

## WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes Parish Council Meeting: **Monday 6 November 2023**  
**7.15 pm**, held in the Village Hall, Whissendine.

**Present.**

**Mr Will Farr (Chairman)**  
**Dr C East, Mrs C Moss, Mr K Thomas, Mr T Collins, Mrs G Wilkins, Mr P Greenlay and Ms. J Buckley**

**In attendance**

Dr S Lammin (Parish Clerk)  
3 members of the public

Meeting started 19.15 hrs

- 13776** To take any questions or comments from the public:  
Mr C requested the Parish Council seek judicial review of RCC's decision to grant outline planning permission in relation to application 2021/1263/OUT. He invited the Parish Council to mount the challenge on the basis that RCC's decision to grant permission was 'irrational', in that a previous (identical) application was refused yet the subsequent application was granted.  
Mr R expressed concern that application 2023/0271/RES was still for 66 dwellings, whilst the outline permission was for up to 66. He noted that the Government has recently relaxed their target for the number of new dwellings required in Rutland.  
Mr J sought clarification of the Parish Council's role, and the extent of their influence, in the planning process in Rutland. He was advised the Parish Council had no powers to determine an application but had the statutory right to be consulted. While their response was part of RCC's considerations there was no obligation on the Planning Authority to concur with the comments offered.
- 13777** Apologies for absence: Mrs Arnold. it was AGREED her apology be accepted. The Ward Councillor, Mrs Powell also offered her apologies as she has an RCC meeting.
- 13778** Declarations of Pecuniary interest: None
- 13779** To approve minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2023: Proposed by Ms. Buckley and seconded by Mrs Moss; the minutes were AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- 13780** Discussion re: transport in Whissendine, Ms E Odabas, Acting Snr Transport Mgr, RCC: Emma reported: strangely RCC has no legal obligation to provide public buses but there is no plan to cease all provision. However, bus use has not recovered after Covid and those who do travel tend to be pass-holders; there is limited revenue from running buses in Rutland.  
There is a full network review planned for the county. This is complex as Rutland is small with significant out of county travel. Current provision is inadequate but also not sustainable. The review will take about 1 year; to allow for proper consultation and time to let any contracts that are needed.  
Issues that need addressing in the review include: current over-sized buses; routes not serving peak uses, like market days in Melton, Oakham and Stamford; any Government grants that arise are limited to a single financial-year.  
The consultation is proposed to include school and college contacts so that the views of younger passengers can be reflected. There is also consideration of bookable apps to be attractive to those comfortable with IT. Flexibility of network design is limited by law: Councils are forbidden from setting up their own transport companies and charging fares, so any solution is largely reliant on services that can be procured from outside.

In December 2023 there will be trials of free one-off shuttles to Leicester, Melton and Peterborough.

The offer was made for a member of the Transport Team to visit in January 2024 and speak to a wider group of residents, at a Parish Council meeting, if there was interest in the village.

#### 13781 Reports from Councillors:

a. Reports of meetings attended by Parish Councillors

Mr Farr reported attending the RCC Parish Liaison Meeting on 18 October 2023, at which the Rutland Consultation of the Draft Local Plan 2021-2041 was introduced.

**The consultation opens on 13 November 2023 and closes on 8 January 2024.**

The documents are already available to view on the RCC website: 3 October 2023 Cabinet Report background documents.

The Local Plan will be in 11 sections: Introduction, Spatial portrait, Vision and objectives, Climate Change, Spatial Strategy, Housing, Economy, Sustainable communities, Environment, Minerals and Waste, and Infrastructure and delivery. The identified housing need, in Rutland, is for 123 new houses/year (78 per year affordable) with 27ha for employment generation. No land in Whissendine has been identified for development in this version of the draft.

Residents are encouraged to read and comment on the draft Plan, either on individual sections or the whole document (the feedback mechanism is structured to allow comments on as much/ little as chosen).

Mrs Moss reported on attending the Tree Champions meeting, 27 October 2023: Looked at Ash-dieback which has accelerated in 2020 in Rutland. RCC don't automatically fell affected trees; only dangerous trees need removing. Video on bio-diversity net gain is available from RCC. Ancient trees >100 years important, root protection required where works proposed.

b. Report from Mrs Rosemary Powell, Rutland County Councillor: No formal report was provided. However, Mrs Powell provided an answer to a query that had been raised with both the Ward Councillor and the Parish Council. The query was: a consultation response in relation to 2023/0271/RES made several recommendations (related to ecology) including that no development shall take place (including ground works or vegetation clearance) until a Biodiversity Offsetting Management Plan (BOMP) has been submitted to and approved by the LPA....etc. However, clearing is well underway but the relevant approvals are not on the Planning Authority website.

Mrs Powell had made enquiries from the planning officer and received a response: The Planning officer needs to liaise with the Enforcement Officer regarding the site. The afternoon of 6 November was the first s/he had seen of the photographs. The consultation comments included a number of recommendations for conditions to be attached to any decision under application ref. 2023/0217/RES. That application was deferred ... and no decision has yet been made. Therefore, only conditions relating to 2021/1263/OUT are currently active in relation to the scheme. The decision notice for that application has no conditions preventing clearance.

#### 13782 Planning matters

a. To consider plans received between 18 October and 6 November 2023: including **2023/1064/FUL** 3 Ashwell Rd: install EV charger and replace wooden vehicle gate and fence with electric gate. No comments offered.  
**2023/0271/RES** Reserved matters for 66 no. dwellings Land to the South of Stapleford Road. Response: Whissendine Parish Council noted the 'new' green-space at the southern end of the site but cannot see how biodiversity will be improved from the plans available; particularly as the number of intended houses is still 66. The Parish Council is uncomfortable with the notion of off-setting outside of

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the local area. They would welcome an innovative approach to increasing biodiversity within the site, or locally. There are still concerns about the number of dwellings, and the Parish Council is worried that infrastructure, in terms of roads and sewerage, is insufficient to cope. The Parish Council would also wish to have clarification of the location of MH5413 as it is not obvious on the map supplied. The Parish Council was pleased to note the variation in design of the buildings and the relationship to the existing houses in the village.

b. Planning updates:

**2023/0798/LBA** 89 Main Street, installation of PV panels granted by RCC.

**2023/0953/FUL** 27 Ashwell Rd, extension, etc. granted by RCC.

**13783** The Banks and village green

- a. To consider repairs required following the floods of 20 October 2023: The ramp to the pedestrian bridge was eroded. The repair required 3 no. barrows of limestone and compaction. The work was authorised by the Clerk under delegated authority (Financial Regulation 4.5). The work has been completed and the cost is less than £200. It was AGREED the repair was necessary and has been satisfactorily completed.
- b. To consider any other maintenance issues arising: None.

**13784** Highways and village maintenance: Nothing to report at this time.

**13785** Financial Business

- a. To receive the financial report to 31 October 2023: there was £11962.41 in this year's budget, and the current account. There will be an £8 charge from the bank during November. There are sufficient funds to cover planned expenditure.
- b. To confirm transfer of £10,000 from deposit in October 2023. There was £10,000 from deposit to cover the grant to the Village Hall in October, this was necessary as the current balance is only £11962.41. This reduced the reserve to £79,635.03 as at 3 October 2023.
- c. To consider invoices received since 6 October 2023 and approve payments:
 

Rutland County Council Payroll Q2	£ 2282.00
The Cartridge People -Clerks reclaim for printer ink	£ 68.37
The Banks Maintenance (Oct.) incl. the ramp repair	£ 170.40
Village Caretaking (Oct)	£ 52.10
- d. To consider request from Craft and Produce Show towards 2024. Grant of £200 proposed by Mr Thomas, seconded by Mrs Moss that grant was AGREED.
- e. To consider request from Poor's Land (Long Clawson) Charity for £450 grant. Grant of £450 proposed by Mr Thomas, seconded by Ms, Buckley the grant was AGREED.

**13786** To confirm arrangements for this year's Christmas Tree: It was AGREED a tree be purchased and erected on the Village Green..

**13787** On-going business not scheduled elsewhere on agenda:

- a. To consider the proposed design for the replacement sign by the old Chapel. The wording and image were AGREED. It was also AGREED a quote be obtained for a steel-coloured sign of the same size as existing.

**13788** Correspondence

6/10/23 email from resident (JD) headed: 'Harborough Close, Whissendine'

9/10/23 RCC email confirming consultation commenced on NP Policy WH4 and assoc docs.

9/10/23 RCC email re rescheduling of RCC Parish Liaison meeting to 18/10/23

10/10/23 2no. emails from resident (JD) with FOI re Mulberry Homes/WPC meeting April 23, etc.

11/10/23 RCC email re Bus diversions

12/10/23 Rural Policing Team email October email  
18/10/23 email from WPC to developer's agent (2023/0271/RES)  
20/10/23 RCC email re TTRO affecting Main St, Whissendine + photo A606 Langham.  
22/10/23 email from resident (JD) headed: damage to bridge in The Banks  
27/10/23 email from resident (KB) re street light in The Nook  
28/10/23 email from WEG re footways on Foxhills and Hall Close and RCC referral.  
30/10/23 RCC response email re street-light in The Nook  
2/11/23 email from resident (RD) re 2023/0271/RES  
5/11/23 as above (amended attachment)  
6/11/23 email from resident (JD) headed: drains & floods & bridge.

Meeting closed 20.55hrs.

Next meeting 4 December 2023