

Wareside Parish Council

Minutes of Wareside Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 16th March 2023 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr Paul Goodman (PG) (chair), Cllr Kim Nicholson (KN), and Cllr Mike Ryan (MR)

Others: Rebecca Burdick (Clerk) (RB)

Members of the public: PC Coulverhouse and PC Sherwood-Partridge

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Cllr Jane Moseley (JM), Cllr Shusanah Pillinger (SP) and Cllr Stuart Richards (SR)

2. Declarations of interest and dispensations:

- a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda (including non-pecuniary).
- b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.
None.
- c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.
None.

3. To receive update from East Herts Rural Police (added agenda item due to unexpected attendance of two Police Officers)

PC Coulverhouse and PC Sherwood-Partridge unexpectedly attended the PC meeting. PC Coulverhouse wanted to introduce himself as the police officer responsible for Wareside. He also covers Anstey, Meesden, the Hadhams, High Wych, Hunsdon, the Pelhams and Widford. PC Coulverhouse updated the PC and confirmed that there had been no reported crimes within Wareside in February. However he noted that there is an increasing number of number plate and catalytic converter thefts in the local area. The police recommend having your catalytic converter marked and to use anti theft number plate bolts on your number plates.

4. To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public

KN had been asked by a villager if a plaque could be put on one of the PC benches on LOH in memory of a villager who had passed away. The lady had often sat on the bench and enjoyed the views as well as chatted on it with friends in the village. It was unanimously resolved that the plaque could be placed on the bench. KN to let villager know,

5. To approve and sign meeting minutes

- a) Thursday 16th February meeting minutes 2023 - RB noted she had realised she needed to add the meeting with First Garden City Homes into the minutes, the PC were happy for her to do so. She would do this for the next meeting, where the minutes could then be signed.

6. Planning

a) To consider planning applications received between 16th February - 16th March 2023
None.

b) To review planning decisions made by EHDC
None.

7. To receive reports from County and District Councillor

Cllr Eric Buckmaster shared his report via email, see appendix for full report.

8. To discuss village plans for marking the King's Coronation

Henrietta Buxton had contacted SR via email with regards to a village photograph to mark the King's Coronation. The PC agreed this was a nice idea and would support the idea and could advertise on social media. Unfortunately, limited funds and Councillor availability prevents the PC from organising a specific event. However, the PC would like to mark the occasion by planting a tree on LOH, similarly to the Queen's platinum Jubilee. JM to be asked for her thoughts on a suitable tree.

9. To review WPC insurance

The PC insurance is currently with Zurich. RB had received a quote from Aviva obtained from BHIB - partners of NALC, who provide a broker service for Parish Councils. PG and RB had looked at both policies and provided an overview of the similarities and differences - notably that the Aviva policy was more expensive but provided a more extensive cover.. A detailed discussion was had about the positives and negatives of both. It was unanimously agreed that the policy would remain with Zurich but with the cover for the playground to be extended to £40,000 for an additional premium.

10. To receive updates from Councillors/Clerk on:

a) Little Oak Heath

i. LOH Maintenance

Awaiting report from JM after speaking to E-Scapes Landscapes.

Following a post on the PC Instagram detailing the necessary ongoing work to remove scrub on LOH, local landowners and farmers Nicolas and Henrietta Buxton contacted PG offering help. They had machinery which was able to clear all the overgrowing scrub which the PC wished to remove in specific areas (but it was proving expensive to do so), were willing to do it at no cost and before the 1st of April (before nesting birds). The PC agreed via email for this work to be undertaken and PG then organised. PG, KN, SP and MR all visited the area (KN provided photos via email) and noted the vast improvement, KN also has had positive feedback from villagers. The PC is enormously grateful to Nicolas and Henrietta for generously undertaking this work at no cost. It has saved the PC a great deal of time and money which can now be spent on other projects.

ii. Rubbish - Kingham Road

RB noted that she had emailed Anne Ardeley from First Garden City Homes for an update with regards to timings for rubbish removal and fence replacement.

KN noted that rubbish had started to be left outside the bungalows also on Kingham Road. KN to take photos and send them to RB so she can email Network Homes who manage the properties.

iii Playground maintenance

RB shared playground maintenance requirements taken from the playground inspection report. It was noted that all identified risks within the playground/football pitch were either "Very Low Risk - Monitor" or "Low Risk – Monitor and take reasonable action if possible". The one risk which fell within the "Medium Risk" category was the tyre swing, it was noted this was not on the land leased by the PC. The PC asked RB to notify East Herts Council about the swing and the risk identified as it was on land they are responsible for. MR and PG kindly offered to fix the gate. RB to share the maintenance requirements via email for discussion. RB to order a new playground sign which seems to have been removed by vandals.

11. To discuss timeline for the upcoming Parish Council elections

RB detailed to Councillors about the upcoming Parish Council elections scheduled for the 4th May 2023 (should there be enough candidates). RB handed out printed copies of information she had to date including a timeline. RB to share this and all additional information via email and offered to print candidate packs for those that require them. RB also offered to drop completed nomination forms to EHDC.

10. Finance

a) To approve signing of orders for payment online via BACS

Payee	Work done/goods received	Amount
Rebecca Burdick	Salary (February)	£274.28
Zurich	Insurance premium	£505.43

Note: An invoice has been received for street lighting and maintenance charges from EHDC. The PC currently has queries outstanding with EHDC regarding what lights in the village the PC is responsible for and an outstanding maintenance issue. They are awaiting this information before paying the invoice.

b) To discuss any grant applications received

None.

c) To discuss application to Locality Budget Grant and other EHDC grants

RB to investigate application to Locality Budget grant with Eric. RB to reshare information about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural Prosperity Fund to determine if there was interest in applying.

9. Urgent matters not included on this agenda (for full discussion on the next agenda)

None.

Meeting finished at 9.30pm

Next meeting 20th April 2023 at 19.30

Signed:

Date:

Chair Cllr Paul Goodman