

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

Attendees:, Chair James Williams (JPW), Keith Hollister (KH), Anne Kinsman (AK), Peter Crew (PGC) Gaive Golding (GG), Simon Alway (SA), Bronwen Dyson (BD), Stuart Fowell (SF) , Ward Councillor Ben Stokes & Marilyn Palmer clerk Jo Bray-Warner, and 9 members of the public

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

Apologies

Declarations of interest

None

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

Ward Councillor Palmer advised that the latest rives Local Plan consultation is now open and provided some clarity around the content. She advised that further sites have been requested by SGC and that Cemex has been added to the list. Cllr Palmer also advised that after consideration SGC cannot support Bristol City Council with solving their housing planning needs and that following potential new legislation SGC may have to absorb more housing in the longer future.

Cllr Palmer also advised that she had picked up through a Wick & Abson facebook page a problem with a 'pothole' on Freezing Hill Lane and she had contacted SGC following noticing this post. SGC attended and identified it was actually a sink hole and took action to repair. Cllr Palmer thanked residents for continuing to highlight these incidents and encouraged others to provide these details to her.

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

4.1 Member of the public requested PC to provide any update on the illegal parking on common land Chesley Hill and also the previous dispute regarding access over the common land

Chair advised the actions PC had taken alongside legal support and also advised of the cost to Parish Council, he advised currently there are no plans to take further action.

4.2 Member of the public requested clerk report the hedgerows on Chesley Hill from Blue Lodge road to property Briarwood as these are encroaching the highway and require attention

Clerk to report

4.3 Member of the public requested a note to be placed in the Parish Magazine and notices making residents aware of their obligation to park considerately and not on grass verges.

Chair advised he had noted the comment

4.4 Member of the public advised he was in attendance to listen to outputs from Agenda item 9 and he wished to express his gratitude for all who had already added comments to the planning application.

4.5 Member of the public commented that the planter/flowers outside of Wick Café looked beautiful and wished this to be noted.

4.6 Member of the public commented that the Party in the Park that had been arranged by Friends of Wick Village was an excellent event however he felt there were not enough toilets or seating.

Cllr GG advised this had already been fed back to the Friends of Wick Village committee

4.7 Member of the public commented regarding the state of the pavements and gutters plus grass bank from no's 2-6 The Crescent and wished this to be reported

Clerk to report

5. Clerks Report

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'- clerk has chased 05/02 and requested Cllr B Stokes to support. Cllr Stokes provided update at March meeting to advise SGC have agreed to inspect the area again to assess.

Requested 27/05 for Cllr B Stokes to chase for update- Cllr B Stokes advised 13/06 no update

2. Member of the public reported a damaged/missing hazard bollard from the area near to 21-23 Milford Avenue. Clerk has reported to SGC including photos of the bollards when they were in situ.

Await reference- SGC responded 28/03 advising they 'couldn't find' the bollards. Clerk reconnected advising on the original

Photo where they are situated and requested an inspection- chased 11/04
SGC advised 22/04 SLA 10 days for inspection—chased 24/05
SGC have advised this will be fixed however no timescales provided

3. Clerk has reported potholes stretching from no3 Parkers Avenue to No 10 Parkers Avenue- reference SGC -209357-R5V9 SGC have advised they will fix the problem- await confirmation
4. Clerk has reported additional potholes from 14-22 Parkers Avenue- SGC ref SGC-212953-D2D2
5. Clerk has re-reported the 'seam' of Naishcombe Hill as this appears to be getting worse and have requested an inspection ref no SGC-215794-J0L4
6. Cllr BD requested clerk to connect with streetcare as the pavements along Riding Barn Hill are being encroached by weeds/brambles and overhanging greenery which is obstructing the pavement
Reported reference SGC-220149-F5Z9
7. Cllr GG requested clerk to report a damaged 'Welcome to Wick sign' on the A420 on entering the village
Reported reference SGC- 227784-W4B3

Outstanding item from Previous meetings:

All Planning applications responded to 09/05/2024

- Village Hall:3
 - Terms of Reference between PC & VH- Amendments to be made and then confirmed by both parties. ToR now provided to PC and clerk will circulate to council for overview in July's papers
 - Solar Panels- Quote received to install the required purlins post structural report, details within minutes. Ongoing work. Following July meeting Chair/clerk has liaised with contractor to commence work on strengthening the roof- once timescales agreed clerk will advise council likely Aug/Sep
 - Quotation requested for resurfacing car park
- Basic First Aid- Request to arrange basic first aid course. PC have confirmed to use Passion First aid at a cost of £180.00 plus VAT and PC have advised of potential dates for Sept/Oct- Contractor has confirmed 5th Sept from 7pm- PC to advertise
- Brockwell park
 - Continued work in connection with regeneration project
 - Bench proposal agreed at July meeting. Clerk to liaise with Cllr SF re sizing/contractor re delivery and installation and supplier for order- bench ordered due for installation w/c 19th Aug
- Following residents comments re inconsiderate parking along Naishcombe Hill, Court View etc clerk has liaised with Park Legally who have confirmed they will provide additional routes to incorporate more frequently

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

10/02/24 Clerk requested any update from Cllr Marilyn Palmer & Ben Stokes. Cllr Ben Stokes advised that SGC are still looking to take via court route as taking 'immediate action' could encounter costs in the region of £11k

14/03/2024 At March meeting Cllr Palmer advised Enforcement are still reviewing options

April Parish Meeting- Council requested Clerk to write to CEO Dave Perry SGC to obtain information as to progress of action- Ack rec'd 26/04

Footpaths

1. 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 chased 12/07/24- Sought permission from family - now broken too. 21/6/2024 PIS done for PWA and KWR 25/6/24 scheduled 16/7/2024

CLOSED

2. 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 chased 12/07/24- update received 13/07- Request completed

CLOSED

3. 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 chased 12/07/24

SGC update This is in progress

4. 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 chased 12/07/24

This didn't come through properly (no date so I'm following up with our new system team)but having seen the matter recently from yourselves, knowing the path fairly well myself and by the Ranger's visits over the last year or so and despite the good evidence of water puddling, this is not a site that warrants our resource for improved surfacing as the path is already gravelled. It was clearly a wet day as there was rain on the puddles. Once on the path walkers can only cross and bridge and a grassy field where they are going to get more wet feet in such weather. It is not a pavement but a rural footpath.

5. Resident has reported the footpath from Naishcombe Hill to Court View LWA/42/10 has become very uneven surface wise and is breaking up and making this very difficult to navigate especially at dusk. Also wheelchair users are advising this is also becoming impassable due to the rutting/unevenness of the path.

Reported 23/05/24 ref 18646 chased 12/07/24- No update available

6. Resident has reported a collapsed stile behind Briar Cottage, Court View LWA 46/40

Ref 18702 chased 12/07/24- In progress, work being carried out due to multiple issues on stile

CLOSED

7. Reported footpaths LWA/41/20, LWA/41/30 & LWA/41/40 as a number of residents are finding it increasingly to be able to move their wheelie bins from their gardens to be emptied.

Reference 18792

6. To note and confirm Minutes from previous meetings.

Proposed as a true reflection JPW

Seconded AK

All in favour 5

Cllrs SA/BD/SF not in attendance at July's meeting

Carried

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

Payee	Rationale	Amount
South Glos Council	Grounds Maintenance	£2,109.17

Michael Evans Builders	Skittle Alley materials etc	£212.40
J Bray-Warner	Reimbursement purchase of new bench for park	£586.36
J Williams	Reimbursement of costs for new keys for park	£24.00
South Glos Council	Grounds Maintenance	£703.06
Wick Community Tree Group	For additional trees/shrubs for Brockwell Park	£500.00

8. Parish Council to review and respond to Planning application P24/01702/CLP Midway, 54 Riding Barn Hill.

Clerk had pre-circulated details of application to Council

Discussion held

No Objection

Clerk to upload onto SGC planning portal

9. Parish Council to review and respond to Planning application P24/01732/PIP Land to the South of High St/Church Rd.

Clerk had pre-circulated details of application to Council including previous objection comments from planning application P21/07243/O for the following proposal Erection of 22no. dwellings, new public carpark and provision of new public open space and associated works – details of which can be viewed in South Glos Council Planning Portal

Discussion held

Wick and Abson Parish Council wish to object as per below:

Wick and Abson Parish Council object to this planning application on the following:

Special Circumstances

The applicant has not demonstrated within the application the very special circumstances to build within the greenbelt.

Application

Within the covering letter on this application there is reference to the fact that the Carpenters Arms public house would be opposite to the development however this establishment has been closed for approx. 5 years.

The land is classed as a greenfield site within the Greenbelt and as Agricultural land.

Wick and Abson Parish Council would also like to highlight that the new proposed highway access will be directly opposite the access to another housing development and no consideration has been made to review access. For historic reference the last fatality in a road traffic accident on the High Street happened directly in line with the proposed entrance/exit of the development

Parish Council would also like consideration if this is a self build site, can we request that there is consequential review by planning of the conformity of the builds.

Heritage Impact

Wick Court is a Grade I listed building, a heritage asset of significant importance not just to our local community but to the nation. The proposed development would have a detrimental impact on the setting of this historic site. Wick Court's historical and architectural significance is recognized at the highest level, and any development that threatens its setting should be rigorously scrutinized.

The proposed development would block key views of Wick Court, particularly from the A420. The current open landscape allows for unobstructed views of the building, contributing to its historic character and setting. This view is an integral part of the experience of both residents and visitors. Obstructing these views would significantly diminish the heritage value of Wick Court.

Wildlife Concerns

The proposed development site is part of an important wildlife corridor, crucial for the movement and survival of various protected species. South Gloucestershire Council has designated this area as essential for wildlife, particularly at a pinch point that facilitates access to and from the Wick Golden Valley Local Nature Reserve.

Otters

Otters are a European protected species and are fully protected under sections 9 and 11 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The area in question provides vital habitat for these otters, offering undisturbed sections of the river for their movement, feeding, and breeding. The introduction of housing and increased human activity would severely disrupt this habitat, potentially leading to a decline in the local otter population.

Kingfishers and Dippers

The area also supports kingfishers and dippers, both of which are protected species. Kingfishers, afforded Schedule 1 status under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, rely on clean, undisturbed waterways to hunt and nest.

Similarly, dippers require specific river conditions to thrive. Any development that increases footfall and human activity in this area could lead to habitat degradation, negatively impacting these species.

Precedent for Future Developments

Approving this application would set a dangerous precedent for future developments on green belt land. Such a decision could lead to a gradual erosion of this protected area, undermining the very purpose of green belt policy, which is to prevent urban sprawl, protect the character of rural communities, and preserve open space for agriculture, forestry, and wildlife.

Conclusion

Wick and Abson Parish Council consider the proposed development is inappropriate and would have considerable detrimental effects on the Green Belt. It also poses significant risks to both our local heritage and wildlife. The unchanged status of the land means all previous objections and refusal reasons remain valid. The land cannot be redefined as grey belt, having never been built upon or used for industrial purposes. Therefore, the arguments against this development are still as robust as ever.

We urge the Council to reject this planning application in order to protect the heritage of Wick Court and preserve the vital wildlife corridor that supports our local biodiversity

10. Parish Council to review and respond to Planning application P23/02126/F Land at Wick Filling station.

Clerk had pre-circulated details of application to Council

Discussion held

Application has been withdrawn- no discussion

11. Parish Council to review and respond to Planning application P24/01734/PNH 20 Mendip View.

Clerk had pre-circulated details of application to Council

Discussion held

No Objection

12. Parish Council to review request from Wick Sports Ground to support with costings for new immersion cylinders.

Wick Sports Ground connected JPW (acting as rep for Parish Council for WSG) to request financial support to replace immersion cylinders. WSG have received 3 quotes which were circulated to councilors for consideration. Wick Sports Ground is one of Wick and Abson Parish Council fixed assets and works under a committee.

Discussion held

Proposal by JPW to accept quotation for £1325.00 plus VAT supplier Passco

Seconded SA

All in favour 8

Clerk to connect with WSG to advise

13. Parish Council to review the following for Capital expenditure spend for this financial year:

Clerk had circulated a paper outlining actual spend for April to Jul 2024 and forecasted spend for Aug- Mar 2025. As detailed in the paper Parish Council currently have reserves which will be required to be allocated to projects to support our assets within the village. The paper provided suggested expenditure aligned to Brockwell Park/Wick Village Hall/Community Tree Group/Additional defibrillators and Wick Sports Ground, alongside potential longer term initiatives for EV Charging points and Neighborhood Planning.

The focus of the discussion centred around the following:

13.1 Brockwell park regeneration- accessibility of paths and play area fence

Cllr SF met with companies to discuss the quotations which were received from Greentrees ,Acorn surfacing & Smart Paving to rejuvenate the pathways and make them accessibility for all. Cllr SF advised not all were like for like quotes and Cllr SA suggested additional works which are to be included in the quote.

Cllr SA and SF will work together to obtain updated quotes in readiness for September's meeting

Greentrees £57,074.00 plus VAT

Acorn £47,429.00 plus VAT

Smart Paving £62,813 inclusive of VAT

Movement of fence in play area as highlighted by ROSPA on annual report

Wyatt Fencing £450.00

Discussion held

Proposal by JPW to accept quotation

Seconded AK

Clerk to connect with supplier

13.2 Village Hall- Resurface of car park

Quotation received from Greentrees, Acorn surfacing & Smart Paving to resurface Wick Village Hall car Park again all quotes were based on a like for like basis

Greentrees £20658.00 Plus VAT

Acorn £25,485 plus VAT

Smart Paving £43,464 inclusive of VAT

Discussion held

It was highlighted that the car park does have issues with drainage and Cllr SF advised he will review and we will then require to reconnect with companies for additional items to be included in the quote

13.3 Community Tree Group

Cllr SF met with a representative from Wick Community Tree Group to view existing trees and also agree a plan for more trees within Brockwell Park. The representative has provided a breakdown of suggested plants etc for parish Council to overview and agree and request further funding of £500.00.

Discussion held.

Proposal by JPW to provide £500.00 additional funding

Seconded SA

All in favour 8

Clerk to connect with group and issue cheque

14. Parish Council to consider grant request from St James Church Abson

Clerk has received a grant application from St James Church Abson and following the amendment to the grant/donation regulations Parish Council can now consider the application. The application is for £2112.00 to support with maintenance of the churchyard.

Discussion held

Comments were made by Councillors that only one quotation had been submitted

Cllr BD advised she would connect with the requestor for additional quotes.

September Agenda

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

15.1 Planning application: P24/01159/HH The Old Vicarage, 85 High Street- Erection of rear extension with first floor roof terrace- Refusal

15.2 Planning application: P24/01312/CLP 38 Church Road, Wick- Erection of 1 detached garden room- Approve certificate of lawfulness

15.3 Planning application P24/01744/LB- Internal works and alterations to relocate kitchen to dining room to create kitchen diner

Clerk had pre-circulated details of application to Council

Discussion held

No Objection

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

16.1 Cllr KH commented regarding publishing details of the first aid course being funded by Parish Council, he advised he has a quote of £120.00 to graphic design a poster etc.

Discussion held

Council advised that a basic poster can be designed and requested clerk to take forward

16.2 Cllr GG advised that following feedback he has been reviewing if Parish Council/public have access to direct telephone no.s of Beat office from the police in the village and has identified this is not provided any longer by Avon & Somerset.

Cllr JPW advised that the police are encouraging reports of non violent crime to 101 as this will provide data going forwards to identify areas where there is high crime rates.

16.3 Cllr SF requested clerk to report 2 Parkers Avenue as the hedge within their property boundary is encroaching the pavement

Clerk to report

Meeting closed at 21.35