



**MINUTES of the MEETING OF WHITWICK PARISH COUNCIL
held on THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.00 pm at Park
Hall, Whitwick Park, North Street, Whitwick**

Present: Councillor S Colledge (Chair)

Cllrs A Barker, P Moulton, R Woodward, M Wyatt [Item 2981 – 2993 only]

In attendance:

Mrs C Tibbles PSLCC, Parish Manager/Responsible Finance Officer

Mrs T McLean, Deputy Parish Manager

2 members of the public [Items 2981-3004 only]

2981. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs L Gillard, S Gillard, T Gillard, L Spence and J Straw.

2982. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wyatt declared a registerable interest in all matters relating to North West Leicestershire District Council as a member of their Planning Committee.

Cllr Moulton declared a registerable interest as a member and a Link Councillor of Whitwick Historical Group, as a member of Whitwick Bowls Club, a member of Whitwick Action Group and a Link Councillor for Meadow Barn View.

Cllr Barker declared a registerable interest as a Director of Holly Hayes Woods, a member of Whitwick Historical Group, a registerable interest as a signatory at Walkers Flats Allotment Group and a pecuniary interest in Item 2993 as a patient of Broom Leys Surgery and a member of the Patient Participation Group – he would not take part in the discussion or vote.

Cllr Colledge declared a registerable interest in matters connected to Whitwick Historical Group as a member, to Whitwick Royal British Legion as a member, to Whitwick Action Group as a member on matters relating to planning and the Green Wedge, to Woodstock in Whitwick as a member, as a supporter of Coalville CAN, as the leader of the Community Crisis Team, as a patient of Broom Leys surgery and a potential pecuniary interest as an immediate neighbour of the old Hermitage Leisure Centre site.

Cllr Woodward declared a registerable interest as a Director of Holly Hayes Woods and as a member of Whitwick Historical Group.

2983. CIVILITY AND RESPECT PROJECT

Members watched a short video from the Project, which urged councils throughout the country to pledge to treat each other with civility and respect. The Parish Manager explained her reasons for separating the video from the consideration of the pledge, which would be placed on the November agenda.

2984. MINUTES

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 be approved as a correct record.

Members noted that work on producing the minutes of the previous meetings held on 14 and 21 October, 18 November, 9 December 2021 and 17 February, 17 March and 21 July 2022 had commenced and would be presented in turn when they became available.

2985. COMMUNITY POLICING

The Parish Manager had written to the police and requested attendance or reports at future meetings. Members noted that operational constraints existed but with serious incidents happening in the parish, they believed information was needed.

2986. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

A member of the public raised safety concerns regarding use of land outside a business that at times caused blockage of the footpath and created visual restrictions to motorists at a busy junction. Members were offered advice by the Parish Manager on how to establish current licence permissions and following different opinions, it was concluded that Cllr Moulton should visit the business informally and inform them of concerns (although licensing was clearly not a function of the parish council and it had no jurisdiction).

2987. VAS SCHEME –UPDATE

Members noted that the parish scheme was operating again, with a schedule of dates now in place to rotate the signs between the 5 agreed locations in the parish. It was hoped that the new team would learn how to extract data and produce a report to be available at the November council meeting and also published on the website. The Parish Manager confirmed that certain police operations had taken account of the historic information and that the analysis of the first year's summary data could be supplemented further after a period.

2988. THE FUTURE OF HERMITAGE LEISURE CENTRE

Noted with regret that following the Cabinet meeting on 20 September in Coalville, attended by the Chair and Councillor Moulton (who had asked questions detailed below), a decision had been taken by the District Council to demolish the Hermitage Leisure Centre building. The request by some District Councillors to call in the decision had been declined and a planning application had since been made by NWLDC for demolition (to be discussed later under Item 2996). Concern was expressed about inaccurate statements at the meeting and in the media. Members felt some questions remained to be answered as updates had continuously been sought by the parish council and information not provided by the District Council as a corporate body and its elected members. **Resolved that this topic remain on every future agenda and that District Cllr S Gillard, as the Ward member, be asked to provide an update on this site at each parish meeting, with an update also provided by District Cllr T Gillard with his cabinet responsibility.** The representation of the Parish Council had been made as follows:

"CABINET – 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 -QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION FROM SUSAN COLLEDGE TO COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS

"The demolition of the Hermitage Leisure Centre will cause the release of captured carbon. The figure is worked out using the EC3 captured carbon calculator. Current environmental recommendation is to repurpose rather than demolish any building possible. Has this figure been factored into your calculations on your zero carbon target?"

REPOSENSE FROM COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS TO SUSAN COLLEDGE

"The EC3 calculator is an incredibly useful tool for considering the carbon footprint for a building which is about to be constructed. It includes a consideration of the embedded carbon that might be released when the building is eventually demolished and recycled at the end of its life. To provide any useful data the model requires knowledge of the embedded carbon value of the materials that are to be used in constructing the building. The embedded carbon in materials being a function of how they are produced.

Unfortunately, the model does not work for existing buildings. It is impossible to know what the embedded carbon value is of materials that were produced and incorporated into a building more than 30 years ago. For example how was the steelwork within the building frame produced, was it new or recycled steel, locally produced or shipped from overseas, how was the foundry powered- coal or gas?

We will never be able to calculate a figure for the embedded carbon within the former Hermitage Leisure Centre. What we will do however is ensure that as much of the building as possible is recycled post demolition and we will also be able to calculate how much carbon is saved by no longer having to heat, light and secure the premises."

QUESTION FROM PARISH COUNCILLOR PETER MOULT TO COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS

The option of community ownership would deliver most of the aspirational 'vision' included within the original consultancy report. As a forward thinking council, this would be a great step forward in the provision of infrastructure for the use of the whole area, in particular the vulnerable groups in our society who do not engage with the current mainstream sports and activities on offer. As the option of Community ownership will deliver most of that vision, why is it not being considered?

REPOSENSE FROM COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS TO PARISH COUNCILLOR PETER MOULT

The vision document sets out plans for whole of the Hermitage Recreation Grounds. The decision before Cabinet tonight relates only to that part of the Hermitage Recreation Grounds upon which Hermitage Leisure Centre sits and which Community Services have stated is no longer required by that service.

There is another Council Department which has a need for the land upon which the Hermitage Leisure Centre Buildings sit and it is in accordance with council policy to make the land available to that Department for the delivery of alternative services, where those services are a priority for the Council.

Subject to Cabinet consideration of the Vision document at a later date, it is intended that Hermitage Recreation Ground (excluding the Hermitage Leisure Centre land) will remain with Community Services for the delivery of the Vision. It is perfectly reasonable to believe that community involvement in the operation of facilities on the area of Hermitage Recreation Grounds retained with Community Services is possible and can be explored further as the vision is developed into detailed proposals."

Members would have the opportunity for a confidential discussion of the professional advice in regards to the next action under Item 3005.

2989. THE HERMITAGE PROJECT.

Resolved that this project should be a standing item on every future agenda and that District Cllr S Gillard be asked to provide an update

at each parish meeting, with an update also provided by District Cllr T Gillard with his cabinet responsibility.

2990. CONSULTATIONS AND COMMUNITY CHANGES

Following consideration, it was **resolved**/noted that:

- a) **ACCESS TO SKINNERS LANE** an update from the County Council had been received at the last meeting but deferred at the last meeting as one option relied on support of County Cllr T Gillard. **Resolved to seek information from the County Council on the changed circumstances with the discontinued use of the bus stop at this point.** To be placed on a future agenda when information was received;
- b) **JOINT CHARTER AGREEMENT – Resolved to accept the document (updated and revised from the previous version) and the Chair to sign on behalf of the Parish Council;**
- c) **PROPOSED BUS STOP RELOCATION** – this location was outside the parish boundary so no view was forthcoming;
- d) **SERVICES 16/29/29A BUS ROUTES** –local residents had expressed their fury to the parish council about changes to the local bus services from Saturday 22 October. The Safe & Sustainable Travel Team at the County Council has been asked for information but notification had still not been received. Historically the parish council received several weeks’ notice of changes to routes (detailed below, with a sign now posted on the bus stop outside the Community Office). Members noted this had not been clearly publicised by Arriva or the County Council. From the public response so far, it was clear this would have a major impact in the village, especially for people who needed to travel to the doctors/chemist and other businesses. The Chair highlighted the work done by County Cllr T Gillard to establish the facts and respond to residents. **Members felt Arriva showed disregard for vulnerable people who could not walk the distances involved and that the alternative bus stops that would be used provided no shelter for waiting passengers. The Parish Council would notify Arriva that it strongly objected to these changes, stating that although the company operated as a business there were consequences when taking decisions like this with inadequate notice, no response when trying to telephone and speak to the company and lack of regard for the impact on the community (both people and businesses) and the risks that travellers would face.**

“**Service 16 - Coalville to Loughborough** There'll be a route change in Whitwick with buses now running along Brooks Lane, Thornborough Road, and Vulcan Way to Coalville (replacing services 29/29A). Customers travelling from Church Lane or Whitwick Day Nursery should catch service 29/29A from Hall Lane Methodist Church or outside Hermitage Leisure Centre. **Services 29/29A - Leicester to Swadlincote** There will be changes to the times of some journeys to help keep your bus on time, as well as a route change in Whitwick with buses now running along Silver Street and Hermitage Road to Coalville (replacing service 16). Customers travelling from Church Lane or Whitwick Day Nursery should catch the service from

Hall Lane Methodist Church or outside Hermitage Leisure Centre. Customers travelling from Pares Lane should catch service 16 from Brooks Lane. <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/latest-news/changes-to-services-in-leicestershire> ”

2991. ECO BOLLARDS

Following the impressive demonstration given at the previous meeting of a new design of air quality monitoring post (bollard style) that provided visual and live information via illuminated colour banding, **resolved to introduce a scheme and delegate the project and the Climate Change Action Fund earmarked reserve of £3000 to supplement the current budget allocation of £3090 to the Property Management and General Purposes Committee.** The scheme would start to address the quality of air in the village that clearly affected health and provide accurate data to give clear evidence to the District Council. Also, it provided education opportunities to schools, youth groups, parents and community groups.

2992. DESIGNATION OF TITLE

Resolved that the request of Cllr Colledge to take on the title of Chair instead of Chairman be approved. Further resolved that when future Chairmen signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office they had the choice of title of Chair, Chairman or Chairwoman for their period of service. The optional title would apply to correspondence but not other documents or regalia.

2993. GRANT APPLICATION

Following consideration, resolved that the application from Broom Leys Doctors Surgery for funding towards purchasing a replacement machine to aid blood tests for patients could not be supported as financial information did not show the complete situation. However it was suggested the surgery be advised to alternatively approach North West Leicestershire District Council and apply to the Coalville Special Expenses fund.

[Cllr Wyatt left the meeting at 8.10 pm]

2994. PROTOCOL FOR DEATH OF NATIONAL FIGURES

Members noted/**resolved** that:

- a) the operation of the protocol went well and that a valuable opportunity had been given for residents (and visitors from outside the parish and from abroad) to sign a Book of Condolence and/or lay flowers. However, in future **resolved to host the Book of Condolence at the Community Office during office opening hours.** The document was being re-drafted and this change incorporated for the council to approve at a future meeting.
- b) **Further resolved that flying of the Ukrainian flag in place of the St. George flag (except for other flag flying dates) would show solidarity for their nation and should continue until the international situation changed.**

2995. EVENTS 2022

Members noted/resolved:

- a) **Remembrance Parade Sunday 13 November 2022** – noted 2 volunteers had responded to the appeal for voluntary Pavement Marshals made in the September/October Parish Newsletters; members of staff were on standby if more volunteers were not found as managing the safety of the event for the public and participants was paramount; the Royal British Legion had confirmed they would support putting up the Parish Poppies on lampposts along the (slightly shorter) route of the Parade (with staff and another volunteer working together to cover the other areas where possible); updated contact made by the Parish Manager with the road closure team who confirmed arrangements were in place as planned;
- b) Christmas Lights – staff would install the parish flagpole tree lights at the City of Dan, **with a target date of Monday 28 November**; members were independently hoping to put parish solar lights at the Whitwick Wheel;
- c) **Sunday 4 December (venue to be confirmed)**- in conjunction with Woodstock a Christmas event including Carols, Santa Grotto etc.

The Parish Manager sought clarification on future events so that Park Hall could be booked. Members felt this should include an Easter event on 2 April, 2023 and something to mark the Coronation now scheduled for Saturday 6 May (but actual date depended on if a bank holiday change was announced).

2996. PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

- a) The Council had been consulted by NWLDC on the following applications:

REF: 22/01603/TPO – St Catherine Villa, Oaks Road – Removal of one sycamore tree – **resolved that no objection be raised;**

REF: 22/01566/DEM – Hermitage Leisure Centre – Demolition of Leisure Centre – **resolved to object to the demolition of this community asset in the strongest possible terms because there was still potential use for this building. There was a clear environmental impact when shortening the lifespan of something constructed for a special purpose. The parish council objected to the huge release of captured carbon that demolition would doubtlessly create. It was noted that the application clarified the intention to create a new grass seeded area. Additionally, the parish council asked what environmental mitigation measures were being taken by the District Council to help improve or off set their environmental impact within Whitwick? The parish council would also ask for a donation to help improve or increase our current tree stock which would help to reduce the current carbon dioxide concerns within the parished area.**

REF: 22/01521/TPO – To provide a 2 metre clearance of trees within Area G1 from Hall Lane Methodist Church building – **resolved that no objection be raised;**

REF: 22/01514/FUL – 28 Carterdale -Erection of single storey front and rear extension – **resolved that no objection be raised;**

REF: 22/01501/FUL - 40 Mossdale - First floor extension, insertion of dormer windows – **resolved that no objection be raised;**

REF: 22/01495/FUL – 2 Torrington Avenue – Erection of a two-storey side extension – **resolved that no objection be raised;**

REF: 22/00811/FUL – 42 Coverdale – Change of use to a mixed residential and beauty salon operating from new detached outbuilding – **resolved that no objection be raised;**

REF: 22/00709/PNO – 124 Leicester Road – Prior approval application for conversion of existing office/store to Flat No 1 – **resolved that no objection be raised;**

b) Decisions by **NWLDC who had now approved** the following applications:

REF: 22/01343/FUL – 67 Tressall Rd – Erection of a single storey rear extension

c) Decisions by **NWLDC who had now refused** the following application:

REF: 22/01220/FUL – 1 Weavers Close – Formation of a hardstanding area for parking

2997. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Members noted:

a) the minutes of the PMGP Committee meeting held on 1 September (information previously circulated);

b) the minutes of meeting held on 7 October and 4 November, 2 December 2021 were deferred to a future meeting (as they have not yet been produced); 6 October 2022 had been written and would be received at the next meeting.

2998. STAFFING COMMITTEE

Resolved to bring forward the date of the December meeting to Thursday 10 November. Noted that the minutes of the meeting from 4 August had been written and circulated, to be received at the next meeting.

2999. WORKING PARTY/LINK COUNCILLOR REPORTS – PARISH PROJECTS

Cllr Moulton reported that he had attended the AGM of the Bowls Club, where it was noted that renovation work had been done on the Bowling Green. However, Cllr Moulton had not had a further update from the contractor and his own thoughts were the anticipation of another re-seed and more top dressing. The Club planned to undertake internal decorations to the pavilion. In response to a question from the Deputy Parish Manager for clarification about the Clubs request for a sign at the entrance to the park, Cllr Moulton added that the Club would reply with further design information when they had it.

Although normally reported to the Property Maintenance and General Purposes Committee as a land matter, Cllr Moulton reported that he had attended a meeting at Thornborough Road Allotment Society who had not yet received a reply from the parish council about an ongoing matter. The Parish Manager confirmed she could not investigate the complaints until Cllr Moulton supplied her with copies of his direct email correspondence that she had previously requested. The Society wished to change the date of rent payments for plots

as when it took place out of season, the income was slow to come through to them. The cost of the water rates bill was approximately £500 per annum so a levy was being considered on the 44 plots to cover this expense.

[At 8.59 pm the meeting was adjourned for 3 minutes for a comfort break. The meeting recommenced at 9.02 pm.]

3000. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

No reports given but the Parish Manager had received an email from District Cllr S Gillard and with his permission the content was read. Following a short discussion, members felt that although District Councillors had been advised by their Officers that they were not obliged to report to the parish council, the request of members was not for personal or private information on case work but information that followed the spirit of previous practice that took place under the Charter Agreement (newly revised). District Cllr T Gillard had replied that in the spirit of co-operation he would provide updates and information relating to Whitwick for general information from the members of Holly Hayes, Thornborough and Hermitage wards. Regarding any Questions from Whitwick Parish Councillors at meetings the District Councillors would reply in writing within 14 days. The Parish Manager reported that the resolution to write to the Chief Executive had not yet been actioned by her as there were higher priorities on her currently restricted time.

3001. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report given but County Cllr T Gillard had confirmed to the Parish Manager that eligible requests for highway improvements in Whitwick that he had received were still under assessment by the County Council team. Again, the Parish Manager reported that the resolution to write to the County Council had not yet been actioned. Additionally, she had confirmed to County Cllr T Gillard that the lack of police attendance and/or current information had been raised with the police separately to request an improvement in communication.

3002. PARISH MANAGER'S REPORT AND MATTERS PENDING

Members noted the report. In addition, the Parish Manager had tabled forms to help anyone experiencing challenging behaviour (for explanation at the next meeting). The Chief Executive from LRALC would attend the next council meeting to highlight the work done on the draft Strategic Plan and the Deputy Chief Executive invited to attend the December council meeting to aid budget planning in light of the Strategic Plan to prepare for future years. Therefore, the invitation to a guest speaker from the People Zone was agreed for deferral until the February 2023 council meeting. A request from the District Council had been received to use Park Hall as a polling station as they needed a venue when their own building was demolished. Members asked the Parish Manager to reply and outline the willingness of the parish council to meet the needs of the local electorate but knew there were factors to address and clarify.

3003. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members noted/**resolved** that:

- a) the income received for August was recorded as £158 and income for September would be reported at the next meeting, including the receipt of the second instalment of the Precept;
- b) members ratified the listed payments of £37,251.23 for August, including salaries, made under delegated powers by the Parish Manager;**
- c) retrospective approval would be sought for payments made under delegated powers in September and October and noted the plans for payment listings to return to the normal cycle and be circulated to members for approval from the November meeting;
- d) the income and expenditure account for 2022/23 had been circulated and the summary of earmarked reserves at 31 August 2022 had been tabled;
- e) Members noted the latest bank balances at the last month end as Unity current a/c £271,213.61, Unity Deposit a/c £12,232.87 and CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund £145,000;

3004. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: That having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the need to consider advice, publicity in respect of which would be prejudicial to the public interest, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting in pursuance of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act1960, as amended.

[Members of the public left the meeting at 9.19 pm]

3005. PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

Members were informed that a meeting had been held and attended by the Chair, Vice-Chair, Parish Manager and Deputy Parish Manager. Initial legal advice had been given by an expert in the local government sector that outlined the position that Whitwick Parish Council was taking to oppose the planned demolition of the former Hermitage Leisure Centre building.

Full signature of Chair: Date:

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm.

[Cllr Wyatt left the meeting at 8.10 pm]

*The Chair re-iterated the importance of this meeting being rescheduled.
Date of **PUBLIC** meeting regarding Grace Dieu Brook:*

Date to be announced

Date of next council meeting:

Thursday 17 November 2022