



# WISTON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Matthew Thomas, Water Lane Cottage, Water Lane, Wiston, West Sussex, BN44 3DW

E-mail: [wistonparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:wistonparishclerk@gmail.com) Website: [www.wistonvillage.org.uk](http://www.wistonvillage.org.uk)

## Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 6.00pm,

at The Meeting Place, Water Lane, Wiston.

## Minutes

**Present:** Cllr Garner, Cllr Goring,, Cllr Leppard, Cllr Nash,

**In attendance:** Cllr John Blackall, Cllr Philip Circus

**Clerk:** Matthew Thomas

**Members of the public:** None for this meeting

- 22.83 **To consider accepting apologies for absence.** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Page and Cllr Marshall.
- 22.84 **To record declarations of interest from Members in any item to be discussed.** Cllr Goring declared an interest in item 8 (Compliance Complaints - EN/23/0085 Abbott's Shed). There were no other declarations of interest.
- 22.85 **To approve the Minutes of the last Council meeting circulated by email.** These were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.
- 22.86 **To welcome new Parish Clerk Matthew Thomas** Matthew was warmly welcomed and thanked Councillors for their patience while he learnt the parameters of the role.
- 22.87 **To adjourn the meeting to allow public participation.** The meeting was not adjourned because no members of the public were in attendance.
- 22.88 **To receive reports from County and District Councillors.**
- 22.88.1 Cllr Blackall: The leadership of Horsham DC had transferred to Cllr Vickers as a consequence of a decision to delay ratification of the Local Plan. Cllr Vickers would remain in post until the 4<sup>th</sup> May local government elections.

- 22.88.2 Cllr Blackall: District Council finances are relatively comfortable at the moment due to recent BoE interest rate increases which have allowed the Council to loan money at favourable rates.
- 22.88.3 Cllr Blackall will not be standing again at the 4th May elections and therefore this would be the last Wiston PC meeting he attends. He wished everyone well and thanked the Parish Councillors for their time and dedication to Wiston.
- 22.88.4 Cllr Circus: is currently Deputy Leader and a Member of the Cabinet. He will be standing again on 4th May. He outlined the possibility of a change of leadership within the DC after the next election.
- 22.88.5 Cllr Garner raised concerns about seemingly indiscriminate clearance of Ash trees along the roads in the neighbourhood.
- 22.88.6 Cllr Circus voiced concerns about DC/21/1756 - Woodmans Farm, London Road, Ashington. He considered that Horsham DC officers had misapplied the water neutrality test which could set an unfortunate precedent.
- 22.88.7 A29 closure: Cllr Circus explained that there had been a good deal of public interest in this but that successful resolution was dependent on the cooperation of neighbouring landowners.
- 22.88.8 The District Councillors then left the meeting.
- 22.89 Highways and Footpaths: Work to the Wiston Bends will complete when a decision is taken on the type of permanent barriers to be used. Cllr Garner raised concerns that the temporary concrete barriers posed a health and safety risk.
- 22.90 Planning matters: No comments
- 22.91 Design statement: No progress. It was agreed that Cllr Garner would arrange a separate meeting to progress the project as a group. **Action: Cllr Garner to arrange a meeting.**
- 22.92 Finance: No comments.
- 22.93 Community matters: The Council had received an email from Graham Morris, Trustee of Steyning Area First Responders asking if the Council would continue sponsoring the Parish defibrillator to the tune of £120 per annum. Cllr Garner clarified that this did not include maintenance of the telephone box but that the budget allowed it by amalgamating the defibrillator and telephone box maintenance budgets. This was agreed. **Action: The Clerk to forward the decision to Graham Morris and arrange for payment to be made.**
- 22.94 Rampion 2 – consultations continue with local landowners.
- 22.95 South Downs Local Plan Review: **Action: Cllr Garner will respond to the consultation by the deadline (6th April).**
- 22.96 Coronation grants: There was enthusiastic agreement to arrange an event, possibly at – Cllr Goring's barn. **Action: Cllr Garner to discuss with Cllr Page and submit an application meeting the criteria by the deadline (7th April).**

- 22.97 Local elections – Councillors wishing to stand again must complete pp 5-9 of the application form previously circulated. This must be signed by a proposer and seconder who must be registered to vote on the electoral register in force on 27 March and then taken to the Horsham Council offices by **4th April**. Cllr Garner offered to be a witness if needed. **Action: All**
- 22.98 Correspondence – nothing of note received.
- 22.99 Information items: It was agreed that the outgoing Clerk should receive a present from the Council as a token of their sincere gratitude for all her hard work over the years. **Action: Cllr Goring to work with the Clerk to select a suitable photograph of a local scene to print and frame.**
- 22.100 Date of next meeting. Cllr Garner cannot now attend on the previously agreed date of 17<sup>th</sup> May which is also normally the date of the Annual Parish Meeting. **Action: Cllr Garner to circulate a selection of alternative dates within the required time period of the local elections. PLEASE NOTE:** Quote from email from Aisha.Nottage dated 7 February and circulated to Parish Councillors on 7th March: **“In an ordinary election year, the annual meeting of the parish council will be held on or within 14 calendar days after the day on which the councillors elected take office. This is 9 May 2023 on this occasion. This applies even where the election was uncontested.”**

The meeting ended at approximately 7.05pm

Signed: S.C. Garner Date: 10:5:23  
Chairman