

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 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, M Simon

**In Attendance** Kerri Wilcox (Clerk), CE Cllr Alan Coiley, Motherwell Charity Founder

**87 APOLOGIES** None received

**88 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / POLICE MATTERS / CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS**

As per the Clerks report later in the meeting, the Motherwell Charity wish to maintain / sponsor the flower bed on Beech Drive in memory of one of their trustees who passed away last year. The Clerk will contact the contractor with regards to Motherwell maintaining the bed for this year with a view to planting and maintaining it next year. The Clerk will let Motherwell know when the matter has been resolved with the Contractor and it will be presented to Council at our next meeting for approval.

Cllr Simon informed the Council that she reported missing Dog bins on King Shilling Way to Cheshire East and replacements have now been installed. There was a large pothole near Marshfield Bank Farm which has now been filled in. Funds from a recent housing development were meant to be allocated to a pedestrian crossing point at the Peacock roundabout. Cheshire East conducted an assessment a few years ago and deemed it unsafe to install a crossing but they have agreed to carry out another assessment. Cllr Simon has received a report about the roadworks taking place around Crewe in the next couple of months and it has been forwarded on to the clerk to send to Councillors. There is a Cheshire East budget consultation currently taking place which can be commented on as it includes a proposal to charge Parish Council's the election costs.

Cllr Coiley informed the Council that he has reported several potholes to Cheshire East and a lot of flooding within the Parish of which the responses have not been very good. Cheshire East has only one appointed pot hole officer who has to check all pot hole repairs within the borough. The walking/cycling route near to the Beefeater has now been cleared. There is not going to be another crossing person at Lime Tree School as Cheshire East say there is one further up the road at Thomas Moore so another is not needed. Cllr Coiley also informed Council about how the HS2 project withdrawal has affected not just the Council and businesses but a lot of Charity organisations as they were relying on grants that had been promised in connection with the HS2 project.

**90 Planning Matters**

The following item was **RESOLVED**.

**(i) New Planning Applications**

**Planning views following consultation with Planning Subcommittee.**

**23/4360N** – Two storey side/rear extension – 26 Rectory Close – **No Comments (Cllr Lucas did not comment due to declaring an interest.)**

**23/4683N** – Certificate of proposed lawful use for occupation of the property by four persons living together as single house where care is provided. - 552 Crewe Rd– **No Comments**

**24/0013N** – Proposed extension to side of existing dwelling with additional porch extension to front of dwelling – 442 Crewe Road – **No Comments**

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

**23/3320N** - A small infill rear extension to the property to give a larger lounge/ sun room area and a more usable kitchen space. WC and utility area to be formed within existing hallway. – 36 Shelley Drive - **Withdrawn**

**23/3470N** – Proposed Rear Dormer Window – 35 Nessina Grove – **Approved with conditions.**

**23/1763N** - Replace the flat roof over existing garage conversion and kitchen with a tiled roof in keeping with existing tiled roof. A gully will be installed where they overlap. Extend the garage conversion to the front by 1.5m (total area increase would be 3.5m<sup>2</sup>).

The new pitched roof will incorporate this. Extension to the rear of the property by 3.0m (total area increase would be 10.5m<sup>2</sup>), off the back of the existing kitchen, to create a garden room. The new pitched roof will incorporate this – 10 Princess Grove – **Approved with Conditions.**

**23/4274N** - Rear single storey demolition + construction of new single storey extension – 24 Church Lane – **Approved with conditions.**

**91 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Chairman’s report was received by the Council.

**i Wistaston In Bloom**

The Chairman presented the plan for the Wistaston in Bloom to the Council and informed Council that the Park ranger and Conservation group will be taking on a lot of the work that Bill and Helen used to do.

Council **SUPPORTED** the plan and **APPROVED** discussions during the summer to reduce next years costs and look at more permanent planting.

The Chairman included the Litter picking figures for 2023 in his report.

The Chairman's report was accepted.

## 92 CLERK'S REPORT

### i Civic Service

The Clerk informed the Council that St Marys Primary School choir are no longer able to perform at our Civic Service.

Council **SUGGESTED** trying other local schools in the area to see if they are willing to perform

### ii Memorial Trees

Council **APPROVED** two memorial tree requests.

### iii Rubbish Removal Beech Drive

The Clerk presented two costs for the removal of the rubbish at the back of properties on Beech Drive. Council **DECIDED** to go with Rubbish Removals Cheshire, as they have been and inspected the site.

### iv Rockery Garden Beech Drive

Item was included in the Public Participation.

### v Britain in Bloom Report

The Clerk gave all Councillors a copy of the Britian in Bloom Judges report.

### vi Donation

The Clerk informed the Council about a donation received for allowing a plaque on a bench at Jory the Swan.

### vii CE Budget Consultation Survey

The Clerk informed Council about the budget consultation survey as mentioned by Cllr Simon earlier in the meeting.

**The Clerks report was accepted.**

## 93 FINANCE

**i RESOLVED:** That the Schedule of Accounts for payment December 2023 totalling £3951.69 and the receipts and payments statement have been approved.

### ii 2024/25 Budget and Precept Recommendation of the Finance Committee

**RESOLVED:** That the following be approved:

- (a) The detailed service budgets as set out on Appendix A
- (b) The Capital Projects Programme 2023 - 27 as set out on Appendix B
- (c) That the sum of £28,336 be applied from Balances to reduce the Precept requirement for 2024/25
- (d) That the Precept for 2024/25 be set at £68,730.

#### **94 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**

Cllr Squirrell reported that the WSLA is all ticking over ok and they have picked up a regular weekend booking.

Cllr Houston reported that there has not been a Memorial Hall meeting since the last report but she did inform Council that the Land Registry has finally been completed and requested that when Council receive the document could they forward a copy onto the Cllr Houston.

Cllr Moore reported that the Wistaston Community Council have held their annual AGM and January meeting and they have awarded Dane Chaplow the Wistastonian of the Year Award. The meeting was well attended with new faces, but they are still struggling for volunteers on the sub committees. The elections of officers took place, and the Chairman is one of the new members Greg Casewell, Chryslines is the treasurer and Rob McIntosh is the secretary. They have had a meeting with the headteacher, and it has been agreed that the Community Council can use the field for this year's fete, which will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The Flower and Produce show will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024. They are looking into putting up some noticeboards throughout the parish so the events have more visibility. They have changed their constitution so now they only need 5 members for a quorum. The 100 club only has 78 members and they have a few new volunteers to help Eileen with the roundabout publication.

Cllr Simon left the meeting 8.34pm

#### **95 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

The Environmental Report from Cllr Lucas was received and accepted by the Council.

- 96 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC RESOLVED:** That the Press Public be excluded during consideration of Item 12 on the Agenda. Pursuant of Section 100a(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the act.

#### **97 CLERK SALARY**

Council **APPROVED** the Clerk Salary increase.

**The meeting closed at 8.36 p.m.**