

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.

Councillors in Attendance:

Cllr G Slaymaker – Chairman, Cllr M Cundick, Cllr S Greenman, Cllr A Maltby, Cllr C Rawlinson and Cllr A Slater.

Also present: Wiltshire Councillor Nick Botterill, ten representatives for Stop Lime Down Solar Park and forty-four members of the public.

Public Question Time – an opportunity for members of the Public to address the Council on any Council matter before the meeting commences. (limited to 10 minutes),

There were no questions. The Chairman report that he had managed to get Buckley Barracks to cut the grass along the side of the path between Wellington Place and the village.

18/24 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Anderson – unforeseen circumstances, Cllr J Atkey – apology, Cllr D Martin – illness

19/24 Declaration(s) of Interest - In accordance with the Parish Councils Model Code of Conduct Order 2001 and revised Wiltshire Council Model Code of Conduct July 2012

None

20/24 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting – To receive and agree as a true record of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8 May 2024, immediately before the Ordinary meeting.

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

21/24 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – To receive and agree as a true record of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8 May 2024.

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

22/24 Clerk's Report – To note items received for circulation and/or future discussion and items to be updated from the last meeting.

The report was circulated for Councillors and appended.

Two emails had been received condemning the Parish Council's decision to fell the coniferous trees in the cemetery, and a complaint email from the Monitoring Officer. The Chairman explained the reasons the decision had to be made, copied below.

Cemetery Wall and Trees.

Following direct correspondence from a number of parishioners, response as follows:

When the coniferous trees were planted many years ago (there are no yew trees in the cemetery), I doubt that people considered how large they would grow when planting them so close to a retaining wall and graves, the later effects of root damage were never considered.

Last year as Chair of the Parish Council, I undertook a visual inspection of all the assets that the Council are solely accountable/responsible for, which highlighted serious concerns with condition of the cemetery wall, unfortunately tree related. Whilst public liability insurance is good thing to have, prevention of serious accidents that could involve members of the public or their property through a lack of general maintenance would not be covered by such insurance - members of the Parish Council could be held personally liable for negligence should someone be seriously harmed.

Further considerations were, should a tree fall across the road during the winter taking the wall with it, could have an impact on the burials close to the wall especially during wet weather conditions. It is impossible to get something done quickly to prevent further land subsidence. Chopping up and clearing away a tree and stone from a wall straightforward enough, but getting the wall reinstated and stabilising the land takes time and planning.

If you look at the wall closely today you will see the issues that have been created tree related and repairs to the wall without removing the trees would be pointless, hence the planned approach although a big shock visually was the only option. The trees had been topped many years ago but continue to grow on.

Cutting down the trees is phase 1, phase 2 will be the wall rebuild, phase 3 will be railings around cemetery land behind the wall, and then visual softening can be considered. (e.g. Native species hedging).

To remind everyone, Parish Council has sole accountability/responsibility for the cemetery and its boundaries and owe a duty of care to the public, no different to other assets that are provided/maintained by the Parish Council such as the Watts Lane Garden and wall.

Competent Suppliers

Question raised over ecological impacts through felling of the Cemetery trees during the latter stages of the Bird Nesting season were accounted for through the contractor survey before commencement of and during the work.

Communications Statement

Official communication of Parish Council Business is via the Parish Council Web site and Notice Board.

Hullavington Happenings and Geraldine's Communications are not an official means of communicating the business of the Parish Council.

Residents in the Parish of Hullavington can hold the Parish Council to account if they are disadvantaged by not being afforded access to same information at the same time.

Anyone is welcome to attend Parish Council meeting to hear 1st hand the council conducting the business that supports the residents of Hullavington Parish (governance).

Wiltshire Council Monitoring Officer Correspondence

Wiltshire Council forwarded an anonymous complaints letter to the Parish Council. The chair stated that no action can be taken by Wiltshire Council or Hullavington Parish Council unless the letter includes the complainant's personal details, Name, Address, contact details and signature.

Anyone has a right to complain to the Wiltshire Council Monitoring Officer about individual councillors or the council where they feel they have acted improperly or in breach of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

The Parish Councils code of conduct is reviewed annually.

23/24 Planning Applications – to note observations on applications received and to record comments on applications currently circulated or received after publication of agenda. All applications must conform to the Hullavington Neighbourhood Plan Policies.

- i. PL/2022/07328 – The Hullavington Arms – awaiting Wiltshire Council's decision.
- ii. PL/2023/02594 – The Old Bakery – withdrawn.
- iii. PL/2024/02346 – The Old Dairy Parlour – awaiting Wiltshire Council's decision.
- iv. PL/2024/02793 – 2 The Street – approved with conditions.
- v. PL/2024/03121 – 2 Royal Field Close – awaiting Wiltshire Council's decision
- vi. PL/2024/03115 – Land at The Street – awaiting Wiltshire Council's decision. The Chairman gave an update copied below.

Bovis have been receiving a trickle of statutory consultee responses from Wiltshire Council, not to mention some objections from members of the public. They are still to receive responses from some statutory consultees, most notably from Landscape and Ecology. They are currently chasing this up with the Planning Officer. To pick up any comments received,

they have had meetings with some of the Wiltshire Council consultees and are in the process of working to resolve any feedback.

Through addressing consultee responses received, they will be assembling a resubmission pack in due course. However, before that there are some Urban Design comments that they are liaising with Wiltshire Council on. Bovis would expect a formal resubmission to take place within the next month, and they are confident that they can resolve any comments that have been raised.

- vii. PL/2024/04802 – 73 Wellington Place – No objection.
- viii. TPO/2024/00013 – 32 Newtown – In general Councillors object to the TPO on safety grounds, whilst understanding the TPO may remain as issued (planning decision).

24/24 Finance and Administration

a) Schedule of receipts and payments

Receipts of £140.00 – Cemetery. Payments of £17,909.11 for staff and admin costs, grass cutting, training, wall repairs, hall hire, internal auditor. This was proposed by Cllr Slater, seconded by Cllr Cundick and unanimously agreed. All documents were available at the meeting and signed.

b) Update on the fencing along the green and the cemetery wall rebuild and path repairs.

The repair to the cemetery wall will commence shortly.

c) Update on the purchase of The Stables adjacent to The Hullavington Arms to create a café/pub.

No update has been received. A copy of the valuation report and an update will be requested.

d) Consideration of Internal Auditor's report.

The report was noted. It was decided to submit the certificate of exemption form as suggested by the Auditor. The Council considered that the Standing Orders followed the NALC ones, however, they are reviewed on annually. It was proposed by Cllr Slater, seconded by Cllr Cundick and unanimously agreed to accept the report.

e) Review and signing of the Annual Governance Statement.

It was proposed by Cllr Maltby, seconded by Cllr Greenman and unanimously agreed to sign the Annual Governance Statement.

f) Review and signing the Accounting Statements.

It was proposed by Cllr Greenman, seconded by Cllr Maltby and unanimously agreed to sign the Accounting Statements.

25/24 Date of next meeting

Ordinary Meeting – Wednesday 10 July 2024 in the village hall.

Meeting closed at 21.17pm.