WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2024

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Cllr K Griffiths (Chair)

Cllr Morrison (Vice Chair), Cllrs P Nixon, C Brownsword, L Ibbs, B Hughes, S Hill

G Keiher-Knapper (Deputy Clerk)

SMDC Cllr P Hughes

There were 21 members of the public present.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm with a two-minute silence to remember those who have fallen and suffered in conflict.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident informed the meeting that Co Op have appealed SMDC planning objection. The resident asked if the Parish Council would object again. The Chair responded that the opinion of the Parish Council has not changed and that the Clerk will submit an objection on behalf of the Parish Council. The Vice Chair urged residents to individually submit their objections with as much evidence as possible. The resident informed the meeting that only two neighbors had been notified. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish Council had not received a notification.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for holding a public meeting with regards to all the solar farm planning applications. The resident commented on how poorly attended it was considering there are at least six thousands residents of which only fifty attended. The resident asked if WPC requested SMDC to challenge the Planning Inspectorate. The Chair responded that WPC requested this of SMDC, but SMDC refused.

Ten residents were in attendance with regards to planning application SMD/2024/0486 and were concerned that SMDC had allowed development to take place in the Green Belt and were now allowing a retrospective planning application to be submitted. The Chair advised the residents to all submit their objections on the planning portal.

Finally, a resident reported dangerous trees at Kerry Hill. The Clerk advised the resident to report them on the Highways app and to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and if the residents send the Clerk photographs the Clerk will also report them.

Public Question Time closed at 1930hrs

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Most members of the public left the meeting apart from SMDC Cllr P Hughes and 3 members of the public

135/24 APOLOGIES

Cllr P Brown apologies were accepted.

Cllr D Brindleys apologies were not accepted.

The Chair informed the meeting that Cllr J Fryer had resigned from the Parish Council and would like to thank her for her service.

136/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Morrison and Cllr Hughes declared an interest with regards to a grant application.

137/24 REGISTER OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded by the Chair to keep their register of interests up to date.

138/24 The **minutes** of the following meeting were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) Full Council Meeting Monday 14th October 2024

139/24 The **action plan** was reviewed and updated.

140/24 The following **accounts** were approved:

a) October 24 Bank Reconciliation.
b) Oct/Nov 24 payments list.
c) Clerks Pay Award and Back Pay was noted.
d) 2025/26 Budget.
e) Setting 2025/26 Precept was deferred as awaiting Tax Base from SMDC.

141/24 Werrington Parish Council discussed the following planning applications and had no comments: CON/2024/0022 and SMD/2024/0468.

Werrington Parish Council objects to SMD/2024/0486 on the grounds of it does not qualify for exceptional circumstances to build on the green belt.

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Following WPC Public Meeting it was agreed to object to the following Solar/Battery applications again:

SMD/2024/0019, SMD/2023/0523, SMD/2024/0055, SMD/2024/0423 and SMD/2024/0523 and object to the Planning Inspectorate again with regards to SMD/2022/0574.

Also, now WPC has been made aware object to the Planning Inspectorate on SMD/2022/0438

APP/B3438/W/24/3349985.

142/24 Werrington Parish Council approved the following **policies and contract**:

a) CCTV Policies deferred until contract is agreed
b) Vexatious
c) Lone Working Policy

143/24 Werrington Parish Council received **reports** from:

a) District Councillors had nothing to report.
b) Cllr R Ward was not in attendance.

144/24 Staff Reports:

a) **Clerks report** was circulated – Key points were:
-Allotments are in good order one plot is becoming available.
-Phase 2 drainage at the Sports Ground is almost complete.
-Wardens are decorating the Sports Hall.
-Speed Watch will begin in January.
-Devolution Training soon.

b) **Village Warden's report:**
-More fruit tree damage at the rock reported as ASB.
-Painting is underway at the Sports Ground.
-Wardens are appreciative of quarterly meetings and introduction of a monthly works request and pulling away from majority of hours spent litter picking.

145/24 Highways all defects are reported and ongoing.

146/24 Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Working Group

PCSO drop-in Clinic at the library this Saturday 16th November.

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147/24 Allotments

No further updates.

148/24 Sports Ground

Phase 2 of the drainage project for the Sports Ground is almost complete still awaiting the S106 funds from SMDC.

WPC refused the football teams request of a shed at the Sports Ground.

149/24 Meigh Road

The Clerk informed the meeting that a meeting was held with SMDC H&S with regards to Meigh Road playing fields and how much it holds water. It was agreed to place signs at each entrance and have Alliance check the signage monthly. The H&S rep advised contact to be made with the Insurance Company and this has been carried out with no further action required. Investigation into if S106 funds can be used to improve drainage.

The pump track surface is deteriorating, and contact is trying to be made with Clark and Kent to make a return visit to assess. WPC also agreed to purchase laurel to join the remaining conifers to stop the bank collapsing, stop the pump track users carrying out loop the loops and create a noise barrier for the residents.

The Clerk informed the meeting that some play equipment repairs are required to be carried out and the annual ROSPA inspection with take place in January.

The Clerk also informed the meeting that no response has been received reference the change in ownership of the bottom entrance to Meigh Road Playing Fields.

The Chair informed the meeting that the Bowling Club are applying for funding for disability access.

150/24 Footpaths

Cllr Nixon handed over a complete list of footpath issues in Werrington and agreed to report them in the Highways app with photograph evidence and the Clerk would add them to the Highways table for Werrington.

151/24 Community Office

Cllr Ibbs updated the meeting with research and pricing for a possible garden style office for the Parish Council Office to be in a central location so that residents had a place to visit, and Parish Council documentation was stored centrally.

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The Clerk informed the meeting of the costings supplied by the Church to hire the back room once a week.

It was decided to continue to research as this may not be a possibility for 2025 because of the budget constraints but could look to be planned in the future but first to introduce Councillor Clinics to see how well attended they are to if a Parish Office is required going forward.

152/24 Village Life

Werrington Parish Council would like to support if it is required.

153/24 Correspondence

a) Meigh Road Playing Fields

Correspondence was received showing concern about the surfaces of the footpaths on Meigh Road Playing Fields. A quote can be seen in confidential to address the situation.

154/24 Councillor Updates/items

There were no updates.

155/24 Chairmans Report

The Chairman wanted to the thank the Councillors that pitch up and help out. The Chairman informed the meeting that WPC have had two expressions of interest that maybe interested in becoming Parish Councillors. The Chair expressed the importance of recruiting new and younger councillors and asked for volunteers to make themselves known that may be willing to take on the Chair ship in May as WPC needs to succession plan.

Cllr P Hughes and 3 MOP left the meeting

Confidential Items

156/24 Memorial Benches

Werrington Parish Council voted for the memorial Bench Policy.

157/24 Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Summer Activities

WPC agreed to hold the activities in the summer holidays at Meigh Road Playing Fields with the budget to be confirmed pending SPACE funding available.

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158/24 Neighbourhood Plan Consultant

WPC voted to appoint Urban Vison Enterprise to consult with WPC to plan and policy formulation, including planning rationales and interpretations but also to include consulting the residents on the future of Meigh Road Playing fields, the Sports Ground and all other WPC assets.

It was agreed to purchase the advertisement banner for the first resident's consultation which WPC is awaiting Werrington Volunteers permission to attend the Christmas Light Switch on.

159/24 Alliance Quotes

WPC approved quotes to reinstate the footpaths through the woods at Meigh Road, cut the shrubs and trees overhanding the carpark at Meigh Road and finally agitate the surface, rake and re copmact exposed edges of the footpaths around Meigh Rd playing fields. WPC also approved the quotes to carry out play equipment repairs.

160/24 Grant Applications

WPC approved a Grant application for Ash Café to provide Christmas Lunches.

WPC approved a Grant application for Werrington Community Volunteers Group for a Christmas Tree.

161/24 Items for the next agenda:

Cllr Brownswords equipment for streaming

Hearing Loop at the Village Hall

Cllr Ibbs research more Summer Activities

162/24 Date of next meeting is 9th December 2024

Meeting Closed at 2100hrs