



# Wheatley Parish Council Meeting Minutes for Monday, January 15, 2024.

**Present:** Alison Sercombe, Toby Newman, Andrew Cooper, Paul Willmott, Anthony Shepherd  
**Officer:** Clerk **Members of the Public:** 1

**The meeting opening at 19:30 and closed at 20:27**

23-24	Item	Action
#59/2023-24	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> - none	
#60/2023-24	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> - none	
#61/2023-24	<b>TO RECEIVE MINUTES</b> from Open Spaces Committee meeting on 20th November 2023 were approved by the committee and signed by the chairman as a true record of the meeting.	
#62/2023-24	<b>TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ACTIONS</b> From Open Spaces Committee meeting on 20th November 2023:  <b>#49/2023-24</b> – Clerk sought advice from Freshwater Habitats Trust but were unable to provide any additional contacts that the Clerk had not already investigated.	
#63/2023-24	<b>TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK</b> And includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Christmas tree removal and chipping due 24th Jan</li><li>ii. Registering Church Rd Rec and Village Green (High St), no further updates but information gathered on VG has been limited.</li><li>iii. s106 agreement for play area maintenance signed electronically and first invoice raised. Year 1 funds received.</li></ul>	
#64/2023-24	<b>TO DISCUSS TREE WORK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. To receive an update on tree work –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Village Green request to SSE has been made for work on the Hornbeams, due to live cables.</li><li>- Robinia work has been completed</li><li>- Poplars Wheatley Playing Fields Quotes are expected by Jan 24</li></ul></li><li>ii. To receive update on tree surveys – Outstanding 2023 tree surveys to be carried out in January, followed by those due in 24.</li><li>iii. Tree planting - 2 for Farm Close Footpath, 1 for Cullum Rec (damaged in wind) 1 for allotments were approved. <b>Clerk to seek quotes/purchase.</b></li></ul>	<b>Clerk</b>
#65/2023-24	<b>TO DISCUSS PLAY AREAS &amp; RECREATION GROUNDS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Ongoing maintenance, recent repairs have been a carried out. Further replacement items have been ordered. Team have also been spending time on clearing footpaths, which although an OCC responsibility felt that this work was needed for the safety of residents.</li><li>ii. Reports of dogs in Cullum Rd. Have been investigated, but no specific evidence. Clerk has posted on social media reminding dog walkers that they should not use the recreation grounds and to find alternative routes.</li></ul>	

- #66/2023-24 TO DISCUSS SMOKE FREE PLAY AREA COMPETITION JAN 2024**  
**Cllr Sercombe to continue to liaise with primary school.** If still willing to be involved. **Clerk to check funding is still available.** **AS/Clerk**
- #67/2023-24 TO DISCUSS MANAGEMENT OF ALLOTMENTS AND FOOTPATH**
- i. Progress of expanding footpath through allotments and search for land surveyor. Clerk has been given contacts but had no response. Other local companies have been approached and one has provided a quote.
  - ii. Request for tree work on tree in allotments. Committee were updated on the request for overhanging branches to be cut back. Members agreed for the work to be approved once their arborist has made contact.
  - iii. Progress of FWHT project anticipate project beginning soon.
- #68/2023-24 TO DISCUSS STREET FURNITURE**
- i. Bus stops (recently installed). Committee supported a new bus shelter at the new bus stop on Littleworth Apron. **Clerk to investigate options and support from OCC.** **Clerk**  
Members also agreed to relocate the 'perch' bench from Holloway Rd to Littleworth Rd, at junction with Littleworth Park. **Clerk to investigate options and support from OCC.** **Clerk**
  - ii. Benches – progress to be made on installing a bench on the triangle and outside the new care home. **Clerk to investigate options and support from OCC.** **Clerk**
  - iii. Update on Templar's Close grit bin – has been installed by OCC.
- #69/2023-24 TO CONSIDER POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS**
- i. Tree Policy – amendments discussed, typo to be corrected before being presented to full council in February. **Clerk**
- #70/2023-24 TO DISCUSS FUNDING**
- i. Existing budgets – are healthy, with some items/services still to be procured. Members suggested moving any underspend to earmarked reserves to cover anticipated tree work for 2024-25
  - ii. CIL – Council have been awarded considerable sums of CIL. It was agreed, in principle, to use CIL funds for new bus stops and benches and remaining funds to be allocated for planned projects.
  - iii. External grants – External funding should be available to assist with tree work on Littleworth, Field, once the lease has been agreed and signed.
- #71/2023-24 CORRESPONDENCE AND URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION**
- i. OCC – Tree wardens
  - ii. Email from resident regarding WPC land in Elton Crescent. Clerk had shared the title information with the resident.
  - iii. Email from resident regarding trees in Church Rd Rec. These are due to be inspected and council will review any recommendations once they have received the report. Resident had also been sent a copy of the council's current Tree Policy.
- #72/2023-24 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
- i. Cllr Willmott reported that tree work on Wheatley Playing Field, will be carried out by WPFT appointed arborist during February Half Term.
- #73/2023-24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** March 18th, 2024,