.

The Clerks report was accepted.

82 FINANCE

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Accounts for payment November 2023 totalling £383.29 and the receipts and payments statement have been approved.

83 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Cllr Squirrell reported that the WSLA is all ticking over ok.

Cllr Houston reported that the Memorial are currently in the process of moving to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation it protects the trustees from any liability and gives them more flexibility for authorising contracts.

This has been a long process mainly due to waiting for the Land Registry to register the Hall in Wistaston Parish Council's name.

Cllr Houston has chased this frequently with Land Registry and they have now escalated the application as an urgent priority.

The Memorial Hall Rebuild team have been working with ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) who are assisting with the grant application to the National Lottery. They also assisted with a survey (free of charge) which was sent out to residents which then listed 9 different options for the memorial hall rebuild which has now been reduced to 3, one which includes an option for parents to have better school run parking options. They are currently awaiting a response from the new Headteacher of the Primary school to respond so they can resume the discussions which were started with the previous Head.

They should have the demolition costs by February 2024 and they are confident that the architect will be submitting the rebuild plans to Cheshire East for planning approval in 2024 and then a National Lottery grant can be applied for.

Cllr Moore asked how long the Hall would need to be closed for which they predict approximately 12-18 months.

Cllr Moore reported that the Wistaston Community Council were looking into where to hold the fete but the new school Headteacher has provisionally agreed for it to be held on the school field as pre previous years. The parades will no longer take place both on the fete and the fireworks display due to new Health and Safety rules that have come into effect about marshalling such events. A few more people have attended the Community Council meetings but they are still struggling with volunteers to take on the roles of Roundabout delivery / Fete / Fireworks. Both the Fireworks and Duck race are well attended and raise a good amount for the Community Council through bucket collection.

84 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Environmental Report from Cllr Squirrell was received by the Council, and the Clerk will obtain a quotation for the removal of the rubbish at the back of the property at Beech Drive as Guinness have spoken to the resident and they deny fly tipping. The Clerk will also get in touch with United Utilities to ask about pollution in the stream.

The meeting closed at 8.19 p.m.