

Minutes of Nether Wallop Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm

on Monday 08th June 2020 via Zoom online meeting.

- 4924 Present online:** Cllrs Cotterell, Carpenter, Souter, Whitaker, Sangster, Roberts (co-opted during meeting).
- 4925 In Attendance:** Mrs G Foster, Parish Clerk, TVBC Cllr I Jeffrey and 2 members of the public.
- 4926** Cllr Cotterell welcomed everyone to another zoom meeting of the parish council.
- 4927 Apologies for absence:** Cllr Gibson had sent his apologies.
- 4928 Declarations of Interests, changes in Register of Interests, Requests for dispensations:** All Councillors confirmed that they had no changes to declare.
- 4929 To consider applications for new Councillors and if thought appropriate to Co-opt new Councillor(s):** Dr Andrew Roberts was introduced and **PROPOSED:** Cllr Souter, **SECONDED:** Cllr Carpenter. **RESOLVED:** Unanimously that Dr Andrew Roberts be co-opted to the council. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Roberts to the council. All present witnessed the acceptance of office being signed.
- 4930 To receive declaration of interest from new councillor.**
- 4931** Cllr Roberts confirmed he had no interests on any items on the agenda. It was **RESOLVED:** That the full declaration of interests form would be given to the clerk as soon as was practicable.
- 4932 To receive a reports from HCC Cllr A Gibson and TVBC Cllr I Jeffrey:**
- 4933** C/Cllr Gibson had sent a short written update; “The recycling centres are going to introduce a pre-booking system from 15th June because of the incredible demand that has been created by the lockdown. I am still not sure how they will deal with people who turn up but do not have a booking but they could be turned away and told to make a booking. This is because of the traffic problems created by the current demand. I have asked Highways to review again the raised curb by the bus stop at Jacks Bush and I am awaiting a reply. Regarding the closure of Salisbury Lane, Highways and Over Wallop Parish Council have still not finalised the turning points and the Over Wallop Parish Council are chasing Highways for final diagrams of the proposed turning options. I will update you when there is a final agreement, although I know that you are all aware of the situation.”
- 4934** B/Cllr Jeffrey had sent Mid Test Matters newsletter no.11 which was available on the website. A report had shown that Test Valley had an excellent history of dealing with rough sleeping in the area. Nobody needing to rough sleep had been refused assistance.
- 4935** Cllr Cotterell asked if TVBC had plans to improve their website accessibility. This would be investigated.
- 4936** It was noted that TVBC had an above average carbon footprint, and questions were asked regarding actions to combat climate change in the immediate and longterm future. The county and borough councils had declared a climate emergency and it was heard that all parties were involved in moving ideas forward. Currently the spotlight was focused on the recovery plan. However it was acknowledged that Beech Hurst was getting a bit old and the heating is ancient and not very efficient. This was being reviewed as part of one of workstreams for climate change. Renewable energy and solar panels were also being considered.
- 4937 Points from the Floor**
- 4938** None.
- 4939 To consider planning applications and agree comments to be sent to TVBC.**
- 4940** Cllr Souter advised that the course he had attended as Tree Warden had been focused on training Parish Council’s to look after their own trees and those that the council was responsible for. The knowledge gained was limited to

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being able to observe and grade for condition. If there was any concern regarding possible danger, a report should be sent to TVBC who are the experts. In a conservation area the only way to prevent a tree being felled is to request a TPO is made.

- 4941 The following applications were considered and comments **RESOLVED:**
- 4942 20/00951/TREEN The Two Gables, T1 - Sycamore - Fell to ground level – **NO COMMENT**
- 4943 20/00977/TREEN Ridge House T1 Cypress -Fell – **NO COMMENT**
- 4944 20/00964/TREEN The Old Forge Tree works as per submitted schedule – **NO COMMENT**
- 4945 20/01089/TREEN The Old Forge Fell 3 Ash trees labelled A, B and C – **NO COMMENT**
- 4946 20/01050/TREEN Jesmond Cottage Poplar Tree (T1) - Fell, Poplar Tree (T2) - Fell, Poplar Tree (T3) - Fell, Norway Spruce (T4) – Fell – **OBJECTION of felling any of the trees due to:**

- a) T1, T2 and T3 all sit within the Nether Wallop Conservation area and are separately classed and specifically identified as "Important Trees" in the Test Valley "Nether Wallop Conservation Area Character Appraisal" 2008.
- b) "Inconvenience" is not a reason for felling and is counter to Test Valley Borough Council Adopted Plan 2011 - 2029 Policy E5 (para 7.23 in particular) with regard to destruction of established vintage trees. It is similarly counter to Hampshire County Council Tree Policy (derived from the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act)) in that the authority has a duty to: Conserve the biodiversity value that trees provide, including old and decaying trees and.... Avoid unnecessary removal, disfigurement or damage to trees with amenity, landscape or wildlife value
- c) The trees offer high visual amenity value in the Conservation Area in accordance with TVBC Character Appraisal 2008. There is a long standing relationship between T1, T2 and T3, Jesmond Cottage, Heathman Street, and the surrounding area
- d) The condition of all four established and mature trees is believed to be good.
- e) Annual flood/ground water is dramatically reduced by the trees and their removal would exacerbate flooding in the immediate area, particularly to Jesmond cottage itself and neighbouring properties along Heathman Street.
- f) There is no evidence of them being a potential danger to the property.
- g) There is no mention of replacement trees.
- h) The application should not be considered in isolation as there have been other significant trees removed from the property since 2017. Google earth evidences this.

It was further noted that there is some overhang of T1, T2 and T3 over the road and this hinders large vehicles and farm vehicles from travelling on the correct side of the road. It is suggested that TPO's are placed on all four trees and a management scheme is undertaken to ensure that pruning and other work is carried out to comply with highway regulations and to promote the health of the trees.

- 4947 20/01186/TREEN The Old Butchers Arms Repollard Ash to original points– **NO COMMENT**
- 4948 20/00988/FULLN Chalkwell Conversion of garage to habitable space, single storey extension with accommodation in loft space, and erection of outbuilding – **NO OBJECTION**
- 4949 20/01102/LBWN Sunnyside Cottage Re-pointing parts of front elevation – **NO OBJECTION**

4950 **To approve the Minutes of the previous meetings: 11th May 2020:** The minutes had been circulated and were approved. It was **Resolved:** Unanimously, that the Chairman would sign the paper copies at his earliest opportunity. **Action: Clerk.**

4951 **To note the outstanding actions from the previous meetings.**

4952 Councillors discussed the outstanding items which would be prioritised for completion before the next meeting.

4953 **To approve the bank reconciliation, Trial Balance, payments and receipts, and budget reports.**

4954 All reports had been sent to councillors and posted on the website prior to the meeting. It was noted that an up-to-date bank statement had not been obtained from NatWest. However the balance had not been expected to change.

4955 HMRC and TVBC had been updated with the account details for Unity Trust bank.

4956 **RESOLVED:** Unanimously, that payments be approved as below. **Action: Clerk.**

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Counterparty	Cost	Net	VAT	Total
Anthony Whitaker	Booking Manager	210.00	0.00	210.00
BT	May 2020	41.99	8.40	50.39
Came & Co.	Annual PC insurance	590.95	0.00	590.95
	NWNVHT insurance	925.16	0.00	925.16
Edward Souter	Petrol VGWG	30.96	6.19	37.15
Gail Foster	Salary and expenses	640.64	0.00	640.64
	June			
GFC Garden Services	Gardening May	54.00	0.00	54.00
Greening Campaign	Greening campaign	50.00	0.00	50.00
HMRC	Tax June	59.60	0.00	59.60
Iain James	Fuel for strimmer	13.82	2.77	16.59
Seagrave Inspection Services	Playground inspection	80.00	16.00	96.00
Sparkles	Cleaning	29.00	5.80	34.80
		2,726.12	39.16	2,765.28

4957 Insurance needed to be re-charged to the NWNVHT and would be offset against the rent. **Action: Clerk.**

4958 Receipts that had been received were noted as below:

Counterparty	Cost	Net	VAT	Total
Private Tennis bookings	Tennis court rental	1,068.00	0.00	1,068.00
Police & Crime Commissioner	Grant	200.00	0.00	200.00
		1,268.00	0.00	1,268.00

4959 The Bank Reconciliation was approved and this would be signed as soon as possible after sight of the NatWest bank statement. **Action: Cllr Cotterell and Clerk.**

4960 **To review revised Financial Regulations as deferred from May 2020 meeting:** The revised draft based on the NALC 2019 version, had been circulated. It was **RESOLVED:** Unanimously, to accept the draft. The template would be updated and posted on the website. **Action: Clerk.**

4961 **To review Risk Assessments as deferred from the May 2020 meeting:** A template for Risk Assessments (RA) had been provided and the following drafts were reviewed:

Risk Assessment	Written by:	Resolution:	Action:	Whom:
Playing Fields	Cllr Sangster	Approved	Upload to website	Clerk
Tennis Courts	Cllr Sangster	Approved	Upload to website	Clerk
Pavilion	Cllr Sangster	Approved	Upload to website	Clerk
Children's playground	Cllr Sangster	Approved	Upload to website	Clerk
Village Green – General use	Cllr Carpenter	Not ready	Liaise with VGWG	Cllr Souter
Village Green – mowing team	Cllr Carpenter	Not ready	Liaise with VGWG	Cllr Souter
Village Hall – general use	Previous version	Further review	Re-write for template and Risk Management Scheme	Cllr Souter and Clerk.
Village Hall – gardener	Cllr Whitaker	Further review	copy into template	Cllr Whitaker

4962 Councillors felt that the RA should be made visible in the areas they related to. This would mean signage at the playing fields. Suggestions would be made for the next meeting. **Action: Cllrs Sangster and Souter.**

4963 **To note Councillors reports and to decide if any action should be taken.**

4924 **Highways** - There had been an accident at Broughton crossroads where a motorcyclist had been involved in a collision and then hit by another car. Coming out of lockdown there is noticeably more traffic leading to more noise, excess speed, poorer air quality.

4964 Copies of the traffic census activity has been requested but no reply has been received so far.

4965 The HCC traffic calming project appears to have ground to a halt and it is disappointing that we've not been kept informed. There will be many demands on HCC Highway Department's time to implement safer Cycling and walking with the recovery program so it was hoped they would find a way to keep the council informed and

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consulted. HCC had recently released [Covid Travel map](#) and were now using the Commonplace app to track areas of highway that the public can comment on and provide suggestions for reducing no.s of people using cars.

4966 Bent Street appears to have been part of the resilience resurfacing and Knockwood lane has some white markings indicating it may be fixed shortly.

4967 TVBC are about to launch their action plan for green recovery. With a target date of 2025. But they start from a position of above average carbon footprint.

4968 The A343 through Jack’s Bush has had the verge on both sides was cut last week and the HCC sucker truck had been working in the village clearing drains which had been work delayed from the usual winter schedule.

4969 **Playing Fields** - Cllr Sangster had inspected the playground on 1st June after reading the playground inspection report. It was also questioned whether it would be better to remove the whole play area and start again.

4970 **Fence** - There was one fence post that fell off when wiggled and probably up to 10 others that felt slightly loose. There did not appear to be too much evidence of rot. Replacement may not be needed if the fence could be repaired.

4971 **Climbing Frame** - The reports from 2019 and 2020 were very similar. It confirms that the work done to make it safe a couple of years ago were only temporary. To the untrained eye it appeared that the apparatus was safe, but it was concerning that both reports suggest there was decay/rot evident in most places. The report gave the impression that the apparatus was probably not worth fixing.

4972 **Swings** – It was noted that the wooden frames were showing signs of decay.

4973 **Signage** – Estimates for clearer signs would be obtained. **Action: Cllrs Sangster and Souter.**

4974 A further inspection of the playground would be made by councillors and a written response to the inspector’s report would be drafted for council’s review. **Action: Cllrs Sangster and Souter.**

4975 In the meantime the playground would continue to be closed by taping off the apparatus. **Action: Cllr Sangster.**

4976 **Village Green** - Another 2 people had been trained to use the mower. The Mower had been serviced kindly by a resident and it was thought that it might last one more season. The VGWG chairman would start to investigate the costs of a replacement so that the PC could begin planning in advance a process for when the time came for a newer model. It had been heard that Marquee team may not be physically able to continue with the erection and putting away much longer. Younger members of the team were needed in order that the workload could be shared. An advert would be drafted. **Action: Cllr Souter.**

4977 **Village Hall** - The Village Hall remains closed due the Covid-19 lockdown. The Gardener was continuing to keep the VH Garden tidy and the cleaning schedule had been reduced. The builders had been contacted about minor repairs that could be carried out while the hall was shut. The annual Fire Inspection had been carried out on 3 April 2020.

4978 **Footpaths** – The Footpaths Officer had sent a full report prior to the meeting which was available to read on the website. All RoW are passable, and have dried out after the high water levels of the early Spring. There has been a noticeable increase in use for “Lockdown Exercise”. A meeting had been scheduled with the HCC Rights of Way warden next week to discuss options for the surfacing of the new footpath between Heathman Street and Church Lane. HCC had informed that there would not be a contractor cut this year due to difficulties during the Covid-19 response and so the Footpaths Officer had spent 11 hours strimming new growth on the footpaths in May in order to save Lengthsman Resource for later the year. The RoW volunteer and Lengthsman are only cutting back new growth to “footpath width” at ground level, together with encroaching nettles or hard branches. Softer side ingress, e.g. cow parsley, is being left in situ. Lengthsman Tasks carried out in April and May had been:

- a. Sightline clearance at B3084/Five Bells Lane cross roads, B3084/Hosketts Lane junction, Hollom Down Road/A343 junction.
- b. Removal of protruding metal stile stump on FP4 (behind Old Police House),
- c. Cut away fallen branch across FP 7 (Trout Lane- Wisdom Lane)

Lengthsman Tasks Set for June

- a. Sightlines: Junction The Square/Heathman Street, and B3084/Five Bells Lane (late in month)
- b. Cut away fallen branches RB 34 (Hollom Down Road extension of Spring Pond Drove)
- c. Strim new growth FP 23 (north of A343, to Parish Boundary)
- d. Lengthsman Budget and Forward Look

The Footpaths Officer advised that over the past three years considerable human and financial resource has been expended by HCC, NWPC, and landowners, in improving the footpath that runs from School Lane north to A343 bus stop (this is NW FP2 and OW FP7), which has removed old stiles, added non slip grillages, replaced three

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stiles with new kissing gates, improved fencing, regular cutting etc in order to make this a safe and secure means of avoiding having to walk on the road. This should be borne in mind when considering the safe travel agenda item later in the meeting.

4979 NDP (Neighbourhood Development Plan) – An electronic survey was being drafted for the children of the parish ask what kind of playing fields they would like. The draft would be presented to the PC at a later date. It had been suggested that the PC may wish to consider requesting “gifts of land” that landowners were not currently using alongside the brook that the PC could adopt for the use of the community. The question would be raised again after lockdown had been lifted. A farm in Jack’s Bush had received a conservation award for having 27 breeding pairs of corn bunting on their land. Another NDP meeting would be held on Monday 22nd June to get back into the 4th Monday of the month schedule. The Steering Group had recommended that the PC approve the proposal from the NDP consultant to proceed with writing the plan. A draft of headings had been provided. **RESOLVED:** Unanimously, that the approval be given. **Action: Clerk.**

4980 Wallops Parish Hall - The Wallops Parish Hall remains closed. A Garden Sale was about to be set up in the WPH car park by a member of the public without the management committee’s permission. They were told by a member of the management committee to remove their stalls before the sale started. The next meeting of the joint committee is planned for Tuesday 16th June at 7.30pm.

4981 To consider the effect of Lockdown on the Parish and consider costs/actions required.

- a) **Road issues / Safer Travel – Government paper on Short Term improvements to reallocate road space in response to Covid-19:**
 - i. HCC have concerns as to how much budget will be made available. A discussion ensued on how the County council may be able to use temporary fixes as consultation periods for longer term solutions, but councils would not receive funding unless they could demonstrate remedies would result in meaningful change. Issues that the primary school were facing were discussed and it was **RESOLVED:** that a Working Group would be formed of Cllrs Whitaker, Roberts and Sangster who would request interested residents to join in order to document ideas for change. This would be publicised on via the pump email, Nextdoor.com and Facebook. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Whitaker.**
 - ii. A meeting would be scheduled with Mandy Ware from HCC. **Action: Clerk.**
- b) **Local Business issues:** Some local businesses had been contacted and asked how the pandemic had affected them.
 - i. The Cleaning contractor would be contacted and asked to perform some deep cleaning tasks while the Village Hall was closed. **Action: Booking Manager.**
 - ii. Some businesses had confirmed that they had been able to access business support grants, whilst other companies had not yet been contacted. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Cotterell.**
- c) **Maintenance of Parish Council owned/managed facilities**
 - i. The Village hall was currently closed, and the opportunity had been taken to arrange for some maintenance.
 - ii. The Playing Fields were being extensively used by all age groups. The Tennis Court in particular had seen a large increase in bookings. Councillors agreed that the hedge surrounding the courts needed some attention and volunteers would be sought to assist. **Action: Cllrs Souter and Sangster.**

4982 Councillors agreed unanimously to continue the meeting past the two hour mark in order to complete the agenda without deferring items.

4983 To consider if a Grant should be made to the Pre-school and if thought appropriate to decide on amount.

4984 All councillors had been provided with copies of the advert in the parish magazine. **RESOLVED:** Unanimously to donate £750 to the pre-school. **Action: Clerk.**

4985 To consider if a WG should be formed to work on a grant awarding policy. It was **RESOLVED:** that this would be delegated to Cllrs Cotterell and Souter and the Clerk. A draft would be brought for full council approval as soon as was possible. **Action: Cllrs Cotterell, Souter and Clerk.**

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- 4986 To consider appointing a new WG to consider website, domain name and email provider.** Cllr Cotterell reported that there had been continuing work driving toward the website being completely accessible in time for the deadline in September. Hugofox had made some recent changes to their website builder. As a result the Lighthouse app which tests for accessibility had scored NWPC's website at 87%. The same on TVBC's website had resulted in a score in the 70's.
- 4987** The planning tracker had been a defining factor in deciding to use Hugofox as a website provider, however the planning tracker hadn't worked for some time. TVBC had been asked to help fix the issues. It was **RESOLVED:** Unanimously, that a decision regarding building a better website would be deferred until the end of the pandemic.
- 4988 To consider if Clerk should be provided with a PC owned laptop to for council business if so, to agree costs.** Councillors agreed that a dedicated and separate device was necessary. Details of software that was required would be noted. Some specifications would be provided. **Action: Cllr Roberts.**
- 4989** The agenda item would be added to the next month's agenda. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4990 To consider appointing a new WG to research and report on Safe Travel ideas.** This item had been covered under minute no. 4981.
- 4991 To review the Playground Inspection report and consider actions and/or costs:** All councillors had read the report from Seagrave Inspection Services. The playground had been taped off due to the pandemic, and it was questioned if this should remain after playgrounds were allowed to open. It was **RESOLVED:** that a councillor assessment should be undertaken at the play area and reported back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllrs Sangster and Souter.**
- 4992 To consider if the Clerk should apply for a TVBC Cllr Grant for updating the Council website and email system.** It was decided that this was not necessary at the current time.
- 4993 To note the Clerk's Report and correspondence received and to determine actions required:** A resident had stated their belief that the land behind Rags Corner belongs to the Parish Council. The Clerk is checking with the land registry.
- 4994** Middle Wallop Airfield had been contacted regarding night flying, and provided the following information:
"There isn't just one route into the airfield although the Apache's do tend to use the direction you have described (from Danebury). More often they are not the only type of aircraft we operate. We utilise Air Traffic procedures for all aircraft departing and arriving at the Aerodrome however helicopters will mainly arrive from the South, East and West. All our activity is conducted with safety as the primary concern, under set procedures and under Air Traffic Control when in 5 Nautical Miles of the aerodrome. The flying training conducted at Middle Wallop directly supports the front line UK military and as such is classed by the UK Government as essential activity. To answer your specific queries: The Aerodrome Operating Hours are from 0800 – 0200 Monday to Thursday and 0800 – 1700 on Friday. Flying will be programmed during these times to meet our essential tasking. As above we normally fly Monday to Friday but the Aerodrome can be opened at the weekend if tasking requires. It is impossible to provide you an exact answer as the flying programme is influenced by many different aspects for example, aircraft serviceability, training requirement, student progression, prevailing weather conditions and seasonal variation to name just a few. What I can tell you is that there is a requirement to conduct night flying constantly and this could be currently between 0 and 20 flights each day. Having said this it is likely our night flying will be noticeable for the next 3 – 4 months as students reach that particular part of their course."
- 4995** The outstanding work on the Bus Shelter in Jack's Bush has been chased. Andover Glass Works have only recently re-opened.
- 4996** The council had been contacted by a resident complaining that the height of the land known as the Watercress Beds opposite the George Public House, has again been substantially raised over the last few months. It was claimed that the increase was over 1 metre in height and not in compliance with the planning permission granted. TVBC had been informed as this is not a Parish Council matter.

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- 4997** The council had received £200 from the Police Commissioner as a donation towards running Zoom meetings for the Parish council and the community. Local organisations can contact the Clerk to enquire if the facility can be made available to them.
- 4998** The application for a business Grant for the Playing Fields has been refused by TVBC as the pavilion is not registered for business rates.
- 4999** An appeal had been made against the decision relating to the planning application 19/01876/FULLN - Use of annex as independent dwelling - 1 The Kestrels, Kestrels Nest Stockbridge Road. It was noted that previous comments would be taken into consideration and therefore no action was required.
- 5000** **Matters raised by councillors for noting, or adding to the next month's agenda.:**
- 5001** Cllr Sangster had been advised there was a small fire at the playing fields, and councillors agreed that the police should be called.
- 5002** **Points from the floor.** None
- 5003** Date of next monthly meeting: Monday 13th July 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.us
- 5004** The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 22.30 pm.

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