

WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Community Assets & Open Spaces Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2025

Present:

Councillors: Cllr J Hewer
Cllr D Hooper
Cllr N Hooper
Cllr H Woodward

Committee Clerk: Cathy Martyn (Deputy Clerk)

Public: 0

Minutes

CAOS/073 Election of a Chair for this meeting and Apologies

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Committee **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Hewer to chair this meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs D Archer, L Campisano, T Kewen and G Overbury.

CAOS/074 Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

None.

CAOS/075 Public Questions

None.

CAOS/076 Minutes of the previous meeting.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Community Assets & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 13th November 2024. The Chair signed the minutes.

CAOS/077 Chair's Report and Matters Arising (if not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda).

a) Maunsell Way Pavilion: Members NOTED:

- A Fire Risk Assessment would be carried out shortly.
- The new plan for the Land Registry and the draft license to sublet from Swindon Borough Council were expected shortly.
- The work to make an external entrance to the toilets had been completed and the internal entrance into the ladies' toilets had been blocked up to make the interior of the pavilion secure.

- Swindon Model Railway Club had visited shortly before Christmas, as a result of which the Grounds Team had removed from the shower room the tiles which had blown and the redundant plumbing. They would also to make good the plastering so this room would be useable as a storage area.
 - The Deputy Clerk had contacted Wroughton Youth Football Club regarding their kit.
- b) **Allotments:** Members NOTED the initial report for Wroughton from the National Hedgehog Monitoring Project. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A.
- c) **Parish Council Noticeboard for Wichelstowe:** Members NOTED the noticeboard had been installed prior to Christmas with notices including the parish councillors' contact details and general community information.
- d) **Benches:** Members NOTED the information received from First Port that the wooden bench by the noticeboard and basketball court at Alexandra Park were owned by First Port and were their responsibility. Members were under the impression that the bench is a memorial bench which belongs to the residents who installed it.
- ACTION: Ask the Projects & Grants Officer will ask First Port to clarify ownership.**
- e) **Plan Inclusive Play Areas (PiPA):** Members RECEIVED the PiPA notes for delegates from the November 2024 WALC Conference – a copy is attached as Appendix B.
- f) **Moat Pond Footpath works etc:** Members NOTED work was due to start on Wednesday 22nd January, and was likely to take 3 days.
- g) **Road Sweeper:** Members NOTED Insurers had confirmed that the road sweeper could be stored outside as long as it was within the compound, and the gates/ fences were secured overnight.
- h) **Wichelstowe Community Spaces and Sports Pitches:** Members NOTED that updates relating to the Wichelstowe community space & sports hub would go to Full Council meetings rather than separately to both committees, so that all councillors received the same information at the same time; any Wichelstowe planning applications would continue to be discussed at the Planning Committee meetings, and all councillors would continue to be invited to the quarterly update meetings.
- i) **Felling of 5 trees with ash die back:** Members NOTED the Deputy Clerk was awaiting permission to fell the 5 trees showing signs of ash dieback. Permission had been requested from Swindon Borough Council regarding the tree at Belmont Green and the tree at Maunsell Way/ Falkirk Field, and from the Burderop Estate for the 3 trees at Beranburh Play Area. Both had responded requesting further information which would be provided.

j) **Replacement of the Weir Field Pavilion:** Members NOTED:

- The Projects & Grants Officer had received an estimate of £301,499 for a blockwork build. Additional costs would include design works, R&D surveys, muckaway, and removal of asbestos/ inert material/ contaminated soil if required. A copy of the estimate is attached as Appendix C.
- If the pavilion were to be fitted out for Men's football (or other adult football league) it would be difficult to meet the needs of any other user group due to the specific requirements of the football league.
- The Wichelstowe sports hub might be available for use within a couple of years.
- The Grounds Team Manager had advised it was likely the pavilion could be maintained in a useable condition for a further 2-3 years but the building would need replacing.
- A report on possible options for build and funding would come to a future Committee meeting at which point a working party could be set up.
- 2 additional estimates for modular buildings had been received since the agenda had been posted, one was for less than Beard's estimate and the other was for more.

Members considered all the estimates were high and more than had been expected. December's Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting had agreed to defer making a decision on how the CiL and s.106 would be spent until after the budget and precept for 2025/26 had been agreed.

ACTION: Members REQUESTED a council meeting to discuss the aims and objectives of the Parish Council, to enable the Committee to assess their aims and objectives for the Weir Field, which would help identify the use and design of any replacement building.

CAOS/078

Trees for Climate

Members noted that the **£9,407.50** remaining from the funding received from Swindon Borough Council (for work relating to Trees for Climate) would be ringfenced for work relating to the trees and whips planted at Boness Road Secret Garden, Maunsell Way Field, Falkirk Field, Belmont Green, and Wharf Road hedge.

Members RESOLVED to approve the request from the office that any expenditure could be approved by the Clerk or Deputy Clerk in consultation with either the Chair of the Community Assets & Open Spaces Committee (or any future incarnation of this committee) or in their absence by the Chair of the Parish Council on receipt of an estimate or quote, in order to ensure that any maintenance of these areas could be carried out in a timely manner; any such expenditure would be reported promptly to the Committee.

CAOS/079 Transfer of responsibility for emptying and maintaining litter bins within this parish in Wichelstowe

Members NOTED the report from the Deputy Clerk, a copy of which is attached as Appendix D.

Members RESOLVED:

- to defer making a decision on any of the recommendations contained within that report and to carry this forward to a future meeting
- that in the meantime, in addition to the 4 bins which Wroughton Parish Council (WPC) already emptied, WPC would empty the additional 7 bins which the Wichelstowe Project Team had installed in the Central Square in Mid-Wichel as a goodwill gesture pending discussion with the Wichelstowe Project Team and Dan Paveley on the contract with First Port regarding bins, street furniture and maintenance of the open spaces, in particular how the TP1 document is worded.

CAOS/080 St Andrews Depot

Members NOTED that the asbestos survey had been carried out and report received; any asbestos had been classed as low risk.

Members RESOLVED that £300 could be spent on mesh privacy netting to reduce visibility through the fence and improve security.

CAOS/081 Footpaths Working Party:

Councillor Woodward advised that previously the Government had given people until 2031 to have all historic but unrecorded public paths and bridleways added to the nation's official "definitive map". The Government had now decided to remove the cut-off date which would give councils time to assess whether paths met the requirements. This had taken away the time pressure from the Footpaths Working Committee.

CAOS/082 Priorities for the Community Assets Committee for 2025-26.

Members NOTED that the Council would be considering all recommendations to be budgeted for 2025-26 when the precept was considered at January's F&GP and Full Council meetings.

The meeting finished at: 20.19

Signed:

Chair of Community Assets & Open Spaces Committee

Date: