

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting 18:30, 20th February 2023 Held in the Meeting Room, Wickersley Community Centre

Members:

Cllrs: J Barber (Chair), S Ellis (Vice Chair), A Bates, P Beighton, M

Biggin, E Boswell, M Godfrey, C Grimes, N Judah, B McNeely, K

Phillips, J Robinson, M Scott, P Whitworth and M Woodhead

In attendance:

Cllrs: J Barber (Chair), S Ellis (Vice Chair), A Bates, M Biggin, M

Godfrey, C Grimes, N Judah, B McNeely, K Phillips, J Robinson, M

Scott, P Whitworth and M Woodhead

In attendance:

A Naylor (Acting Parish Clerk), 2 members of the public

6382 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr P Beighton (holiday).

Cllr E Boswell was not present, no apologies received.

6383 To note any declarations of interest on items to be discussed at this meeting

Cllr Ellis declared a standing interest on licensing issues as is Chair of Licensing at RMBC.

Cllr Ellis also declared an interest in agenda item 16, relating to the RMBC Towns and Villages Fund improvements for Wickersley North Ward, as she is involved in this from an RMBC perspective as a Wickersley North Ward Councillor.

6384 To resolve if members of the press and public are to be excluded from any agenda items of the meeting due to the nature of the business being transacted, Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 (2)

RESOLVED that agenda item 10, to note any matters arising from the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting be moved to confidential.

6385 To receive a report from the Police

There was no police presence or report provided at this meeting; due to current clerking resources, attendance by the Police has not been chased.

The Acting Clerk advised that PC Mick Sheedy's replacement is PC Lee Wooley, who will be advised of future meeting dates and invited to attend.

Councillors raised concerns regarding the parking around the top of Sycamore Avenue, on the roundabout, and on Plane Drive, around school drop off and pick up times, with concerns around safety. It was stated that this would more likely be an RMBC issue in



relation to yellow lines, etc. as opposed to a Police matter. Cllr Barber advised he would raise this at the next RMBC CAP meeting.

6386 To consider any issues from members of the public in attendance

Two members of the public were in attendance. The following matters were raised:

1. Works being carried out on Chevril Court by Virgin for fibre broadband have left the tarmac in a poor state of repair where they have reinstated. There are also oil spills on the road. The residents advised that they had raised the issue with Virgin already, but had not yet raised with RMBC.

Cllr Barber advised the members of the public to raise with RMBC's highways department, as this is not something that the Parish Council can deal with.

Cllr Grimes also mentioned that the reinstatement works and other issues around clean up following Virgin's fibre broadband works in the area had been a problem elsewhere in the village.

Action: Clerking team to raise concerns regarding Virgin works with RMBC highways department.

2. The bench at the end of Chevril Court is looking worse for wear and could do with some TLC.

Cllr Grimes advised the residents that the bench is planned to be swapped for a new recycled plastic bench as part of the rolling bench replacement works by the Environment Committee.

3. Residents stated that Chevril Court is the only road which has not been resurfaced in that area, and is in a poor state of repair.

Cllr Barber advised to report this to RMBC as they are the authority that deal with roads. Cllr Ellis also advised that the road was on RMBC's list.

4. Regular parking on the corner of the junction near the shops and Gaslamp etc. on the Bawtry Road slip road was stated as being dangerous. The member of the public advised that he had spoken with Andy Adams at RMBC; Cllr Ellis asked that the emails be forwarded on to her to follow up in her capacity as a Borough Councillor.

6387 To note any issues from councillors in attendance

Cllr Grimes advised that mole hills have been appearing again at Bob Mason Recreation Ground. The Acting Clerk advised that this had been notified to the pest control contractor to attend.

Cllr Bates had prepared a statement which he proceeded to read to the Council. This began regarding Peter Thirlwall's resignation from the Parish Council, in which statements had been made regarding the Recreation Committee in particular, of which Cllr Bates is Chair. Cllr Bates stated his own personal reasons for being a Parish Councillor.

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Cllr Ellis interjected asking the Chairman for a point of order, as Cllr Bates was speaking of a person not present (reference P Thirlwall).

Cllr Barber intervened and allowed Cllr Bates to continue, ensuring that he did so in a respectful manner.

Cllr Bates referenced recent events regarding the absence of a member of staff, and spoke to previous Councillors and staff members affected in a similar way.

Cllr Scott interjected asking for a point of order, as he felt allegations were potentially being made. Cllr Ellis also interjected once more as her name had been mentioned by Cllr Bates and she stated that she had not been given any forewarning of this statement being read.

Cllr Barber again allowed Cllr Bates to continue, but not to make any unfounded allegations.

Cllr Bates continued reading his statement, at which point Cllr Scott interjected once more stating that the content of the statement was straying into confidential and there were members of the public present, and that this meeting was not the forum to raise these concerns. Cllr Bates then asked what was the forum if not a meeting of the Council, a question reiterated by Cllr Whitworth. Cllr Ellis stated that it would be a written report under Code of Conduct to the monitoring officer at RMBC.

Cllr Barber stopped the conversation at this point and advised that this would be picked back up in item 10 which had been moved to confidential, as this related to the matters arising from the extraordinary meeting.

Moving on, Cllr Ellis raised the point that the Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) was coming to the end of the three year period and that we need to start considering what the Parish Council do to request this to continue. There will be a consultation which the PC will need to be involved with. Cllr Godfrey suggested that the best thing to do would be perhaps to prove that it indeed <u>has</u> been successful. This will be considered further by the Planning Committee and full Council at the time of consultation.

6388 To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th January 2023

RESOLVED unanimously that the minutes of the meeting of 16th January 2023 were accepted as a true record.

6389 To note matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 16th January 2023

Ref. minute 6363, the Police will be invited to the next meeting.

Ref. minute 6371, regarding a paper explaining what was required to reapply for the Quality Council award – it was requested that this include when the award was lost and why.

Ref minute 6368.4, it was stated that the bike track & path works at Bob Mason were due to be started in April.



To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 24th Jan 2023

RESOLVED unanimously that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of 24th January 2023 were accepted as a true record.

6391 To note any matters arising from the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting

This item was moved to the end of the meeting, as a confidential item - as per minute 6378.

6392 To receive and discuss the priority plan update

Cllr Barber talked through the report provided, which related to the Clerks' priority plan which was implemented to focus priorities and manage workload. Overall, good progress has been made. Some outstanding items were noted within the report and discussed.

Cllr Barber advised that the Volunteers Strategy still needs to be devised and written; the Assistant Clerk has done some operational work in terms of collating volunteer information and making contact with volunteers in regard to upcoming events, and has recently attended a volunteer management course with VAR.

Cllr Barber asked if any Councillors would be willing to volunteer to assist in the development of the volunteers strategy document, collaborating with the Assistant Clerk and the Winthrop Organiser. Cllr Ellis and Cllr Phillips volunteered for this.

Cllr Barber stated that it was the intention to implement a 2023/24 priority plan to aid the management of workload for the clerking team, particularly given the current understaffing situation.

Cllr Ellis questioned the marking of items as complete, stating that something shouldn't be marked as complete until fully delivered. The Acting Clerk clarified that some of the larger tasks were broken down in to phased manageable steps, particularly where the completion of a whole project or action is longer term, so that the clerks can set differing deadlines for each stage, e.g. compiling the newsletter, and delivery of the newsletter – though they are interlinked and form the overall 'newsletter' action, they are two distinct phases and one needs to be completed before the other.

6393 Appointment of Chair of HR Committee

Cllr Barber advised that following the resignation of P Thirlwall as a Parish Councillor, that there was a vacancy for Chairman of the HR Committee. Chairman nominations are usually done each May, however this position needs to be filled in the interim, given current HR requirements. Cllr Woodhead volunteered to take on this role.

Cllr Barber proposed that Cllr Woodhead be appointed as Chair of the HR Committee; this was seconded by Cllr McNeely.

RESOLVED unanimously to appoint Cllr Woodhead to the position of Chair of the HR Committee.



6394 Appointments to committee vacancies

Cllr Barber raised the question of whether any of the Committee Chairmen felt that the resultant vacancies (following P Thirlwall's resignation) were needing to be urgently filled, due to current workload of the committee.

Cllr Ellis asked for the Winthrop Committee vacancy to be filled. Cllr Robinson was suggested, and he indicated he would be happy to do this.

Cllr Scott asked for the Woodlands Committee vacancy to be filled. Cllr Biggin advised he would be happy to volunteer for this.

Cllr Woodhead asked for the HR committee vacancy to be filled. Cllr Whitworth advised she would be happy to volunteer for this.

Resolved unanimously to accept the above appointments to the vacant committee positions.

6395 To receive an update on the Winthrop lawful development approval

Cllr Ellis gave a verbal update on the planning process. Previous issues had been encountered when it was identified that prior planning was not in place for the current set-up; a lawful development certificate was then applied for. This was obtained in January; the Parish Council can now go back to RMBC to restart the initial discussions regarding plans for development. Cllr Godfrey reiterated that this was a good outcome.

6396 To consider a potential Community Asset Transfer from RMBC

Cllr Barber talked through the paper provided to Councillors and gave the background relating to a parcel of land within Wickersley Park that belongs to RMBC. Following discussions around the placement of a new tree, RMBC have re-visited the idea of proposing a Community Asset Transfer (CAT), transferring ownership of the land from RMBC to Parish Council. Cllr Barber stated that the benefit of this would be to consolidate our ownership of the whole park area. The cost to the Parish Council would be half of the legal fees.

The proposal was opened up to discussion, in summary:

It was questioned what the Parish Council would gain from the CAT. The question of maintenance and running costs of the bowling club (which sits on the RMBC-owned land) were discussed; Cllr Ellis stated that the Parish Council built the pavilion, but that RMBC maintain. Grounds maintenance was also discussed; the Parish Council maintain the grass and hedges etc. on the piece of land in question and has always been the case.

Given that there would be a fee to transfer the land, and the fact that this would not offer any material benefit to the Parish Council, Cllr Bates proposed that the Parish Council opt not to carry out the CAT. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips.

RESOLVED by a majority of 12 votes, not to enter into the CAT as proposed by RMBC. *Note: Cllr Ellis abstained from the vote*.



To consider recommendations from the Environment Committee regarding the RMBC Towns and Villages Fund improvements for Wickersley North Ward

Cllr Bates talked through the report provided, with suggested amendments from the Environment Committee.

It was stated that the plans had been formulated with no input from or consultation with the Parish Council. Cllr Ellis stated that the Parish Council had been made aware of the consultation meeting being held at the library at the previous council meeting, and that this was recorded in the minutes.

The Acting Clerk advised that an email had recently been received (15th February) from RMBC asking if the Parish Council wished to discuss the plans.

Cllr Biggin queried why backlighting of the clock was not included on the suggestions, as this had been discussed at the Environment Committee meeting. Cllr Bates explained that the company who service and maintain the clock were approached regarding this option and that due to the type of clock this option was not viable, hence this option being omitted from the suggestions on the report.

Cllr Godfrey stated that although the Environment Committee had suggested the removal of the uplighting to the clock, given that the faces cannot be backlit, that she felt it would be good to leave in the uplighting.

RESOLVED by a majority of 12 votes, to support the suggestions of the Environment Committee as contained within the report, but to leave in the uplighting. *Note: Cllr Ellis abstained from the vote.*

Action: Acting Clerk to respond to RMBC's email/meeting request in relation to the plans, to provide a copy of the report and request a meeting with the Environment Committee to discuss further.

6398 To receive a budget & reserves briefing

Cllr Barber talked through the budget and reserves paper, summarising the current and forecast position with regard to our budget for 2023/24, and our availability and use of reserves. There are a number of tasks to complete during 2023/24 as we review our financial strategy and business plan, and restructure our reserves to match the new business plan.

Cllr Godfrey asked a question regarding financial management reserves and Cllr Barber explained that we have a requirement to maintain a level of these reserves as a Parish Council, and that we will be reviewing the reserves policy later in the year.

Cllr Ellis stated that it would be good to have an official reserves policy document as part of the updated business plan.

6399 To receive a detailed explanation of the financial reporting template and answer any Councillor questions in regard to this

Cllr Barber introduced the agenda item and explained that it had arisen following queries raised by Councillors around understanding of the financial report provided for meetings.



The Acting Clerk talked through the financial report template as provided to Councillors, explaining the layout, purpose of each column and interpreting the figures.

Questions were invited from Councillors, and the following actions arose:

Action: Ensure that gridlines are shown on the printed version of the report.

Action: Amend formulas so that the surplus/deficit column on expenditure section shows overspend as a negative figure, and underspend as a positive figure (opposite to what it is currently).

Action: Put together written narrative explaining the report, to be printed alongside in future for clarity.

6400 To consider financial matters including:

6394.1 The authorisation of payment of accounts since the last meeting

The Acting Clerk talked through the payments to be authorised. No questions were raised.

RESOLVED unanimously that the following payments are approved:

PROVAL OF I	PAYMENTS SC	HEDULE				
III Council Mee	eting 20/02/23					
ate	Payment Method	Total	VAT	Net	Payee	Particulars of Payment
						A COLOR COMPANIES OF THE STATE
20/01/2023	DC	£57.97	£9.66	£48.31	Gala Tent	Replacement parts for Winthrop gazebos
23/01/2023	DC	£24.98	£4.16	£20.82	Amazon	Replacement computer mouse
31/01/2023	DC	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	RHS London	RHS affiliation annual fee - Winthrop
02/02/2023	DC	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	ALCC	A Naylor annual membership fee
09/02/2023	DC	£21.00	£0.00	£21.00	RMBC	TEN fee for Gala
09/02/2023	DC	£39.96	£6.66	£33.30	Tools To Go	Replacement wheels & support legs for generator
16/02/2023	DD	£58.48	£2.78	£55.70	N Power	Tanyard toilets electricity 01/12 to 31/12
16/02/2023	DD	£151.14	£7.20	£143.94	N Power	Bob Mason electricity 01/12 to 31/12
16/02/2023					N Power	Roundabout FP electricity 01/12 to 31/12
16/02/2023		£160.06	£7.62	£152.44	Eon Next	Winthrop electricity 01/01 to 31/01
16/02/2023			1		Sage	Monthly fees Feb 23
16/02/2023					British Gas	Feeder pillar electricity (health centre) 02/01 to 01/02
17/02/2023		£13.02	£0.00	£13.02	Water Plus	Winthrop water charges 01/11 to 01/02
27/02/2023					BT	Phone & broadband charges 01/02 to 30/04
		£944.12	1			Christmas tree - supply, erect, dismantle
		£18.90	£0.00	£18.90	J Laithwaite expenses	Mileage claim Jan 22 to Dec 22
		£540.00		-	Kinspeed	Setup of new laptop (Nov 22)
		£37.80	1		·	Monthly pest control fee (Jan)
		£510.00			2 Commune	Website annual fees 2023/24
		£81.01	1		Killis	Tanyard toilet supplies & cleaning supplies
		£1,353.67			Bothams Prestige	Monthly grounds maintenance contract - Dec
		£66.80			YLCA	New Councillor webinar training sessions - M Biggin
		£216.00	1			Tanyard bin collections Jan 23
		£72.00	1		1.1211	Bob Mason bin collections Jan 23
		£2,243.04			Real World Business (RWB)	12 months Sage support & training contract
		£120.00			Renumeris (Real World Business)	Payroll services Jan 23
		£20.02	-		Kinspeed	Monthly back up fees Jan 23
		£541.44			Microsoft	Annual Microsoft 365 Business Standard subscription
		£37.80	1			Monthly pest control fee (Feb)
		£12.80				Handyman supplies Jan account
		£240.00	1		RB Land Management	Tree planting at Wickersley Park (linked to planning condition
		£67.50			C Grimes expenses	Morrisons - Easter eggs for Easter event
		£173.19	1	1	A Chester expenses	AA Catering - replacement crockery
20/02/2023	BACS		-		Staff Salaries	February Salaries
Payable Mar				£1,908.06		PAYE & NI
Payable Mar				£2,010.71		Superannuation
Total		£20,899.32				



6401 To consider any general correspondence

The Acting Clerk shared the following correspondence with Councillors for consideration:

1. A knitting group which meet at Wickersley Library, through a charity called Heart of Knitting, have sent in a grant request for £360 to support the purchase of wool so that they are able to offer attendance free of charge to their knitters.

The knitting group is aimed at helping those struggling from loneliness and isolation, and to connect people together. Friendships have already been formed while learning new skills in a safe warm environment. The group knit items for various good causes, including Jessop Hospital, Families First in Rotherham and Shiloh Homeless Centre, so the benefit is two-fold.

They currently have 10 members from the locality who attend the group and they estimate that the £360 requested will fund them for around 6 months.

Cllr Grimes expressed that she thought the group was a fantastic idea.

Cllr Robinson proposed that the Parish Council should grant the funding request of £360; this was seconded by Cllr Grimes.

RESOLVED unanimously to award the grant of £360 for the knitting group. The Acting Clerk to action.

2. The February YLCA Law & Governance Bulletin received 13/02/23 provided a reminder that the latest pay award from the National Joint Council included an increase in holiday entitlement, effective from 1st April 2023.

This was noted by Councillors and annual leave calculations for staff will be adjusted accordingly by the Acting Clerk.

It was also noted that the additional bank holiday in May for the Kings Coronation needs to be included in calculations for this leave year.

6402 Planning and licensing applications update

The associated planning papers had been circulated prior to the meeting for information for councillors. The applications received since the last meeting are listed below.

RB2023/0068 - 26 Goose Lane Wickersley Single storey rear extension

RB2023/0133 - 45 Bawtry Road Wickersley Construction of carport to front & alterations to boundary wall with tinted stone

RB2023/0122 - 99 Wood Lane Wickersley Erection of single storey side extension

RB2023/0038 - The Hawthornes Moat Lane Wickersley Erection of 1No. detached dwelling and alterations to shared access

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In addition, the Parish Council have been made aware of amended plans received for the following application, to which the PC initially submitted a representation:

RB2023/0182 - 2 Almond Glade Wickersley

Conversion of bungalow into a two storey house including front/side/rear extensions and first floor balcony

The amendment to the plans is the addition of a pitched roof. There has still been no character assessment carried out. Councillors viewed the amended plans and discussed the application again. There was an acknowledgement that the plans were a slight improvement however didn't address all of the PC's concerns.

NOTE: Standing Orders were extended by 15 minutes at 20:30.

Cllr Godfrey talked through her recommended representations, which are as follows:

RB2023/0133 - 45 Bawtry Road Wickersley

This application is the resubmission of an application refused on the grounds of the carport and alterations to the boundary wall being detrimental to the visual amenity of the street scene in this location. The only difference with the current application is the offer to tint the new part of the walling to try to match it with the existing and submission of examples of high walling on the other side of Bawtry Road.

The Parish Council, however, does not consider it materially alters the situation. The higher walling in this case looks incongruous because it contrasts with the height of walling on either side of the property rather than representing a long continuous stretch as in the other cases cited. The difference in colour is also very apparent and it is by no means certain that tinting the stone would provide a weathered appearance that would reduce the visual impact. Furthermore, the high walling is only required to screen the carport which itself is obtrusive in this location in front of the property.

In view of the above, Wickersley Parish Council sees no reason why this application should now be approved and continues to object on the grounds of its detrimental visual impact on the streetscape in a very prominent position on Bawtry Road.

RB2023/0182 - 2 Almond Glade Wickersley

Wickersley Parish Council are of the view that the revised application represents an improvement to the previously refused scheme given the introduction of pitched roofs.

However, the proposed dwelling still provides insufficient reference to the characteristics of the locality and the extensive areas of glazing and the use of white render would result in a development that would look out of place and intrusive. This development would therefore not accord with the principles of the Design Code of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan which requires new development to reinforce local character and vernacular. Nor does the application provide a local character appraisal in accordance with Policy GP1 of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED unanimously to submit the above two objections, relating to the applications for 45 Bawtry Road and 2 Almond Glade



6403 To note dates of future meetings and events

The future dates of committee meetings and Parish Council meetings were noted:

Full Council Meetings (commencing at 6.30pm)

Monday 20th March 2023

Monday 17th April 2023

Monday 15th May 2023

Monday 19th June 2023

Monday 17th July 2023

Monday 18th September 2023

Monday 16th October 2023

Monday 20th November 2023

Monday 11th December 2023

Committee Meetings

Recreation 6.30pm

Tuesday 7th March 2023

Tuesday 6th June 2023

Tuesday 12th September 2023

Tuesday 5th December 2023

Winthrop 9.00am (HELD AT WINTHROP)

Friday 3rd March 2023

Friday 9th June 2023

Friday 1st September 2023

Friday 1st December 2023

Environment 6.30pm

Monday 24th April 2023

Monday 10th July 2023

Monday 6th November 2023

HR 9.00am

Wednesday 24th May 2023

Wednesday 27th September 2023

Wednesday 6th December 2023

<u>Newsletter</u> - Request for Items and editorial meetings

Feb/Mar

Jun/Jul

Sep/Oct

Planning

To be decided

Woodland 6.30pm

Tuesday 21st March 2023

Tuesday 13th June 2023

Tuesday 5th September 2023 (lantern

walk meeting)

Tuesday 26th September 2023

Tuesday 21st November 2023

WCCA 6.30pm

Monday 27th February 2023

Monday 3rd April 2023

Monday 26th June 2023

Monday 23rd October 2023

Finance 10.00 am

Wednesday 8th February 2023 (TO BE

REARRANGED)

Tuesday 28th November 2023

Events (2pm)

Tuesday 28th February 2023

Tuesday 18th April 2023

Tuesday 16th May 2023 (debrief)

Tuesday 27th June 2023

Tuesday 19th September 2023

Tuesday 17th October 2023

Tuesday 28th November 2023 (debrief)



6404 To note any matters arising from the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting (MOVED TO CONFIDENTIAL)

Cllr Barber gave an update on the Clerk's absence and current staffing arrangements, including the additional hours for current staff and the acting-up role currently being fulfilled by the Acting Clerk.

An update was given on applicants for the temporary role and the proposed offer to the successful candidate at 18 hours per week. An update on financial implications for the 2 month period of the temporary employment were given.

Cllr Barber stated that the arrangements would be reviewed again at the March meeting, as per minute 6380.1 of the Extraordinary Meeting.

The surrounding issues regarding the submission of a potential grievance were discussed.

At this point of the meeting, the continuation of Cllr Bates' statement was re-considered. Cllr Barber suggested that this be re-visited at a future meeting.

Cllr Ellis stated that some comments were made in front of members of the public earlier in the meeting which she was unhappy with.

In relation to the content of Cllr Bates' statement, Cllr Biggin requested a copy of former Cllr Thirlwall's resignation letter, as he wasn't present at the extraordinary meeting where P Thirlwall circulated this to all Councillors.

Cllr Scott suggested that a sub-committee potentially be set up to review working practices.

At 20:45, Cllr Ellis stated that was leaving the meeting and that Standing Orders could therefore not be extended further as there was not agreement from all Councillors to do so.

The meeting was closed at 20:45.

Signed & Solv (Chairman) Dated 30-3-23

