Wheldrake Parish Council

[www.wheldrake-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wheldrake-pc.gov.uk/)

clerk@wheldrake-pc.gov.uk

**Minutes of Wheldrake Parish Council’s Extraordinary Meeting**

**held at 7.00pm at Church Cottage on Wednesday December 6th, 2023.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **70.** | **Welcome:**  The Chair welcomed councillors and visitors to the meeting. |
| **71.** | **To receive apologies and consider the reasons for absence:**  Apologies were received from Cllrs Buckle (who as resigned), Wilkinson and White. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons for absence Cllr Cranfield was absent without apology. All remaining councillors and two residents were present. |
| **72.** | **To receive Declarations of Interests from members present:**  The Chair asked members to declare any interests. No interests were declared. |
| **73.** | **Minutes:**  The draft minutes for October 25th and November 22nd, 2023, were reviewed. It was **RESOLVED** that they were a true record. Accordingly, the Chair signed them as such. |
| **74.** | **Public participation – members of the public are invited to speak and raise questions for the council for three minutes:**  A concern was raised that the Council had already made a decision that the weekend evening buses would no longer be subsidised by WPC. This view that the future of these bus journeys was predetermined and that the draft budget was prepared with the bus excluded (It was clarified by the Chair that there was a parallel draft that included the bus subsidy and that no decision had been taken). The Council **RESOLVED** to note this representation. |
| **75.**  **7**5.1.  75.2.  75.3.  75.4. | **To consider the reports received from the following committees / persons:**  **Playpark committee:**  Cllr Myers had met with Playscheme who had agreed to repair the matting around the big green tractor nder warranty. It was clarified that the warranty repair did not extend to the matting at the entrance to the under fives’ area and that WPC would need to independently need to arrange for this work to be done. The Council **RESOLVED** to note with satisfaction Playscheme’s acceptance that warranty covered the ‘new’ matting and to arrange for the entrance area matting to be repaired.  **Village maintenance committee:**  Nothing to report.  **Police Community Support:**  No report received.  **CoYC Ward Councillor (Christian Vassie):**  No report received. |
| **76.** | **To receive a defibrillators’ status update:**  All were in working order and an invoice was to be paid before dispatch of replacement pads (see 78.2 below). The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the status update and arrange payment of the invoice received. |
| **77.** | **To consider Planning Applications and decisions taken by the planning authority:**  23/02206/OHL Land west of Hagg Wood Broad Highway; telegraph pole and transformer. 23/02121/FU 4 Hall Close Variation of 20/02486/FU; to reduce footprint of rear extension. 23/01649/FUL Village Green Preserves Ltd Millfield Industrial Estate; extensions to front, rear and sides and security fencing to boundary following demolition of existing structures. The Council **RESOLVED** not to object to any of the foregoing applications.  Millfield Development  CoYC was debating whether or not to finally approve this development comprising 139 dwellings when this meeting began. The Chair reported that three members of the public were in attendance to make representations. One of the representations was from the Chair of the Wheldrake Recreation Association (WRA) who made a case for all Section 106 monies allocated to sport and recreation should pass to the WRA which was looking to fund a new multi-use games area (MUGA). CoYC Ward Cllr Vassie made a case for the development to be sustainable over a 30-year period with, for example electric car charging points for every home. Also, he argued that the £70,000 allocated to public transport should be for buses serving Wheldrake rather than more general use not of direct benefit to Wheldrake residents. Also included was £300,000 to fund two new travellers’ pitches. Cllrs expressed concern that this had not been subject to consultation with WPC and that therefore they should not be in Wheldrake Parish.  During discussion of this development, the Council learned that CoYC had decided to refer this development to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and if not called-in to approve the development subject to a Section 106 agreement. WPC **RESOLVED** to note the position reached in respect of the Millfield development and will provide the SoS with the response WPC sent to CoYC concerning this housing development. |
| 78.  78.1.  78.2.  78.3.  78.4.  78.5. | **Finance:**  **To receive a bank balance as on November 23rd, 2023:**  The cleared balance was £38,814.49 which when allowing for uncleared cheques was reduced to £37,330.5The Council **RESOLVED** to note this position.  **To consider approval of the list of payments:**  The following were considered for payment for payment:   * Graeme Urwin, stamps: £6.00 * White Rose House, rental:£160.00 * Emma Elsey-Jeffry, defibrillator spares: £121.14 * Clerk’s salary at previously agreed contractual rate   **To consider preparation of the budget for 2024/25**  The draft budget for 2024 – 2025 was considered in detail with changes made in a number of areas.   * Clerk / RFO salary reduced to £8,500. * Meeting venue for ten meeting reduced to £150. * Playpark inspection to be tied in with neighbouring parishes to enable reduction to £1750 * Lengthsman amended to £7,500. * Newsletters £500 * Training, including defibrillator demonstration open to all residents £1000. * Grants increased to £3,400 * Weekend evening buses at 57% to August 2024 then 48% to reflect current usage., subject to support through the survey in January 2024, £2,750 * Double taxation as an income of £2,900 in 2024 2025 additional to lengthsman’s core contract, representing work done for CoYC. Reclaim from CoYC in current year £1,400 in be submitted this month.   WPC **RESOLVED** to accept the above changes to the 2024 -2025 budget and that the finalised budget be publicly available on the Council’s website and WPC noticeboards.  **To consider setting the Parish Precept for 2024/25:**  In light of the changes made to the 2024 2025 budget, the Council **RESOLVED** to continue with a precept of £40,000 and to advise CoYC accordingly.  **To consider approval of the Clerk’s expenses:**  There were none to consider. |
| **79.** | **To receive and consider applications for grant funding for 2024 - 2025:**  The four applications submitted were reviewed, namely:   * Wheldrake and Thorganby primary school PTA for £950 in respect of a memorial garden for which the PTA has raised £450. * Wheldrake Preschool for £450 to purchase story sacks. * Elvington Scouts for £1000 to undertake refurbishment of kitchen ceiling and associated works. * Sharing Life £5,000 to help fund its growing cross generation activities.   Central to the Council’s debate was the recent grant history that had been biased towards children and additionally funding of work to improve the playpark. It was on this basis that WPC **RESOLVED** to award Sharing Life a grant of £3,000 and the primary school PTA £400. The Council also **RESOLVED** that it would consider further grants subject to the outturn for 2024 – 2025 provided sufficient headroom.  , |
| **80.** | **To consider changing the Parish Council’s banking arrangement to a digital banking provider:**  Following discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** to move to digital banking in place of the existing cheque based regime provided by HMRC. The Council also **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Brown and Nelson would review the options available in light of other councils’ experience and to report back to the February 2024 meeting of WPC. |
| **81.** | **To receive the response from CoYC regarding the future responsibility for Braithgayte Park:**  CoYC has yet to respond to the discrepancy between the York Map as to the ownership of Braithgayte park. WPC **RESOLVED** to consider this matter further when the response from CoYC is to hand. |
| **82.** | To receive an update on village speed calming measures:  The Chair provided an update following discussion with neighbouring parish councils. The response from Deighton was interesting in that it referenced 2023 being a year in which there would be a CoYC election and that the Ward Councillor had been very supportive. The Council **RESOLVED** to consider this matter again when a CoYC response to the letter concerning traffic calming on Main Street and Church Lane was available. |
| **83.** | **To consider the engagement of PD Solutions to supply HR advice:**  WPC **RESOLVED** to engage PD Solutions to provide specialist HR advice at a casual hourly rate of £50 per hour and not a monthly retainer of £100. |
| **84.** | **To consider a whole village survey into the Friday/Saturday evening bus service:**  It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the whole village survey would you be amended at question seven to make it equally applicable to non-users of the weekend evening buses prior to the online survey being launched in January 2024 with paper copies available from the shop and Sharing Life. |
| **85.** | **To consider a change of venue for Parish Council meetings in 2024:**  The Council **RESOLVED** to switch its regular meetings’ venue to Church Cottage throughout 2024 as it offered a saving over White Rose House which is better suited to larger meetings when it would be the Council’s first choice venue. |
| **86.** | **To consider excluding the press and public Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960** (*as the business is prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted)*:  The Council **RESOLVED** to exclude the public present to allow the Chair to brief the Council on matters pertinent to its role as an employer. A letter that the Clerk asked the Chair be read to Cllrs was read. |
| **87.** | **To receive a report from Cllr Surtees regarding the lease renewal of the Wenlock Arms:**  Cllr Surtees briefed the Council that the present tenant of the Wenlock Arms would be leaving in June 2024 or sooner if an incoming tenant wished to take on the tenancy before next June. In 2016 CoYC registered the Wenlock Arms along with the shop, White Rose House and Wheldrake woods as community assets. The outgoing tenant had via Cllr Surtees asked WPC to write to the owners of the Wenlock Arms stressing the community value of the pub, including providing a welcoming and affordable venue to many village groups and organisations.  The Council **RESOLVED** that the Chair would write accordingly to the owning Stonegate Group. |
| **88.** | To consider items for discussion at the next meeting:  The Chair explained the need for WPC to appoint a Proper Officer to act during the continuing absence from work of the Clerk and a Cllr to act as the Council’s point of contact with the Clerkduring her absence. |
| **89.** | **To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday December 13th, 2023, at 6.30.pm.** (**Venue – Church House**):  The Council **RESOLVED** that an extraordinary meeting would, in light of minute 88 above, be held in Church House at 6.30pm on Wednesday December 13th. |
| **90.** | The meeting closed at 20.57 |