

9th August, 2022

WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 9TH AUGUST 2022 AT 7.30PM
WOULDHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Bell, Cllr Buchanan, Cllr Baker, Cllr Rimmington, Cllr Savaryn, Cllr Parris,
1 members of public. Clerk: T Miles

1.	APOLOGIES: BClr Dalton, BClr Davis (arrived at 8pm), Cllr McDermott, Cllr Marr, KClr Kennedy	
2.	MINUTES <u>Monthly Parish Council meeting</u> The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 th July were proposed by Cllr Rimmington and seconded by Cllr Baker. The minutes were to be signed by the Chairman.	
3.	MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES Members agreed that any other matters arising from the minutes would be dealt with under the appropriate heading, as the meeting progressed through the agenda.	
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Rimmington noted that he is working on a self-employed basis for Orchard, the Grounds Maintenance Contractor. However, it is only in Peters Village and does not cover any work paid for by the Council.	
5 5.1	EXTERNAL REPORTS Borough Councillor: Cllr Bell reported that the report had been received from BClr Davis with apologies for it missing the papers deadline. It is attached to the end of the minutes for reference. He noted the main content was regarding the cessation of the bulk refuse service. Cllr Parris asked that the need is highlighted at the next PPP meeting. BClr Davis explained that Cabinet meetings are also held on Tuesdays, causing a clash with our PC meeting. He is hoping to make November, December, Feb and Mar meetings. BClr Dalton will also be able to attend some. However, he sends apologies as he has just had an operation. BClr Davis noted that the written report was brought in to save time at meetings as the previous verbal report took up a great deal of time. He will try to continue this, but boundary reform will mean the Borough Councillors will be responsible for a larger area covered by the 3 parish councils. Cllr Savaryn queried how BClr Davis would be able to effectively represent Wouldham as he is now in Cabinet and will have an increased area. BClr Davis explained that it will be important to contact the Borough or County Councillors either as individuals or as the PC outside of meetings. He noted that he speaks regularly to Cllr Bell and the Clerk. Cllr Parris queried how Alex McDermott was chosen as a candidate for Borough Councillor. BClr Davis explained that he was chosen as the Conservative party member by Conservative members. Cllr Bell noted that anyone can be a parish councillor and politics should not enter into it, but when you become a Borough Councillor it is different, you should support whichever party puts you forward. If you stand as an independent, your chances of being elected are less that if you are supported by a political party. Cllr Parris felt that it is not a good example to miss so many meetings then want to become a Borough Councillor as he has not proved himself at a local level. Regulation 18 is a critical consultation document which should feed into the new Local Plan. BClr Davis suggests that the parish council look at it carefully when it is available. He noted that every development has parking issues which are controlled by IGN3 (Interim Guidance Note 3: Residential Parking) and SBG4? which is not fit for purpose. If this goes forward to the local plan without being reformed, there will be problems for the next 15 years. He suggests that any development insist on additional parking on top of the guidance. Cllr Bell noted that the planning for parking around the	

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5.2	<p>village is atrocious. BCllr Davis stated that this must be raised as a major issue at the PPP on 1.9. He also noted that there is only a 6-week consultation period. (August-October).</p> <p>Cllr Rimmington asked if it is too late for the car ports? BCllr Davis advised that with the current regulations, if they keep the statutory amount of parking, they can close up the car port. If there was a new parking standard, they would have to abide by it. Cllr Buchanan asked about the implications for Bushy Wood. BCllr Davis noted that any changes would have to wait until the new plan was improved and any applications made now would be under the current guidance.</p> <p>Cllr Rimmington queried the space allowance. BCllr Davis felt that it was 1.5 for flats and housing and 2 for 4 bed houses. The IGN3 spec is so low it often doesn't fit modern cars and it has not been reviewed since 1976.</p> <p>BCllr Davis noted that he had tried to invite a Senior Housing Officer, unfortunately he was unable to attend.</p> <p>Cllr Buchanan noted that there is an amount of red tape regarding social and affordable housing with the local connection and would welcome further explanation. BCllr Davis explained that this would need to be discussed with Housing, but was aware that West Kent covered areas to Sevenoaks and most facilities accessed by residents i.e employment etc were in Maidstone, so this may be where the local connection is applied</p> <p>County Councillor: Not received</p>	
	<p>Community Safety</p> <p>PCSO report: Not received. Clerk noted that she had met with Kim (PCSO) and passed on names of young people involved in the altercation in Oldfield. The incident has been logged as 'criminal damage', so it had not initially been passed to the PC dealing with young people. This has highlighted the need for good communication and intelligence between agencies.</p> <p>Community Warden: Cllr Bell noted that he and the Clerk had met with Sandra to discuss food banks. The suggestion was that we produce a leaflet identifying all support agencies to be available to residents.</p> <p>Blue canisters: Cllr Bell had collected a number of gas canisters and reported them to 101. However, he was told that they are 'waste' and not their issue. So he contacted TMBC Waste Services who collected them. There were some in the Rec and by the gate by the park in PV indicating the problem is across the whole village. If they are found we need to inform TMBC to collect rather than putting them in the black bin.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Rimmington advised that there was little to add except that there were rocks thrown at a property in High Street, this may be linked with the Oldfield Drive issue. The intimidation issues continue to be investigated. He had also been told that no one knew about the CCTV upgrade and suggested this is put into the next newsletter.</p> <p>Speedwatch: Cllr Rimmington reported that 5 people attended Speedwatch training session. Given the new kit to Graham Gosden (Wouldham Co-ordinator). They intend to run a session Wednesday 10th. He explained that if there is sufficient evidence for speeding, the Police will arrange an operation (probably with Specials). Sessions will not run in Peters Village until the construction has been completed. Cllr Parris queried whether training has been completed for the new equipment. Cllr Rimmington confirmed that he ran the training session, it was a very simple piece of kit and he had given them the full instruction manual.</p>	Clerk
6. 6.1 6.2	<p>Administrative and Finance Matters</p> <p>Signing of payment request – Done</p> <p>Cllr Bell noted that the Clerks appraisal has been completed. Once it has been ratified, she will complete one for the Litter Picker. He also advised that he and the Clerk had signed off the new bank mandate to add Cllr Rimmington as a signatory as agreed at the AGM.</p>	SR

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6.3	Comments were sought on the presentation of the Income and Expenditure to date. Cllr Bell noted that the 'Special Projects' spend included the Crossing Patrol and CCTV. Jubilee spend was also included in this cost centre. This means that there is a large underspend for this point in the year. He will arrange a Finance Committee meeting to look at the forward situation.	Finance
7. 7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4	<p>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.</p> <p>A member of the public asked whether it would be possible to make the car park permit parking. It gets very frustrating that there is often nowhere to park for residents and it's the residents who have paid for it. She suggested a barrier with a pass issued. Cllr Bell noted that it was designated as a public car park and it may need to be re-registered but will find out and put on the agenda to discuss fully at the next meeting.</p> <p>She also enquired whether the one-way system trial would include traffic calming. Cllr Bell noted there would be platforms in the High Street, 2 passing bays in School Lane and some improvement to the top of Knowle Road. Cllr Savaryn noted that this work wouldn't be done during the trial, but would be included if the trial was successful. The member of public asked how will it be policed? Cllr Bell noted that there would be a traffic survey which will identify usage, it will also record anyone going the wrong way, speed and whether it is an HGV. The Clerk advised that there would be a thorough/official consultation running throughout the trial with public meetings website links to ensure everyone has the opportunity to have their say.</p> <p>The second member of public noted that the pathway behind the green school is very overgrown with weeds and the white lines at the traffic lines are causing problems with people not knowing where to stop to activate the sensor. Cllr Buchanan advised that she had chased the white line and the website said that they have been completed when in fact they have not. She will investigate further, but feels that she may need to raise another report. Clerk noted that she had spoken to the contractor and the weeds should be cleared this week.</p> <p>The member of public also noted that the Rubbish bin on Village Road is leaning over. Cllr Baker will report to Trenport.</p>	EB AB
8. 8.1 8.2	<p><u>Planning</u></p> <p><u>Planning applications considered and commented upon by the Planning Committee:</u></p> <p>22/01552/FL 117 High Street Wouldham (re-submitted)</p> <p>Conversion of loft to habitable room incorporating a rear dormer and side window. Objection submitted due to reduced privacy of neighbours.</p> <p>22/01512/FL 23 Nelson Road Side Extension - No comment</p> <p>22/01481/FL 23 Ravens Knowle Single storey rear extension - No Comment</p> <p><u>Planning Consent Issued:</u></p> <p>22/01107/FL Pelican View Removal of Condition 3 pursuant to planning permission TM/20/01111/FL (Phase 2 temporary change of use to open storage or distribution (Use Class B8) and/or use for the parking of vehicles and/or storage and hiring out of plant, machinery and equipment (amendment to surfacing and surface water drainage details in application previously approved: TM/19/02761/FL))</p>	due to

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8.3	<p><u>Planning applications refused/withdrawn:</u></p> <p>22/01110/LDP 117 High Street Wouldham Loft conversion - REFUSED</p> <p>22/00330/FL Land To The West Of 110 And 112 High Street Wouldham. Erection of detached house - REFUSED</p> <p>22/01057/LDP 23 Ravens Knowle. Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: Single storey rear extension - WITHDRAWN</p> <p>110 High Street: Refused, read</p> <p>For Note: Cllr Bell noted that the refusal notice for 110 High Street contained some interesting references which could be used for other applications. BCllr also noted that is worth reading any Inspector reports as they refer to planning policies too.</p> <p>Downs Farm application. Cllr Bell advised that we had asked for it to go to area 3, but a decision had not been made yet.</p>	Planning
9.	<p>Roads, Footpaths & Lighting -</p> <p>9.1 Cllr Bell read the action sheet for Roads, Footpaths and Lighting and asked if there were any further items for discussion/updates.</p> <p>9.2 Cllr Parris asked that if we no longer have buses could the markings be removed in the High Street. BCllr Davis noted that KCllr Kennedy would be the person to ask to progress this, but the school buses have been confirmed, so may be needed. Cllr Parris advised that the school bus would stop at either side of the village, not in the High Street. BCllr Davis suggested this could be sorted out within the trial.</p> <p>9.3 As identified in the Actions List, the permanently on lights in Oldfield has been caused by a mast issue and once resolved they the settings will go back to normal.</p> <p>9.4 Cllr Bell noted that the quote for 7.5k for 2 lights in the car park was too expensive and we should look at an alternative. Perhaps a post with a solar light on it. Recreation path lights: 2k in precept for solar lights. Need to identify what is needed. Cllr Parris felt that they could be vandalised. Cllr Bell asked if the team could identify what is needed and how much it would cost including if they needed to be concreted in to reduce vandalism.</p> <p>9.5 Cllr Parris updated that she had been informed that no. 63 high street has blocked off the rear access of the property in contravention of the covenant. Clerk to send a letter outlining the breach.</p> <p>9.6 Footpaths Noted that the weeds along the pathway by the old school will be cleared this week.</p>	Roads Footpaths & Lighting
10.	<p><u>Open Spaces Update on the Actions list</u></p> <p>10.1 Wouldham Common : Fire pit has been completed</p> <p>10.2 Allotments: The Allotment Association reported that the fence in the horses' field was in a state of disrepair. 2 members of the Open Spaces team inspected and agreed that no action need to be taken immediately. However, we do need to establish who has the responsibility for the fencing.</p> <p>10.3 Recreation Ground Following discussion on whether to wait to incorporate the new equipment with the wet pool repair to the installation area, it was agreed to purchase it and re-do the area again as part of the repair contract. Cllr Rimmington noted that maintenance needs to be done regularly. Cllrs Baker and Parris noted that the situation of non-repair had gone on for many years and we now risk having to remove equipment which could have been saved with regular maintenance which is paid for through S106 money.</p>	Clerk Clerk

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	<p>suggestions were made including setting up our own scheme although this would be very time consuming and need volunteers. If we look at minibus would need to look at the cost of running it. i.e staffing, mots etc. It was suggested that the school could loan one, but Midas training would need to be undertaken by any volunteer drivers if that was allowed.</p> <p>Cllr Parris said she was going to ask members of 60+ Club if those that drive would be prepared to offer to drive those needing help to the new Co-op. Also, staff from the Watermans have indicated that they could drive a minibus if coordinated.</p>	
15.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: NONE</p>	
16.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 6 September, 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.30</p>	
17.	<p>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS, CHAIRPERSON AND CLERK:</p> <p>Residents parking in the car park to be added to next month's agenda</p>	
18.	<p>MEETING CLOSED AT : 9.45</p>	

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REPORT TO WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL 9th August 2022

By the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillors for Burham and Wouldham Ward
Councillors Dave Davis and Roger Dalton

SATURDAY FREIGHTER SERVICE

1. On 20 July 2022, TMBC's Community and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee consider the future of the Saturday Freighter Service, the bulky waste collection service that was suspended on 20 March 2020 and has not been restarted.

2. It was fully recognised that in many parts of the Borough that has had this service, that it is popular and well used. However, the Committee found compelling reasons to recommend that the service is not reopened. In summary these are:

- a) The service does not allow 1600 tonnes of materials collected each year (excluding WEEE) to be recycled.
- b) The service diverts potentially recyclable materials away from being recycled.
- c) Alternative opportunities exist for the disposal of bulky items.
- d) The service does not support targets outlined in the Council's Climate Change Strategy.
- e) The service increases the tonnage of waste sent for incineration and negatively impacts on recycling rates.
- f) That this service is not a core part of the waste service and there is. No legal requirement to provide it.
- g) The original justification for this service was the lack of Household Waste Recycling Centres and this cannot be justified now that the state-of-the-art Allington HWRC was opened on 9th May 2022.
- h) As a result of the opening of the Allington HWRC KCC have ceased to pay their contribution of £9000 towards the costs of this service.
- i) Data suggests no correlation between increased fly tipping and the suspension of the service.
- j) At present it is difficult and expensive to man the service with HGV drivers and this would detract from the mandatory kerbside collections.
- k) That only parts of the Borough have had the full benefits of the service. It has not been universally available.

Like all district councils TMBC is having to make some very difficult decisions on financial savings. All services for which there is no legal requirement to provide are vulnerable to cuts.

3. The Community and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee has recommended to the Cabinet that the service is permanently discontinued.

4. We understand this is on the agenda of the TMBC Parish Partnership Panel of 1st September and will go to the Cabinet Meeting on 7th September.

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Finances up to July 25th			July Meeting	
Opening Balance Nat West 16/6				£90,156.71
RINGFENCED TOTALS				
Monies from car park donations			£ 1,710.00	
Monies from membership grant			£ 1,700.00	
Monies from Big Lottery			£ 3,155.99	
Current available monies ringfenced			£ 6,565.99	
Receipts made up to June 25th				
L TOWNEND				
Salt Beef Shack			£20.00	
SLOAN GARIDRAGCHAA				
TOTAL INCOME				£ 20.00
Payments made up to April 24th				
30-Jun	NPOWER (March)	Streetlights		26.08
21-Jun-22	South East Water	Allotments		£229.97
31/6	Google	email		5.52
30-Jun	HMRC	PAYE		528.40
05-Jul	Staff Costs			1,244.51
05-Jul	Rent	Office		216.66
09-Jun	Wouldham School	Crossing Patrol		3,327.61
09-Jul	FR Jones & Sons	Equipment	(auth July mtg)	396.96
	EDF			12
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				£ 5,987.71
P & L for period			-£ 5,967.71	
Balance (inc ringfenced)			£ 77,623.01	
Pending				
Closing Bank Balance @ 24/7				£ 84,189.00
Payments to be agreed at Aug meeting				
06-Jul-22	N Power	Streetlights		£23.49
30-Jun	Thompson Elphick	Payroll		126
21-Jul	Play Safety	ROSPA inspection		121.8
18-Jul	Master Alarms	50% balance CCTV		1152
10-Aug	Staff costs			1267.38
10-Aug	Rent			216.66
25-Jul	Nest	Pension		33.18
aug	edf	cctv		12
Aug		Phone		15
Aug	Gmail	email		5.52
				2,973.03
				£ 2,973.03
TOTAL COMMITTED SPEND @				
ESTIMATED BALANCES				
Estimated Bank total			£ 81,215.97	
RINGFENCED TOTALS			£ 6,565.99	
TOTAL AVAILABLE			£ 74,649.98	

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