

WHEATPIECES PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

ON WEDNESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00PM

AT THE WHEATPIECES COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllr. Meredith, Cllr. Reid, Cllr. Abel,
Cllr. Saunders, Cllr. Pullen, Cllr. Millett

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Nelson, Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner
Roddy Gosden, Superintendent for Cheltenham & Tewkesbury
T Shurmer (Finance Officer)
E Rust (Clerk)
County Cllr. Smith

MINUTES

Cllr. Meredith welcomed all to the Wheatpieces Parish Council meeting.

1239/FC - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were in attendance

1240/FC - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Dempster & Cllr. Shayamapant

1241/FC - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

1242/FC - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2022

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th October 2022 were approved and adopted.

Proposed: Cllr. Reid Seconded: Cllr. Abel

Agreed

1243/FC – GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Chris Nelson, Gloucestershire Police & Crime Officer and Roddy Gosden, Superintendent for Cheltenham & Tewkesbury attended the meeting to give an overview of policing and projects in place.

Points raised and discussed:

- Part of the role of the Commissioner is to attend meetings such as this to listen to the communities concerns to get a view of what incidents the public want prioritised or addressed and to make sure

that resource is available. This is fed back to the Chief Controller of Operations to determine how to deploy the priorities into operation.

- Chris Nelson was elected 18 months ago and since then he has raised funding of over £2 million for projects and increased the force by 300 police. The extra resources take time to be deployed as it takes 6 months for basic training and 2-3 years for an officer to be fully qualified
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) Special Measures report was issued based on data 1 year before Chris Nelson was in the position and he is striving to resolve the issues and obtain a fully clean report. Covid has had a big effect on the force and the public which has made the job harder.
- Operation 'Flex' is in place and presses alarms in the constabulary and pulls officers from teams to prioritise placement to reduce queues which has an effect on Neighbourhood Policing.
- Operation 'Engage – Special Measures' is addressing the 6 inadequate ratings as a result of problems with the reporting and recording of crimes making the force room control not effective and also noting 21st century IT is an issue. The plan is to refresh the operating model to match the demand with the reporting. The new model is to be completed by 1st April 2023.
- Roddy Gosden gave an overview from his position starting with the tragic incident which occurred in the parish in 2021 and the outcome. The force is waiting for the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) investigation to be completed and will advise out the outcome.
- Question raised on the mistakes and lessons learned. As a result the force can easily identify similar patterns, are hypersensitive to these issues and have new processes in place when identified. If any ASB takes place for more than 6 months or more than 3 incidents are reported it initiates a Community Trigger scheme which will reduce the risk of long-standing disputes.
- Operation 'Solace' is a multi-agency team and the force would like one operating out of Tewkesbury. An officer is required to run this and funding is available however this issue needs to be raised with Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) Question raised of what is holding back TBC on this and it could be as result of lack of awareness or urgency. This needs to be communicated and addressed. Cllr. Smith agreed to raise this matter with Officers at TBC.
- Issue raised regarding the lack of a nominated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for the Wheatpieces Estate and the lack of Crime Reporting since July 22. This has been an issue for other parishes and will be fed back to Grant White, Neighbourhood Inspector for Tewkesbury. A PCSO has been nominated for the area this week and will be communicated imminently. The most recent report had no detail of the crimes and Wheatpieces Parish Council (WPC) used to receive a more detailed report in the past. This will be addressed.
- Superintendent Gosden is passionate about continuity in Neighbourhood Policing and has put a lot into Neighbourhood Teams for Tewkesbury and Cheltenham and feels they have a really strong team in place. It is all about trust and engagement between the communities and the police.
- Chris Nelson is wanting more neighbourhood volunteering going forward, members commented whether the police force should be relying on volunteers? Chris is passionate about empowering volunteers from communities as he feels they will benefit from being involved. Parish Constable volunteers have been effective for decades.
- Chris Nelson informed us of Operation 'Flare'. This is an anonymous reporting app, focusing on various offences to women and wanted to raise awareness and provide information. More detail can be found by visiting www.flarereport.co.uk
- Question raised regarding a recent complaint from a resident regarding the smoking of drugs and general ASB by youths congregating at a secluded bench on the estate. This has been reported by WPC however this will get raised with Sergeant Ash Gardner of Neighbourhood Policing. Non criminalisation of young people is a key priority in the force and 'Aston Project' is in place which works with young people to listen and encourage them enabling reduction in youth criminality.

- The new PCSO for WPC will be communicated and will arrange to meet with the council in the near future.

Chris Nelson, Gloucestershire Policy & Crime Officer and Roddy Gosden, Superintendent for Cheltenham & Tewkesbury were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting at 8:05pm

1244/FC - COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS

The latest Crime Report had been received and duly circulated to Members. The report was taken as read and the relevant issues were discussed in 1243/FC

1245/FC – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

County Cllr. Smith had forwarded a report which had been duly circulated to Members and taken as read.

County Cllr. Smith gave an update on M5, Junction 9, National Highways are proposing restricting access again which is not acceptable and County Cllr vetoed at the consultation. Cllr and local MP pushing for the junction to remain as a 4-way junction. Current works on the junction should be complete within 2-3 weeks

County Cllr. Smith left the meeting at 8:15pm

1246/FC - BOROUGH COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Nothing to report from the Borough Councillor

1247/FC – FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Members approved the recommendation from the Community Centre Committee for the renewal for cover of Community Centre in Managers absence for a 3-year term at £6.50 per open/close (£10.00 Sundays)

Proposed: Cllr. Meredith Seconded: Cllr. Reid

Agreed

Action: Clerk to confirm and issue acceptance letter

- Members approved the recommendation from the Environment Committee for the purchase of two noticeboards this year and intention of another next year at a cost of £1575.50 each (approx.- price @ Oct 22) with fitting cost of £200 per noticeboard. Further reduction of 15% offered if purchasing more than one board – offer only valid for 30 days. Agreed to purchase 2 noticeboards and to be placed at Central Park and Costcutter

Proposed: Cllr. Meredith Seconded: Cllr. Millett

Agreed

Action: Clerk to order boards

- Members approved the purchase of additional Microsoft Office 365 licence for new PC laptop at an annual cost of £94.80

Proposed: Cllr. Reid Seconded: Cllr. Pullen

Agreed

- Members approved the guidance from GAPTC to supply IT Equipment to the Chairman of Wheatpieces Parish Council. Cost to be included in the 2023/24 budget

Proposed: Cllr. Abel Seconded: Cllr. Millett

Agreed

Action: Finance Officer to add to the 2023 budget

- e) Members approved the renewal of the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association (GPFA) at a cost £50.00
Proposed: Cllr. Reid Seconded: Cllr. Millett
Agreed
Action: Finance Officer to arrange payment of renewal
- f) Members approved the Annual Inspection of the children's play area at the Community Centre due to be carried out in January 2023 at a cost of £74.95 + VAT
Proposed: Cllr. Reid Seconded: Cllr. Saunders
Agreed
Action: Finance Office to make payment. Clerk to arrange inspection.
- g) The schedule of invoices paid on the 2nd November 2022 was approved as follows:
 Cheques from Lloyds main Parish Council account = **£589.54**
 Standing Orders & Direct Debits from main Parish Council account = **£1,095.75**
 Payments from the Business Debit Card on the Lloyds main Parish Council account = **£113.76**
 Cheques from TSB Sports Field account = **£440.00**
 Cheques from the Barclays Community Centre account = **£755.00**
 Cheques from the Extension/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) = **£810.00**
Proposed: Cllr. Reid Seconded: Cllr. Millett
Agreed
- h) Members approved the Reimbursements from the Lloyds main Parish Council account = **£85.87**
Proposed: Cllr. Reid Seconded: Cllr. Millett
Agreed

Cllr. Meredith thanked Theresa Shurmer for setting up the payments and Cllr. Abel and Cllr. Pullen for signing the cheques.

1248/FC - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No planning applications were received for consideration.

1249/FC –COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

- Cllr Meredith confirmed the planning has come through for the solar panels and the fitting should be completed by December.
- The heating units are fully operational apart from minor works needed on the corridor unit.
- Radiators have all been removed and the boiler is being removed on Friday
- Members approved the increase of £2,100.00 for the Solar Panels

Proposed: Cllr. Reid Seconded: Cllr. Millett
Agreed

1250/FC – POLICIES

A list of recommended policies recommended by GAPTC was distributed to members. Most members felt they do not have time to action at present due to personal commitments and volume of the task. It has been agreed to put on the back burner until members have more time available. Cllr. Saunders will still complete the Noticeboard Policy.

Action: Clerk to send the Noticeboard Policy to Cllr Saunders

1251/FC – CORRESPONDENCE

- Members agreed that we do not need to invite John Moore Primary School or Tewkesbury Cricket Club to the January 2023 Full Council Meeting to give a presentation

- As there are no laws in place for the number of dogs, number of dogs off the lead at any one time or general fouling, WPC was advised by Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) if any action was to be taken the council would need to seek legal advice. As this would be costly it was decided that no further action will be taken at this time. The only option felt at present was to monitor the situation
- Recent reporting from a resident regarding ASB by youths at Michaels Wood, Beauchamp Road including smoking drugs, drinking, littering and groups of youths congregating in the morning and evenings between 6-10pm. This has subsequently been reported to Gloucestershire Police via 101. Discussion had regarding the removal or relocation of the bench which is to be investigated further

Action: Clerk to contact Adrian Clements and Andy Noble of TBC to discuss the options

1252/FC – MEMBERS REPORTS

- Cllr. Meredith has been updated by TBC and Bovis Homes on the adoption of various areas including Wakeman Close and Buckingham Close which is imminent
- Cllr. Meredith reminded members of the Remembrance Service this Sunday service and confirmed Cllr. Saunders is to attend. Christmas Lights event is on the following Sunday
- Dobbies grand opening to the public is taking place on 3rd November and Cllr Reid and Cllr. Meredith will be attending the opening ceremony
- Cllr. Millett gave a reminder to support the Climate and Ecology Bill as there is a reading at the Lords this month, highlighting that WPC are supporting
- Cllr. Pullen questioned any update on the Brambles at Fieldfare Walk.
Action: Cllr. Meredith will chase the works to be carried out
- Cllr. Millett commented on the improvement on the flailing carried out, being a vast improvement on the last flail
- Cllr. Saunders gave an update after his meeting with a representative from the Nature Reserve. A good meeting overall and received sound advice on planting, bee hotels, and creating wildflower areas on green open spaces including the planting of bluebells and daffodils. The project will all come down to cost and available finance. An estimate of costings will be provided and ultimately it will be a 2–3-year project. Consideration to be investigated for any funding available i.e. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust etc

1253/FC – PROPOSED DATES FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS FROM JAN TO MAY 2023

Full Council meetings will revert to Thursdays in the new year

Thursday 12th January 2023

Thursday 2nd February 2023

Thursday 2nd March 2023

Thursday 6th April 2023

Thursday 11th May 2023

1254/FC – ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Suggested date of 19th January 2023 – To be confirmed (TBC)

1255/FC - SEPARATE BUSINESS

Members then moved into confidential business:

Under Section 100(A)(4) Local Government Act 1972, the minutes are excluded from publication on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

- The minutes of the separate minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th October 2022 were approved and adopted

Proposed: Cllr. Reid Seconded: Cllr. Abel

Agreed

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Environment Committee

Thursday 19th January 2023 at 7:00pm (TBC)

at the Wheatpieces Community Centre (Meeting Room 2)

Community Centre Committee

Thursday 19th January 2023 at 7:35pm (TBC)

at the Wheatpieces Community Centre (Meeting Room 2)

Full Council Meeting

Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 7:00pm

at the Wheatpieces Community Centre (in the New Hall)

The meeting closed at 9:05pm