

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019 AT 7.30 P.M.**  
**AT WISTASTON MEMORIAL HALL, CHURCH LANE, WISTASTON.**

**Present:** Cllr. J. Moore, (Chairman)  
 Cllrs. D. Lucas, D. Millington. R. Moore, G. Roberts, J. Scott & R. Squirrel.

**In Attendance:** Mrs. A. Cross (Clerk) & 3 Residents.

**55 APOLOGIES**

Cllrs. T. Kilkenny, Mrs. V. Smith, Borough Cllr. Mrs. M. Simon, PC Clark & PCSO Bowman.

**56 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**57 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made in respect of any items on the Agenda.

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

Two residents enquired whether Wistaston Parish Council would be interested in having a pump track set up in Wistaston. This is a small bike course that develops riding abilities and provides a safe area to play. The top field near Beech Drive car park at Joey the Swan was suggested as a suitable place for the track to be installed. They would be happy to lead the project, raise funds and coordinate the contractors. The nearby BMX track and skate park in Crewe is more suited to those with excellent riding skills compared to a pump track which caters for all ages and abilities. Tilston Village has recently had a pump track installed, funded by the residents and it is a huge success. The Council felt this was an excellent idea and were supportive of the plan, however, the proposed location was not suitable due to the close proximity to houses. It was suggested that Bloor Homes be contacted to consider this as an alternative to their planned traditional playground. The residents were thanked for bringing this initiative to the Council's attention. Once further information has been gathered and a more suitable location identified, a report will be brought to a future Council meeting.

A resident enquired whether there was any scope for setting up a community initiative for planting more trees in view of climate change. Cheshire East Council Environmental Strategy is to engage and fund more tree planting by 2035. The Chairman replied that Wistaston Conservation Group plant trees on the Parish Council's land and he agreed to discuss the possibility of more trees being planted on the Bloor homes site at his next meeting with them. Cllr. Roberts stated the resident would need to identify the area where the trees are to be planted and he agreed to provide contact details of all the relevant people for more information.

**59 PLANNING MATTERS**

**(i) Planning Subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

The following items were **RESOLVED:**

19/4388N Proposed single storey front extension to form new entrance and internal alterations to form study and canopy over side door, proposed first floor dormer roof both sides and side extension to form larger front and rear bedrooms with ensuite and two additional bedrooms – 3 Swift Close.

19/4446N Proposed rear extension – 28 Langdale Road.

**NO OBJECTIONS** be made on the above 2 planning applications

At the Planning Subcommittee meeting Cllr. Mrs. Smith declared an interest on the application listed below as her parents live at the neighbouring property. She did not speak or vote on the matter.  
19/4404N Rear and side two /single storey ext. – 386 Crewe Road.

**REPRESENTATIONS** be made that there does not appear to be sufficient room at the side of the property to allow access for bins to be stored at the rear.

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

19/1696N Change use of garage to 2 rooms to the existing HMO – 2 Beech Dr.	<b>PERMIT</b>
19/3454N 2 storey side & single storey rear ext. – 39 Beech Drive	<b>PERMIT</b>
19/3485N 1 <sup>st</sup> floor ext. over kitchen/study to side of dwelling – 3 Buckingham Cl.	<b>PERMIT</b>
19/3491N Proposed new triple garage – 372 Crewe Road	<b>PERMIT</b>

**60 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Council considered the Chairman's Report.

**(i) St. Mary's War Memorial**

The project to restore the approach pathway and Memorial surround at St. Mary's Church was scheduled for completion before the Remembrance Service. A number of issues have been raised by Cheshire East Council planning department, as a result this has delayed the construction work and it will not be complete for the service on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**(ii) Playground Light and Speed Indicator Device Post**

A quotation has been received from Cheshire East Council for a light at the children's playground and a Speed Indicator Device post in Broughton Ln., costing £3,080. The provisions set aside were:-

Playground Light	£1,000
Speed Indicator Device Unit (unspent balance)	£1,200 (Transferred into balances)

The Chairman undertook to resolve several minor issues with Cheshire East Council Officers before work commences.

**RESOLVED:** That an order be placed with Cheshire East Council in the sum of £3,080 +VAT for the installation of a light at the children's playground and Speed Indicator Device post in Broughton Lane. Funded by £1,000 transferred from provisions - children's playground light and £2,080 transferred from the contingency general line 13.

**(iii) PCSO Meeting**

Cllrs. Millington, J. Moore, R. Moore, Scott, Squirrel and Mr. Poulson-Green (Park Ranger) attended an introduction meeting with PC Clark and PCSO Bowman on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019. It was a good meeting providing an opportunity to raise issues, which the Officers have agreed to act upon.

**(iv) Wistaston Conservation Group**

A joint meeting was held with the Chairman, Clerk, Mr. Wood and Mr. O'Hara of Wistaston Conservation Group. Key changes for the group were discussed including insurance, financial support and selected equipment (all minor items). The Group will provide details to the Clerk for a future Council meeting discussion.

**(v) Civic Service**

Members **APPROVED** the Civic Service be held during February 2020 at St. Mary's Church and catering cost up to £350 (Funded from Line 17 – Administration)

**(vi) Website**

A number of changes to the Council's website have been carried out by Mr. McIntosh in conjunction with Cllr. Squirrell and Cllr. Lucas the webmaster team.

**(vii) Vandalism**

Extensive vandalism has been taking place at the Children's Playground Joey the Swan. These incidents have been reported to the Police, PC Clark and PCSO Bowman. Increased clearing of broken bottles / litter and cleaning graffiti is being carried out by our Park Ranger.

The Chairman's Report was accepted by Council.

**61 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report was considered by Council.

**(i) Budget Working Group**

- a) The Budget timetable for setting the 2020/21 Precept as below was **APPROVED**  
 19/12/19 Finance Committee Meeting to consider the report from the Budget Working Group and to recommend to Council a provisional Budget for 2020/21 and an indication of likely Precept requirements.  
 19/12/19 Council Meeting to determine the provisional Budget for 2020/21.  
 16/01/20 Finance Committee Meeting to reconsider draft Budget in the light of any comments received from residents / organisations.  
 16/01/20 Council Meeting to determine Budget for 2020/21 and the Council's Precept requirement.
- b) The establishing of a Budget Working Group and timetable for its meetings being held at Wistaston Memorial Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, at 7 p.m.
- c) For the 2020/21 Precept the Budget Working Group comprise of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairman of Finance, Cllr. Lucas and Cllr. Squirrell.

**(ii) Applications for Financial Assistance**

All applications for financial assistance will be presented to the Budget Working Group on 19/11/19.

**(iii) Website Refresh**

The Council **ENDORSED** Mr. McIntosh building a new website based on the Neighbourhood Plan design at a cost of £150. The sample website was **APPROVED** and Mr. McIntosh will be instructed that the site can go live from 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019. (Funded from Line 14 – Website Hosting / Mtce.)

**(iv) Pump Track – Recreation for Young Adults**

Members received a copy email from a resident, regarding a pump track for the village. Once further information has been gathered and a suitable location identified a report will be brought to a future Council meeting.

**(v) Antisocial Behaviour – Children’s Playground Joey the Swan**

Members were informed of an ongoing issue of antisocial behaviour at the Children’s Playground Joey the Swan. The area is repeatedly covered in graffiti, broken glass and litter, which the Park Ranger is constantly clearing. PC Clark and PCSO Bowman have been informed, they have agreed to carry out extra patrols. The graffiti has been reported to the Police as criminal damage.

**(vi) Highway Issues – Danebank Avenue**

Members received a copy email from Borough Cllr. Roberts Portfolio Holder for Cheshire East Council (CEC) Highways sent to Simon Wallace CEC Highway Officer, following a meeting regarding problems on Dane Bank Avenue. The email includes his observation and recommendations. Most of the recommendations are for CEC to resolve apart from the Community Speed Watch Group operating in that area. A site would need to be approved and a site location code required. Cllr. Scott agreed to forward this on to Borough Cllr. Roberts for action. Appreciation was noted to the Manager of the Woodside Public House who has kindly offered the use of their car park for school drop off and pick up, to assist with alleviating some of the problems.

**(vii) Christmas Decorations**

**RESOLVED:** That Wistaston Memorial Hall Management Committee be reimbursed for the purchase and installation of Christmas decorations at the Memorial Hall and surrounding area within the Budget provision of £600 (Line 8 - Christmas Trees and Illuminations).

**(viii) Wistaston Memorial Hall Annual Quiz**

**RESOLVED: That**

- a) Wistaston Parish Council enter a team for the Memorial Hall’s Quiz on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019, comprising Cllrs. Roberts, Scott, Squirrell and Mrs. Squirrell costing £12.
- b) A raffle prize be donated to Wistaston Memorial Hall’s Quiz Evening costing approx. £15. (Both above items funded from line 12 – Community Amenities).

**(ix) Remembrance Day – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019****a) Remembrance Service**

Revd. Turnbull will lay the Parish Council’s wreath at the Cenotaph, St. Mary’s Church, on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 2.30 pm. This precedes the Memorial Hall Service of Remembrance at 3.00 pm. Six Councillors indicated they will attend.

**b) Donation to Royal British Legion**

**RESOLVED:** That a donation of £350 be forwarded to the Royal British Legion (Funded from line 20 – Contribution to Royal British Legion S.137 Payment).

**(x) Replace Wiring on the Boardwalk at Hinging Bank Covert**

**RESOLVED:** That Wistaston Conservation Group replace the wiring on the boardwalk at a cost of £95.07+VAT for materials only. (Funded from Line 29 – Env Gen)

**(xi) Best Kept Village Award Ceremony**

**RESOLVED:** That no Members were available to attend the Best Kept Village Award Ceremony at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The Chairman agreed to ask a Member of Wistaston in Bloom Group to attend.

**(xii) Councillor Resignation**

Members were notified that Cllr. Bicknell has resigned from Wistaston Parish Council. A letter of acknowledgment has been sent expressing thanks for his contribution to the Council.

**(xiii) Litter Picking – Scout Group**

100 young people from the 35<sup>th</sup> SWC Scout Group carried out litter picks of Bluebell Wood and Joey the Swan over 6 sessions.

**RESOLVED:** That a donation of £100 be given to 35<sup>th</sup> SWC Scouts in appreciation of the litter pick

The Clerks Report was accepted by Council.

**62 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES****(i) WSLA Report**

The Chairman read out a report from Cllr. Kilkenny Chairman of WSLA, stating there will be no more bookings for the Multi Use Games Area until Spring due to surface flooding. Nominations have been received for the Ray Westwood Trophy and an award ceremony will take place in November 2019. A grant request has been submitted to Wistaston Parish Council towards maintenance of the septic tank.

**(ii) Community Speed Watch Report**

The Chairman reported that PCSO Bowman is holding a training session for new speed watch volunteers on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

**63 FINANCE****(i) Receipts and Payment Statement and Schedule of Accounts**

**RESOLVED:** That the Receipts and Payment Statement be accepted and the Schedule of Accounts for payment October 2019, as per attached totalling £8,246.02 be approved.

**(ii) Audited Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

A copy of the Audited Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 from PKF Littlejohn LLP was received by Council. This was a clean report. The notice of conclusion of audit and right to inspect the Annual Return has been completed and displayed on the Council's notice boards and website for a period of 14 days.

**RESOLVED:** That the Audited Annual Governance and Accountability Return be approved and accepted by Wistaston Parish Council.

**64 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

The Environmental Report from Cllrs. Roberts and Scott was received by Council. The Clerk reported that Cllr. Mrs. Smith is pursuing the replacement seat for the picnic table at the Children's playground.

**RESOLVED:** That the Park Ranger be requested to remove a tent from Rookery bank covert and cut down a low hanging branch from Valley Road woodland.

**The meeting closed at 9.04 p.m.**

