

## **WROCKWARDINE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at Admaston House at 7.30 p.m.**

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#### **Present:**

Cllrs: Elaine Anderson, Elaine Ballantyne, K. Ballantyne, Ms Nadine Evans, T. Kiernan and Mrs. Jo Savage.

Mr. M. Goldstraw – Clerk

Also in attendance: Three members of the public.

*[All Councillors present at the meeting signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office prior to taking their seats. The Clerk reported that Cllr. Rawlings had already signed his declaration.]*

*[Prior to the meeting, due to the absence of the outgoing Chairman, all Members agreed that Cllr. Mrs Jo Savage should preside for the first items of business.]*

#### **15/01 Election of Chairman**

After welcoming all to the first meeting of the newly elected Council and welcoming Cllr. Elaine Anderson, Cllr. Mrs Jo Savage called for nominations to the post of Chairman.

Cllr. K. Ballantyne nominated Cllr. Rawlings to serve as Chairman of Council for the forthcoming year. The nomination was seconded by Cllr. Ms. Nadine Evans.

Cllr. Mrs Jo Savage called for further nominations. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Rawlings was unanimously elected to the post of Chairman unopposed.

#### **15/02 Chairman to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

It was agreed that Cllr. Rawlings could sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office prior to the next meeting.

#### **15/03 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Rawlings.

Courtesy apologies were received from Borough Councillor Miss Jacqui Seymour.

#### **15/04 Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr. Mrs Jo Savage called for nominations to the post of Vice Chairman.

Cllr. Ms Nadine Evans nominated Cllr. K. Ballantyne to serve as Vice Chairman of Council for the forthcoming year. The nomination was seconded by Cllr. Kiernan.

Cllr. Mrs Jo Savage called for further nominations. There being no other nominations, Cllr. K. Ballantyne was unanimously elected to the post of Vice Chairman unopposed.

Cllr. Ballantyne took the Chair, thanked everyone present and stated that he try to support the Chairman as best he could. The Vice Chairman then formally welcomed Cllr. Ms. Elaine Anderson and gave an insight into the construction of Council meetings.

#### **15/05 Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests**

It was agreed that formerly declared interests would be carried forward to the new Council. The Vice Chairman explained to all present the importance of declaring interests. There were no declarations.

#### **15/06 Vacancy in the Office of Parish Councillor**

The Vice Chairman reminded the meeting that following the recent local elections there remained two vacancies in the Office of Parish Councillor for the Parish, one for the Ward of Wrockwardine and one for the Ward of Admaston & Bratton.

##### **a) Wrockwardine Ward**

The Meeting noted that Council had received one letter of expression of interest for the vacancy in the Wrockwardine Ward from Mrs Sheila Turner.

The Vice Chairman proposed that Mrs. Sheila Turner be co-opted to the post of Parish Councillor for the Wrockwardine Ward. Seconded by Cllr. Mrs Jo Savage, it was RESOLVED that Mrs. Sheila Turner be co-opted to the post of Parish Councillor for the Wrockwardine Ward.

Cllr. Mrs Sheila Turner signed her declaration of office and took her seat.

The Vice Chairman welcomed Cllr. Mrs Turner to Council and also took the opportunity to congratulate Cllrs. Kiernan and Miss Seymour for their successful re-election to the offices of Borough Councillor.

##### **b) Admaston & Bratton Ward**

The Clerk informed the Meeting that there had been no expressions of interest for co-option to the office of Parish Councillor for the Admaston & Bratton Ward.

The Vice Chairman informed the Meeting that in addition to the vacancy for the Ward of Admaston and Bratton which had occurred following the recent local election (which would be dealt with by co-option) another vacancy had occurred which would be dealt with under Local Government Act 1972 (Section 87(2)). The Vice Chairman formally announced that a casual vacancy had occurred in the office of Councillor for the Parish of Wrockwardine (Admaston & Bratton Ward) due to the failure of Mr Adrian Williams to make the required declaration of acceptance of office.

Rule 5(2) of The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules, 2006 now applied. The rule allowed ten electors for the parish in which the casual vacancy had arisen to request the Returning Officer to hold an election to fill the vacancy. That request must be made

within fourteen days, calculated in accordance with the rules, of the date of the notice. The fourteen-day period to end on 4th June 2015. If no one called an election then the Parish would co-opt to fill the vacancy.

The Vice Chairman asked all present to note that there were two vacancies in the Admaston and Bratton Ward of the Parish. One vacancy would be filled by co-option because it was the result of insufficient candidates standing for the election held on 7th May. The other vacancy caused by the failure of an elected councillor to take his seat would be dealt with under Rule 5(2) of The Local Elections Rules.

**15/07 Police Report**

There was no police report.

**15/08 Public Session**

Mr. Orrell asked if the Parish Council had been aware of an application for an application to the Traffic Commissioners Office for a licence to operate vehicles from the site of Rushmoor Severn Trent. The Clerk informed the Meeting that the parish Council for some considerable time had not been on the list of formal consultees and no longer received information from the Traffic Commissioners Office. Cllr. Ms Evans informed the Meeting that her neighbours had become aware of the fact and had objected to the proposals. The Clerk was asked to obtain details of the application; Cllr. Ms Evans stated that she was in a position to supply the details to the Clerk.

Mr Orrell raised concerns over the how the Borough Council had dealt with applications in the Allscott area (commercial expansion) stating that there were now more people employed working twelve months a year than had worked for the sugar beet factory. A discussion on planning and development was held. Mr. Orrell asked if the Parish Council could obtain details of what exactly the reserve matters (sugar beet site) were.

**15/09 Minutes**

**The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were confirmed and signed, by the Vice Chairman, as a true record.**

**15/10 Committees/Working Groups**

**Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

It was agreed that the following Members would serve on the F&GP Committee: Chair of Council (Ex Officio), Ms. Elaine Anderson, Ms Nadine Evans, Mrs. Jo Savage and Mrs. Sheila Turner.

**Traffic Management Group**

Chairman along with Cllrs. K. Ballantyne and Ms. Nadine Evans.

**Recreation Ground Working Group**

Cllrs. Ms Nadine Evans, Chairman (Ex Officio) and Mrs Elaine Ballantyne.

**15/11 Meetings of the Council**

It was RESOLVED to retain the existing schedule and frequency of meetings.

**15/12 To consider payment of Annual Subscriptions which will become due:-**

a) Insurance renewal b) Membership of ALC and Local Council Review  
c) Membership of ALC Wrekin Area Committee d) Membership of CPRE  
e) SLCC. It was RESOLVED to pay all of the previously mentioned annual subscriptions as they fell due.

**15/13 Appointment of representatives to:-**

a) Wrekin Area Committee (SAPTC) – Chairman  
b) Admaston House Trust – Chairman (Ex Officio) and Cllr. Ms Anderson.  
c) Quarry Liaison Group – Chairman and Cllr. Mrs Savage.  
d) Parish Forum – Chairman

**15/14 Borough Council's Five Year Land Allocation Statement**

Cllr. Kiernan informed the Meeting that the Borough had yet to publish its Shaping Places report. Following discussion it was agreed to defer the matter. Cllr. Kiernan was asked to make known to the Borough Council the Parish Council's concerns over the cumulative effects of developments impacting the Parish. Cllr. Kiernan stated that he hoped to be able to bring a report to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**15/15 The Post Office Admaston (Consultation)**

It was noted that the Post Office intended to remove the Post Office from its present site to the newsagents on the same parade of shops. Members expressed a number of concerns; the Clerk was asked to respond by stating that Council lent its support begrudgingly because it didn't want to lose the facility but had reservations over space (privacy and security issues) and general environment. Members felt that it would be far better if the two premises were put together to form one larger property to house both post office and shop.

**15/16 Applications:**

**a) The following applications were considered:**

TWC/2015/0364 Land to the North of, Haygate Road, Wellington. Outline application for the erection of up to 330 dwellings with associated access, all other matters reserved. It was RESOLVED that Wrockwardine Parish Council would make no comment on the new application but would remind the Borough Council that it had not changed its view since the initial application, TWC/2013/1033, which opposed the proposed development on the grounds that it conflicts with the existing land allocation, inadequate highways considerations, proposed density and conceptual design and a lack of information in the supporting documentation including the Breeding Birds summary

and especially on a site of such importance to Wellington in its setting of a listed building and the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and urges the Borough council to refuse the application.

**Permissions:**

**The following permissions were noted:**

TWC/2015/0198 Orchard House Wrockwardine. Crown Lift and removal of lower branches of one pear tree.

TWC/2015/0197 Orchard House Wrockwardine. Crown Lift and removal of lower branches of one pear tree.

**Refusal:**

**The following refusal was noted:**

TWC/2015/0129 Land opposite The Cherry Trees, Charlton. Erection of dwelling and creation of new access.

**15/17 Accounts for Payment**

**Receipts & Payments - It was RESOLVED - that these be approved and paid as tabled.**

**Statements 13 Unity Trust** were tabled along with the reconciliations and were approved.

**Bank Signatories**

Following discussion it was RESOLVED that Cllrs. K.J.S. Ballantyne, Nadine Evans and S. Rawlings remain as bank signatories and that Cllrs. T. Kiernan, Mrs Jo Savage and Mrs Elaine Ballantyne be added to the bank mandate as new signatories. Mr. M. Goldstraw Clerk to retain on-line access and as address contact.

**Audit**

The Meeting received the report of the Internal Auditor which concluded that overall the standard of administration and system of internal controls relating to the audit areas examined were considered to be of a high standard. The Clerk was thanked for once again steering the Council through a successful audit.

The Meeting noted that there were recommendations and it was agreed to delegate the matter to the F&GP Committee for implementation as soon as practicable.

**Annual Audit Report and Governance Statement**

The meeting approved the Annual Return along with the Annual Governance Statement.

**15/18 Traffic Matters**

**a) Quiet Lanes**

There was nothing to report.

**b) Traffic Calming Admaston**

Cllr. Ballantyne gave a resume of the progress made.

**15/19 Parish Matters**

**a) Admaston Green – provision of outdoor gym equipment**

Cllr. Ms. Evans gave a progress report. It was agreed that a site meeting to see other sites in the area would be appropriate.

**b) Pemberton Road playground**

The Clerk reported on issues relating to litter picking and grounds maintenance.

The Meeting received the following suggested options for the refurbishment of Pemberton Road play area from Derek Owen (Borough Officer): Ideas for Pemberton Road play area are:

Remove lower section of wooden ship (in grass) – low play value and use this space for:

A small outdoor trampoline. Cost approximately £6,700 - age range up to 12. N.B. Does not require safer surfacing.

A small robust dish roundabout. Cost approximately £4,500+ - age range up to 12. Requires safer surfacing (included).

A curved climber (Sutcliffe). This offers a high metal seated shelter plus climbing which may take away the problem from the ship which is not sheltered (accept beneath it). Cost approximately £12,500+ - age range up to 14+. Requires safer surfacing (included).

Assault course multi play unit. Cost approximately £24,000+ - age range up to 12. Requires safer surfacing and may require change to footpath (included).

The Meeting noted that anything high up (such as space nets) might not be acceptable to adjacent residents due to overlooking into gardens.

It was agreed to let the working group investigate the [possibilities and report back to Council.

**c) Admaston Green – Prevention of Parking.**

Following discussion it was agreed to defer the matter until the next meeting.

**15/20 Correspondence**

e.on

Maintenance Contract – return of the Council’s copy of the signed maintenance contract for the forthcoming year.

e.on

Notification that mercury vapour lighting is to phased out by the end of 2015. Noted.

**15/21 Press Statement**

The Clerk was asked to provide a press statement.

**15/22 Chairman’s Closing Remarks**

The Vice Chairman thanked all for their attendance.

Cllr. Kiernan gave a report on the work being carried out in the refurbishment of Admaston House.

**15/23 Next Meeting**

Next meeting to be Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Wrockwardine Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:55 p.m.

*Signed* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chairman*

*Date* \_\_\_\_\_