

Wick and Abson Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2024 at The Village Hall 7.15pm

Attendees:, Chair James Williams (JPW), Vice Chair Peter Crew (PGC) Stuart Fowell (SF) Keith Hollister (KH) Anne Kinsman (AK) , Bronwen Dyson (BD)
Ward Cllr Ben Stokes Clerk Jo Bray-Warner, and 8 members of the public

1. Chair to note apologies and receive/confirm declarations of interest in conjunction with Localism Act 2011.

Apologies

Simon Alway (SA)

Ward Cllr Marilyn Palmer

Non attendance

Gaive Golding (GG),

Declarations of interest

Cllr JPW declared an interest in agenda items 13 & 14

2. Chair to explain emergency procedures

Chair provided clarity around emergency procedures for the Village Hall in the event of evacuation

3. Updates from South Gloucestershire Council Ward Councillors

Cllr Stokes advised that the Consultation re the Local Plan is still ongoing and taking council time & energy, he commented that in general he has received updates from residents of Boyd Valley who not supportive of the plan.

Cllr Stokes advised he had followed up regarding the police crime figures and that the local beat team confirmed that the figures were centred more around Emersons & Lyde Green and that there was little/no updates for W & A

Cllr Stokes advised that he and Council were aware of the pressures on the road network and were working to try and resolve.

However Cllr Stokes advised that if W & A were having difficulties with any longstanding issues to advise him of the details.

Clerk will provide relevant information

4. Opportunity for the public as appropriate to address the Council.

4.1 Member of the public advised that a streetlight near the shops in Milford Avenue was not working and required attention- clerk to report reported SGC-202176-X6j0

4.2 Member of the public commented regarding the speed of traffic on the A420

Chair acknowledged the comment and Cllr AK requested clerk to follow up with PCSO regarding the issues facing the village

4.3 Member of the public wished it to be noted that as a neighbour to the residences on the planning applications under agenda items 13 & 14 she had no objection.

5. Clerks Report

Cllr SF requested clerk to provide Cllr B Stokes with details of the long outstanding items

Streetcare Issues:

1. 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
Update SGC 20/11- 'We are looking into it'
2. 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
Update SGC 20/11- 'We are looking into it'
3. 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-
SGC update 20/11 completed CLOSED
Following December's meeting a resident advised no work had been undertaken- clerk has contacted SGC to re-open- awaiting update

SGC update **This is not cut at the same time due to health and safety reasons as bank is steep. Ticket raised for grounds**”This is now with the grounds team , but there are no further updates.’

4. Wall in Brockwell Park, adjoining Willow Close. Clerk has requested SGC connect with resident to advise of the ‘leaning wall’ and for the potential for it to collapse into the park. This route is used as a short cut for residents taking children to Wick Primary.
Awaiting ref 2118538
Update 24/01/. SGC have advised this appears to be a private boundary wall and South Gloucestershire Council have no ownership,. This would be an issue for the Parish Council and owners of the wall to resolve. If you have tried contacting the owners without success, we would suggest you mitigate any issues by putting fencing at the area of concern.
5. Cllr SF requested clerk report the streetlight outside 34 Naishcombe Hill as it is being obscured by trees
Reported 15/12/23 ref SGC-196628-S2Z1
6. Member of the public advised that there has been flooding in the park car park and that the bridge is also in need of repair. Steve Reade advised this has already been reported under reference SGC-196305-C6W0
8. Member of the public requested the pavement from the bus stop bottom of Naishcombe along to the Carpenters Arms is overgrown and untidy
Clerk to report— Requested further clarity from resident 11/01- resident has provided detail
Clerk has requested the team at SGC under Dave Jones add this to their ‘activity list’ for Wick
9. Cllr KH requested clerk to report the manhole cover in the highway outside the Carpenters Arms as this requires urgent attention. Clerk reported 12/01 reference SGC-199960-T5P3. Confirmation from SGC this has been reported to Wessex Water
10. Member of public reported the bridge on Holbrook Lane by Holbrook Farm that the watercourse which runs underneath is blocked due to fallen trees and debris.
Clerk report 12/01 await reference 2146046
SGC update 02/02- referred to our Drainage team for further investigation/clearing.
11. Cllr KH has requested clerk to report flytipping of green barriers near petrol station- reported 19/01. SGC have advised that the barriers are covering a large hole on the grass verge. This is the result of drainage works. SGC will ‘tidy up’ as the recent gale force winds have blown them over however they are likely to remain in situ for a number of weeks and PC will potentially need to report again

Clerk has advised Cllr KH
12. PGC requested clerk to re-report the drains along Homeapple Hill as they are still blocked. Ref SGC- 200500-G5B2

Outstanding item from Previous meetings:

All Planning applications responded to 11/01/2023

- 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
National Grid have advised not their cables- BT have inspected and currently will not cut back and have requested PC engage with contractor to undertake a ‘careful’ cut. Clerk has contacted Jake Cole and Jake has said he can do however clerk is still pursuing with BT. BT engineer has reconnected with Clerk and will undertake a report back to BT to see if they are willing to undertake the required work.
Chased 12/11- chased 29/11 BT have come back they are awaiting a report
Chased 15/12, chased 08/01
- Village Hall:
 - Chair to arrange Buildings survey-completed 19/12/2023
 - Terms of Reference between PC & VH- Amendments to be made and then confirmed by both parties.
ToR still in progress

- SGC requested confirmation of Localism contract- agreed at Jan meeting- clerk has advised 11/01/2024
- SGC requested Precept costings for 2024-2025- Clerk has forwarded relevant template 11/01/2024

ENFORCEMENT

1. 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

27/10/23 Cllr Palmer advised the appeal had been upheld and the hoarding is required to be removed by 27/11

3. Highfield Car Sales- Request from council to re-engage with SGC Enforcement regarding the encroachment of cars into the area to the side of the garage.email sent 09/11 chased 17/11- chased 11/01/2024

Acknowledgement received advising a new reference no has been allocated COM/24/0021/COU- a site visit will take place within the next 10 days

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.

2. Following Cllr Dyson and Steven Burgess (Cotswold Warden) walkabout a request has been added to SGC PROW portal for new stile at grid ref LWA/45/10 East End

PROW ref 18384

3. Following Cllr Dyson and Steven Burgess (Cotswold Warden) walkabout a request has been added to SGC PROW portal for LWA/45/10 West End- Manor Rd. The stile in front of the stone bridge, part of the wood you step onto has broken off and needs replacing

PROW ref 18385

4. Request from resident to report LWA/43/10 between Clip and 67 Church rd. There is a tree which is sited on the footpath (the based is within the footpath boundary) which requires addressing- it is encroaching gardens and the footpath

Reference 18414

Cllr BD requested clerk to report footpath no LWA/11/20- Approximately midway along this footpath there is

a gate, a wooden bridge and steep wooden steps. Something is required on the surface of the bridge to prevent people slipping and hurting themselves. Some of the steep wooden steps were replaced some time ago, but the remaining ones have now collapsed, and need replacing.

Reference 18433- update from SGC 24/11 Thank you for submitting a problem using the South Gloucestershire Rights of Way Management System. Your record has been accepted and is being processed

5. Request re footpath LWA/43/10- The footpath is extremely waterlogged and either hardcore or sustainable materials to be installed to make this passable.

Reference 18484

6. To note and confirm Minutes from January meeting.

Confirmed to be a true reflection

Proposed AK

Seconded SF

All in favour 6

To note and confirm Minutes from extraordinary meeting in January

Confirmed to be a true reflection

Proposed AK

Seconded SF

All in favour 6

7. Clerk to provide financial update for the Council and request cheques to be signed in accordance with bank mandate.

Payee	Rationale	Amount
K Hollister	Bulk purchase of stamps	£164.00
SGC 380547482	Mow Park	£676.02
SGC 3805475083	Empty Bins	£97.06
HMRC	PAYE	£702.33
Wick & Abson Village Hall	Hall hire	£165.00
K Sheppard	Wages	£268.45

8. Council to review and confirm adoption of Health & Safety policy

Clerk had pre-circulated a Health and Safety policy for review and comment

Discussion held

JPW proposed to accept and implement policy with effect from 8th February

Seconded KH

All in favour 6

9. Council to review and confirm finance allocation to continue current proposal for Youth Provision within the village.

Clerk pre-circulated a briefing document to Council for overview. W & A PC current provider LPW have been successful with their contract negotiations with South Gloucestershire Council, however the impact would be a financial cost for PC. Previously all funding was allocated directly to the provider from SGC.

Within the briefing document, the cost to continue current proposal 2 hours per week would equate to £5,000.00p.a with the PC also standing the costings for hall hire c£1,200p.a- equating to a total of approx. £7,200.00

Pucklechurch PC (PPC) have shown an interest in having a 'joint' provision however this is still with PPC.

Discussion held

JPW Proposal to agree a 12 month rolling contract with LPW at a cost £5,000.00, however requested advertising poster which could be added to social media and website

Seconded KH

All in favour 6

Clerk to connect with LPW and set up contract/request poster

10. Council to review and discuss South Gloucestershire quotation for Brockwell park for 2024

SGC have provided a detailed quotation as per usual arrangement for grass cutting and BMX cutting, litter bin emptying and watering contract for planters. The total cost quoted is £9673.90 inc VAT, this is year on increase of 4%.

Discussion held

JPW Proposal to accept quotation from SGC for a further 12 months

Seconded SF

All in favour 6
Clerk to advise SGC of acceptance of contract

11. Council to review quotation from South Gloucestershire Council to repair the fence at the top end of Brockwell Park. Following work undertaken by team within SGC at no cost to PC, part of the original request included repairing the fence at the top of the park. The SGC advised this could not be achieved due to capacity and cost and therefore provided a quote of £1388.50 plus VAT

Discussion held
Cllrs KH & SF offered to connect with the landowner regarding the fence advising of the potential cost to Parish Council
Agenda item March

12. Council to review request from Member of the public to fund one hour of Village Hall rental to create a 'warm café' post the Freecycle event.

At January's meeting a member of the public requested PC to financially support the hire of the Village Hall for 1 hour post the Freecycle event to create a community warm café. The cost to PC would equate to approx. £150.00pa.

Discussion held
JPW proposed that PC fund the one hour of hire on a 6 month trial
Seconded AK
All in favour 6
Member of the public was in attendance and confirmed this would be undertaken on a trial basis.
Clerk to connect with Village Hall bookkeeper to advise to add the hall hire onto monthly rolling costs for PC

13. Council to review the following requests from Friends of Wick Village Group:

- Request permission to use Brockwell park for a Car Boot sale Saturday 27th April

Discussion held
JPW proposed to confirm approval to use Brockwell Park on 27th April
Seconded KH
All in favour 6

- Propose Friday 29th November for Christmas Lights switch on.

Discussion held
Clerk to advise FOWV that Councillors will attend the next meeting to discuss date and also working collaboratively for the event
➤ Friends of Wick Village request a presence on Wick & Abson Parish Council website
Discussion held
JPW proposed that FOWV can provide any updates directly to himself as webmaster for inclusion on W & A PC website
Seconded KH
All in favour 6
Clerk to advise

13 . Parish Council to review and respond to Planning application P24/00107/CLP Manor Cottage, Manor Road.

Clerk requested Councillors to review the application prior to meeting to aid discussion

Discussion held

No Objection

14. Parish Council to review and respond to Planning application P24/00125/CLP The Close, Manor Road.

Clerk requested Councillors to review the application prior to meeting to aid discussion

Discussion held

No Objection

15. Parish Council to review the potential impact of requesting a Consultation regarding the yellow lines on the A420/High Street

Following discussions held at the extraordinary meeting and drop in sessions centred around the speed of the traffic, one suggestion was to remove the double yellow lines along the High Street to create 'natural' chicanes to try and slow traffic. Clerk connected with Highways to understand the process.

Highways have advised of the following:

Any alteration to waiting restrictions, whether they be to introduce new, extend or remove requires an alteration to the existing legal Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which in itself involves a very lengthy public consultation process. This then allows any support or objections to be made by external stakeholders such as Parish Councils, residents and anyone else affected by the proposals. I regret that we would not be able to consider such a request in isolation due to the level of resources and funding that would be required for such a scheme. Instead, it would have to be considered as part of an area-wide traffic management scheme of which this could be incorporated, if this makes sense? As I am sure you will understand, our resources and Capital Programme funding is increasingly limited and thus the best has to be made of what we have available, notwithstanding the fact that we have to direct such funding and resources to those locations with the greatest need, ie those locations with the highest Personal Injury Accident (PIA) rates, etc. A better explanation can be found under the following link which hopefully clarifies far better than I am able: Request waiting restrictions or keep clear markings | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council (southglos.gov.uk). Ironically, this link is more biased to those requests for waiting restrictions to be introduced as opposed to those requests for such restrictions to be taken away. At the moment, our criteria for introducing waiting restrictions is that there should be regular and proven difficulties being experienced with recycling and refuse collections. However, if waiting restrictions were to be removed, one could say that it would be easier for such collections to be made if the location is narrow or limited.

I would therefore strongly suggest that an application be made in the first instance. It should also be borne in mind that any such application must also contain evidence of clear and unequivocal support from a locally elected Councillor (not Parish) for that Ward – I am afraid that no submission will be considered or assessed without this support.

Discussion held

Request from PC for clerk to reconnect to understand the cost of the consultation and also the actions SGC will undertake.

Also provide council with update from police re speed of traffic see item 4.2

16. Cllr BD to lead discussion on confirming installation of additional planter following successful 'Greening the high Street' grant

Cllr BD advised that following her completion of the funding application this was successful and PC have received a grant of £435.00 towards an additional planter outside the shops in Milford Avenue.

Cllr BD seeks support from Council to continue the purchase and installation process.

Discussion held

JPW proposed that PC will support up to £300.00 for Cllr BD to continue with the proposed planter at the proposed site

Seconded AK

All in favour 5

1 abstain

Clerk will order planter

Cllr BD will connect with the shop owners to provide detail

17. Cllr GG to provide update regarding closure of Wick Community Pub Group

In the absence of Cllr GG- item deferred to March agenda

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

Clerk had pre-circulated planning application no P24/00117/F Land off Holbrook Lane and requested Councillors to review in order to provide a response.

Discussion held

No objection

Cllr JPW had circulated W & A response to the Local plan and requested further feedback at the meeting.

Councillors in attendance confirmed they were happy with the response and thanked Cllr JPW for all his hard work in collating and creating.

Cllr JPW advised he had attended the ALCA chair meeting and provided an update

Cllr KH advised he had connected with our Defib contractor to confirm whether the defibs in the village required servicing. It has been confirmed that no service is required and each defib requires power, pads and a check the batteries are all ok. Cllr KH did comment that the one in Abson was still getting condensation and clerk advised she would connect with Cllr SA as per previous requests

Cllr JPW had circulated a notice re funding for defibs.

Council request clerk to apply for funding for a further defib

Clerk & Cllr SF advised that the Community Payback connections with SGC are still working through the logistics with the Probation service and will be in touch in due course.

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

19.1 Cllr SF advised he had applied for some apple trees/funding through a promotion being held by Thatchers

Meeting closed at 20.55