

# Wareside Parish Council

Minutes of Wareside Parish Council Meeting  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr Paul Goodman (PG) (chair), Cllr Jane Moseley (JM), Cllr Kim Nicholson (KN), Cllr Shusanah Pillinger (SP), Cllr Stuart Richards (SR) and Cllr Mike Ryan (MR)

Others: Rebecca Burdick (Clerk) (RB)

Members of the public: Two members of the public were in attendance

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

## 1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

None

## 2. Declarations of interest and dispensations:

a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda (including non-pecuniary).

MR and SP agenda item 7 due to living in close proximity to the old Wareside school building and land

b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.

None.

c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

None.

## 3. To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public

None.

## 4. To approve and sign meeting minutes

a) Thursday 20th October 2022 was signed by chair of the meeting Shusanah Pillinger

b) Thursday 17th November 2022 was signed by chair of the meeting Paul Goodman

## 5. Planning

a) To consider planning applications received between 17th November 2022 - 19th January

**Application:** 3/22/2703/ASDPN

**Proposal:** Erection of an additional storey to a detached bungalow to increase the height of the dwelling from 4.77 metres to 7.45 metres.

**At:** The Bungalow Bakers End Nursery Wareside

**WPC comments:** None

b) To review planning decisions made by EHDC

**Application:** 3/22/2097/LBC

**Proposal:** Replacement of 2 ground floor windows. Internal alterations to first floor, to include removal of partition wall, new door opening, installation of new partition wall, installation of shower and relocation of radiator.

**AT:** Bourne Cottage Wareside Ware Hertfordshire SG12 7QX

**EHDC Decision: GRANTED**

**Application:** 3/22/0972/FUL

**Proposal:** Erection of 4no. dwelling houses including an access road, landscaping and associated works

**AT:** Great Cozens Fanhams Hall Road Ware Hertfordshire SG12 7PU

**EHDC Decision: REFUSED**

**Application:** 3/22/2231/FUL

**Proposal:** Subdivision of house to create 2 new flats (whilst retaining the remainder of the property). Replace the garage door with windows and a door. Creation of new private gardens for the 2 new properties and off-street car parking spaces.

**AT:** Morley Hall Wareside Ware Hertfordshire SG12 7QP

**EHDC Decision: REFUSED**

**Application:** 3/22/2232/LBC

**Proposal:** Subdivision of house to create 2 new flats (whilst retaining the remainder of the property). Replace the garage door with windows and a door. Creation of new private gardens for the 2 new properties. Internal alterations to install new partitions on ground floor and first floor.

**AT:** Morley Hall Wareside Ware Hertfordshire SG12 7QP

**EHDC Decision: GRANTED**

**Application:** 3/22/1286/HH

**Proposal:** Construction of two storey side extension. Construction of single storey front extension. Construction of part two storey, part single storey rear extension with roof lantern. Alterations to fenestration.

**AT:** 32 Coanwood Cottages Babbs Green Wareside Ware Hertfordshire SG12 7RT

**EHDC Decision: GRANTED**

c) To review and approve draft response to the hybrid planning application for Land North & East of Ware (3/22/2406/FUL)

SP had drafted a response objecting to this planning application with the input of other Councillors via email. The printed draft response was shared amongst those present at the meeting and SP talked through each section allowing members of the public to ask questions. All those present were happy with the draft response presented. Councillors thanked SP for her hard work drafting the response. It was unanimously resolved that this response be submitted by Wareside Parish Council in response to planning application 3/22/2406/FUL. RB to submit via email on the 20/1 and asap on EHDC planning portal (upon confirmation from EHDC planning department that the PC account is set up correctly).

## **6. To receive reports from County and District Councillor**

Cllr Eric Buckmaster shared his report via email see Appendix for full report.

## **7. To approve draft ACV application for Wareside School**

MR and SP did not take part in the discussion or any voting within this agenda item (see agenda item 2a). SR and PG presented the ACV application they had drafted, as agreed at the November PC meeting, KN and JM thanked SR and PG for their hard work drafting the application. PG asked if there was anything else Councillors thought should be added to the

“proposed uses”. KN suggested adding a use relating to the Church such as a Sunday School, as the building used to be a CofE School. Everyone agreed and SR said he would add it in. With this addition it was unanimously resolved that the ACV application be submitted by SR on behalf of Wareside Parish Council. SR to add his own contact details along with the PC email address and submit to EHDC.

#### **8. To review Ware Neighbourhood Plan and agree if comments will be made**

It was unanimously resolved that a response in support of Ware Neighbourhood Plan would be submitted by Wareside Parish Council. Due to limited time SP had drafted a response in support of Ware Neighbourhood Plan with the input of other Councillors via email. The printed draft response was shared amongst those present at the meeting and it was discussed. It was unanimously resolved that this response would be submitted by Wareside Parish Council to the EHDC consultation. RB to submit online and via email. It was noted that no communication had been received about the neighbourhood plan, RB had just noted a poster in Ware. RB to email the Clerk to ensure the PC is on the mailing list.

#### **9. To receive updates from Councillors/Clerk on:**

a) Little Oak Heath

##### General:

LOH vision: JM apologised that due to personal reasons she was unable to finish the draft vision and share before this meeting as agreed at the November meeting. She detailed that she would finish the vision statement and share it for comment before the next meeting.

Jubilee tree: The red oak was delivered on Monday 14th November. JM with the help of SR, MR and a couple of parishioners planted it successfully in the agreed position on LOH. PG has been in contact with Much Hadham Forge, as it had been agreed that the PC wanted a locally made tree guard to accompany the legacy of the Jubilee Tree. A quote of £360 was received from the forge - material costs = £120 and labour 6 hours @ £40/hour. The PC unanimously agreed to proceed with the purchase of the tree guard. PG to confirm the order with Much Hadham Forge. PG added that Much Hadham forge were happy for Councillors to attend the forge to watch the tree guard being made should they want to.

Seasonal work: JM ordered 150 Native Woodland Whips stakes & guards from The Conservation Volunteers “I Dig Trees” initiative as agreed, to infill in the area in front of the fenceline of Kingham Road properties. These were delivered on the 10/01 and Councillors met to plant them on the very wet 14/01. Despite their best efforts not all the whips were able to be planted due to the huge amount of detritus discovered in the area. JM, KN, MR and PG displayed their frustration that the Council's attempts at improving the area were interrupted due to the selfishness of a minority who are dumping their rubbish on LOH. MR kindly offered the remaining whips that could not be planted to be stored in his allotment area. RB asked the Council what work needed to be undertaken on LOH to continue the seasonal work and prepare for Spring. The PC agreed that due to the large agenda for this month's meeting that February's meeting would be used to plan for LOH and Larkshill.

Rubbish on LOH from Kingham Road: RB replied with an agreed response to First Garden Cities Homes (FGCH) following their email on 1/11. No reply has been received since. The PC shared its huge frustration that this issue is yet to be resolved. Those Councillors involved in planting tree whips on the 14/01 detailed that the rubbish is getting worse. Large amounts of further detritus was also found within the area 15m in front of the houses' fence line which prevented all of the whips being planted. There was general concern and frustration amongst the Councillors that LOH was becoming an area for rubbish to be dumped and it needed to be addressed asap. It was agreed that an action plan of rubbish removal would be emailed to FGCH with dates for completion in mid-Feb. JM to draft a reply, RB to send once Councillors have read and added any comments. SP to investigate if she can find details of the "Head of Asset Delivery" who was detailed in the FGCH reply.

Larkshill: Following agreement at last month's meeting the apple tree was removed. Unfortunately the tree surgeon in the village was unable to undertake the work following an accident. JM organised for another tree surgeon to remove the tree within the agreed budget. JM also ordered the agreed replacement - a Mature Great White Cherry Tree - which was planted by JM and SR on 4/12. JM noted that the brambles in Larkshill would need a good cut back before routine work continues cutting paths etc there in the Spring.

Playground: A parishioner kindly investigated the materials needed to repair the fencing at LOH and sent a quote via email to the PC. The quote was reviewed by the PC and materials fell within the approved budget set at the November meeting. PG purchased the materials (to be reimbursed) and the parishioner collected and repaired the playground fencing as detailed necessary in the inspection report. The PC is incredibly grateful to the parishioner for undertaking this work for free and their thanks were passed on via email and in person.

## 10. Finance

a) To approve signing of orders for payment online via BACS

Payee	Work done/goods received	Amount
Rebecca Burdick	Salary (November)	£274.28
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Wareside Village Hall	2022 Hall Hire and Defib electricity	£159.00
EHDC	April 2022 - March 2023 Bin Emptying at LOH	£128.40

b) To review and discuss FY23-24 budget

RB shared via email and at the meeting a review of FY22-23 spending and a draft FY23-24 budget. The last precept increase was only by 5%, and the PC were aware at the time that there would be very little, if any, additional income to spend on additional projects. However this was in line with inflation at the time and the PC did not want to add additional expenditure to parishioners as costs of living were increasing. The lack of additional funds explains why the PC will be spending above the income received this FY and money in reserves will have to be used to cover this deficit. Reserve funds are to be used in such situations however concern was raised that this could not continue to happen every year.

Reserve funds are modest and should the same amount be used each year reserves will be depleted within a few years. Unexpected costs have particularly been spent at LOH - fixing repeated vandalism to the playground at LOH along with damage to the benches installed by the PC, also the removal of large amounts of rubbish dumped on the heath discovered whilst planting the whips will be expensive. Currently the FY23-24 budget is inline with income, however as with last year there is little if any additional funds for projects the PC have discussed undertaking next FY. Areas in which spending could be minimised were discussed and RB to investigate (including football pitch maintenance).

c) To agree precept for FY23-24

It was agreed that the PC cannot keep using reserves to cover large deficits between income and expenditure. Despite the cost of living continuing to increase, it was reluctantly agreed that in order for the PC to continue operating the precept did need to be increased above inflation. RB presented the figures for 5% increases to the precept between 5-30% and the amount that would be added to council tax to Band D properties. JM proposed that the precept be increased by 15%, an addition of £1,356.00 to the precept which equates to an annual increase of £4.40 to Band D properties council tax. It was unanimously agreed to increase the precept by 15% for FY23-24 to a sum of 10,396.50. JM, SR and chairman PG signed the precept form and RB as Clerk countersigned.

#### **11. Urgent matters not included on this agenda (for full discussion on the next agenda)**

An email was received on 18/01 from the Village Hall Committee. Due to the agenda having already been approved, discussion within the agenda was not possible. All Councillors had read the email and it was agreed that JM draft a response to share via email and RB to send.

**Meeting finished at 10.00pm**

**Next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 19.30**

**Signed: .....**

**Date: .....**

**Chair Cllr Paul Goodman**