

Wareside Parish Council

Minutes of Wareside Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 20th March 2025 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr Bob Kerr (BK), Cllr Kim Nicholson (KN) (Chair), Cllr Kerry Raworth (KR), Cllr Stuart Richards (SR) and Cllr Mike Ryan (MR).

Others: Rebecca Burdick (Clerk) (RB)

Members of the public: None.

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

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Cllr Nicola Gildersleve (NG), Cllr Paul Goodman (PG).

2. Declarations of interest and dispensations

- a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda (including non-pecuniary).
MR - agenda item 11 - due to living in close proximity to the old school site being discussed.
- b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.
None.
- c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.
None.

3. To approve and sign meeting minutes

- a) Thursday 16th January 2025 - PG not present, deferred until the next meeting.
- b) Thursday 27th February 2025 - PG not present, deferred until the next meeting.

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

None.

5. Planning

a) To consider planning applications received by EHDC received between 27th February 2025 - 20th March 2025

Application: 3/25/0376/HH

Proposal: Erection of new exterior swimming pool, pool house and associated landscape

At: Round House High Oak Road Ware Hertfordshire SG12 7PR

WPC comments: None

Application: 3/25/0377/LBC

Proposal: Erection of new exterior swimming pool, pool house and associated landscape

At: Round House High Oak Road Ware Hertfordshire SG12 7PR

WPC comments: None

b) To review planning decisions made by EHDC received between 27th February 2025 - 20th March 2025

None.

7. To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster emailed his monthly report - please see appendix for full report. No District Cllr report received.

8. To receive updates from Councillors/Clerk on:

a) Little Oak Heath

i. LOH Maintenance

RB updated the council that she instructed E-Scapes to start ground maintenance work at the end of March - this will allow the ground to dry out and grass to grow.

ii. Playground maintenance

None.

b) Larkshill

KR, MR, PG and RB met on the 15th March at Larkshill and discussed what work was required. It was agreed that priority should be given to work which would enable the apple trees to flourish - this involved clearing the ground around the apple trees, removing 4 small trees that were blocking their light and removing dead branches of the trees. Additional work included trimming the bush outside of Larkshill and cutting back path overgrowth. MR and KR worked hard on these jobs and planned to return on the 22nd March to continue. KR noted there were 3 trees alongside the path to Hillside cottages that required professional removal. Also a number of villagers had expressed an interest in helping at future tidy-up days. It was agreed that investigation was needed into what insurance would be required/if a disclaimer could be signed, before help could be accepted. Whilst at Larkshill a villager who lived alongside the land came over to speak with the Councillors present. The villager wondered if it would be possible to look after a small area of Larkshill which was behind his house, he proposed that he would fence it off and maintain it, as currently it was looking untidy. Councillors explained that any decision would need to be made at a Council meeting by Councillors in attendance - it was therefore suggested that he come along to the March meeting for a full discussion. The villager was not at the meeting but Councillors did discuss that his proposal would not be possible as Larkshill needed to remain as one area of land for use and enjoyment by all Parishioners. Councillors did agree that a fence/hedgeline could be installed by the villager on their side of the fence, if they wished to create a shield, as the section in discussion currently had a chain link fence. Also the villager could attend tidy-up days to work on the specific area he was interested in under the direction of Councillors. Both these options had also been suggested (but not agreed) at the time by KR and PG.

9. To discuss telephone box project

RB awaiting the finalised quote from Community Heartbeat Trust for purchase and installation of the defibrillator including replacement of the light inside the box.

10. To discuss and approve the Spring edition of the Wareside newsletter

RB awaiting submissions from contributors, she will produce a draft by the next meeting.

11. To receive update on Wareside CofE School, Sports & Playing Field.

RB updated the council on behalf of PG. There are currently 2 questions which the PC need to answer as, both may have an impact on the value of the land and therefore the PC's ability to acquire it or lease it. Both questions relate to the access to the field across the lay-by. The first question is who owns the lay-by. PG has done some research and is reasonably confident that the PC does. The land is registered as a village green in the name of Ware Rural Parish Council. PG has been doing some research to see whether

that was a different entity from Wareside Parish Council. He has tracked down an order the title of which strongly suggests that Ware Rural changed its name to Wareside PC in May 1991. The National Archive lists the order in its catalogue but he hasn't been able to find a copy. He plans on trying to see if East Herts holds a copy. The other thing that needs to be done is to check the minutes of Ware Rural in the HCC archive for around that time as it hopefully will be covered there.

The second question is then what the PC can do with the lay-by. PG has done some more research into village greens. It is a tricky piece of the law and it appears that the PC may be able to control vehicular access to the field across the lay-by. The only other access is through the school grounds. The PC would need proper advice on that before proceeding. The important point to note is that the PC holds some leverage to use as another potential purchaser would need to have these questions answered too and would appear to need the cooperation of the PC. The next call with HCC has been scheduled for Friday 28th March. PG will update on that and any further updates at the April meeting.

12. Finance

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

Payee	Work done/goods received	Amount
Rebecca Burdick	Salary (February)	£274.28
Rebecca Burdick	HP Instant Ink (printer ink) reimbursement	£47.88
EHDC	May 2023 Election administration costs	£54,15
TP Jones and Co	Payroll: Jan - March 2025	£63.40

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

None.

Meeting finished at 21.10pm

Next meeting 17 April 2025 at 19.30

Signed:

Date:

Chair Cllr Kim Nicholson