

Wareside Parish Council

Minutes of Wareside Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 27th February 2025 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr Nicola Gildersleve (NG), Cllr Paul Goodman (PG) (Chair), Cllr Bob Kerr (BK), Cllr Kim Nicholson (KN), Cllr Kerry Raworth (KR), Cllr Stuart Richards (SR) and Cllr Mike Ryan (MR).

Others: Ricky Wilson (RW)

Members of the public: Three parishioners were in attendance.

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Rebecca Burdick (Clerk) (RB)

2. Declarations of interest and dispensations

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

MR - agenda item 11 - due to living in close proximity to the old school site being discussed.

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

Parishioner1 had sent an email last week to HCC raising concerns regarding various highways issues in the Parish, (the Clerk was copied in and RB shared the email with Councillors). He was in attendance in order to discuss these concerns with the PC and to see what could be done. The issues were discussed and the PC explained that they shared the concerns raised by the parishioner. BK provided an update on recent reports submitted on behalf of the PC. Unfortunately, the PC has no direct power (or the responsibility) to rectify any issues but they do want to work with the parishioner to do all they can to improve the situation. It was agreed that the best way forward would be to meet with Cllr Eric Buckmaster on site to show him the issues and discuss how they can be improved. It was noted that Cllr Buckmaster had replied to the Parishioner advising that he would speak with colleagues and suggested a Teams meeting. The PC would be keen to be part of this meeting as well. BK to contact highways/Cllr Buckmaster to progress.

Parishioner2 was in attendance to get an update on the school site and what was happening. PG provided the parishioner with an update. The parishioner also raised ongoing concerns with the speed of traffic along the B1004 and what could be done to slow cars down. Parishioner1 explained, from his knowledge working within Highways (in another area of Hertfordshire), that it is extremely difficult to get further speed restrictions (below 30mph) along roads other than those already identified as priority by HCC. Unfortunately, there are no features of Wareside which suggest that it will be given priority status.

Parishioner3 was in attendance and noted they shared the same concerns as Parishioner1 with regards to the local roads. They also wanted an update with regards to what was happening with the telephone box in Babbs Green and if a book sharing hub could be installed in it with help from the parishioner. PG explained that the plan and finances were put in place in the current financial year to restore the telephone box - which has been completed. The budget for the next financial year (FY25-26) provides funds for a defibrillator to be purchased and installed into the telephone box. Once this has been successfully installed the PC will look to see if a book sharing hub can be installed in the telephone box as well. The main purpose of the refurbished telephone box is to house a defibrillator, so whilst the PC are grateful for parishioner3's offer of help to install the book hub, the defibrillator must be installed first.

4. To approve and sign meeting minutes

a) Thursday 16th January 2025 - approved by all Councillors present to be signed at next meeting when RB is present with a printed copy.

5. Discussion regarding section 106 requirements for work on local construction projects

Parishioner Ricky Harrison explained to the PC his business CWOMAP. It is a free of charge Research and Development tool. It has been designed specifically to support the UK local government sector and all stakeholders in respect of Section 106 planning agreements. These frequently require developers to offer job opportunities to local people on construction projects which they are undertaking. The software allows councils and others to track and report on the fulfilment of Section 106 Training and Employment obligations. By ensuring that developers meet the commitments they make to diversity and the provision of jobs and training to local communities, including vulnerable community members, the social value of construction contracts can be optimised. This will ensure the delivery of greater benefits for local communities and rapidly boost and streamline access to employment and training for residents.

Ricky would like the PC to enter into an agreement which will allow the PC to utilise CWOMAP Software and Services to provide the community with full visibility of training and employment opportunities made available in the construction industry within the local area and to provide residents with an easy route to access these opportunities. The PC will not be required to pay anything for the provision of these services. Some other users of the system pay a charge.

The PC agreed this was a potentially valuable idea and beneficial to the Parish. PG asked Ricky if he could send a copy of the Service Level Agreement via email to the PC so it can be reviewed. A decision can then be made at the next meeting.

6. Planning

a) To consider planning applications received by EHDC received between 16th January - 27th February 2025

None.

b) To review planning decisions made by EHDC received between 28th November 2024 - 16th January 2025

None.

7. To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster emailed his monthly report - please see appendix for full report. No District Cllr report received.

8. To receive updates from Councillors/Clerk on:

a) Little Oak Heath

i. LOH Maintenance

PG gave the update from RB that she had investigated and contacted grounds maintenance companies in the local area in order to request quotes for the grass cutting at LOH and Larkshill, in order to ensure best value for money. Unfortunately, she either did not hear back from the companies or the work was not suitable for them (too small/too large a job). RB therefore would suggest that the PC continue with E-Scapes Landscapes for this season's work, the prices have not been increased. The work to be carried out is as follows:

- Path and orchard grass cutting at LOH
- Playground grass cut
- Football pitch grass cut
- Paths within and area outside Larkshill cut

The PC unanimously agreed that E-Scapes Landscapes should undertake the work outlined from March-October 2025. RB to contact E-Scapes Landscapes instructing them to undertake the work this year and to confirm the work required.

ii. Playground maintenance

PG updated the PC that RB has instructed Broadmead Leisure to undertake repair of the "Springer" equipment. Broadmead Leisure have ordered the required piece and await delivery,

b) Larkshill

PG passed on RB's reminder to those Councillors who wished to help with the tidy up to fill in the doodle poll.

9. To discuss telephone box project

PG updated the PC on RB's behalf to confirm that she had spoken to Community Heartbeat (CH) regarding accessibility to the defibrillator. They have advised there are no legal obligations to ensure that the defibrillator is accessible for all potential users. It is suggested that the defibrillator is installed at a specific height to aid access for the majority. The advice is that the PC should look at the possible locations in the area the defibrillator is required, pick the most suitable and minute their decision. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the telephone box was the most suitable location in Babbs Green. During the course of her discussion with them, RB confirmed to CH that there is electricity at the phone box and that the PC is investigating possible electricians in the area who can replace the light in the box, which is currently not working. CH advised that the company they use to install the defibrillators may also be able to fix/replace the light in the phone box at the same time. They are going to find out if this is possible and how much it would cost.

The telephone box is situated on a small bank and would benefit from a step and possibly a rail being provided to aid access. It was agreed that this should be explored. KR to ask Clive, a local contractor, if he would be able to quote for this work.

10. To discuss the Spring edition of the Wareside newsletter

PG provided an update from RB that she would be preparing the Spring newsletter for publication in March. Contributions will be from the same community groups as the last newsletter unless the PC had any additions. The PC agreed they were happy with the content to remain the same and for RB to produce the online newsletter.

11. To receive update on Wareside CofE School, Sports & Playing Field.

PG updated the PC that he was able to organise a walk over the area of the site owned by Herts County Council (HCC) by councillors last Friday. The land is bigger than first thought at about 1.6 acres. It was also interesting to note that it stretches down as far as the school building itself. The urgent tasks are to check whether the PC owns the lay-by as it is currently the only access onto the area of the site owned by HCC from the road. It is registered in the name of Ware Rural PC and it needs to be confirmed whether that is the same entity as the current PC. The PC also needs to understand what rights and restrictions arise from the designation of the land as a village green e.g. can the PC grant or restrict access to the field. These issues may have an impact on value. PG asked councillors to give some thought to possible uses for the land which would benefit parishioners.

11. Finance

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

Payee	Work done/goods received	Amount
Rebecca Burdick	Salary (January)	£274.28
Broadmead Leisure	February Inspection	£78.00

12. Urgent matters not included on this agenda (for full discussion on the next agenda)

None.

Meeting finished at 21.30pm

Next meeting 20th March 2025 at 19.30

Signed:

Date:

Chair Cllr Paul Goodman