

MEDLAR-with-WESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2023
at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Wesham Community Centre.

Minutes

CODE OF CONDUCT AND STANDING ORDERS

Members are reminded of the standard of conduct they must adhere to during Town Council meetings.

New councillors are advised that a copy of this will be forwarded to them by the Town Clerk

PRESENT: Councillor Doug Nowell (chair)

**Councillors: Linda Nulty, Liz Bickerstaffe, Helen Fowler,
Helen Richardson & Jordan Ledger**

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk – Angela Hunter

GUESTS: Moreland Ave Allotments - Sally Deacon & John Boughey

Police - PC Sally Roberts PCSO Jake Giddins

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Pete Desmond & Neil Rowley

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.

Standard declarations of interest by councillors

Cllr Nowell - an interest in items relating to Allotments.

Cllr Bickerstaffe - an interest in items relating to School.

Cllr L Nulty – an interest in Mill Farm relating to being a Neighbour & an interest in items relating to Kirkham Food Bank

Cllr H Richardson – an interest items relating to Freckleton Marsh.

Cllr J Ledger – an interest in planning (FBC committee)

No further declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

Code of conduct

Councillors were reminded of the Code of Conduct for meetings

23/099 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD

17th October 2023 :

After a review of the final version minutes for 17th Oct meeting were approved with the inclusion of the surnames of the FBC Planning Councillors.

Proposer: Cllr L Nulty Seconder: Cllr H Fowler Vote: All attendees in favour

MEDLAR-with-WESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

23/100 MATTERS ARISING – any item not covered by agenda or action list

Co-option of additional councillor

Due to the meeting schedule changing to accommodate the Police & Mowbreck Allotment Representatives this item was not discussed & will be carried over to an agenda in Spring 2024.

23/101 POLICING ISSUES -

a) Crime Reports – police.org.uk website > area > PR4 3DR (WCC postcode)

b) Policing Issues – to discuss any items raised by Councillors

- WCC Break in Incident & Lancashire ASB in Wesham
(Police invited to attend)

PC Sally Roberts discussed the rise in recent ASB in Wesham. She advised that there are 2/3 individuals who are ring leaders.

She outlined the framework process to Wesham Councillors that is used for dealing with young offenders.

A community resolution is used with multi discipline agencies involved.

Most ASB offenders are in their early teens, not in education, are bored & therefore get up to mischief.

The Youth Offending Team multi-disciplined approach has an approx 80% success rate.

Cllr Doug Nowell asked about Operation Centurion which is for ASB but PC Sally Roberts advised that compared to other areas within Lancashire on a Risk/Threat Basis Wesham does not qualify for the extra Operation Centurion attention.

Regarding the Break in at WCC on 9th November 2023 PC Sally Roberts advised Wesham councillors that 2 of the individuals are being dealt with via the Youth Offending Team and 1 will be going to court.

PC Sally Roberts advised that the Local Police are aware of issues in the community via Social media. She advised that incidents need to be reported in order for the police to be able to pursue any appropriate action. Any hot spots areas identified can be added to the Patrol plan.

Cllr Doug Nowell asked if there is anything that Wesham councillors could do to assist in preventative measures. PC Sally Roberts advised that she could put Wesham councillor in touch with Lancashire Police Specialist Advisor.

PC Sally Roberts advised that there currently is a shortfall of police officers for Fylde.

Cllr Liz Bickerstaffe mentioned a particular recent incident in Wesham where a resident is still waiting for a police response. PC Sally Roberts asked the councillor to forward the details to her for following up.

Cllr Linda Nulty thanked PC Sally Roberts & PCSO Jake Giddins for the Police support at the recent annual Remembrance Service in Wesham.

Action: TC to obtain Lancashire Police specialist advisor info from PC Sally Roberts.

Action: Cllr Liz Bickerstaffe to forward Wesham resident incident info to PC Sally Roberts

23/102 PLANNING -

a) **Planning Applications** – no new planning applications since Sept 2023 mtg

- Wind Farm - Public Meeting update

Cllr Doug Nowell attended the public meeting in Kirkham re the Wind Farm. He advised that there would not be as much impact on Wesham Residents as some of the other local parish council areas (eg; Newton).

23/0256 – Accentuation Pond @ Mill Farm

Cllr Linda Nulty advised that the Planning application for the attenuation pond had been approved at FBC despite the efforts of Cllr Jordan Ledger on behalf of Wesham Residents and the WTC objection to this application

- Mill Farm - Public Meeting proposal

Cllr Linda Nulty advised WTC that the 22/0616 - Employment building application was scheduled for 20th December FBC Planning committee.

WTC have not been informed of the date & it was agreed to hold a Public meeting for Wesham Residents on 4th Dec 2023 in WCC. Timelines to arrange this were acknowledged as being very tight. Any comments have to be returned to FBC planning in time to be compiled into the report – the agenda for the meeting will be published on 13th Dec 2023. Wesham Councillors are very concerned that Wesham Residents are largely unaware of this planning application proposal.

Action: WTC to arrange Public meeting for 4th Dec

23/103 Flooding Issues

Crossing Gates

- Drainage - investigation update? Adam Sugden(FBC) comments

(Flooding from allotments into Properties on adjacent estate - Douglas Ave)

FBC Technical officer (AS) advised verbally advised Wesham councillors on 7th November that the drainage ditch is on the land that was purchased by the developer. The fence at the rear of the properties potentially gives false impression as to where the boundary line occurs. Crossing Gates is now under owned by the third developer since it was started. Wesham Council require the advices regarding this RIPERIAN ditch in writing from FBC.

Action: TC to request written confirmation of FBC(AS) advices re drainage at Crossing Gates

- Tree Roots issue (G&EN) e-mails forwarded to Ian Curtis @FBC

TC advised that Zurich have been contacted regarding tree root damage as their inspectors/investigators will determine if WTC have any liability or if this is an underestimation of drainage requirements by the developer as the trees/shrubs were already in situ at the time of the development. Additionally as some of the Residents have suggested taking Legal action their e-mail have ben forwarded to

MEDLAR-with-WESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

FBC Legal Dept (IC) with the TC requesting that WTC are copied into any replies to Wesham Residents.

Sanderling Way

- Meeting with Rowland Homes update

At the meeting on 7th November Rowland Homes proposed that a portion of Fleetwood Road Playing Fields could be used to create a pond to alleviate the flooding to porerties on the Sanderling Way Development.

Cllr Linda Nulty advised that Fleetwood Road Playing fields has been there for decades & was there at the time of development. The LCC flood adviser checked historical maps and advised that the property that is subject to most of the flooding (Teal Ave) is situated in an area which was previously a natural zone where water accumulated. This information was available at the time of the development and should have been part of the flood assessment & remedial measures taken by the developer of the Estate.

FBC Technical adviser (AS) had inspected this property and advised that changes to the original development plans had occurred & some drainage measures had in fact exacerbated the potential for flooding on this Teal Ave property.

Cllr Linda Nulty advised the Rowland Homes representative on 7th November 2023 that Wesham Council would not endorse the use of Fleetwood Road Playing Fields to create the proposed pond. Cllr Linda Nulty proposed that this response of non –endorsement re this proposed pond was recorded at this meeting.

Proposer: Cllr L Nulty Seconder: Cllr H Fowler Vote: All attendees in favour

23/104 PLAYING FIELDS and OPEN SPACES –

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

- Play Equipment update re repairs

Cllr Doug Nowell expressed concern that despite contacting the Play equipment person (MS) at FBC several pieces of equipment were potentially left unsafe. In particular a chain attachment to the zip line could be a finger trapping hazard as the safety cover which was ripped has been completely removed. MS advised that the Specialist company used to fulfil this contract on behalf of FBC made the call regarding items of equipment. Wesham Councillors were concerned regarding the safety of local children in some of these judgment calls eg: the loose/movement in fireman’s pole as per the recent reports from FBC.

A discussion was held around the SLA with FBC it is very broad & no details/evidence has been provided such as checklist evidence of the inspections. Wesham Council agreed that regular inspections by WTC need to be reinstated & recorded.

Action: Cllr Helen Fowler to review the SLA with FBC & make recommendations to WTC for consideration in New Year along with the price comparison from alternative supplier.

- Future Play equipment maintenance options (FBC SLA vs Other)

Cllr Doug Nowell prososed considering alternative options regarding the inspection/maintenance/repairs to Wesham Play Equipment. He had picked up a leaflet at the recent LCC event for an alternative company, Kompan.

MEDLAR-with-WESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

A discussion was held amongst the councillors regarding the liability issues & potential changes with regard to decoupling from the existing SLA arrangements through FBC.

It was agreed that an alternative quote from KOMPAN should be obtained as a benchmark to compare the FBC rates against.

Action: TC to contact KOMPAN for comparison price

- New Fence along Bowling Green allotment (RMcC)

A resident whose property backs onto the Pigeons Allotments has requested the OK to replace his fence which aligns with the allotment boundary line.

Wesham Councillors raised no objections to this

Action: TC to advise the resident of no WTC objections to new fence

b) Fleetwood Road Playing Fields - to discussed any issues raised

- Pavilion Repairs quotation from KJFC ?

(Not yet received – asked for info for Financial forecasting)

c) Doorstep Green, Derby Road .

- Trees maintenance on Derby Road – NHS hospital estates area update

Cllr Liz Bickerstaffe advised that the Soil heap has gone & that a new metal fencing has replaced the wooden boarding. The land remains for sale.

In the meantime care will have to be taken for it not to become a flytipping/dog pooping area

- Solar lights

Some of the Solar lights are no longer working. These are being looked at as to whether they can be repaired or replacements are required.

d) Allotments

Meeting was suspended at 08:15pm

Sally Deacon & John Boughey were asked to speak to Wesham Councillors

Sally & John advised Wesham council that they have recently set up an allotment committee for Moreland Avenue. They have created a Facebook group. They would like to work with Wesham Council to bring all the allotments into use.

As committee members they would welcome the opportunity to meet with WTC regularly so that any issues can be resolved.

They are aware that several of the plots are looking neglected & would be happy to assist new allotment holders in getting the plots into shape.

Through previous e-mails they have asked about skips to remove all the debris from the neglected allotments.

Meeting was re-started suspended at 08:22pm

Wesham Council acknowledged that the allotment issues had not been prioritised due to other priority issues such as Flooding. Wesham Council are happy to work with the Moreland Ave Allotment committee as a conduit to sorting out the issues.

MEDLAR-with-WESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TC asked if it was Ok to share the e-mail accounts with the other allotment tenants and was informed that this was Ok.

Wesham Council were in favour of supporting the Allotment committee in funding one or two skips for the debris with the proviso that a couple of the Committee Members supervise to ensure they are used for the intended purpose.

Letters are to be issued to the untidy/disused allotment tenants to advise of the intention to reallocate the allotment to an alternative tenant from the waiting list.

Action: TC to send out letters to appropriate Allotment tenants.

23/105 HIGHWAYS AND RAILWAYS – to discussed any issues raised

- SPID Purchase

Cllr D Nowell advised WC that he had recently had a discussion which would hopefully result in a contribution towards the cost of a SPID in Spring 2024. As there was money remaining in the budget pot identified Doug was hopeful that a re-visit regarding a donation may result in a larger sum than previously discussed as it would be approaching financial year end.

- Parking in Wesham – Residents e-mails (MP & SP) & AFC Match days (another visit from Lancs Highways Advisor re options eg: double yellow lines)

Cllr D Nowell advised that he has not yet received a potential date for the return of the LCC Highways Advisor to consider options re parking/traffic issues such as additional double yellow lines where parking is a safety hazard. As the Local Police have proposed an alternative contact (see 23/101 section of these minutes) WTC would pursue advise from this new source.

Cllr Doug Nowell proposed that the FBC Planning officer who is reviewing the CPMS proposal for Mill Farm should be invited to attend any discussions with LCC highways advisor – LCC Highways report re Mill Farm CPMS. Wesham Councillors agreed that AS should be invited when a meeting re Car Parking issue options is arranged.

Residents who have written in re parking issues have been advised of the guideline are parking on Highways as per LCC highways responses. Wesham Councillor continue to consider options re parking issues in Wesham but acknowledge WTC have no authority but can continue to support residents grievances in relevant forums.

23/106 GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND INSURANCE

a. Accounts payable and income received report –

- WTC Monthly summary – Oct 2023

Accepted no comments

Accepted: Cllr L Nulty Seconded: H Fowler All other attendees in favour

- Application for credit card update

Town Clerk advised that no further correspondence from Bankline had been received

prior to this meeting.

- Alternative Bank Options

Prior to this meeting Cllr Doug Nowell has circulated information regarding an alternative bank – Unity Trust Bank.

This bank is FCS approved & is recommended by an Independent report for Parish Councils.

At the LCC meeting earlier in Nov Cllr Doug Nowell had been advised that several Councils are in the process of moving to Unity Trust due to the restrictions/regulation issues with the traditional Banks as Council are not either a business In the true sense or a Charity.

Proposed Cllr D Nowell Seconded: L Bickerstaffe All other attendees in favour.

b. Accident and Incident Reporting

Break In incident on 9th November 2023 - Police log LC-20231109-1118

23/107 EVENTS -

- **Remembrance Service** – 12th Nov 2023 Post Event Brief

At the Remembrance Service the main organiser (AC) suffered serious medical incident. The St Johns Ambulance/Fire service & Scouts were all outstanding in dealing with the situation. The individual is now recovering after Medical treatment. Cllr Neil Rowley looked after recovering all the equipment in the aftermath of the incident.

Thank you notes to be sent to all involved.

Action: TC to do Thank You notes from Wesham Council

- **Christmas Fair**

A provisional date of 10th December was considered for this.

At the WCC meeting on 28th Nov Cllr Helen Richardson advised that this would not be proceeding due to insufficient time/support to proceed

- **Christmas Trees**

TC advised that Fox's biscuits have once again donated the Christmas tree at the Cenotaph to the town. New Tree lights are being sourced & will be available for the tree lighting date late next week.

Cllr L Bickerstaffe has co-ordinated the Christmas trees around the town over the shops & the WCC centre. The invoice for these trees will be passed to the Town clerk for payment & then the cost of each tree £75 will be recovered from the Local businesses that have agreed to have a tree displayed.

Cllr Liz Bickerstaffe proposed a Tree lighting service to include the local school children. All Councillors supported this as a great community idea.

Action: Cllr L Bickerstaffe to forward tree invoice to TC for payment.

Action: Cllr L Bickerstaffe to forward invoice for new tree lights for payment.

Action: Cllr L Bickerstaffe to liaise with Local schools re Tree Lighting service

23/108 HUMAN RESOURCES

- **HR sub Committee – update**

No meeting have occurred since the last update from HR sub-committee.

- **TC officer role –**

At the date of this meeting the TC confirmed that there have been 3 applicants so far but that the closing date for applications is 30th Nov 2023.

WTC councillors agreed on the date of 5th December for interviews of suitable candidates
The TC & Finance officer have proved the information regarding the job description outline for sending to the applicants.

Action: TC to invite suitable applicants for interview.

23/109 WESHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE - Note: BAU @ WCC meetings

- Any urgent updates

WCC Meeting scheduled for 28th November 2023

23/110 OTHER

a) Kirkham Swimming Baths closure – updates?

Cllrs Doug Nowel & Liz Bickerstaffe attended the Kirkham Baths meetings.

Reports produced so far will be circulated to Wesham councillors.

A disposal report regarding Kirkham Baths is being compiled.

Any monies from Kirkham baths will be ringfenced by FBC for use towards a future facility in rural Fylde.

Kirkham Baths was left in trust to people of Kirkham & Wesham so caveats apply.

Doug & Liz advised a key aspect of the future of Kirkham Baths options will be the communications strategy.

b) LALC Membership

Councillors discussed whether re-joining LALC would be beneficial as there are several new councillors. Wesham Council previously decided that LALC membership was quite expensive & not used. It was agreed to re-consider re-joining dependant on cost.

Action: TC to find out cost of LALC membership for WTC

c) Bench Location suggestions

Not discussed at this meeting – defer until Spring 2023

d) Website – ongoing review nothing further to report at this meeting.

Cllr Liz Bickerstaffe mentioned her disappointment that details regarding Bus arrangements during the Road closures in Kirkham were not available to post as the Service impacts on Wesham Residents.

e) Actions - updated prior to meeting – reviewed at this meeting.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 22:50hrs

MEDLAR-with-WESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

DATE OF NEXT WTC Monthly MEETINGS: 12th Dec 2023

Date	Meeting
12 th Dec 2023	WTC Monthly meeting
16 th Jan 2024	WTC Monthly meeting
?? Jan 2024	Finance Meeting (2nd Precept discussion)

Angela Hunter

Date: 6th December 2023