

MEDLAR-with-WESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting held on Tuesday, 20th September 2022
at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Wesham Community Centre.

Minutes

PRESENT: Councillor L Nulty (chair)

Councillors: P Ball, M Rawcliffe, G Dixon, D Nowell, P Desmond & E Bickerstaffe.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk – Angela Hunter

APOLOGIES: Cllrs L walker

MINUTE SILENCE:

All attendees stood to observe a minutes silence in respect of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Members are reminded that any direct or indirect pecuniary or other interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

Cllr Nulty declared an interest in items relating to Planning

Cllr Nowell declared interests in items relating to Allotments.

Cllr Bickerstaffe declared an interest in items relating to School.

Cllr Linda Nulty advised that FBC members had recently re-signed to updated Code of Conduct & Standards. These are based on the Nolan principles code of conduct.

The TC advised that this had not yet been cascaded down to Parish Councils but that she would ask FBC for these for Wesham councillors.

22/034 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19th July 2022:

Proposer: Cllr L Bickerstaffe Second: Cllr D Nowell Vote: All attendees in favour

22/ 035 MATTERS ARISING

Wesham Councillors are concerned that the support services from FBC & LCC do not appear to be as comprehensive as they have been historically. Wesham Council felt that the Borough Councillors should be chasing some of the borough services for the parish council to ensure the correct level of service. Wesham councillors have the impression that in more recent times some of the Borough councillors are operating too distant from the Council Tax payers, the Local Residents.

Cllr Nowell highlighted that at present the Wesham Council website has only limited information.

Council papers including minutes of meetings etc should be included in the website information.

Cllr Nowell advised that he has access to the WTC IT system – hand over from Cllr S Harrison.

Cllr Nowell indicated that he would be happy to update the website with any relevant information from WTC and from other agencies, FBC, LCC etc.

Proposed: Cllr L Nulty Second: Cllr P Ball Vote: All attendees in favour

Action: TC to forward meeting notes & additional website info to Cllr D Nowell for Wesham council website.

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22/036 POLICING ISSUES

a) **Crime Reports** – reports are available on police.co.uk.

The police reports available on the website do not indicate any unusual areas for concern by the Councillors.

b) **Policing Issues** – No additional policing issues identified at this meeting.

22/037 PLANNING –

22/0597 – Bobsleigh, Mowbreck Lane

Application No:	22/0597
Location:	BOBSLEY 6 MOWBRECK LANE MEDLAR WITH WESHAM PRESTON LANCASHIRE PR4 3HA
Proposal	DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DORMER BUNGALOW AND OUTBUILDINGS AND ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT 1.5 STOREY DWELLING AND DETACHED GARAGE INCLUDING WIDENING OF EXISTING ACCESS FROM MOWBRECK LANE AND ERECTION OF ASSOCIATED VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS GATES
Case Officer:	Alan Pinder
Parish	Medlar with Wesham

I am writing to inform you that the above application has been received by this Department. Your observations on this application, are requested by 29 September 2022 and can be made by email to planning@fylde.gov.uk quoting the application number in your comments. If you are not able to provide a response within that time, or you require further information in regard to the proposal

Wesham Council will respond to FBC that petitions of neighbours should be taken into account when reviewing this application

22/0616 – Employment Building @ Mill Farm...Whinfield Commercial Ltd

Application No:	22/0616
Location:	MILL FARM SPORTS VILLAGE FLEETWOOD ROAD MEDLAR WITH WESHAM LANCASHIRE
Proposal	ERECTION OF EMPLOYMENT BUILDING PROVIDING A MIXTURE OF MANUFACTURING/ASSEMBLY (CLASS B2) AND STORAGE / DISTRIBUTION (CLASS B8), AND ANCILLARY OFFICES / SHOWROOM AREA, INCLUDING CAR PARKING AND LANDSCAPING AREAS
Case Officer:	Andrew Stell
Parish	Medlar with Wesham

I am writing to inform you that the above application has been received by this Department. Your observations on this application, are requested by 5 October 2022 and can be made by email to planning@fylde.gov.uk quoting the application number in your comments. If you are not able to

Cllr D Nowell proposed that as this was as significant development & would require a longer time to review that separate dedicated meeting be held to consider this planning application.

Wesham Council are aware to the outstanding car park issues that remain regarding previous Mill Farm development applications & it would appear that this Commercial unit application impacts on this issue as there is an overlap of the Unit footprint onto the area previously identified for car parking.

Wesham Council are still pursuing the on-going unresolved Car Parking issues at Mill Farm with FBC (Andrew Stell).

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It was suggested an information session Mr R Nulty could be held to assist Wesham Councillors regarding their consideration of this application & also one with Mr Andrew Stell of FBC Planning dept. prior to Wesham Councillors responding to this planning application.

Proposer: Cllr L D Nowell Second: Cllr P Ball Vote: All attendees in favour

Actions:

1. TC to request extension to response date with FBC Planning – Completed
2. TC to invite Mr Richard Nulty for info session on 27th Sept - Completed
3. TC to liaise with Mr Andrew Stell re meeting – on-going

On-going Planning Applications -

Note 21/053 + 21/0620 + 21/0894 Mill Farm Planning

No further information received re these since the November & December 2021 meetings
(previous comments moved to the end of these minutes until updates received)

WTC discussed the on-going issues re the Mill Farm planning applications.

At the January meeting Cllr Nulty advised that LCC have informed/advised Mill Farm Owner & Representatives that the current applications do not meet the Car parking required requirements and that they are not prepared to take the planning applications forward for consideration until the Car Parking issues are re-visited.

Cllr Nowell advised WTC that there has been correspondence with Mark Menzies & Andrew Stell informing them that the Car Parking issues were critical elements requiring attention in the planning process.

It was proposed that WTC should send a Representative to the Planning meeting to articulate WTC concerns.

Action: Cllr Nulty to advise the dates of the FBC Planning meetings that Mill Farm will be included on the agenda – on-going due to FBC system issues.

Cllr Nulty advised that the Mill Farm planning has still not been scheduled on a FBC meeting.

No further information had been received by WTC for the Feb/Mar 2022 meeting

WTC noted that the TENs information that FBC are issuing continue to include Mill Farm North Stand. WTC feel that the FBC continuing to allow TENs for the North Stand prior to the outstanding Planning permission issues being resolved is not helpful.

An enquiry about TENs – what duration/many times can TENs be used prior to permanent Licence becoming necessary was requested from FBC.

A response from Chris Hambly (FBC) re TENS has been issued to all the WTC councillors during Feb 2022.

Cllr Nowell & Cllr Nulty advised WTC that the TENS system was not a viable option regarding limitations to be able to assist with WTC concerns re the on-going Mill Farm North Stand application issues.

As at the end of March 2022 no further information relating to the Mill Farm development concerns raised by WTC has been received it was agreed that as per previous discussions that this should now be raised with the Ombudsman. Cllr Nulty advised the Town Clerk that Tracy Manning at FBC would advise how this should be done.

All councillors were in favour of this escalation.

After liaising with Tracy Manning at FBC – Tracy Manning issued an apology to WTC as the Ombudsman information indicates that Parish Councils are an exemption for raising issues.

The alternative options are for the leader of Wesham council to have a meeting with Trevor Fiddler, FBC, to outline the concerns of Wesham Town council.

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Wesham Town Council also agreed to complete the Ombudsman form to raise their concerns. Although advices indicate that this may not get processed the Ombudsman may be able to offer some advices.

Actions:

- I. Town Clerk liaised with Ian Curtis regarding the WTC dissatisfaction with FBC regarding their concerns re Mill Farm issues.
Town Clerk advised that Ian Curtis had suggested a meeting with Trevor Fiddler. (see III below)
- II. Town Clerk advised she is unable to complete a full account for the Mill Farm issues as she has only been in post 6 months & some of the historical information is not accessible to her via the Wesham TC e-mail account.
Cllr Doug Nowell has offered assistance with this as he has a file of correspondence with local MP Mark Menzies
It was agreed that Cllr Nowell would undertake to do an outline of the issues including timelines which each councillor could then use as a reference document for contacting the Ombudsman as concerned citizens.
- III. WTC representative to arrange meeting with Trevor Fiddler, FBC –
Cllrs Doug Nowell & Pete Ball advised that they would be available for a meeting with Trevor Fiddler

An e-mail received by WTC on 1st April 2022 from Mark Evans, FBC Planning dept. acknowledges that North Stand @ Mill Farm still does not yet have planning permission & that the FBC know of Wesham Council concerns.

They are awaiting a revised submission for consideration & expect to receive it within weeks & take it for consideration around June 2022- no further information on this prior to WTC June meeting

Licence application for inclusion of North Stand @ Mill Farm

Wesham council noted that a permanent licence application was been submitted & has been granted to include the North Stand at Mill Farm

Although WTC's collective opinion agreed that the Licence Committee needs to communicate with the Planning Committee as to date no planning permission has yet been given for the North Stand at Mill Farm.

Action: Town Clerk to send e-mail to Licence Committee to remind them that the North Stand has not yet achieved planning permission - completed

FBC Licence section advised WTC that whilst they had been made aware of the outstanding Planning permission issues by FBC Planning section that this issue would not influence the decision regarding granting/not granting a licence.

22/038 PLAYING FIELDS and OPEN SPACES

a) Open Spaces Contract - to discuss any issues raised by Councillors.

Meetings held on 26th July + 2nd Aug & 9th Aug 2022 for WTC to determine acceptance & alternative grounds contractor arrangements until end March 2023.

(Refer to these separate meeting notes for details).

- Mr R Pickervance – Grounds Maintenance until end March 2023
- Mr T Ascroft – Bowling Green Maintenance until end March 2023

Overall it was agreed that Mr R Pickervance was doing a good job with regard to Wesham Grounds maintenance. Grass areas were looking well. Some beds hanging baskets have improved with regular watering.

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No further issues/concerns have been received from KJFC regarding the pitches.

Action: TC on behalf of Wesham Council to send e-mail Mr R Pickervance and thank him for his efforts.

At the meeting on 9th August 2022 it was proposed & agreed that the beds be converted to greater shrub content. Some councillors believed that only shrubs should be in the beds.

TC has contacted Matt Giddins for quotation on shrubs for beds.

He has advised that he can supply for Mr R Pickervance to plant or he can both supply & plant.

Michael Cookson has also contacted Wesham council re supply of plants/shrubs going forward.

Mr Cookson previously supplied plants via GGT.

Action: TC to arrange with Councillors & Mr R Pickervance for a walkaround with Plant suppliers to obtain advises & quotes re options.

TC advised Wesham Council that Mr Tom Ascroft had made enquiries regarding the deep treatment recommendations that he had proposed for Wesham Bowling Green earlier in the year. TC had advised that Wesham Council had a limited budget for grounds maintenance which had recently increased due to the contingency arrangements that had been implemented following the cessation of the GGT SLA.

Tom Ascroft understood this & offered to meet with Councillors to offer his bowling green expertise & discuss options within Wesham Council Financial constraints.

Action: TC to arrange WTC meeting with Tom Ascroft.

WTC noted that the pathways around some areas of Wesham are overgrown & do not appear to have been cut back by either LCC or Farmers. The pathway from Wesham Mill Farm roundabout towards the Black Valais is particularly dangerous as pedestrians have been observed walking in the road due to the amount of overgrown hedges/shrubbery.

Action: TC to arrange with FBC/LCC for hedge trimming.

Fleetwood Road Playing Fields

i. *Pavilion and playing surfaces*

The updated SLA between KJFC & WTC for the use of Fleetwood Playing fields has not yet been signed.

KJFC have requested a meeting with Wesham council – to be arranged

KJFC were advised that the Pavilion is on a water meter & at a later date once the bill is received will be advised of the amount for re-imburement to Wesham Council.

Wesham council have tried to read the water meter but it was submerged. This will be reported to United Utilities.

KJFC were asked to provide a list of issues that had been mentioned in relation to the maintenance of the pavilion. KJFC have not provided this list to WTC.

Action: TC to arrange a meeting with KJFC

The damage to Fleetwood Road Barrier is going through WTC insurance company.

The claim has been acknowledged & estimates for brickwork is awaited which will then be sent to Zurich Claims section along with the quote from Archforge.

Cllr L Bickerstaffe expressed concern re the loose bricks in case of horseplay.

WTC will ask Neil Barnes to remove these.

Action: TC or Cllr Dixon/Ball to ask Neil B to remove the loose bricks

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Signs — no new information for this meeting - on-going

Play areas

Wesham Council asked for clarification from FBC re frequency of inspections of equipment.

Action: TC to obtain this info from FBC – completed

Inspections occur weekly with a Spring & Autumn report produced by FBC for issue to Wesham Council. The Autumn report was received on the day of this meeting so will be included on the agenda for 18th Oct meeting.

TC advised Mick Sumner at FBC that Wesham Council had some concerns re the rust on the outdoor gym equipment. No issues were raised in any of the inspection reports to date.

A resident on Sanderling way has submitted a request to WTC to have one of the trees on Fleetwood Road Playing Fields cut back due to the nuisance aspect of leaves in his garden & gutter/drain congestion.

WTC suggested that advices are taken from FBC tree maintenance team.

Action: TC to liaise with Mick Sumner @ FBC to obtain tree recommendations.

b) Doorstep Green, Derby Road

Clr Nulty reminded all attendees that the issue raised by residents re the surface under the play equipment at Doorstep Green remains on-going. She proposed that FBC could advise some specialist contractors for laying Wet Pore underneath the play equipment. Wesham Councillors will consider this further once quotes for this work have been obtained.

Action: Town clerk to liaise with FBC re contractor for play surface - on-going.

c) Allotments - no new information for this meeting

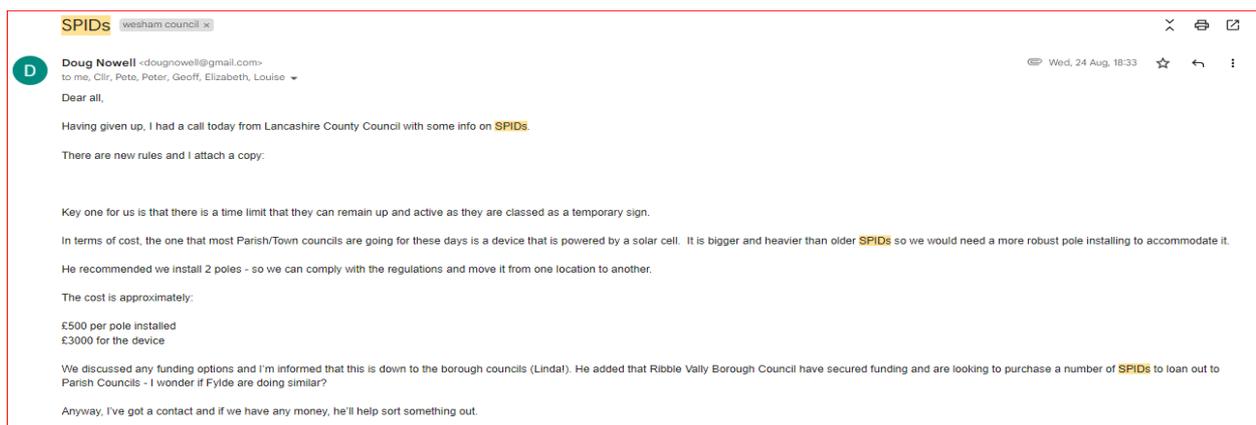
22/039 HIGHWAYS AND RAILWAYS

a) SPID for Wesham.

Clr D Nowell has provided Wesham Council with the latest information regarding the acquisition of a SPID – see e-mail copied below.

Wesham councillors agreed to bid for a SPID along with 4 posts for Wesham.

Proposer: Cllr D Nowell Seconded: Cllr L Bickerstaffe Vote: All attendees in favour



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b) Flooding – updates on issues facing residential developments

No further information received from Stewart Jones or FBC

It was agreed to suspend this from future agendas until such time as there is any new information when it will be re-instated on to the agenda.

22/040 GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND INSURANCE

a) Accounts payable and income report –

Finance reports to end of August 2022 noted

Concern has been noted regarding the increased expenses for Gas & Electricity usage for the Community Centre. – see the Community Centre reports & meeting minutes for further details.

b) Accident and Incident Reporting – None

22/041 EVENTS

Events Sub-committee –

a) Remembrance Service 2022 – 13th November

Cllr Nulty reminded WTC of the discussions following the 2021 Remembrance Service regarding the additional speakers. An e-mail advising of prices has been circulated to WTC members prior to this meeting. Cllr P Ball preferred the option of using a local DJ to supply the PA system for the Remembrance service. He felt that this was a significant outlay for just an annual usage. Other councillors suggested that this equipment could be used at Christmas Fair/Club Day Filed day & perhaps hired out. The DJ option was not the preferred option of the majority of the council. A decision was taken to purchase the addition PA speaker & equipment to compliment the existing equipment which is stored & maintained by A Clayton on behalf of WTC.

Proposer: Cllr L Nulty Seconder: Cllr G Dixon Against Cllr P Ball

Vote: Cllrs L Bickerstaffe, M Rawcliffe & D Nowell in favour

Cllr L Nulty advised the prices re options regarding the service sheet updates for God save Queen to God save King are being obtained.

b) Christmas Fair 2022 – 3rd December

No significant details discussed at this meeting. Cllr Walker s advised in e-mail of progress so far regarding the Christmas fair. Cllrs L Nulty & L Bickerstaffe have previously advised that they would be happy to assist with Christmas Fair. An events meeting to finalise details & responsibilities will be held late Oct/early Nov 2022.

22/042 HUMAN RESOURCES

a) WCC manager role

Julie A has withdrawn her application for the WCC manager role.

Cllr Dixon advised that she has been offered other jobs & he is unsure whether she will be available for future bar work for WCC bookings.

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b) **Consultant Finance Officer Role** – not discussed at this meeting.

22/043 WESHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Clr M Rawcliffe advised that the cleaner has recently been putting toilet cleaner in the urinals. She has advised that she will need to inform Jenny McG that this is unnecessary due to the auto cleaning system installed on the urinals.

WTC was informed that the cleaner is in the building between 6-8am.
Lone working arrangements need to be reviewed since KR's resignation.

WTC have energy bill concerns re the Community Centre. It was acknowledged that up to date meter reading need to be supplied to the Utility companies for the services that are not on a smart meter system.

Clr D Nowell is reviewing the Energy suppliers & meter readings will be included in this review.

Clr L Bickerstaffe arranged for her boss, Steve, to call on 4th July 2022 & he immediately identified the main leak issue that has been on-going & not found by previous plumbing maintenance persons. He has agreed to return at a later date for a more comprehensive review & educate the council.

Action: Clr Liz Bickerstaffe to co-ordinate return visit by Steve

Kitchen Radiator valves are not working & cannot be turned off in the summer months.
Toilet radiators also remain on.

School usage of the WCC following the return after the summer holidays & of WCC Car Park spaces needs clarification

Action: Clr Liz Bickerstaffe to co-ordinate with the School Secretary

22/044 OTHER ITEMS

a) Web site

Clr Doug Nowell has volunteered to assist with ensuring that WTC information such as WTC meeting mins etc are included on the WTC website.

Action: TC to liaise with Clr D Nowell re Website info.

b) **Action List** – update on any items not covered by agenda

Additional items to the agenda -

Bowling Club e-mail was reviewed by WTC regarding the Toilet facilities & quote submitted by Wesham Bowling club from specialist bowling green contractor.

Further discussions/advices will need to be considered before WTC will respond.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 22:23hrs

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DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

2022 – Monthly Town Council

18th October

15th November

13th December - revised date from 20th Dec

WTC & Additional Meetings

- Planning info meeting on 22/0616 application @ 7:30pm
- WCC meeting – 4th October @ 7:00pm
- WTC Finance meeting - 13th October 2022 @7:30pm
- KJFC requested meeting – to be arranged.
- Inspection of the Allotments - 2022 (to be arranged)
- WTC monthly meeting – 18th October 2022 @ 7:30pm

Angela Hunter

Date: 30th September 2022