

WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2025 at 7.30pm
At the Ellendune Community Centre, Barrett Way, Wroughton. SN4 0RX

Councillors: Cllr J Hewer
Cllr G Cook
Cllr D Hooper
Cllr N Hooper
Cllr T Kewen
Cllr B Keetch
Cllr W McGregor
Cllr G Overbury
Cllr E Shaw
Cllr B Streeton

Ward Cllr M Courtliff

Clerk: Emma Freemantle
PCSO Justine Trueman
PCSO Rachel Gilding
Matt Moore

FC/191 **Apologies**
Apologies received from Cllr L Campisano, Cllr H Woodward, Cllr N McMahon and Cllr L Ramsay.
No apologies from Ward Cllr A Poole.

FC/192 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
There were no Declarations of Interest required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 24 May 2024.

The Chair suspended standing orders and moved the Science Museum presentation agenda item forward.

FC/193 **Science Museum Presentation**
Matt Moore, Director of the Science and Innovation Park in Wroughton, recently provided an update to the parish council on the site's recent activities and developments. Members noted the following footfall and ticket allocations:

Visitor Figures to Date:

Research Visitors: 221

School Visitors: 350

Public Tour Attendees: 1,260

Other Visitors: 707

Additionally, 780 tickets are set to be released for June visits.

During the session both the Chair and Ward Cllr M Courtliff raised the suggestion of allocating a priority ticket batch specifically for Wroughton residents. Matt acknowledged the request and confirmed he would take it on board for future planning but at present it is proving difficult to navigate.

He also reaffirmed the importance of continuing to support local schools through educational visits and outreach, aligning with the site's broader goals of accessibility and community engagement. Matt Moore highlighted several key initiatives with the Science Museum:

Hawking Building Access: The Hawking Building, which houses much of the Science Museum Group Collection, opened in October 2024. It is now accessible for guided public tours, school visits, and research engagements, enhancing public interaction with the collection.

Solar Farm Progress: The 50MW solar farm at Wroughton Airfield is nearing completion. Once operational, it will generate sufficient electricity to power over 15,400 homes annually, contributing significantly to local renewable energy efforts.

Community Grants: Through the Wroughton Solar Park Community Benefit Fund, grants are being offered to local projects focusing on environmental sustainability and STEM education. These grants aim to foster community engagement and support initiatives that address climate change and promote scientific learning. Matt emphasized the importance of these developments in fostering a sustainable future and strengthening the relationship between the Science and Innovation Park and the local community.

Site Developments & Sustainability:

- A new book has been released to promote the museum's work and expanding public access.
- Engineering sculptures and artworks are currently on display across the airfield.
- Confirmed he has led the planting of 50,000 trees, with a commitment to plant 1,000 more each year for the next decade as part of the museum's sustainability efforts.

Collections and Infrastructure:

- The Hawking Building is now open to the public and serves as the central hub for access to the Science Museum Group Collection.
- A new entrance to the park has been completed, improving accessibility.
- Despite progress, around 30,000 to 40,000 items from the museum's collection remain in storage within the site's hangars, with ongoing plans to catalog and display more of these artifacts in the future.

Long-Term Vision

- Matt reaffirmed that the Science Museum is committed to staying in the area, with further plans to expand public access to the collections and continue community and educational outreach.
- "There is more to come," he emphasized, pointing to the site's evolving role as both a cultural asset and environmental leader in the region.
- The Clerk will organise a meeting and site visit for new and existing councilors with Matt Moore.

Transport and Road Infrastructure

- Public Transport: Cllr N Hooper raised a request regarding Stagecoach services. Matt Moore expressed willingness to support improved transport links and demonstrate sustainable transport futures.
- Cllr N Hooper also flagged road width and safety concerns.
- Cllr E Shaw highlighted Swindon Borough Council's (SBC) responsibility for road conditions and Matt confirmed the ongoing collaboration with SBC on this exact issue.
- Site Development and Environmental Work: A new entrance to the site is complete
- Engineering sculptures and artwork are now being exhibited on the airfields.

Additional Items Raised

- Peregrine Falcons Nesting: Cllr N Hooper noted bird nesting activity—relevant for site management and conservation planning.

- Solar Panels: Ben Streeton inquired about solar panel development. Matt reaffirmed the museum's focus on renewable energy, with the 50MW solar farm being a flagship project.

The Chair reinstated standing orders.

FC/194

Public Questions

One member of the public present, no comments or questions were raised.

PCSO J Trueman provided the following - Wroughton update – Jan to 15 May 2025 Crime Overview:

- Violence Against a Person: 44 incidents (Jan–May), predominantly between individuals known to each other.
- Arson and Criminal Damage: Also, mostly involving known parties.
- Burglaries: Incident noted at Alexandra Park Hotel (Urban area) on 31st January.
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Residents are urged to report any suspicious or criminal activity directly to the police or via Crimestoppers (anonymous option).

School Relations: Positive engagement with Ridgeway School. Julie Furnevel working on safer school zones. Concerns raised about abuse directed at PCSOs from school parents – Ridgeway highlighted as the worst area of abuse.

Speed Awareness

16 April: Community Speed Team issued 40 speed awareness tickets. The Chair raised additional points on local speed awareness initiatives.

Other updates

Travelers were moved on from Comet Way.

Community Policing Van & Drop-In Sessions, May 11th: Community policing van visiting Wroughton.

Police drop-in sessions planned; coordination between PCSOs, the Clerk and Ward Cllrs needed and are now underway.

Dogs Off Leads: Cllr E Shaw asked why enforcement is lacking in this area as many dog walkers do not use leads in the local community. PCSOs can only attend when on shift and if resources permit, this is also not specifically a police matter.

Police Precept (Council Tax Increase): Cllr E Shaw requested clarity on where the extra funding goes from the tax payers, he has asked how the extra is being spent as visibility of officers is becoming less and less. PCSO J Trueman will request that her Inspector contacts Cllr Shaw directly for a breakdown of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) funding allocation—specifically, how it supports increased police presence and community policing.

20.23 The PCSO's left the meeting.

FC/195

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes to be a true and accurate record of the Full Council meeting on 17 February 2025.

Note the attendance of Cllr D Archer and Cllr G Overbury for March mins require amendment before re-signing.

FC/196

Chairs Report

Members received a report of the Chair a copy of which is attached as Appendix A in the Minute Book. The Chair referenced the SBC local plan drop in session for 07th May and if councilors wish to attend they should let himself or the Clerk know.

FC/197

Ward Councillor Update

Ward Cllr M Courtliff provided an update and advised that he has recently been able to attend the parish office on a more regular basis.

Marlborough Road Property Wall – The wall of a property on Marlborough road has come down and as all are aware has not been progressed. It was subsequently determined that the wall belongs to the owners of the adjacent house. Cllr D Archer has agreed to review the property's deeds on behalf of the History Group to help assist with confirming ownership and any historical context.

Drainage/Gulley Maintenance – Cllr C Watts (SBC) is to be contacted by Matty Courtliff to request that the gulley sucker be deployed for maintenance.

Ward surgeries are to be scheduled every other month, alternating between: Wroughton Central, and Wichelstowe Middle and West (Kingfisher School) Danny Kruger the MP and a representatives from the Parish Council are requested to attend these surgeries once booked.

FC/198

Wroughton Community Library

Members received an update from the Library Supervisor regarding the Community Library provision, a copy is attached as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

FC/199

Friendship Café

Members received a verbal update from Cllr D Archer regarding recent activities at the new Friendship café in the Wroughton Library. All NOTED that there were 25-40 people present on a weekly basis and there are different names each week.

The latest session involved a cream tea which proved very successful with those attending. The parish council would like to thank the staff at the Londis Shop in Alexandra Park, thanks to them for sponsoring the biscuits for the friendship group.

FC/200

Parish Council Representatives' Report

To receive reports from Members of outside bodies:

Transport Reps (Cllr G Overbury & Cllr N Hooper) Still no opening date for Flemming Way Bus Boulevard but this will likely now be in August. The public toilets at the bus station now request for a 30p charge to help keep them in order.

Cllr D Archer asked about the taxi vouchers replacement scheme and ward Cllr M Courtliff will take this back to SBC for clarification.

Carnival Committee (Cllr L Campisano & Cllr D Archer) No Update

Wroughton History Group (Cllr D Archer). No Update

Friends of The Ellendune Community Centre (Clerk). The members are attending the annual parish meeting on Monday. All noted that the volunteer group have done really well with fund raising and will be buying a new speaker system for the main hall for all to use.

Mega Bingo 3rd May

Abba / Mia tribute night is 11th July.

Quiz night on 26th September

FC/201

SMASH Youth Work

Members received the latest update from the Community Projects and Grants Officer regarding the next quarters Youth provision within the parish, a copy of which is attached as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

FC/202

Flood Alleviation Working Party

Members received recommendations from the Planning and Highways Committee to set up a Flood Alleviation Working Part, a copy is attached as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

AGREED recommendations:

- 1) A Flood Alleviation Working Party be set up, the primary purpose of which should be to liaise with the Risk Management Authorities (Swindon Borough Council, the Environment Agency, Thames Water and landowners including Wiltshire Wildlife Trust) into order to share information, advice and support from those organisations with residents.**
- 2) The Planning & Highways Committee representatives should be Cllrs John Hewer and Holly Woodward.**
- 3) The Working Party should include residents with riparian responsibility and those directly affected by flooding, including residents from each flooding pinch point/ culvert.**
- 4) The Terms of Reference should be approved as follows: Attached as Appendix 1).**

FC/203

Committee Memberships

AGRRED to elect Cllr D Archer as Chair to the Community Assets and Open Spaces Committee.

AGREED to elect Cllr G Overbury as Vice Chair to the Community Assets and Open Spaces Committee.

AGREED to elect Cllr W McGregor onto both the Planning & Highways Committee and Community Assets and Open Spaces Committee.

FC/204

Co Option Interviews

To note that parish 'Councillor cooption interviews will take place on Monday 19th May 2025 at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 20.52.

Signed:

Chair of the Council

Date: