

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 17th OCTOBER 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

In Attendance: Kerri Wilcox (Clerk) and a member of the public (replacement Clerk)

48 APOLOGIES Cllr M Simon and Borough Cllr A Coiley

49 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2024, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

51 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / POLICE MATTERS / CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS

No public / police or Councillor participation.

52 Planning Matters

The following item was **RESOLVED**.

(i) New Planning Applications

None received

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

24/2806N – Proposed loft conversion with velux type windows to all elevations – 385 Crewe Road – **Approved with conditions.**

24/1879N - Single storey extension to side elevation – 14 Marys Gate – **Approved with conditions.**

24/2334N - Proposed single storey side, rear extension & front porch infilled to form extra living accommodation – 29 Wistaston Avenue – **Approved with conditions.**

53 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report was received by the Council.

The Chairman reported about the broken sign as per the inspection report which the ranger is going to try and clean up.

The Chairman reported the history and current findings of the land on college fields. It was **AGREED** by the Council that the Parish Council request that Cheshire East transfer it to the Parish Council as they have been maintaining it for many years but that we request the matter with the encroachment on the land be rectified by any transfer takes place.

54 CLERK'S REPORT

i Budget Working Group

i. Budget Working Group

The Budget timetable for setting the 2025/26 precept as below was **APPROVED**

- 19th December 2024 - Finance Committee Meeting to consider the report from the Budget Working Group, to recommend to the Council a provisional Budget for 2025/26 and an indication of likely Precept requirements.
- 19th December 2024 - Council Meeting to determine the provisional Budget for 2025/26.
- 16th January 2025 - Finance Committee Meeting to reconsider draft Budget in the light of any comments received from residents / organisations.
- 16th January 2025 - Council Meeting to determine Budget for 2025/26 and the Council's Precept requirement.

The Meetings of the Finance Committee will be held at 7.00 p.m. The Council meeting will be held at the conclusion of the meeting of the Finance Committee or 7.30 p.m. whichever is later.

Following the Council Meeting of the 19th December 2024, details of the Council's Budget proposals will be publicised, inviting anyone who wishes to make comment on the proposals, to submit them in writing to the Clerk, to be received no later than 09.00 a.m. on 6th January 2025.

The Budget Working Group would meet at 7pm on Wednesday 20th November 2024 and Wednesday 18th December 2024 to determine provisional Budget requirements and on Monday 6th January 2025 to discuss comments made on provisional Budget and to make final recommendations to the Finance Committee, before the meeting on 16th January 2025.

(b) The establishing of a Budget Working Group.

(c) For 2025/26 Precept the Budget Working Group will comprise of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairperson of Finance, Cllr Lucas and Cllr Millington.

ii External Audit 2023/24 – The Clerk reported to the Council that the conclusion of audit has been received for the tax year 2023/24 and the only two points was the Risk Assessment as mentioned in the Internal Audit and there was an incorrect date on the AGAR forms. The payment of the invoice of £315.00 & Vat (funded from line 10 Audit fees) has already been made.

Council **ENDORSED** the payment.

iii. Remembrance Day 10th November 2024 at 3pm

Council **APPROVED** That a donation of £350 be forwarded to the Royal British Legion (Funded from line 18 – Contribution to Royal British Legion S.137 Payment).

iii Replacement Flag at the Memorial Hall

Council **APPROVED** the purchase of a St George's flag at the cost of £50.00 (funded from line 11 community amenities).

iv Memorial Tree request

Council **APPROVED** the 2 memorial tree requests and discussed the space available. It was **AGREED** that trees cannot be planted on the football pitches and other areas will be looked into in the future.

v Surecare email – Council felt this is not something that the Parish Council is involved with and they would be best contacting the Community Council. The Clerk would let them know and advise that we can put a poster up on our noticeboard.

vi PCSO Costs – Council agreed that it is not something we could action for the next financial year so suggested we look into for the next financial year 2026/27. Wistaston is a high crime area so it was **DECIDED** that we will request a meeting with Cheshire Police as Willaston Parish Council have recently done to discuss the lack of a PCSO.

vii Replacement Clerk – The replacement clerk was introduced to the Councillors.

The Clerks report was accepted.

55 FINANCE

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Accounts for payment Sept 2024 totalling £-28,045..23 and the receipts and payments statement have been approved.

56 REPORTS FOR OTHER BODIES

There was no report for the Community Council as nobody was able to attend the meeting.

WSLA – All is going well and they have a digital copy of the lease which once signed will be forwarded to the Parish Council.

Memorial Hall – The new and old charity has now merged and all monies have been transferred. The design brief has been passed on to the Architect so they are hopeful that plans will be ready to view in a couple of weeks. Cllr Roberts asked if the Tennis Court and Bowling green will be staying as they are and Cllr Houston responded yes they are.

57 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Environmental Report from the Park Ranger was received by the Council and Cllr Roberts reported that we are waiting for a quote from Mercia Tree care with regards to some overhanging trees on Beech Drive Car Park.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.