WILSHAMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at the Jubilee Centre on Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.00pm

<u>PRESENT</u>: Eric Benton (Chair), Marc Frost, Simon Pickett, Richard Draycott, Mark Brooks, Nigel Jacobs, Geoff Odell, Borough Councillor Graeme Coombes, Lizzie Barnicoat (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

The Chair welcomed all attendees, there were apologies for absence received and accepted from Chris Purcell and Borough Councillor Graeme Coombes.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THE MEETING:

MF declared an interest in payment matters as Responsible Financial Officer, there was no further declarations of interest received for the meeting received.

3. OPEN FORUM:

No public statements received.

4. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY:

Three vacancies remain; all can be co-opted it was noted. The positions had continued to be advertised widely through various local platforms.

It was proposed by EB to co-opt Russell Adams as a Parish Councillor, seconded by MB, unanimously agreed by all present, resolution passed. Clerk to arrange Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interest forms.

This will leave two vacancies.

Action 1.01: Clerk
Councillor email address to be arranged.

Action 1.02: MF

5. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

It was noted that the one planning application received since the previous meeting is relating to a property in Wixams parish. The Working Group have notified the local authority this is not a Wilstead application.

22/02052/FUL Demolition of an existing single-family dwelling and the erection of a five-bedroom detached dwelling and garage with associated parking, access and landscaping at Montpelier 299 Cotton End Road amendments to documents. The Working Group to review the amended plans.

Action 1.03: PWG

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

No report received in advance of the meeting.

7. TO CONSIDER LATEST FEEDBACK FROM HIGHWAYS OFFICER RELATING TO LOCATION OF AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS IN COTTON END ROAD

Action 11.07: EB To follow up the feedback from the last Parish Council meeting with Borough Council Officers to encourage the location down the far end of Cotton End Road to have the maximum coverage possible of this area along with the village centre camera to be located at the Whitworth Way splays

Following the site meeting which had taken place on 1st December to look at the exact locations with Councillors and Borough Officer and fed back to the December Council meeting. It was noted a number of locations proposed were an issue due to location of utilities, or overhead cables, or the ownership of the land, or vegetation hindering. Four locations at the crossroad end were preferred and one at Littleworth (all others having been ruled out for technical reasons). There were reported at the December Council meeting with three areas being investigated still at the village centre area still, with the fourth one being ruled out due to being on private land. The one area identified at Littleworth also is on private land so is having to be revisited to find a suitable area. Given the complexities and to ensure the work is not delayed any further it was unanimously agreed to delegate the positioning to MB and EB along with the Borough Council Highways Engineer. Then one of the VAS units from Cotton End Road to be relocated to Littleworth so they receive some coverage as well

After the December Parish Council meeting EB had continued to be in regular communications with Allan Burls, Highways Officer to ensure the project moves forward and other sites in the Borough do not move ahead of Wilstead's. Also since the last meeting, the VAS speed data collection information had been shared with Councillors.

Councillors went on to discuss the potential scheme options in considerable detail with three scenarios focused on:

- Have the camera at the western end of Cotton End Road as close to the crossroads as possible and deter people from speeding past the school and Post Office but "catch" fewer people speeding because the number of parked cars slows people down automatically
- 2. Have that camera east of the entrance to Whitworth Way in order to catch the majority of people who speed along Cotton End Road in both directions. However, the Borough engineer has yet to report on the feasibility of any sites in this area.
- 3. Locate the cameras along Bedford Road

Further Councillor discussion continued, with comments such as, Cotton End Road is narrower than Bedford Road, with more pedestrian movements, plus traffic movements, more properties, so highways safety a greater risk along Cotton End Road. Councillors therefore agreed unanimously the cameras are to be located in Cotton End Road.

The Council then considered the most suitable location along Cotton End Road, taking on board Officer feedback, resident input and Councillor views. It was agreed unanimously that the location of the camera to be prior to the Whitworth Way entrance outside Harry Newman House and at the end of the long straight to capture the maximum number of offenders given the traffic naturally reduces speed outside the village centre as traffic slows down outside Dines Close. It was also noted that the length of Cotton End Road was walked during the recent site visit with the Highways Officer to find a suitable location with only one location deemed suitable in this area.

Discussion then moved to ensuring maximum coverage to the village to improve highways safety, reducing vehicle speeds in light of the VAS unit speed data. The priority the Council agreed to be new cameras in Cotton End Road and then moving a VAS unit outside Dines Close to act as a visual deterrent was discussed. The unit could be placed around the Dines Close splay, with it being suggested to explore if the redundant bus stop area could be utilised for further parking to reduce the congestion around the Post Office area. The

Chapel Lane VAS unit to be moved to Dines Close with rotation of the VAS unit possible also to be taken forwards, then the VAS currently on the Ivy Lane side of the road to go to Littleworth. Councillors agreed this would give maximum coverage to the full length of the road using a number of different strategies. Looking to have new cameras on Cotton End Road would then also allow the existing camera scheme to remain in situ in Bedford Road and Luton Road. With forward planning that a scheme for Bedford Road to be followed up in the next financial year to move the Luton Road camera to closer to the roundabout. Being mindful a new average camera scheme costs with new cameras costs £83k with £20k committed by the Parish Council, Councillors agreed that there to be liaison with the Officer to establish the shortfall of funds remaining funds of £63k and how this can be reduced. With Councillors unanimously in agreement that some additional Parish Council funds be allocated to the scheme to enable a new set on Cotton End Road.

Action 11.07:EB Ongoing

Action 11.08: EB To follow up with Council to know what else they would advise for suitable highways safety measures along the Littleworth area This had been done at the recent site meeting, it was noted Clerk to request highways pole installation at Littleworth with interim measure proposed that the VAS is placed on existing street furniture if local authority highways agree. With Councillors agreeing the expenditure for the VAS unit to be moved by Andy Muskett along with the yellow warning plate.

Action 11.08:Ongoing

There had been a resident communication asking for the average speed cameras to be relocated to Bedford Road. There had been two requests for cameras to be placed on Cotton End Road, and a media enquiry on the scheme. All such communications had been responded to fully. It was noted that three individuals had expressed an initial interest in helping the Council with accessing the speed data being collated from the VAS devices. Clerk had responded to all and would link them with MF.

Action 1.04: Clerk

The VAS unit displaying kmph not mph is being updated MF confirmed and the VAS located by Ivy Lane has again been reported to the manufacturer for reviewing. These items to be monitored. **Action 1.05: EWG**Clerk had sought clarity from local authority on public consultation regarding average speed cameras and whether this would or would not be happening. **Action 1.06: Clerk**

8. APPOINTMENT OF ALLOTMENT WARDEN

RD and MB as tenants took no part in this item discussion or vote.

The Council also felt it would be useful to have appropriate wording to reflect the collection of a £50 deposit, new terms and conditions to be issued for new tenants going forwards.

Action 12.10: Clerk/EB

9. FINANCE MATTERS

a) Quotes for consideration - Phil Woskett quotation for paving and two benches at Whitworth Way play area circulated. It was unanimously agreed to

accept the quote for £2150 for the work to be done at Whitworth Way play area, including VAT it was noted.

Action 1.07: MB

Branch removal that have been dumped by the side of the Churchyard quoted by £75, Councillors unanimously agreed to approve Albion Tree quote.

Action 1.08: EB

Pollards Close work awaiting contribution of £300 from nearby resident, being monitored.

Action 1.09: EB/Clerk

The street lighting contract to be checked follow recent letter received from SSE.

Action 1.10: Clerk

It was agreed to ratify the bond renewal for a further period to improve income for the Parish Council, new bond to be secured. **Action 1.11: F&GP WG**

b) Invoices to be paid – Payment of accounts:

Payee Service Amount
1. Backlight Ltd Administration December £895.02
2. Komplan Play area benches order £1209.60
3. A R Worboys Ltd Grass cutting SI1939 £708.00
4. Andy Muskett Ltd Street light repair Chapel Lane £89.76

Accompanying invoices filed ahead of this meeting in the Invoices and Quotations folder of Parish Council documents held online within the folder for this meeting in Office 365 SharePoint As minuted in March 2020 the F&GP WG is delegated to approve and pay urgent items electronically (with retrospective approval at the next PC meeting). However, these items are yet to be paid, so it is proposed that payment of the above be made.

Payments made as per direct debit agreements:

Plus Net Telephone and broadband £22.80 direct debit Swalec Street lighting energy £98.80 direct debit £12.00 direct debit

Payments made between meetings to be ratified:

R Maskell Plant hire for Jubilee £183.47 Albion Trees Churchyard tree work £1300.00

Councillors resolved for all the above payments to be made. *MF declared an interest and took no part in this vote.*

c) Budget and Precept 2023/24 consideration and approval

The Finance and General Purposes Working Group had spent some time reviewing the financial information in depth following input from the Working Group Spokespersons. The drafted budget had been shared with Councillors ahead of the meeting, Councillors unanimously agreed the budget for 2023/24. Councillors then discussed and considered the precept for 2023/24, it was agreed that £52,500 be collected from the local authority, resolution passed. Clerk to submit precept request form to the local authority.

Action 1.12: Clerk

Councillors then went on to review the reserve allocation, ietms under £5k to go into the main budget it was agreed.

Action 1.13: EB

Councillors agreed the presented budget allocation noting items could change over the financial year.

Councillors agreed unanimously to increase funding of up to £50k for a set of average speed cameras in total so additional £30k for new cameras allocated for new cameras in Cotton End Road, existing Luton and Bedford Road cameras to stay for now.

Bollards around the roundabout suggestion as part of the budget considerations.

d) List of regular payments

Presented list approved in principal with Councillors unanimously agreeing that the list be used, however, if any of the prices change then the item would be bought back to the Parish Council meeting for consideration.

Action 1.14: F&GP WG

e) Village Improvements

Action 12.04: Clerk To share an example of Annual Report or summary of Parish Council work considered Action 12.04: Complete

Action 12.05: Clerk To find out details on the youth work funding that may be available BRCC had been contacted

Action 12.05: Ongoing

Action 12.06: MF To arrange a social media communication to be made regarding the coronation to see if there is interest in a community event which would enable input to the January budget discussion if needed There had been an article in the Homewatch

Action 12.06: Complete

Action 12.07: MB/EB To receive feedback from MB and EB who will look in more detail at the potential options including phasing. Action 12.07: MB/EB Action 12.08: Clerk To make a Ward Fund application for a village project Clerk had followed up and the Parish Council had secured £1,500 towards play area improvements, this had been actioned between meetings, awaiting confirmation funds have been released.

Action 12.08: Ongoing

10. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED:

NALC Events Bulletin emails

Age Partnership email promoting services

BBC Planning weekly list email

Homewatch newsletter copy

Homewatch article submitted

Online playgrounds promotional information

CPRE update emails

Bank statements

Crime statistics - forwarded

ERTA Voluntary Transport email

Allotment tenant various communications

Burial ground and associated communications

Beds Police crime statistics - circulated

CPRE newsletter

BBC Officer communications regarding Wilshamstead Parish S106 monies for play equipment

EWR Local Representatives Group meeting information -circulated

Resident communication regarding speeding on Cotton End Road – responded to

Gallagher Merry Christmas

BBC Officer communications regarding Luton Road junction following ASC installationon A6

Barclays Supporting your business through the rising cost of doing business BATPC Queen's Green Canopy - Letter from HM Lord-Lieutenant

BBC Parish and Town Council Network - Next Meeting Date

EWR Co Bedford Marston Vale Local Representatives Group Terms of Reference

BBC Agenda for Standards Complaints Sub-Committee, Wednesday, 14th December, 2022, 11.00 am

Wilstead Scouts grant application request – feedback given

Longmeadow Drive boundary communications with Persimmon and BBC

BBC average speed camera data – circulated

BBC Officer communication regarding Bedford Road transfer

BBC Highways Helpdesk confirmation Chapel Lane issue received

BBC Highways Helpdesk confirmation Wooding Way issue received

BBC Officer communications regarding average speed cameras

Bedfordshire Alert New app to report where you feel unsafe [#61256650]

Copied into communications with tree work contractor for Churchyard works agreed

Resident request for Parish Council meeting minutes – responded to

Resident request for Parish Council meeting minutes – responded to

Councillor communications regarding vehicle activated speed units

Resident expressing interest in supporting with VAS unit data – responded to

Resident expressing interest in supporting with VAS unit data – responded to

Resident expressing interest in supporting with VAS unit data – responded to

Wilstead VAS data communications

Wilstead Scouts thanks for grant monies

BBC Officer clarification sought regarding Elstow South

Cllr Commbes meeting apologies

BBC Ward Fund communications £1,500 secured – actioned

Village Hall booking request – responded to

Wilstead School contact - responded to

Kompan communications for new benches

EWR Co Bedford Marston Vale Local Representatives Group – Materials for meeting #3 now available

BBC Parish elections 4th May 2023 - Parish Clerk briefing session

BBC Minutes for Standards Complaints Sub-Committee, Wednesday, 14th December, 2022, 11.00 am

Proposed Pan-Bedfordshire Bus Users' Forum communication

BATPC Round-Up - Christmas Wishes and Good News of an Enhanced HR Advice service for members

PCC Survey

BBC Highways Helpdesk notification of VAS unit not working correctly – responded to

BBC Parish Precept Declaration – circulated

Your bond is due to mature soon - Wilshamstead Parish Council communications

Resident concern regarding two dropped kurbs installed – followed up Important information about your Plusnet Business Broadband account – circulated

BBC Bedford Borough Council Contacts Update – responded to

BBC Register of Interest form communication – responded to

BATPC Details of a Free Carbon Literacy Climate Awareness Course for Town and Parish Councillors in Bedfordshire

Resident communication regarding average speed cameras to stay in Bedford Road and to increase coverage in Bedford Road – responded to

11. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th DECEMBER:

All Councillors unanimously agreed approval of the Parish Council 5th December meeting minutes. The Working Group items to be listed as an appendix to the meeting minutes.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING:

Chair closed the meeting at 9.25pm, with the next meeting to be Monday 13th February 2023 at 7pm to be held in the Village Hall.

The following items are a collation of the latest reports from Parish Council Working Groups and, whilst they represent the latest status, they were not discussed at the meeting as none required a decision to be made and no further explanation was necessary.

PLANNING

DECISIONS TO BE NOTED:

22/02469/FUL Single storey rear extension at 1 Castle Close – Permitted 21/02752/AOC 19/00628/FUL - Condition 3 - Levels (Discharge of condition) at Elms Mere 96 Cotton End Road - Permitted

ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS:

Action 4.02: PWG (21) To action contacting planning enforcement regarding 166 Cotton End Road The fencing remains in situ, to be reported.

Action 4.02 (21): PWG

Action 2.04: Clerk (22) To follow up with the Borough Council Officer to investigate what could be done to improve cycling facilities in the village as well as the link along the A6 to be safer for users. Yo Highton and Melanie MacLoed are the Officers who will give an update on this, all that is known is that the local authority are just about to start work on the preparation of a Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan for the Borough. This document is expected to be ready in the Autumn, Clerk chased for an update January 2023 with Officers.

Action 2.04: Ongoing

Action 3.06: PWG To follow up the 'call in' for the Elstow South application as it is an application of significant concern to the Council Clerk had followed up with Planning Officer in June for an update, feed back was the applicant for the Elstow South planning applications was issued with a formal request for further information in April. The Officer has received updated information for this application. Clerk chased in November 2022 and January 2023 for update.

Action 3.06: Ongoing

Action 5.09: PWG To moved forwards with the transfer of the community woodland area

Action 5.09: Ongoing

Action 7.04(22):PWG To add comments to the Planning Appeal Consultation regarding property at Pollards Close Councillors had confirmed they wish to reiterate the original comments, along with concerns with the overlooking on the neighbouring property as stated in the local authority refusal to the application. The Parish Council also to reference the advertising on site in the submission to the Inspector. **Action 7.04: Ongoing**

Action 12.01: PWG To submit planning comments to the local authority

Action 12.01: Complete

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

No outstanding items and report covered during meeting.

PLAY AREA

Action 7.17 (21): Clerk To follow up with CPM Playgrounds to review and advise next steps accordingly, regarding the mixing bolt that needs replacing on the Playdale spinner, and the locomotive needs taking apart and reviewing more closely Contractor had been asked to undertake review of locomotive, site meeting arranged on 1st February to look at the spinner with Playdale representative.

Action 7.17 (21): Ongoing

Action 11.08 (21): MB To pursue and monitor the repairs to the bench New bench being installed.

Action 11.08(21): To Be Deleted

Action 7.05: PAWG To explore options with funding opportunities, and it was agreed to consult the village at a later stage when there is more information available for residents to understand the proposals MB had made contact with the local authority and school to discuss the proposed location of the play area improvements which it is intended will have limited encroachment on the area the school use. A further site meeting with a potential contractor has been arranged. Funding opportunities information had been shared with MB.

It was noted that the Council agreed once all proposals are finalised total cost will need to be developed and means of funding pursued. It was felt that the £60k in the Reserves budget plus £25k from outstanding CIL payment would be inadequate, the above costs do not include major earthworks or surfacing.

Action 7.05: Ongoing

Action 11.04: MB To move forwards the installation of two new benches, extending paving base to improve facility, as well as removing previous items in situ. £3359.60 project total it was noted. Councillors felt having benches like the two recently installed at Luton Road green which are recycled, MB to follow up with updated quote and warranty information. Quotation received, order placed for benches and installation work, invoice received for payment at the meeting.

Action 11.04: Complete

ENVIRONMENT

Action 9.10: EWG To follow up at Crossroads; extensions to yellow line parking restrictions, marking of pedestrian crossing access and cutting back of undergrowth on south side of Cotton End Road approach. RD has been following up on all actions and these are complete with the exception of a definitive answer from the Borough regarding the re-installation of a pedestrian safety island at the entrance to Cotton End Road. Still awaiting feedback on this, to be followed up again.

Action 9.10: Ongoing

Action 11.09 (21): MB Some repairs are needed to the gates into churchyard to refresh the gates MB to explore quotes for this with a local contractor.

Action 11.09 (21): Ongoing

Action 7.08: MB To arrange a quote for replacement lockable gates to the allotments as existing gates are at the end of their life and potentially dangerous. The fence on the east boundary not to be replaced, however, in need of repair ltem replaced by Action 12.11 below **Action 7.08: Delete**

Action 2.09 (22): RD/EB To discuss overgrown hedges on the forthcoming highways site meeting looking at VAS locations, Councillors to establish with the Officer the severity of the hedges and possible action the local authority can take on this issue.

Action 2.09 (22): Ongoing

Action 2.10 (22): MB To look at the area by the Pollards Close ditch where it has been cut back as it was felt this could be improved Work is planned in and included in budget plan for 2023/24.

Action 2.10: Ongoing

Action 1.08: Clerk To ask Andy Muskett to be the contractor to manage the installation of the defibrillator with expenditure of up to £100 agreed.

Action 1.08: Ongoing

Action 4.04: EWG To follow up Security patrols at Jubilee Way to take place one visit for a seven day period at a cost of £13.33 per visit including warning them The services of Arena Security Ltd for one visit for a seven day period had been followed up.

Action 4.04: Ongoing

Action 6.09: EB *To check the Land Registry ownership for the allotments boundary.* Maps loaded to SharePoint **Action 6.09: Complete.**

Action 7.07: EB/CP EB to forward design and specification to CP who would obtain quotations from local contractors. Proposal would include an additional litter bin and agreement from the Borough Council to move existing bin. It was resolved by the full Council to continue to pursue the options of quotations for the work.

Action 7.07: Ongoing

Action 7.09: MB To contact Anglian Water for a quotation to provide three separate feeds for the water supply to Bowls Club, Jubilee Centre and Allotment

Action 7.09: MB Ongoing

Action 7.11: EWG To obtain a "Private Road" sign for Jubilee Way to deter contractors and others

Action 7.11: Ongoing

Action 7.13: EB/SP To pursue acquisition of land off Bedford Road, EB to forward contact and Land Registry details to SP who volunteered to contact the local authority urgently SP had completed community asset transfer form, progress of this has been chased in October and November. Form had had to be resubmitted to a different department at the local authority, this has been done, chased again January.

Action 7.13: Ongoing

Action 9.06: MB To remove old noticeboard at the Crossroads

Action 9.06: Ongoing

Action 11.06: Clerk To ask the local authority for additional poles to be installed and the local authority signage to be installed as well to detail the public protection order NJ met with Borough Officer February 1

Action 11.06: Ongoing

Action 11.10: EB To update the Burial Ground rules to consider each application on a case by case basis. Rules have been updated and stored on SharePoint

Action 11.10: Complete

Action 12.11: EB/MB The allotment gate quotation of approximately £2,500 was agreed by Councillors with Parish Council to buy the gates directly, resolution passed. *MB declared an interest in the above item and took no part on the above item.* MB to specify and order gates to the correct size and then install

Action 12.11: EB/MB Ongoing

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

Action 4.10 (18): F & GP WG To update and sign the Jubilee Centre lease given the length of time that has now passed and the lack of response from the

solicitors and to be registered with the Land Registry. License to operate the building on behalf of the Parish Council to be followed up, MF to follow up with an annual renewal.

Action 4.10 (18): Ongoing

Action 2.10: Clerk To issue Bedford Borough Council with an invoice for part reimbursement of external audit fee

Action 2.10: Ongoing

Action 3.10: F&GP WG To review the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of the Parish Council to ensure they reflect the employer changes.

Action 3.10: Ongoing

Action 9.13: Clerk To add Memorial Bench £694.95 purchased to be added to Parish Council asset register

Action 9.13: Clerk To add Memorial Bench £694.95 purchased to be added to Action 9.13: Ongoing

Action 9.14: Clerk To add the new safety surface to the asset register

Action 9.14: Ongoing

Action 9.18: Clerk *To dispose of some outdated electronic equipment from the Parish Office, as well remove from asset* register Equipment disposed of, asset register update to be made **Action 9.18: Ongoing**

Action 10.19: Clerk To arrange a schedule list of payments over the year to be collated for formal approval by the Council Action 10.19: Complete Action 10.23: AC To raise with Village Hall Management Committee through AC electrical charging rapid point suggestion Action 10.23: Ongoing Agreed 11.12: F&GP WG To arrange for the Clerk to have read only access to view the accounts online Clerk to be added to the mandate to save the cost of proceeding with online access as it is £50 a month service.

Agreed 11.12: Ongoing

Action 1.15: Clerk To arrange production of accounting information relating to Wilstead ClL funds separately

Action 1.15: Ongoing

Action 2.08: Clerk To add J&A Display Boards new noticeboards £3901.20 to the asset register.

Action 2.08: Ongoing

Action 3.02: All *To come forward if interested in the Parish Council representative vacancy on the Village Hall Management Committee* All in attendance encouraged to consider the role. **Action 3.02: Ongoing**

Action 6.11: Clerk To follow up with Bedford Borough Council regarding the Register of Interests on their website, Updates are needed to be made to the list available on the Borough Council website as it is outdated.

Action 6.11: Ongoing

Action 7.01: Clerk To ensure the Google contact details are updated as currently they are out of date MB has been supporting with this.

Action 7.01: Ongoing

Action 9.01: All All Councillors to consider vacancy has arisen on the Wilstead Endowed Charities Trustee which is nominated by the Parish Council, Councillors asked to consider if they would like to come forward.

Action 9.01: Ongoing

Action 9.08: Clerk To add to the Parish Council asset register, benches and defibrillator.

Action 9.08: Ongoing

Action 11.12: Clerk *To place the* Produce Show Committee as a future agenda item. **Action 11.12: Ongoing**

Action 12.03: All To review and consider budget implications for next financial year ready for the budget discussions at the next meeting.

Action 12.03: Complete

Action 12.02: Clerk *To noti*fy Wilstead Scouts grant awarded of £159.99 for a pizza oven for the group **Action 12.02: Complete**

PlusNet account change action needed.