

MEDLAR-with-WESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting held on Thursday 17th October 2023
at 7.35pm in the Committee Room, Wesham Community Centre.

Minutes

CODE OF CONDUCT AND STANDING ORDERS

Members are reminded of the standard of conduct they must adhere to during Town Council meetings.

New councillors are advised that a copy of this will be forwarded to them by the Town Clerk

PRESENT: Councillor D Nowell (chair)

**Councillors: L Nulty, P Desmond, L Bickerstaffe, N Rowley,
Helen Fowler,**

New Councillors: Jordan Ledger

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk – Angela Hunter

APOLOGIES: Cllr Helen Richardson

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Members are reminded that any direct or indirect pecuniary or other interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

Standard declarations of interest by councillors

Cllr Nowell - an interest in items relating to Allotments.

Cllr Bickerstaffe - an interest in items relating to School.

Cllr L Nulty – an interest in Mill Farm relating to being a Neighbour & an interest in items relating to Kirkham Food Bank

Cllr H Richardson – an interest items relating to Freckleton Marsh.

Cllr J Ledger – an interest in planning (FBC committee)

No further declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

Code of conduct

Councillors were reminded of the Code of Conduct for meetings

23/088 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD

14th Sept 2023 :

After a review of the final version minutes for 14th Sept meeting were approved with minor amendments which are noted on the Sept mins .

Proposer: Cllr P Desmond Seconder: Cllr N Rowley Vote: All attendees in favour

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23/089 MATTERS ARISING – any item not covered by agenda or action list

a) Co-option of Wesham Councillors – interviews 11th September 2023

Cllr D Nowell welcomed 1 new councillors to Wesham Parish Council.

Mr Jordan Ledger

Cllr Ledger completed the necessary council forms with the Town Clerk.

b) Resignation of Wesham Councillors - JT

Cllr D Nowell advised that Cllr J Tansley has resigned from Wesham Council

Wesham Councillors thanked him for his efforts & contributions and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Action: TC to send WTC thanks to JT

23/090 POLICING ISSUES -

a) **Crime Reports** – police.org.uk website > area > PR4 3DR (WCC postcode)

b) **Policing Issues** – to discuss any items raised by Councillors

TC advised that although the Police had initially indicated attendance at this meeting other pressing matters had prevented attendance tonight.

Wesham Councillors expressed concern regarding the escalation of ASB incidents within Wesham & surrounding areas. Cllr D Nowell advised of the Lancashire Police ASB task force that has been initiated.

Cllr L Bickerstaffe advised that a local resident has recently had motorbikes stolen. One of several in the surrounding area. Youths are being used to steal items by more organised adults.

Wesham Council discussed what options they may be able to implement to reduce incidents & assist the police.

One suggestion was the use of anti-climbing paint around the bowling green.

At the moment Wesham Councillors are concerned for their Residents feel that there is very little support from Police who do not appear to be doing enough to support the community.

23/091 PLANNING -

a) **Planning Applications** – no new planning applications since Sept 2023 mtg

23/0256 – Accentuation Pond @ Mill Farm

Cllr Linda Nulty advised that the Planning application review for the large industrial building has been postponed as protocol has not been followed by FBC Planning section.

Cllr Doug Nowell volunteered to attend the FBC Planning meeting to state WTC position regarding the attenuation pond application 23/0256. Cllr L Nulty advised that he would have to write in to Planning to inform them of his attendance & that he would be allowed 3 mins to speak. Cllr Neil Rowley observed that the existing attenuation pond remained full of vegetation and it did not appear to be maintained regularly. .

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Cllrs Helen Fowler & Pete Desmond expressed an interest in undertaking Planning training. Tc advised that some planning slides had been sent from a training course held in April 2023 which could be shared with all WTC Team.

Cllr Doug Nowell advised that he had attended the District Liasion Planning Committee at which the FBC Planning chairman (Richard Redcliffe) had been outvoted as chair on this committee and an Independent Chair (Gordon Smith) had been voted in

23/092 PLAYING FIELDS and OPEN SPACES -

a) Open Spaces Contract - to discuss any issues raised by Councillors

Recent discussions with RP advised that the cost of disposing of cutting has increased substantially. RP has advised that he would like to discuss alternative options regarding the grass cutting at the next SLA review such as a designated composting area perhaps next to the cemetery wall @ Fleetwood Road Playing fields.

RP has purchased the wild flowers seeds for the wild flower designated areas discussed at the previous SLA review with WTC.

RP has advised that he will be planting the requested replacement trees for the damaged ones at Doorstep Green around Nov time.

Cllr Neil Rowley has proposed planting additional trees for example along the line of the Dog Park.

Cllr Linda Nulty advised that there is some allowances potentially available via FBC for tree planting. Enquiries with FBC should be made to see if there is of this allowance that can be used for tree planting in Wesham.

Action: TC to contact FBC re funding for WTC extra/replacement trees

- Potential Additional jobs for RP

WTC councillors thought about a list of jobs that perhaps RP could undertake through the winter months. WTC would like him to consider these & do quotes for the work.

List of potential jobs identified
• Dog shelter
• Replacement & Additional Trees
• Stones in trough area @ car park WCC
• Bushes on path to Wesham School @ car park WCC
• Rockery Area tidy up – WCC car park
• Hedges around Wesham
• Grass cutting
• Refurbish Benches @ Doorstep green
• Arthur Stell Bench
• Dog Walking Entrance

Action: TC to contact RP re winter jobs & ask for quotes

- Play Equipment reports from FBC

Cllr Doug Nowell advised that he has written to MS @FBC as several damaged/broken items on the play parks have not been identified in the recent

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Play equipment reports from FBC. Ms advised that FBC use a specialist contractor to inspect & repair the play equipment.

Cllr H Fowler asked for the autumn copies of the play equipment reports to be re-sent to her with the intention of checking on the WTC/FBC SLA.

WTC councillors agreed that the WTC regular inspections should be re-instated & recorded.

b) Fleetwood Road Playing Fields - to discussed any issues raised

- Pavilion Repairs quotation from KJFC – nothing received for this meeting

c) Doorstep Green, Derby Road .

- Trees maintenance on Derby Road – NHS hospital estates area

Cllr L Bickerstaffe advised that she was in contact with the NHS estates & that improvements to the overgrown vegetation was ongoing. Additionally the construction Company were clearing all the debris & spoil from the building of the Rest Home & changing the fencing from the boarding. The land remains up for sale.

d) Street Cleaning in Wesham - *nothing for Sept 2023 mtg*

WTC Councillors commented on Street cleaning in Wesham as it appears to be symptomatic of other services ie: more & more houses but less & less service from FBC & LCC. The FBC/LCC SLA should be reviewed more thoroughly at next renewal date.

TC has put a request to FBC to have extra attention given to the Cenotaph area prior to the Annual Remembrance Service.

e) Allotments

- Drainage - investigation update

Adam Sugden has advised that following an investigation the results of the investigation were not readily available at the time of WTC initial request for a meeting, but we're confident that relevant information will be shared by these Authorities very soon.

Flooding from allotments into Properties on adjacent estate - Douglas Ave

- Tree Roots issue (G&EN)

TC advised that reports of tree root damage has been received from Residents from Crossing Gates. TC advised that this should be referred to WTC insurance company whilst awaiting the outcome of the advices form FBC regarding drainage as Insurance Inspectors can advise if WTC has any liability for the tree root damage.

Action: TC to forward Tree root damage e-mails to Zurich Insurance

- Autumn inspection of the allotments – date agreed 29th Oct 2023.

f) Wesham Bowling Club –

Wesham Bowling Club have received a quotation of £2150 from Tom Ascroft for winter work on Wesham Bowling green. After a second quotation of various options WTC agreed at an intermin meeting on 21st October to assist the Winter work to 50% of the mid range quote of £1800. Wesham Bowling Club have been informed of the £900 contribution from WTC & will liaise with the Bowling Green maintenance contractor re their option choice & will pay the balance above the £900.

Proposed Cllr L Nulty Seconded: L Bickerstaffe All other attendees in favour

g) Dog PSPO extension Alcohol PSPO extension

Cllr Linda Nulty commented that she does not agree with dogs off Leads in Public spaces particularly where children play/exercise. There are 2 dog walking areas in Wesham where they can be exercised off the lead – one at Derby Raod, Doorstep Green & the other one at Mowbreck Lane.

23/093 HIGHWAYS AND RAILWAYS – to discussed any issues raised

SPID Purchase - WTC/Road Safety Trust ?

Cllr D Nowell advised that his research has shown that WTC will not be able to get any grants for a SPID.

23/094 GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND INSURANCE

a. Accounts payable and income received report –

- WTC Monthly summary – Sept 2023

Accepted no comments

Accepted: Cllr L Nulty Seconded: P Desmond All other attendees in favour

- Application for credit card update

Town Clerk advised that further correspondence asking for clarification on some financial information has been received from the BankLine credit card dept.

Town Clerk is obtaining the necessary info from the Finance officer & will respond to BankLine.

Wesham Councillors agreed that this should be a straightforward process & that it has taken too long to get to this point. If this credit card is not forthcoming soon WTC proposed that at a future meeting consideration should be given to changing to an alternative bank.

b. Mayoral donation

- SH - Food Banks – TC checked & due to the nature of this donation it has to be given to a registered charity which is the Kirkham Food Bank.
- LN – NoticeBoards – Linda is still waiting for quotes from N Gillett.

c. Accident and Incident Reporting – none

d. Freckleton Marsh Chq – benches & location

Further discussions with Wesham Residents who live close to the Cenotaph have resulted in concerns regarding siting the benches on the Cenotaph island for potential noise (ASB) & littering issues. This is in addition to the considerations regarding safety & traffic pollution. Cllr N Rowley advised that the lead time on obtaining benches is approx. 6-8 weeks. WTC Councillors agreed that as Winter is approaching & the benches would not necessarily be utilised for 2/3 months to revisit purchasing & location of these benches around Feb 2024.

Action: TC to put these benches onto the Jan/Feb WTC monthly meeting agenda.

23/095 EVENTS -

- **Remembrance Service – 12th Nov 2023**

As in previous years Alan Clayton has organised the majority of the Remembrance Service. Wreaths/Orders of service/speaker system etc. Cllr Neil Rowley has been assisting Alan. Road Closure application paperwork has been submitted to FBC.

Cllr Doug Nowell advised that his wife Janis has been crocheting poppies for attachment to the railing at the Cenotaph. It was proposed that the 2 primary schools could do something creative for remembrance.

TC advised that new Road closure signs will be required as the ones from last year are not in line with LANTRA requirements but also most of them went missing. Cost will be approx. £150-200

Proposed Cllr L Nulty Seconded: D Nowell All other attendees in favour

- Application for credit card update

- **Christmas Trees**

TC advised that she has got the information for the large Christmas tree supplier that Fox' biscuits usually donate to the town & has asked if they are donating it again this year. It was advised the tree lights from last year are done so new ones will be needed. Retired Cllr G Dixon is in hospital so TC has not been able to get the information regarding the small Christmas trees that go outside the town businesses. Cllr Liz Bickerstaffe volunteered to ask Kirkham Business Group about these smaller trees.

Action: Cllr L Bickerstaffe to source new lights for large Christmas tree & liaise with Kirkham Business Group re small trees.

23/096 HUMAN RESOURCES

- **HR sub Committee – update**

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No meeting have occurred since the last update from HR sub-committee.
Contracts of employment are drafted for WTC staff but need a final check before issue.

- **TC officer role –**

Cllr Doug Nowell advised that the Town Clerk has resigned & would like to finish at the end of the year. The Town clerk circumstances have changed & is no longer able to be as flexible as the role requires. It was agreed to have a meeting on 31st Oct 2023 to review/agree the job description/hours for the Town Clerk role for the new applicants. The job role will revert to include the Financial officer responsibilities as the Financial officer has advised WTC previously that approx. Easter time 2024 will be her finishing date.

Action: TC & Financial officer to provide job role info to WTC prior to 31st Oct 2023.

23/097 WESHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

a) Heating system repairs WCC

Cllr Doug Nowell advised that some of the identified improvements have been done to the heating system but that the work is not yet finished

b) Car Park signs for School – no updates for this meeting

23/098 OTHER

a) Kirkham Swimming Baths closure – updates?

Wesham Council Reps are being invited to any meetings on Kirkham Baths discussions War Memorial Clean

b) War Memorial Clean – updates?

Wesham Driveways are on with the cleaning of the area round the Memorial

c) Smoking issues @ Rehabilitation Centre, Mowbreck Lane – updates?

The rehabilitation centre have responded to the Resident & copied Wesham council into the response. No actual change to existing arrangements

d) Website – ongoing review nothing further to report at this meeting

e) Actions - updated prior to meeting no further comments

There being no other business the meeting ended at 21:50hrs

WCC meeting 21:50 – 22:15hrs.

DATE OF NEXT WTC Monthly MEETINGS: 13th Dec 2023

Cllr H Richardson advised that she is not available for the 17th Oct WTC monthly meeting

Angela Hunter

Date: 11th Nov 2023