



Wheldrake Parish Council

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Chair: Cllr A Nelson

Clerk: G Powell – clerk@wheldrake-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of Wheldrake Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Monday 18th November 2019

Part 1:

E1: Welcome:

The Chair welcomed all Cllrs, Clerk and public to the meeting

E2: Apologies/Attendance:

a. Attendees:

Cllrs Nelson, Surtees, Bell, Buckle, Gilks, Southern, Myers, Ward and Marsh plus the Clerk and Paul Butler from WRA.

b. Apologies:

The Council received and accepted apologies from Cllrs Urwin and Cranfield.

c. Attendance Book:

This was passed around and signed in accordance with Parish Council guidelines

E3: Interests:

The Chair reminded members to make any declarations of interest in any agenda item(s).

Cllr Marsh (Trustee of the WRA) and Cllr Nelson (prospective trustee of WRA) both declared an interest.

E4: Council:

The council received no comments on agenda items.

E5: WRA Governance:

The Council received a presentation from the Chair of Wheldrake Recreational Association regarding planned governance changes. This included:

Currently WRA (set up in 1972) is an unincorporated trust whereby trustees are liable if something goes wrong or if there are debts. They would like to convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which would mean that trustees are not liable, but still have to act responsibly and that it would be a charity as a legal entity. Community First Yorkshire have been giving advice to WRA.

Currently, the Parish Council is the custodian trustee of the unincorporated trust and a such holds the title to all the property of the trust but is not involved in the day to day management of the trust. If converted to a CIO, the property would be held by the charity (WRA), which would continue to provide recreation facilities for the residents of Wheldrake.

It was explained to the PC that the next steps for WRA CIO conversion would be to call a meeting for all Wheldrake residents to vote for the change, apply to the charity commission to register new CIO charity and transfer assets and liabilities to CIO.

The future plans of WRA would be to form a new committee with 2/3 new trustees and to develop the facilities at the village hall and playing field to better serve the community.

One such plan is to build a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

Questions raised following the presentation included:

Q. Was there truth in the rumour of building a large leisure centre type facility?

A. It was mentioned as an idea however nothing is firm.

Q. You only mentioned sports, do you have anything else planned?

A. One idea was to have a big second room built at the Village Hall to be able to offer more activities. Sports teams etc create more income for the WRA to keep costs of heating etc.

Q. Any plans for the older age bracket of the community?

A. On the MUGA, activities like walking football or walking netball have been suggested.

Q. How much would the MUGA cost to build?

A. In the region of £100-200,000

Q. Does the WRA have stats on villagers that use the facility?

A. Plan to form a separate group (of WRA plus others) to assess the needs of the village.

Q. Do you have a timeframe in mind?

A. Probably next financial year, i.e. 2021/22.

The PC commented that it would like to promote inclusion, and would like to see the area be available with assurance from WRA to welcome all ages to use the facility. Councillors raised concerns that there was a history of youngsters being 'thrown off' the field by members of the cricket club when their activities were reasonable. Councillors were in agreement that interference with sports equipment and the integrity of the field was unacceptable. Defining and displaying the rules for the use of the field would be to the benefit of all.

The PC suggested that other community projects be endorsed and not just ones of sport. The Council would like to see a proper consultation phase with ALL residents being made aware of what the plans are in full. If the village, as a whole, votes in favour then the PC can't see a reason to object.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm