

Wick and Abson Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2023 at the Village Hall 7.15pm

Attendees: Chair James Williams (JPW) Peter Crew (PGC) Gaive Golding (GG) Richard Stallard (RS) Simon Always (SA) Cllr Stuart Fowell (SF) Keith Hollister (KH) Bronwen Dyson (BD) Anne Kinsman (AK) Ward Cllr Ben Stokes Ward Cllr Marilyn Palmer Cllr Steve Reade and 9 members of the public

1. Chair to note apologies and receive/confirm declarations of interest in conjunction to agenda
Apologies - Clerk Jo Bray-Warner

- 1a. Chair to explain emergency procedures
Chair provided clarity regarding procedures

2. Opportunity for the public as appropriate to address the council

Victoria from Emersons Green running club confirmed the 8th edition of the Doynton hard half marathon will take place on 4 February 2024. The race is sold out at a capacity of 550. Parking is supported by Dyson, MX and MJ Church at Wick Quarry. There has been a letter drop to all residents along the route and no concerns have been raised. There will be a further letter drop in January. The Public Rights Officer and land owners have consented to the event and there will be a litter pick afterwards. Proceeds from tea/coffee/cake sale will be donated to charity (this raised £1000 last year). The running club will also donate £1000 to local charities from entry fees.

- 2.1 Member of public raised concern over the delay in the decision of the appeal concerning the fencing and field by the traffic lights at the bottom of Naishcombe Hill. Parish councillors provided clarity regarding procedures. AK confirmed MP Luke Hall has agreed to write to SGC enforcement officer to query delay.

2.2 Member of public raised concern about the grass cutting service from South Gloucestershire Council (SGC), particularly regarding the use of blowers and the grass being left in the gutters. Parish council (PC) agreed to speak to contractor. Cllr Ben Stokes advised PC are at liberty to change contractor
Clerk has contacted SGC and provided feedback on the condition of the pavements/highway post a cut.

2.3 Member of public raised concern regarding overgrown hedges in the village; primarily outside the new house in Milford Avenue. PC advised they regularly report overgrown hedges and owner has been asked to reduce it.

Cllr Marilyn Palmer advised SGC is set to trial how grass cuttings can be used to generate biogas. Cllr RS requested PC revisit parking issues in 2024.

2.5.1 Cllr Ben Stokes explained there is a video aimed at increasing awareness/promotion of the foster carer role. Currently there is a shortage of foster carers leaving lots of children in South Glos in need of a foster home. Chair JPW agreed to put it on the parish councils social media pages.

2.5.2 Cllr Ben Stokes raised the current waste recycling survey and the option to reduce the frequency of the black bin collection following the roll out of the soft plastic recycling facility. Chair JPW questioned if other local authorities are also considering this option/running surveys but this information wasn't available. PGC raised concerns at the leading style of the questions which influenced supportive answers and questioned if the large blue bins used in other LA's would be made available. Cllr Ben Stokes advocated PC responded to consultation.
Clerk has confirmed this is an agenda item in November post meeting

2.5.3 Cllr Ben Stokes said he has sent an e-mail to the parish clerk earlier today about an age friendly community network to improve communications between the elderly and reduce loneliness. Currently there is one scheme – the memory café which is a monthly event in Doynton village hall. There is information on GOV.UK website. Cllr Ben Stokes will send the e-mail to all parish councillors.

2.5.4 Cllr Ben Stokes advised Freezing Hill lane will be closed from 16 to 18 October 2023. This is due to skid testing following a number of accidents on the bend.

3. Clerk's report.

Streetcare Issues:

Cllr PGC advised that outside the substation on Ketches Hill, Abson the trench has collapsed and requires repair reported to Streetcare 14/07/23 await reference SGC-179114-G9Y0
SGC update 04/09- under review

Cllr PGC advised that there are blocked drains on Abson Hill as the road is continuing to flood reported to Streetcare 14/07/23 await reference SGC-179119-S6Z1
SGC update 04/09- Under review

Cllr PGC advised there is a pothole on the High Street outside Clip factory on the lane towards Kingswood that is constantly filled with water and requires reviewing.
Reported to Streetcare 14/07/23 await reference SGC-179110-W5B6- confirmation from SGC this has been fixed
Cllr PGC confirmed closed however there is still potential water problem- Cllr PGC advised that he had spoken to a water representative on site and they are aware and look to fix
Clerk spoke to Bristol Water 18/09 reference 20847824- clerk has also requested PGC provide any updates if seen
Clerk spoke to Bristol Water 12/10 who advised they had undertaken a site visit on the 19th Sept and tested the water and then were unable to identify a leak- clerk has requested a subsequent visit to double check.

Member of the public requested clerk report the rear access and bank behind no's 2.4.6 The Crescent as this is extremely overgrown and requires attention. Reference 2093324

Cllr PGC requested clerk to report overhanging branches/brambles on the highway opposite the Carpenters Arms- await reference 2097102.

Cllr JPW advised this has been actioned 11/10/23-CLOSED

Resident requested clerk to report the give way sign at the junction of Oldbury Land and High Street , Reported 12/10, reference SGC-191640-R6Q5- request has been added to schedule of works

Outstanding item from Previous meetings:

All Planning applications responded to 15/09

Common Land- trees.

Following the tree survey report and quotes received, following Sept meeting clerk has contacted National Grid to look at the trees encroaching the power cables to see if these can be addressed without cost to PC. Reported 19/09 reference 4873858, awaiting updates

Commons Connect project.

Following Sept meeting and request from Council to set up additional meeting, clerk has reached out to SGC reps and will facilitate the meeting set up. Discussions will include proposals by project team and also bee orchids with the potential to also review common land

Clerk has connected with ROSPA and awaiting report.

Following PC meeting clerk has reconnected with maintenance contractor for clarity re quote and also new quote.

Await to hear back and will advise PC

ENFORCEMENT

1. Cllr CW advised that a new building is being erected at Ingleside Farm on Chesley Hill and is unable to locate any planning in connection with this building. Councillors commented they believe there is planning however neither Chair nor Clerk can locate on SGC planning portal.

Cllr CW requested clerk to report to enforcement. Clerk provided chair with planning application details within the portal for overview and requested clarification as to whether to report

Chair confirmed to report-await reference from SGC-COM/22/0002/OD

Update SGC 01/03

The owners have now submitted an application for the building to be an agricultural building see application

P23/01153/F, I guess you will be asked to comment on this.

Application not decided as at 27/09/23

2. Field Opposite the Carpenters Arms

18/07/2022 Cllr GG & PGC raised that hoarding have been erected on the field opp Carpenters Arms and no planning permission has yet been received.

Cllr GG has reported to Enforcement under reference COM/22/0453/OD

I refer to your recent enquiry concerning the above property. A Planning Enforcement Investigator has undertaken a site visit, in order to investigate your concerns regarding the above site. We are currently working with the planning agents, who work on behalf of the developers to resolve this issue. Please use the reference, COM/22/0448/OD if you have any queries.

Chased 27/09 for update

Footpaths

1. Missing footpath sign from A420 to Watery Lane

Reported to PROW 03/11/2022- CAMS 17959

Update 22/06/23

Works are starting shortly at the bottom end to prevent deep mud which has been a long standing issue made worse by increase in equine use. I will look at your sign issue 17959 after. Water spotted at the top end is being investigated by others as they are doing drainage works- I don't foresee this being a regular occurrence but please advise if seen again.

4. Previous minutes –
Proposed as a true reflection JPW
Seconded SA
All in favour 9
5. Cheques – chair will arrange for these to be signed within the next 2 weeks

SGC	Work requested by PC to cut back hedges and remove goalposts	£717.55
AC Hudd	Additional hours for cutting back area re Bee Orchids	£94.90
HMRC	PAYE	£636.08
Michael Evans builders	clean bus shelters	£170.00
SGC	Grounds Maintenance	£676.02
SGC	Litter bin emptying	£139.26
Wick Village Hall	hire of hall	£156.00
Wick Guides	Grant	£750.00
6. Wick Guides grant application: Guide leader explained the guides would like this years summer camp to be in Ireland, having never been “abroad” before. However, this means the cost is significantly higher than previous years. Despite fundraising, they need assistance with the total cost and have asked for £50 per head for 15 girls aged 10-14 who are predominately of Wick Village. PC agreed this forms part of the youth provision and as such can be classed as capital under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. Grant agreed.
7. Friends of Wick School grant application: The group requested the sum of £2500 to assist with the cost of buying 9 new computers to match those already in use at a cost of £496 each, a total of £4464.00. Fundraising has realised £2400. PC queried amount requested as the deficit after fundraising is £2064. Representative was unable to explain why an additional £436 had been requested. Representative confirmed the request was for computers not software; however, was not able to explain why central government not funding or whether other quotes had been sought. PC members stated the grant should come from central government as it is intended for necessary school curriculum activities and not an additional asset. PC took a vote with the outcome of 2 for and 7 against. Grant denied. Following comments made by Cllr RS, Cllr GG commented he disagreed with the decision and made a comment that council were behaving like ‘Nazi’s. Chair JPW requested Cllr GG to retract the comment- Cllr GG refused. Chair confirmed he will write to Friends of Wick School to record the outcome and explain the decision.
8. During the discussion, RS raised the point that the parish council has previously granted £4500 for repairs to the swimming pool on the understanding the pool would be open to the community for hire. However, it has transpired that this can only be allowed for ages under 8 years due to the restricted changing facilities. RS felt the grant had not been used as a benefit to the local community.
9. Grant application from Wick Swifts FC for girls.: Hannah Pugh requested a grant of £2500 to assist with the cost of setting up a girls football team based at Wick sports ground. Hannah gave an overview of her extensive experience in football and intends to be the lead coach for the team. Hannah confirmed her role will be voluntary and not run as a business. The target age of the team is 10-13 and is intended to reach out to girls at a vulnerable age and those with a lack of confidence. Currently 4 girls have signed up with a further 20 expressing interest. PC explained that football clubs offer funding through work and maintenance schemes. PC felt the Wick mens football club should be supporting Hannah with this venture and also queried the charge of £600 for using the sports ground. PC explained the sports ground and Wick FC are 2 separate groups. Chair explained that item 4.8 of the Sports Ground constitution covered this scenario. RS raised the potential issue of inadequate changing facilities. PC applauded the venture but felt Hannah had taken the wrong route for funding. PC denied the grant but offered Hannah support in taking the venture forward. It was agreed that RS will arrange a meeting with Hannah, himself plus Matt and Dave from Wick Sports Ground (chair also volunteered to attend).
RS to arrange meeting between Hannah, Matt and Dave with RS and chair JPW in attendance.
10. Frontage of the shops in Milford Avenue.
BD raised concerns over the appearance of the tarmacked area in front of the shops, primarily the number of steel crates and storage boxes kept outside of the frontage parking of the Premier store. Also concerns of parking on the tarmac of vehicles; in particular the large van belonging to the store retailer. BD keen for another planter to be placed on the Pelo end of the rank and the area kept clear. RS explained Premier had no other means of storage. Discussion ensued regarding who owns the frontage, with the main view being it is owned by Whitefords. Agreement reached to

check Land Registry to identify owner and write to them to seek permission for additional planter. Also agreed that BD will draft an application for funding for a large wooden planter from the £4k set aside for Bigger Villages and Towns Grant - application for these funds closes 19 November 2023.

PC to check with Land Registry re: ownership of store frontage- Cllr JPW to review using his access

BD to draft application for funding from the Bigger Villages and Towns Grant

11. Local Climate Plan.

Cllr GG led discussion on potential adoption of a Local Climate and Nature Plan to include biodiversity. Suggestion is to adopt an awareness policy to include a number of bullets and potentially create a nature park through Commons Connect. GG stated Frampton Cotterell has an extensive plan which is reaping positive rewards. PC keen to take this forward. Agreement reached that GG would draft plan and bring to council for the first meeting after Xmas. Also agreed it would be helpful to include Matthew Lipton in that meeting.

GG to draft Local Climate plan for discussion at PC January 2024 meeting.

GG to invite Matthew Lipton to January 2024 PC meeting

12. Chair JPW led discussion on next steps for PC owned common land. Concerns centred around trespass and parking on common land on Chesley Hill/Holbrook Lane. RS also raised concerns regarding the number of cars being parked on grass verges around the village and particularly Manor Road, Holbrook Common and Court View. Chair JPW offered 4 options:

1. Pursue legal action on trespass
2. Defend with boulders
3. Register common land with registry
4. Do nothing

Agreements were reached to register the land first and then decide next steps. Also to leave the legal aspect regarding access across land and encroaching parking space on file and revisit in 6 months. This will ensure that the PC will receive a pre alert of anything untoward happening on our common land. Chair JPW to research cost of registering it and will draft a letter to our MP.

Chair to research cost of registering land and draft letter to MP.

13. Review of parking data.

Clerk is currently awaiting a response from the police regarding the speeding data. PC all in agreement that the data is very concerning with over 85% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. AK advised she has spoken to Luke Hall at his surgery on Monday 9 October 2023 and had suggested speed tables for Naishcombe Hill and a permanent speed monitor on the A420. MP agreed to respond by e-mail. Suggestion was made to remove some of the double yellow lines to make natural chicanes along the High Street. Ward councillor Marilyn Palmer suggested the PC request Highways to reduce the speed limit and will send the appropriate form to the chair JPW to complete.

Clerk/Chair to complete form once we have some additional data and send to Highways once received from Marilyn.

14. Review of overhanging branches and tree related work at the Willows.

One tree has now blown down without causing damage. Clerk will be speaking to the National Grid and also asking the Commons Group if they are able to help.

15. Review of Consultation Enhancements to Yate Common.

Unpursued

16. Council to review and respond to consultation re: proposed 30mph limit on Bath Road Wick

PC agreed to 30 mph limit.

17. Review of One Stop revised hours

Noted by PC with no concerns raised.

18. Review of polling places

No change for Wick so no comment on consultation

19. Review and respond to planning application P23/02611/RVC Carpenters Arms 10 Church Road, Wick
Proposal was made that PC object on grounds of:

1. Pedestrian safety
2. Emergency vehicles access
3. Facility vehicles access
4. Visibility

A vote was taken on objection by PC – 7 for, 1 against and 1 abstained.

20. Review and respond to planning application P23/02784/HH 18 St Helens Drive, Wick

No objection

21. Clerk and Councillors to provide update as to any correspondence received since last meeting.

21.1 The planter which is obstructing visibility at top of Naishcombe Hill/Parkers Avenue junction is on the list for South Gloucestershire Council to move.

21.2 There is an issue of the park gatekeeper not always locking the gate and locking/unlocking outside of agreed hours. PC to address this issue with the clerk. Agreement was reached to change the time of locking the gate to dusk all year round and the signs will be amended by cllr KH.

22. Councillors to provide any updates and confirm matters for inclusion at next meeting.

22.1 Date of finance meeting is to be confirmed

22.2 Wick Community Hall in Boyd Close is not being used except for 2 washing machines. Potential for this to become a warm space.

22.3 Next meeting – discussion on Commons

Meeting closed 22.15