

**MINUTES OF WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL'S VIRTUAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD VIA THE ZOOM PLATFORM ON THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2021, AT 8.03 P.M.**

Present: Cllr. J. Moore (Chairman)
Cllrs. D. Houston, D. Lucas, R. Moore, G. Roberts, R. Squirrell, J. Scott & T Kilkenny

In Attendance:

Kerri Condliffe (Clerk) Mrs. A. Cross, PC Tim Clark, PCSO Sophie Bowman
5 representatives of Wistaston Organisations.

1 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Mrs Margaret Simon, Cllr Mrs Jacquie Weatherill, Cllr D Millington, Cllr J Revell (email)

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th April 2019, be approved, and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3 POLICE MATTERS

The Police are continuing with Speed Checks in the area when they can obtain the equipment as it is on a rota basis and completing spot checks. They are also continuing with the Anti-Social Behaviour patrols which seems to be keeping things to a minimum the for the time being.

The Chairman mentioned he has had several residents frequently over the years requesting for a pedestrian crossing to be placed near the Bloor Homes / Joey the Swan / Broughton Lane / Park Drive area as it is very difficult to cross especially now there is the extra housing in the area causing an increase in traffic. It was agreed that the Clerk will put the proposition to Cheshire East Highways and both PC Clark and PCSO Bowman would endorse it.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 125th Annual Parish Meeting. He mentioned how the last 12 months have been a difficult period for everyone with social contact being sorely missed. The Zoom meetings can take place until 6th May 2021 so after this time there could be a period of no meetings until we can get back to meeting in the Village Hall which we hope to continue from July. It has also been a very significant year with Andrea Cross (Parish Clerk) retiring after a long and professional 23 year service. He welcomed the new Clerk Kerri Condliffe, who was settling in well with an overlap period with Andrea. We have also employed a new Park Ranger (Peter Baskerville) and welcomed 5 new Councillors and a new PCSO.

He reported there was no increase in Precept last year as a good thing to come out of Pandemic is that there has been less spent although we have now got the light fitted in the Playground and hopefully the new SID unit will be fixed very soon. We shall be looking at more SID sockets (so the unit can be moved to different locations) and more waste bins.

Dog fouling continues to be a big problem and more so this last 12 months, our Park Ranger is frequently collecting them daily and also the Litter Picking team so we are running a bit of a leaflet campaign in the Summer edition of the Roundabout Magazine in the hope it will help the situation.

Bill Heath has been given the title of Wistonian of the Year for the 2nd year running as there were no nominations this year it was decided that all Key workers of the Parish over the last 12 months deserve the title with Bill Heath representing them.

The Chairman expressed personal thanks to all the Councillors and Voluntary Organisations also to Andrea for her hard work and dedication for past 23 years.

5 PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

The Accounts for the year 2019/2020 were made available for inspection and no questions were raised.

6 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- (i)** Wistaston Memorial Hall Committee - Diane-Heather Edge-Robinson reported that the Chairman Mr John White was a great loss to the committee and there is not a lot to report for the past 12 months. When they could reopen briefly it was reduced to 17 people, so they suffered a big hit but have managed to keep it going. She thanked the Parish Council for their support with Remembrance Sunday and also the contributors of the Poppy display at the hall and they hope to reopen on the 17th May 2021 still under Covid restrictions but then more normally from 21st June 2021 when they are expected to be lifted.
- (ii)** Wistaston Young Drama Group – Judy Gratton thanked the Council for the grant and reported that they are resuming their group on the 24th April 2021 but will be focusing on the Children’s mental health and well-being to begin with.
- (iii)** Wistaston and District Flower Group - Judy Gratton reported that they had their last full meeting in March 2020 and a couple of smaller meetings when restrictions lifted slightly in the Summer. They are celebrating their Diamond Anniversary this year via a Zoom meeting and hope to resume to the hall meetings in September.
- (iv)** Litter Picking group – Sue Roberts reported that they started with 4 people in the group in 2015 and now have 21 members of which 6-8 of them meet fortnightly so they can cover a bigger area when litter picking. They work closely with the Park Ranger and Wistaston in Bloom group. They had their first official meet last Thursday but have continued individual litter collecting throughout lockdown whilst on walks. The total litter collected for 2020 was 269 Green Bags, 283 Discarded face masks, 444 Dog Waste Bags, 90 Nitrous Oxide Canisters, 62 Snap Bags. So far for the first few months of 2021 they have collected 96 Green Bags, 283 Face Masks, 444 Dog Waste Bags, 10 Nitrous Oxide Canisters, 35 Snap Bags. They are discovering a lot of dog mess in the grass area around the Bloor Estate. It was also mentioned about the possibility of the Red Dog Waste bins being replaced as they are no longer large enough to cope with the increase of dog ownership so they are always overflowing and the Chairman commented that it is Ansa’s intension to replace them everywhere but it could be a number of years before they are all replaced. The Chairman has taken notes with regards to the large amount of rubbish that is collected and is in discussions with Ansa with regards to new bin placements within the Parish.

- (v) Wistaston Conservation Group – David O’Hara reported that they have not yet been able to hold an AGM to elect a new Chairman due to the Coronavirus pandemic but they are continually working with Peter Baskerville (Park Ranger) to get all the jobs done within the Parish.
- (vi) Wistaston Community Council – Rob McIntosh reported that their AGM has been postponed until they can all get together safely and legally. Their finances are strong and stable despite funding being cut. They are not holding the Fete this year due to it being not long after restrictions are lifted but they are hoping to hold the Flower and Produce event in August although it may be in a closed room. He thanked the Parish Council for their contribution.
- (vii) Wistaston Sports & Leisure Association – Tom Kilkenny reported that although they have been closed for a large period of the last 12 months, they are financially ok due to the government grants that have been available. The big project of the drainage has not progressed due to Coronavirus, but they are hoping to get it moving again when they reopen. In 2019 they employed Jane Christlow as a Clerk and Treasurer but she has very recently resigned so Bob Squirrell has very kindly taken on the role as Treasurer and they are managing the bookings between them until a new booking clerk can be employed. The bookings are coming in thick and fast which they are pleased about. Tom also thanked Kevin and Pauline Jobbins for all their contributions to the efficient running of the association.
- (viii) Wistaston In Bloom – Bill Heath sent a report to the meeting letting everyone know that they will be shortly commencing their planting programme for 2021 ready for this years Britain In Bloom competition, which they hope to maintain the Gold standard of past years and was cancelled last year due to the Pandemic. The Church Lane School have requested their assistance with the planting of a memorial bed near the main entrance in memory of 2 of their Caretakers who passed away suddenly in 2020. He also reported that they lost two of their committee members in the last 12 months both John White and Roger Woodward who both will be greatly missed.
- (ix) Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club – Bill Heath sent a report to the meeting informing everyone that although the club was closed a majority of the year they managed financially due to a grant received from Wistaston Memorial Hall Management Committee from part of their Covid support grant. He also reported that the plan to dismantle and re-build the practice board on court 2 with the grant gratefully received from Wistaston Parish Council. The report also mentioned the sad loss of their Vice President John White and who had been with the Club from the beginning in 1979 as a Vice-Chairman and Club Captain.

7 OPEN DISCUSSION

No matters raised.

The meeting closed at 8.48 p.m.