

Wareside Parish Council

Minutes of Wareside Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 15th June 2023 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr Paul Goodman (PG) (chair), Cllr Kim Nicholson (KN), 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).

PG agenda item 5 specifically planning application 3/23/0611/ARPN due to the close proximity of the site to his house,

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 May 20th minutes were signed by PG after a written amendment was made - SR co-opted as a "Ware Urban" Councillor not a "Ware Rural" Councillor.

8. Planning

a) To consider planning applications received between 25th May - 15th June 2023

Application: 3/23/0611/ARPN

Proposal: Change of use of three agricultural buildings to provide 4 dwellinghouses

At: Appletons Farm Babbs Green Wareside Ware Hertfordshire

WPC comments: Comments made

Application: 3/23/0556/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of side and rear extensions. Erection of a single storey rear extension and creation of 1, three bedroomed dwelling with associated access and landscaping

At: 2 Abbottsfield Cottages Fanhams Hall Road Wareside Ware Hertfordshire

WPC comments: Comments made

b) To review planning decisions made by EHDC

Application: 3/23/0119/FUL

Proposal: Proposed part change of use of existing barn to holiday let, including the installation of doorway, windows and two rooflights and existing stable to be used in conjunction with the holiday let

At: Bourne Farm (North Of Bourne Villa) Wareside Ware Hertfordshire SG12 7SH

EHDC decision: REFUSED

9. To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

County Cllr report received - see appendix item A. No District Cllr report received.

10. To receive updates from Councillors/Clerk on:

a) Little Oak Heath

i. LOH Maintenance

Meeting date with Chris from E-Scapes Landscapes confirmed as Wednesday 19th July.

KN and MR visited the Forge in Much Hadham to watch the tree guard commissioned by WPC for the Red Oak tree being made. They reported it was very interesting and the tree guard looks very impressive, photos and videos taken by KN were added to PC social media. With regards to the Oak tree it was discussed if it needed watering/a water bag - MR to check.

ii Playground maintenance

MR and PG maintenance ongoing. RB has ordered a replacement sign at a cost of £40.

11. To receive update on repositioning of defibrillator electrics

MR has contacted Community Heartbeat Trust and is awaiting a quote for moving the internal defibrillator electrical box.

12. To receive update on maintenance of street lighting

PG updated the PC that he has continued to investigate with the help of Cllr Buckmaster into the maintenance of the street lighting WPC is responsible for in the village. As previously detailed annual energy costs alone take up 7% of the PC annual precept and required maintenance for the lights has been quoted at ~£18,000. Information is required relating particularly to the following questions a) why historically WPC is responsible for these particular street lights b) if they can be taken over by another body (HCC?) with a larger budget and c) If not, if there was any help WPC could apply for in order to cover the ongoing costs. Cllr EB contacted Highways with regards to a) see appendix item b for Ringways response. In the same email exchange they also suggested in answer to b) *"As the lighting columns and lanterns are owned by the parish, the County will not maintain or replace with the County purse. If the parish, or funding from another source, were to bring the equipment up to the proposed standard as provided by our site survey, I am sure the County will take over the lighting equipment so the parish would not pay any future costs in maintenance and energy so this will be an ongoing saving"*. With regards to c) Cllr EB suggested a Public Works Loan Board application which possibly could be funded over 10, 15 or more years. He also enquired if he could use his Highways Locality Budget but unfortunately it is not permitted to use the budget for assets that are not owned by HCC. RB and PG to continue investigations on how best to resolve the maintenance issues.

13. Finance

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

Payee	Work done/goods received	Amount
Rebecca Burdick	Salary (May)	£274.28
Community Heartbeat Trust	Annual Support Cost	£162.00
Accountancy & Book-Keeping Services	Internal Audit FY22-23	£125.00

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

None.

Meeting finished at 8.35pm

Next meeting 20th July 2023 at 19.30

Signed:

Date:

Chair Cllr Paul Goodman

Appendix

Item A

E Buckmaster report for June 2023

Councillor Terry Douris, county councillor for Bridgewater, has today (23 May 2023) been elected by Hertfordshire County Council to become the 39th Chairman since 1889.

A Hertfordshire resident since the age of five, Councillor Douris has served the people of Hertfordshire for over twelve years, most recently holding the executive portfolio for education, libraries and lifelong learning.

In addition to serving the people of Hertfordshire, Councillor Douris has also previously held the position of Armed Forces Champion and Chairman of the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board. The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the county to those who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces, and their families that they are treated fairly. The covenant focuses on helping members of the armed forces community have the same access to government and commercial services and products as any other citizen.

Leader confirms changes to cabinet at Hertfordshire County Council

The Cabinet will now be made up of the following councillors:

- Leader of the Council: Councillor Richard Roberts Deputy
- Leader of the Council: Councillor Fiona Thomson
- Executive Member for Adult Care, Health & Wellbeing: Councillor Tony Kingsbury
- Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families: Councillor Fiona Thompson
- Executive Member for Education, Libraries & Life Long Learning: Councillor Caroline Clapper
- Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure & Planning: Councillor Stephen Boulton
- Executive Member for Highways & Transport: Councillor Phil Bibby
- Executive Member for Public Health & Community Safety: Councillor Morris Bright
- Executive Member for Resources & Performance: Councillor Bob Deering
- Executive Member for The Environment: Councillor Eric Buckmaster

Services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

At the Council's Annual Meeting on Tuesday 23 May Cllr. Richard Roberts, Leader of Hertfordshire County Council, announced plans for an additional £5 million of ongoing funding to deliver on the Council's statutory duties to improve the experience and outcomes of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families. Nationally, and across Hertfordshire, there has been an unprecedented increase in requests for Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) and this funding will release some much-needed capacity in the statutory SEND service and enable the council to:

· focus on the most urgent areas first by enhancing our engagement with young people, parents and carers, schools, health professionals and all other agencies who work with children and young people with SEND between the ages of 0-25.

- create approximately 80 new posts to support the SEND service with an aim to 'get the basics right' by reducing staff caseloads, making teams more responsive and meeting peak demand periods during the year.

- further direct council resources and expertise to enable greater inclusion in mainstream schools for those in specialist settings and with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Officers will now work with key stakeholders to develop an implementation plan for these proposals that will be presented to Cabinet in July.

Cost of Living support

Hertfordshire County Council continues to work with partners to ensure the provision of accessible information, advice, and guidance to those most in need to help every resident manage the cost of living. Household Support Grant awarded by the Department of Work and Pensions is being managed by Hertfordshire County Council and works in partnership with District and Borough Councils and third-party organisations to distribute the funds to residents in need utilising local knowledge and data available. The grant is one of several strands of support offered by the Government, Hertfordshire County Council and the Integrated Care Board to benefit Hertfordshire residents.

A brand new recycling centre has opened to the public today (Monday 15 May) in Welwyn Garden City, to replace the old Cole Green site which closed at the end of March.

The new centre, located on Tewin Road, will be open 7 days a week, 10am to 6pm, all year round.

Hertfordshire County Council has made a multi-million-pound investment in this site, which will provide significantly improved facilities for local residents, making it easier to recycle and reuse waste, and help the county council deliver its ambition to create a cleaner, greener and healthier county.

The new recycling centre has a split-level system making it easier for visitors to dispose of their items. New features and site enhancements include:

- Reduced queueing – There will be over 30 parking bays plus a lengthy 'running lane' ensuring visitors won't have to queue onto the road
- Fewer service closures - A split level site means that it will be closed less often to allow servicing during opening hours
- A new Reuse Shop – A purpose-built shop, for donations and purchase of good quality unwanted items, which will be the fourth one in the county
- A business waste drop-off service – Following the successful pilot at the Ware site, a business waste service will be launched later this summer, providing an opportunity for businesses in the county to compliantly dispose and recycle their waste at competitive rates

The site was formally opened by Cllr Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for The Environment at Hertfordshire County Council, who said: "This new recycling centre provides a first class recycling and reuse service for local people, and is a huge upgrade on the Cole Green centre it's replacing.

“We’re committed to investing in this kind of infrastructure, that meets the needs of our communities and will help to increase the amount of waste that is reused or recycled.”

Hertfordshire County Council has agreed to increase the skills element of the weekly foster carer payment by nine per cent.

This is an addition to the recent 12.43 per cent increase of the foster carer set allowance, awarded by the Government.

The extra payments will be awarded to foster carers and backdated to May, taking a foster carer’s average weekly pay to £502.30 per week. (based on caring for a child aged 11-15 and includes skills and child allowance).

The news comes just a couple of months after a recent Outstanding Ofsted award was given to Hertfordshire County Council’s children services.

What happened to the waste generated by Hertfordshire households in 2021/22? The Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP), Residual Waste is made up of the refuse material which residents put in their household waste bins and in litter bins and which they may also take themselves to the large designated non-recyclable waste containers provided at Recycling Centres.

In the year 2021 to 22 two thirds of the County Residual waste went into Energy Recovery Facilities. In early 2022, following a lengthy and complex procurement process, the county council as Hertfordshire’s Waste Disposal Authority awarded six residual waste contracts to four different suppliers which will commence in April 2024. Each contract is for 10 years with an option to extend for 5 years. Non-landfill solutions have been secured with sufficient capacity to manage all local authority collected residual wastes forecast to arise during the contract period. Whilst the contracts will permit emergency landfill use when all other options are unavailable, the award of these contracts will, subject to the delivery of separate waste shredding proposals, the default position will be to Energy Recovery Facilities.

Help to create a greener Hertfordshire as the Your Tree, Our Future scheme returns

Following the success of the ‘Your Tree, Our Future’ giveaway last year where 46,000 trees were given away to residents, the scheme is returning for 2023, with the aim of giving away a further 60,000 trees this year and 30,000 for the next two years to help the county tackle its sustainability targets.

It is estimated that the trees planted by 4,000 residents last year could remove 77,000 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere.

The scheme, now in its second year will help the council to deliver on several of its Sustainable Hertfordshire ambitions as planting trees has a positive impact on air quality, helps reduce the carbon in our atmosphere, supports biodiversity and can help communities adapt to the impacts of

climate change. In addition, access to natural features has been linked with benefits to physical and mental health.

The ‘Your Tree Our Future’ scheme was created as part of the county council’s Tree and Woodland Strategy, which sets out how the council will increase tree cover in the county. The project will be delivered in partnership with all ten district and borough councils. By

visiting www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/yourtree residents will be able to choose from a selection of eight different native species, or a hedgerow pack, which will be provided on a first come first served basis. Residents who have successfully requested free trees will receive an email from the council with details of the date and how to collect them from a local pick-up point.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for The Environment at Hertfordshire County Council said:

“Last year we saw exceptional demand from residents to play their part in creating a more sustainable county and we’re committed to ensuring that this well received offer continues providing the opportunity for all to take positive climate action.”

The Children and Young People’s team in plays a crucial role in promoting and safeguarding the health and wellbeing of children and young people through our various programmes and services, including our Family Centre Service which we commission in partnership with Children’s Services.

One of the projects we are responsible for in Hertfordshire is the NHS Healthy Start Scheme. We are working closely with Health and Family Centres to promote the scheme – below graph shows the uptake in Hertfordshire for April.

With the cost of living hitting everyone, you may know of families in your area who could benefit from the scheme, especially in the areas where uptake isn’t quite as high yet. Please encourage eligible families to apply by sharing the information below:

Healthy Start is a government scheme to help families access healthy vegetables, fruit and milk. Families can apply online for the Healthy Start pre-paid card if they are:

- 10 weeks+ pregnant
- have at least one child under four years old.
- Receiving benefits such as
 - Child Tax Credit
 - Income Support
 - Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
 - Pension Credit (which includes the child addition)
 - Universal Credit (if the family’s take-home pay is £408 or less per month from employment)

The scheme offers £4.25 each week of pregnancy (from the 10th week) and for children between one and four years old, or £8.50 each week for children from birth to one year old. To find out more, go online at www.healthystart.nhs.uk. If you can’t go online, call 0300 330 7010 or email healthy.start@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

For more information about the scheme, including social media graphics to share on your channels, please contact dee.debruin1@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Cleaner Air Tours

In May, the Cleaner Air Tour visited town centres in Watford, Waltham Cross, Hemel Hempstead, Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth. All areas have Air Quality Management Areas where the legal limits for air pollution are exceeded, and the Cleaner Air team visited to speak to residents about how they can protect their health by reducing their exposure and contribution to air pollution. Over the course of the week, we had detailed discussions with over 150 local residents and encouraged them to sign up to local air quality alerts.

Events were supported by 7 officers from the local district and borough councils and we had a great turnout of 14 members and one MP at the events who helped us to talk with residents and spread awareness of the let's clear the air campaign.

Clean Air Day is approaching on 15 June and toolkits for schools, community groups, sports clubs and businesses will be available shortly. Please email cleaner.air@hertfordshire.gov.uk to hear directly when the toolkits are released.

Multi-million-pound boost to double pothole repairs and protect roads across Hertfordshire As reported by Highways Industry, Hertfordshire County Council will double the number of potholes fixed and protect roads from damage before next winter using new multi-million-pound funding. The allocation of nearly £4 million from the Government's Pothole Fund will fund up to 20,000 additional pothole repairs across the county, taking the total of repairs to an expected 40,000 this year.

Item B

Dear Cllr Buckmaster,

Thank you for your email, good question!

The Highways act allows for two standards of street lighting, which are called "Road Lighting" and "Footway lighting", but despite the names given, the difference is not related to what they light. Road lighting is defined as a system of lighting (3 or more) where the lighting is taller than 4m high and not greater than 50 yards apart. Footway lighting is pretty much anything else. i.e individual lights not part of a system or the height of the installation is 4m or less.

Road lighting is usually owned and maintained by the Highway Authority which in Hertfordshire is HCC and Footway lighting is usually owned and maintained by the Parish or District Councils, depending on who installs it. Footway lighting can be adopted by a Highway Authority, if requested to do so, but they can decline if they feel it is not in the general interest of the public, it is not lighting an adopted Highway, or finances are not available to so. If the Highway Authority does agree to the concept of adoption they would usually insist that the lighting meets a minimum quality standard, with a reasonable residual life.

With the lighting in Wareside being mainly individual concrete columns, in locations such as near to groups of buildings or at a junction etc. they are most likely to have been installed under the Highways act powers as "Footway standard" lighting by either a District or Parish council in the 1970's. We have no records of who installed the lighting, other than they are on HCCs data base as being owned by the Parish.

I am sorry I cannot be more specific, but hope this explanation helps.

Kind regards
Karen Flavelle
Administration Team Leader & Complaints Officer
Ringway