

Wheldrake Parish Council

www.wheldrake-pc.gov.uk

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Minutes of Wheldrake Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm at White Rose House on Wednesday 31st May 2023

1	Welcome: The Chair welcomed councillors and visitor(s) to the meeting.
2	Apologies and Attendance: Cllr Cranfield sent apologies. Attendees were noted by the clerk.
3	Interests: The Chair reminded members to make any declarations in any agenda item(s). Cllr Nelson declared an interest in the planning item: 23/01037/TCA
4	Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting in April were changed as per the request received, this was due to the information regarding the bus being incorrect. These will be signed off and approved at the June meeting.
5	Council: The Council received comments from resident(s) present. N/A
6	Reports received (for information only) a. Village Maintenance Group The planters will be done in the next couple of weeks. The clerk will chase this up again. Highways – weight limits not being adhered to. Monitor the situation and report to CYC if appropriate. b. Playpark Committee No issues apparent. The clerk will instruct a playpark inspection to be carried out. c. Defib update New bag and prep bags will be delivered this week.
7	Communications Received: - Highlighted to Chair from a resident about Walker Lane becoming one way <i>Cllrs were all in agreement that no comments could be made until the resident submits the appropriate requests with CYC.</i> - Email from resident regarding the public footpath between Mount Pleasant and Cheesecake Farm is completely overgrown. <i>For information</i> - Email from resident (sent to all Cllrs ahead of meeting) re Telegraph pole <i>For information</i>

- Email from Barbara Ellis/WI thanking the PC for financial support for the Coronation, serving over 100 cream teas, and asking for further support (sent to all Cllrs ahead of meeting)

A decision was made following a full discussion to not provide further funding at this time. The decision was wholly based on the current budget and grants already paid in this financial year.

Ward Councillor report:

Cllr Vassie sent a report however was not present.

Ward Funding

With the change in administration to Labour we face a few weeks' uncertainty regarding whether there will be any funding at all available to ward councillors. The past few years Labour has indicated that they did not support ward committee funding or ward highway funding. We should know over the next couple of months what will be happening.

This will, of course, have a significant impact on all manner of community groups, inc.: Elvington Scouts, the Playgroup in Wheldrake, Sharing Life, sports groups, and all manner of other organisations.

There is a possibility that Labour may yet take a different course. Apparently the problem arises in part because in most Labour wards there are no parish councils. I understand that one option is for them to devise an equivalent of parish councils in city wards. We will have to wait and see. Another option would be for them to reduce the amount of funds available to ward / ward councillors.

With the ward highways funding the problem is particular annoying for us. The Lib Dems introduced ward highway funding to ensure that there was money available for those parts of York that would otherwise be overlooked by council officers, who use value for money funding formulas that make it all but impossible for smaller communities to ever get anything done. This does not mean that nothing can happen but it will be harder to draw funds towards the villages.

Cycle Path

I have already had meetings with three of the Labour Councillors to discuss how to advance our cycle path. The good news is that there is a general understanding in the Labour group that being able to cycle out of the city to enjoy the York countryside is as valuable as enabling village residents to cycle into the city, for work, school or leisure. The obstacle remains as ever those senior council officers who have blocked the path so far, and the need to have a coherent vision for cycling across York (something I was unable to persuade my colleagues to demand).

Wildflower Verge

Natural England now has a mini-baler and will be using it later in the summer to cut the verge and remove the arisings. Over time this will have a major impact on reducing the tall grasses in favour of wildflowers. I will be seeking to persuade the city council to accept these arisings at the Anaerobic digester plant at Allerton EfW.

Street Light in Wenlock Gardens

In part of my spend last year I purchased a street light to be placed at the back of the car park in Wenlock Gardens. While this has not yet been installed, I am assured that it has been paid for and is ordered and will be installed soon.

8

Planning:

To consider and decide upon the following planning applications;

23/00771/FUL – Woodland View, Broad Highway

Erection of detached garage – no comments

23/00784/FUL – 6 Harcourt Close

Two storey side and single storey rear extensions – no comments

23/00914/TCA – Old Barn Court, North Lane

15% thin and shape 3 Apple trees in conservation area – no comments

23/00963/FUL – 31 The Cranbrooks

Single storey side extension after removal of porch – no comments

23/01037/TCA – 89 Back Lane South

Fell 1 Magnolia tree in conservation area – no comments

9

Finance:

a. To receive the bank balance and update on Xero accounting software from the RFO

Balance as of 31.03.2023 is £12,050.87

b. Financial Risk: Cllrs to discuss potential risks (if any) involved with running costs/cashflow

Within the year there are no risks apparent, other than damage to PC property, for which the PC has adequate insurance. Budgets are discussed in line with the precepts and regularly monitored at Finance Committee. Grants are assessed against the budget and bank balance. When the accounts are discussed at meetings, all Cllrs are involved.

Question from the Cllrs was could the clerk look into whether the PC can become VAT registered.

c. To confirm continued appointment of Adams and Co as Internal Auditor for 23/24

All were in agreement for this to continue. Although Adams and Co provide the audit reports along with other financial information, there is appropriate due diligence in place for there to be no conflicts of interest.

d. To receive and approve Internal Audit – this will be done at the June meeting.

e. Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 to be read out – Form3PM was read out and completed in line with the AGAR return.

Payments to be made:

Adams and Co Ltd £252.00

Remittance

Other

Clerk's salary at rate already confirmed, plus any receipted expenses.

10	<p>To consider the ongoing Bus Subsidy going forwards Friday and Saturday evening service was discussed. As Cllr Vassie has publicly voiced his support for the evening service, therefore the consensus was that this subsidy should come out of Ward Funds. The clerk will ask Cllr Vassie and his contacts at CYC to explore the contract that has expired, and that the PC would like him/ward funds to take over the subsidy from 2024. Voting took place to not fund the continued subsidy further than 2024, citing the cost v numbers using the service was not a good use of precept money. Cllr Nelson voted against the decision and Cllr White abstained.</p>
11	<p>Playpark future plans Inspections: do we continue with Playscheme for inspections? Action: Instruct Playscheme on 1st June to carry out inspection asap Possibility of consulting users of the playpark to ascertain what they would like. Previously discussed gym equipment could be a long-term addition which would cater for all age groups. Prices for equipment and look at grants to fund.</p>
12	<p>To consider and approve the Zoho email account to expand to accommodate more members All in favour</p>
13	<p>To consider and decide next steps re snicket between Valley View and North Lane Not owned by PC</p>
14	<p>Items to consider for the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for whole council - Sandholes Wood Committee Wardens - Website - Playpark equipment and CCTV
21	<p>To confirm date of the next meeting which will take place on Wednesday 28th June at 7pm.</p>

Meeting closed:

8.54