

Warslow and Elkstones Parish Council

Minutes

A meeting of Warslow and Elkstones Parish Council Meeting was held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 19th April 2023 in Warslow Village Hall.

Present: Chairman, Mr N Searston, Mrs L Peach, Mrs A Wardman, Mr S Gould, Mrs C Allsop and the clerk, Mrs S Hampson.

Non-Confidential items

23.4.1 Attendance and apologies for absence

The members present completed the attendance register. Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from Mr Moakes. Apologies were also later received from Mr Gilman.

23.4.2 Declaration of interest of councillors related to the agenda

There was no need to record an interest in the register.

23.4.3 Minutes of the previous ordinary meeting

The clerk had forwarded the minutes in advance of the meeting and these had been posted on the website.

Resolved: to accept the minutes as a true record of proceedings. The minutes were signed by the Chairman, Mr Searston.

23.4.4 Public speaking procedures document

This was available for any members of the public in attendance; however, there were no members of the public in attendance.

23.4.5 Public speaking

See above.

23.4.6 Update on wayleave agreement

Mr Moakes was not in attendance to provide an update on this item.

23.4.7 Parish Council elections

Mrs Wardman had decided not to stand again for another term of office. The other 6 members had completed and returned their nomination forms and these had been validated. No other applications had been received by the Returning Officer by the submission deadline date. One vacancy will exist on the parish council and this will shortly be able to be filled by co-option. Members thought this ideally would be best filled by a representative from Elkstones.

23.4.8 Archive

Mr Moakes had arranged an appointment with the Staffordshire Archivist 6th April.

23.4.9 Best Kept Village Competition

Mrs Peach had previously reported that an entry had been made for the Best Kept Village Competition (BKV). The judges do not advise the date of their visit to judge the village but this will be in May or June. A number of members of the community are already trying hard to tidy the village and undertake some painting and restoration work. Mrs Peach provided some examples of further tasks still to undertake including weeding, mowing, work to some of the village troughs, the church gates, litter picking. Every household has received information about requirements for the competition.

Resolved: to reimburse Mrs Peach and Mr Searston for the cost of items purchased for remedial works in the village, prior to the competition judging. (Also see items of account).

Resolved: Mrs Peach to forward a list of items to the clerk for the lengthsman to undertake.

Resolved: Mrs Peach to forward information to Mr Moakes for inclusion on the parish council's website.

23.4.10 King's Coronation

The clerk had completed a grant application form for funding towards community events to mark the coronation with information supplied by Mrs Peach and Mr Searston. This had been successful in the sum of £435. Mrs Peach provided information regarding a number of events arranged for the community including two bands, a singer, a bouncy castle and providing mugs for the parish children. She further advised that additional insurance had been taken out by the Village Hall committee to cover these events. A road closure will also take place.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had contacted the clerk to remind the parish council that a condition of receiving the coronation grant is to publicise details on the coronation.gov.uk site.

Resolved: The grant funding will be used for the purchase of the coronation mugs (cheque issued at the March parish council meeting) and to contribute towards the cost of the two bands.

Resolved: Mrs Peach to request invoices to be sent to the clerk from Warslow Silver Band and the other band, for cheques to be raised at the May meeting.

23.4.11 Planning, appeals, planning decisions

New planning applications had been received in advance of the meeting for:

Brook Roods Garage, Back Lane, Warslow NP/SM/0423/0378

Retrospective change of use of ground floor of domestic garage and stables to commercial garage and change of use of part of the paddock to create hardstanding.

Resolved: to support this application but to note that a number of the parish councillors use the garage for their vehicles.

1 Hope Terrace NP/SM/0323/0336

First floor extension over existing structure

Resolved: to support the above application.

Black Brook Farm, Butterton Moor, Lower Elkstones NP/SM/0323/0286

Change of use of single storey traditional built former agricultural building to short let holiday accommodation or residential annex.

Resolved: to support the above application.

23.4.12 Items of account, clerk, lengthsman and possible grant, wayleave, HMRC, general income and expenditure, Best Kept Village Competition

Cq 742 Staffordshire Parish Council Association	Annual subscription	£133.23
Cq 743 Sandra Hampson	April clerk's salary	£236.34
Cq 744 L Peach	Reimb. Paint for BKV	£55.00
Cq 745 S Hampson	Premises allowance	£26.00
Cq 746 S Hampson	Mileage and reimb of expenses	£9.25
Cq 747 N Searston	Reimb. Cork for noticeboard and paint for BKV.	£39.93

At the previous meeting, the lengthsman had included a request for members' consideration to increase his hourly rate, due the increase in the cost of living. See confidential item 23.4.16

23.4.13 Highways

The clerk had written to County Councillor Mrs G Heath to report the dissatisfaction with the lack of response from Staffordshire County Council to reported highway issues within the parish. She had responded and would like to attend a parish council meeting. She will also investigate some of the reference numbers supplied by the clerk related to outstanding highway issues. The clerk asked if councillors could try to supply a postcode when reporting highway issues in future parish council meetings.

Resolved: The clerk to invite Cllr Heath to the May annual meeting.

23.4.14 Items for the next agenda

The parish annual meeting will take place at 7.15 pm followed by the Annual meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm.

Agenda items will include: election/co-option, burial ground, Wayleave, PCSO, grit bins and supply for Elkstones, asset register, possible disposal of assets, VAT, Best Kept Village competition, coronation, archive. Additional items to be prepared by the clerk, as required.

23.4.15 Date and time of next meeting

The Parish Annual meeting at 7.15 pm on Wednesday, 17th May 2023 followed at 7.30 pm by the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm.

Confidential business

23.4.16 Review of lengthsman's salary

Members discussed an increase in the hourly rate for the lengthsman by £1 to £12 per hour, with effect from 1st April 2023.

Resolved: This was unanimously agreed. A revised contract will be prepared for lengthsman.

23.4.17 The burial ground

Mr Moakes was not present to provide an update from the Diocese regarding a possible land purchase and or on figures regarding the remaining church yard grave spaces.

23.4.18 Disposal of assets

Mrs Allsop had made contact to collect the parish council's strimmer but this is not possible at this time.

Resolved: The clerk to contact Mr Moakes regarding the asset register.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.20 pm with special thanks to Mrs Wardman for her dedicated service as a parish councillor for almost 30 years as she had unfortunately, decided not to stand for another term of office. The members were also very grateful for the past attendance and support of District Councillor Mrs T Riley who had also decided not to stand for re-election.

Mrs S Hampson,
Clerk to Warslow and Elkstones Parish Council
20th April 2023