

Wheldrake Parish Council

www.wheldrake-pc.gov.uk
clerk@wheldrake-pc.gov.uk

DRAFT Minutes of Wheldrake Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held at 7pm at Church Cottage on Wednesday November 22nd, 2023

52.	Welcome: The Chair welcomed councillors and visitors to the meeting.
53.	Apologies and Attendance: Apologies were received from Cllr Buckle. The reason for absence was accepted by the council. All remaining councillors and three residents were present.
54.	Interests in respect of items on this agenda: The Chair asked members to declare any interests. No interests were declared.
55.	Minutes: The July 26 th and September 27 th council minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Chair. The October 26 th Minutes were incorrect at item 41d. It was RESOLVED that these minutes would be corrected and resubmitted for approval at the next meeting.
56	Public Participation: A resident who had emailed the Clerk in September and awaited a response was interested in the evening bus service. The resident asked the Council to look if a government grant was available for the bus as it is a tendered service. This resident offered to help create a survey to support this. The Chair said this will be online. She was also curious about Item 65. It was explained why a vote to exclude the public was necessary. Two other residents said they were here to understand the council's position concerning traffic calming, It was RESOLVED to note the residents' questions.
57.	Reports:
57.1.	Play-park Committee: The gate is currently broken, the lengthsman has been asked to fix it. The coloured blobs in the under 5's area need to be removed as they are unsafe. PlayScheme to be asked to repair under warranty. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Myers meet PlayScheme to address this issue.
57.2.	Village Maintenance Committee: The notice board at White Rose House has been repaired. A granite plaque has been removed by Cllr. Myers to repair and affix to the wall. The Street Lighting Technical Officer of CYC has asked WPC to carry out tree remediation work within Braithegayte Park. WPC have said this is not its responsibility, but it will raise the issue with CYC. It was RESOLVED that the repairs to the noticeboard be noted; and, the granite plaque be repaired by Cllr Myers and reaffixed to the wall, and Chair to contact our Community Officer about tree remediation work.
57.3.	Police Report: Chair raised that he had heard from local community PC who was interested in attending future WPC meetings. The Chair had written to him with future meeting dates with an invitation to attend or provide a written report. It was RESOLVED to note the position.
58.	Defibrillator: All reported as fine. The village hall defibrillator has been replaced following its software update. The unit had been fitted with a new battery at no extra charge. It was RESOLVED to note the update.
59.	Planning Applications: <u>23/01927/FUL</u> Swallow Hall, Crockey Hill Road YO19 4SG variation of condition 2 and 3 of 8/8/164A/PA to alter opening dates and allow seasonal pitches. <u>23/01901/FUL</u> 1 The Paddocks, Wheldrake application to install an air source heat pump. WPC RESOLVED not to raise an objection to either application.

60.	Finance:
60.1.	Bank Balance On October 23 rd , 2023, it was £42,046.09 with six cheques to clear giving a net of £38,404.69. It was RESOLVED to note the position.
60.2.	Income and expenditure A report for the last two financial quarters was received. This was in line with the budget and there were no comments as accounts were in balance and in line with budget estimates. Bank Fees were discussed, and it was explained why cheque driven transactions were expensive and it would be cheaper to adopt BACS payments. It was RESOLVED to note the position.
60.3.	Aggregate Income and Expenditure: The pattern of the July to September 2023 payments to the clerk was unusual. This was due to cheque 200141 which was for salary and expenses. It was RESOLVED to note the position.
60.4.	Balance Held: See 60.1 above.
60.5.	Draft Budget for 2024 - 2025: Cllr Myers had reviewed the Parish Council Budget for 2023 - 2024 and produced a draft for 2024 - 2025 for discussion. A 5.0% allowance has been made for inflation with the draft budget prepared in a manner to keep the precept at £40,000. This has been possible by reducing the budget for grants and presently excluding the evening bus subsidy. In reviewing the draft budget, the following matters were discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFO salary and the accountant's fee and whether this represented us paying twice for the same service. Also, why is there an increase of 25% in internal auditor fees. • Meeting Venue costs and suitability of Church Cottage and White Rose House. • £2,500 likely to be carried forward from 2023 - 2024 playpark budget covering a potential maintenance shortfall in 2024 - 2025. • The case for and against a separate projects bank account to be raised with YLCA. • The Lengthsman cost is high because we are doing additional work for CoYC and the need to ensure that double taxation benefit is realized from CoYC. • Public liability Insurance for play park and other items in WPC asset register and the need to ensure that WPC is following the requirements of the insurance. • The case for increasing WPC's training budget to £1,000 and the benefit to councillors that could be derived. • To investigate further whether provision needs to be made for updating or replacing WPC's website. • The need to ensure the Zoho email budget covers all councillors and clerk / RFO. Cllr. Wilkinson is look into this. • The need to provide a budget of £500 given finite battery life and cost of replacement pads. • The case for traffic calming on main Street and Church Lane will be enhanced if WPC is prepared to make a financial contribution. A budget of £5,000 is supported. • A reduction in allowance for grants to £2,5000, bringing this more in line with comparable parishes. • Grant allowance to be reduced to £2,500, which was felt to be more in line with other councils. Following this it was noted that the precept may need to go up by £3,000 to allow for the above changes to the draft budget and by £6,000 if the evening bus subsidy is to be included. Cllr Myers agreed to produce a revised budget. It was RESOLVED to reconsider the budget at the extraordinary meeting to be held on December 6 th .
60.6.	Approval of Payments to be made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £293 to Blueberry Cooperative for winter planting. • £23:98 to Cllr Southern for Remembrance Day wreath. • £234 to Toby Johnson for emergency tree felling • Payment to Clerk / RFO for salary at agreed rate It was RESOLVED to approve the above payments.
60.7.	Approval of Clerk's Expenses There were no expenses to approve.

61.	<p>Braithegayte Park: A Communication from CoYC Community Officer suggested the possibility of a 'community asset transfer from CoYC to WPC. Should WPC have an immediate concern regarding liability then CYC could look into granting a license. In the interim could the WPC owned benches be stored offsite, Cllr Myers agreed to discuss this with Cllr Buckle to see if he can store them. It was RESOLVED to discuss this further at the following meeting.</p>
62.	<p>Traffic Calming: The Chair has written to CoYC Cllr Vassie pointing out that all other Parishes have traffic calming measures and asked why we do not. We have not had a response. Additionally, the Chair was writing to CoYC's executive member responsible for transport making the case for active 30mph speed warning signals on both Main Street and Church Lane. It was noted that no traffic speed data logging has taken place for four years and we need to speak to CoYC and NYP regarding this. Cllr Southern will speak to NYP and Chair to speak to Deighton and Escrick PCs and NYCC Highways and Transport to understand how their active signs had been justified. It was RESOLVED to consider this matter further when responses to the actions identified have been received.</p>
63.	<p>Christmas lights Competition: Three independent judges have been found who have agreed to judge the competition during the week beginning December 16th. Dates were proposed: inspect Christmas lights on December 16th, agree winner on December 18th and award the winner on December 20th. Cllr Myers' offer to fund the competition's prize of £100 with no promotion of his business. Cllr Myers would also promote the competition on the WPC Facebook page. It was RESOLVED to accept Cllr Myers offer of £100 with no promotion of his business; and, to note that the competition will be posted on the council's Facebook page.</p>
64.	<p>Village Bus Survey: Data supplied by EYMS for 12 months to October 2023 shows about 48% of journeys on the Friday and Saturday evening buses originated in Wheldrake. WPC presently pays 57% of the subsidy. The chair has written to CoYC to argue that WWPC subsidy needs to be reduced accordingly.</p> <p>The chair has drafted an online survey to ask if people are or are not using the Friday and Saturday evening buses and whether they would support an increase in precept to continue funding these evening journeys. It was agreed that the survey needs to make clear that the survey is solely about the evening journeys. It was RESOLVED: That a revised survey would be discussed at the December 6th meeting of WPC.</p>
65.	<p>Year-Round Planting Scheme: It was RESOLVED that Blueberry Cooperative would be awarded the contract to undertake two plantings of the WPC planters in Spring and Summer 2024 at a cost of £616 by virtue of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.</p>
66.	<p>Clerk and RFO: Interim Arrangements: In the light of the Clerk / RFO's absence due to illness it was RESOLVED that the following arrangements would be put in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Wilkinson to take minutes for this meeting. • Cllr Nelson to take charge of the Council laptop and take subsequent minutes for WPC meetings and create hard copies as necessary. • Cllr Myers to deal with financial matters with assistance from Adams and Co. • Chair to set agenda and deal with incoming correspondence.
67.	<p>Items for Next Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the revised proposed budget and precept required. • Regular reports • Topics as identified in these minutes
68.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday December 6th, 2023, at 7.00pm in Church Cottage.</p>
69.	<p>The meeting closed at 9.12pm</p>