

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council.

Ms Zoe Savill.

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MINUTES of proceedings for the monthly meeting of Washington Parish Council held on Monday 6th September 2021

PRESENT: Cllr S Buddell (SB), Cllr P Heeley (Chairman), Cllr A Lisher (AL) and Cllr J Thomas (JT)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Paul Marshall (WSCC)

ALSO: Clerk to the Council, Zoe Savill

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 10ⁱ

ABSENT: Cllr C Beglan, Cllr B Hanvey* (*see footnote*) and Cllr Geoff Lockerbie

The Chairman opened the meeting at **19:30 hrs.**

23.41. To Consider accepting Apologies for Absence and Chairman's Announcements

RESOLVED to **ACCEPT** apologies from CB (holiday) and GL (holiday). There were no announcements

23.42. To Record Declarations of Interest from members in any item to be discussed and agree Dispensations.

None declared.

23.43. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 2nd August 2021.

RESOLVED to **APPROVE** the Minutes for the Meeting on 2nd August 2021 with one amendment that SB was absent. Minutes to be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

23.44. To Agree decisions made by delegated powers since 24th May 2021 for ratification

RESOLVED to **RATIFY** decisions made by delegated powers since 24th May 2021 which are published on the Council's website.

23.45. Public Speaking.

A member of the public asked to know the Parish Council's stance on the Rock Common Quarry application. *The Chairman explained that the item is on the agenda for discussion. It was deferred from the last meeting, pending a public exhibition by the applicants to provide more details on the proposals.*

A member of the public criticised an aspect of the proposals, and accused the applicants of being "Machiavellian". Mr Richard Goring, of Wiston Estate, one of the applicants, defended the accusation. He explained his intention is to create a scheme which is safe, with a nature reserve that people are excited about and which can be enjoyed for years to come. To help facilitate this, he would be inviting interested members from the community to work with him in achieving the most workable solution for the scheme.

Another member of the public raised concerns about the Rampion 2 proposals and preferred Route B cable corridor through the village. He criticised Rampion for presenting it at the recent Washington residents' meeting as a "done deal" without prior consultation, and called for wider community engagement with other affected local parishes and landowners to discuss sensible alternatives, including the original Route A option south of the village. *The Chairman thanked both speakers. He pointed out the limited time available before the Rampion 2 consultation deadline for any further discussions on other route options. But agreed it may be something for consideration in the coming months.*

23.46. Reports from County and District Councillors

District Report

There were no reports from the ward councillors.

County Report

Cllr Paul Marshall (WSCC) spoke on the following matters in the parish:

1. Rock Common Quarry Application Ref: WSCC/028/21 to be determined by WSCC (date to be advised)

Cllr Marshall will be commenting on the proposals at the WSCC planning meeting as Leader of WSCC. Predetermination rules prevent him from doing so as a local member. He reported that a number of people have shared their views of the proposals, including the scale of the landfill, and that he hoped the applicants Wiston Estate and Dudmans will be able to respond appropriately. He spoke about the importance of looking at the application in the context of planning terms and to be mindful of the possibility that if it is turned down, any mitigation of the proposals could be minimised on appeal.

2. Rampion 2 – Windfarm Expansion consultation proposals

Cllr Marshall reported his disappointment with Rampion at the recent Washington residents' meeting (2nd September). He criticised them for the lack of concrete information about aspects of the proposals affecting the parish. These included the proposed three construction compounds. He was concerned about their inappropriate location in very busy traffic areas around the village, already under pressure from pending development with huge increases of lorry movements. He had further information about the sites which he agreed to share with the parish council after the meeting. A member of the public suggested further discussion between Rampion and the local community, including interested stakeholders, on finding a sensible alternative cable route which would avoid Washington altogether. Cllr Marshall agreed to join those discussions and that there should more due diligence around the laying of the route through Washington and the proposed construction compounds.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Marshall for his comments.

23.47. To Ratify decisions made under delegated powers.

A list of delegated decisions since 24th May 2021 was previously circulated.

RESOLVED to RATIFY the decisions.

23.48. To Report matters arising from the last meeting

The following matters arising were reported:



23.48. To Report matters arising from the last meeting

The following matters arising were reported:

- Email acknowledgement received from the Forestry Commission to the Council's letter to the Chief Executive Mr Richard Stanford on 17th August 2021 about concerns on the restocking of Longbury Hill Wood, Rock Road. The FC confirmed that it is looking into the matter and will report back in due course.
- Email from Cllr James Wright (HDC) on 17th August regarding the above letter from the Council that he has spoken to HDC officers about the site. If an application comes forward he has asked them to consult with the Forestry Commission as HDC is not a statutory consultee. He will also enquire if HDC can request that the Forestry Commission makes another site visit.

RESOLVED to **NOTE** these matters for information.

23.49. To Consider consultation responses to the following planning applications.

23.49.1.WSCC/028/21 Rock Common Quarry The Hollow Washington RH20 3DA

The continued winning, working and processing of sand from the existing Rock Common Quarry, the importation of inert classified engineering and restoration material, the stockpiling and treating of the imported material, the placement of the imported material within the quarry void and the restoration and landscaping of the quarry.

The Chairman read out his comments on the proposals. Members largely welcomed the principle in restoring the quarry to attract visitors to the National Park and as a potential solution for its long-term safety. But they expressed serious concerns on the 500 + daily HGV lorry movements over an extended 8-10 year-period which would be generated by the quarry infilling. This would add significantly to existing traffic congestion on the surrounding roads, including Washington Roundabout, negatively impacting local residents and businesses, as well as exacerbating the air quality problems identified in the wider area. Members were mindful of the overwhelming level of opposition from the community but agreed that a solution needed to be found now rather than risk the potential for pollution in future years if the quarry is allowed to become redundant land.

A number of issues were raised and after lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** with one abstention to support the long-term conversion of the quarry into a bio-diverse, ecologically-friendly nature reserve, with visitor accommodation; **NO OBJECTION** to the extension of current workings. But the Council cannot support the current plans related to the infilling due to the high number of projected HGV lorry movements. The Council recommends consideration of further alternative methods of restoration which mitigate these traffic issues, including the applicants' liaison with the local community. Clerk to write to WSCC with the Council's agreed responses to the application.

After the discussion, a member of the public raised further concerns about the prospect of rising water levels in future years when the pumping requirement ceases, and the implications for dangerous levels of pollution. The Chairman acknowledged these comments but the Council had already made its response to the application. He repeated the need for the community to have these discussions with the applicants. Richard Goring, of Wiston Estate, the joint applicant with Dudmans, confirmed his willingness to take this forward.

The Chairman exercised his discretionary powers to bring forward the next item on the Agenda:

23.49.2. Rampion 2 Windfarm Expansion Public Consultation: To Discuss the implications of the onshore cabling route on the Washington Parish and to Consider a response to the Public Consultation.

Councillors discussed the Rampion 2's draft proposals which include an inshore electricity cable corridor across the South Downs, underneath the A24, Jockey's Meadow and the Washington Recreation Ground/Allotment land before routing along the A283 to Bolney sub-station.

The Chairman reported on the recent residents' meeting with Rampion to discuss the proposed cable route through the village. Members also took into consideration the serious concerns raised by Cllr Paul Marshall (WSCC) at the meeting about the proposed construction compounds around the village and the impact on existing traffic movements, including A24 and A283 in the parish. Richard Goring, director for Wiston Estate confirmed that they had not yet received any response from Rampion to their specific proposals for alternative route south of the village. AL reported on the land engagement meeting he attended with Rampion earlier in the day and that the proposed cable corridor under the Recreation Ground would not appear to impact the allotment land. Rampion did not discuss any ecological surveys on the council's land or how the proposed underground cable route would impact on the trees and hedgerows of the Recreation Ground.

The Chairman read out advice from the Council's Solicitor on its legal position regarding the proposed cable on Council land and potential conflict of interests for the Council as trustee if the development is not supported by the local community. The Chairman also raised concerns about Rampion's strict conditions to protect the cable which would prevent the Council from ever developing more community facilities on the grounds. AL reported that there would be some form of compensation but the amount was not specified.

JT reported on his attendance of Andrew Griffith MP's online round table meeting (3rd September) for the wider community affected by the proposals. The general consensus was that Rampion was not listening to local concerns and that a better location would be off Dogger Bank in the North Sea or to follow the existing cable route. JT reported that the MP appeared to be firmly against the windfarm's proposals and will be responding accordingly to the consultation.

The Chairman commented that he did not feel that Rampion has worked hard enough to look at alternative routes. He felt the current B route through the Village has been decided without consultation with the local community and would have many implications for the area particularly the impact of the proposed construction compounds residents and the local road network.

He proposed that the Council does not accept the proposed Washington B route and to request that they actively consider other route possibilities, including south of Washington Village. Cllr Paul Marshall showed members the map of the proposed 3 construction compounds including another sensitive site at Wiston between Lower Chancton Farm and Buncton Farm, and one near Sullington Hill

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to unanimously support the Chairman's proposal. Clerk to draft a formal consultation response for submission.



Cllr Marshall and 7 members of the public left the meeting.

23.49.3. DC/21/1689 – Land north of 6 Montpelier Cottages Old London Road Washington
Outline application for the erection of 6No 3-bed semi-detached dwellings, 3no 2-bed terraced dwellings and provision of 18 car parking spaces with all matters reserved.

Councillors noted that the site is outside the built-up area boundary, is not designated for development in the neighbourhood plan. There had also been additional housing built in the last 3 years along Old London Road, additional to the 16 underway at Old Vineyards which meet the plan's identified housing needs. However, the Chairman warned that HDC was reviewing some sites, including those in sensitive locations, to help meet its new housing targets in the Local Plan, and that the 2-year-old neighbourhood plan was due for review and its planning policies no longer set in stone. He reported on a recent meeting he attended with the parish's joint Neighbourhood Plan partners at Storrington & Sullington and senior HDC planning officers, to review more site allocations across the parishes to meet the district's new targets. This includes Luckings Yard which was previously supported by the Parish Council to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan and would be suitable for up to 15 homes. Councillors discussed the current application on land by Montpelier Cottages. It was noted that the land was recently the subject of controversy over the removal of a row of trees by the landowner which acted as sound screening for residents at Montpelier and Lamorna. Residents had subsequently submitted a Community Highways Application to WSCC for a sound mitigation scheme. It was noted that there was one objection on the Planning Portal to the proposed dwellings on the land at the time of this meeting, and this related to parking pressures in Old London Road. Councillors raised concerns about overdevelopment of the land and the lack of sufficient smaller units.

RESOLVED unanimously to make an **OBJECTION** to the application for reasons of overdevelopment of the site

23.49.4. SDNP/21/03049/FUL – Long Island School Lane Washington RH20 4AP
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2No. detached two-storey dwellings

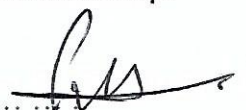
Councillors discussed this application, noting the Heritage report that the existing bungalow was of no particular architectural merit, incongruous with the surrounding cottage-style properties, and was only included in the village conservation area due to its location.

RESOLVED to make an **OBJECTION** due to overdevelopment of the site and the narrowness of the road, with junction at The Holt.

23.49.5. SDNP/21/02452/FUL – Swipes Farm The Street Off Rowdell Drive Storrington
Retention of a single-storey cabin for the use of a permanent agricultural workers dwelling

Councillors discussed this application, noting 6 objections and two in support on the Planning Portal. They were mindful of the policies of the Storrington & Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan which encourage rural economic growth in defined settlements, to protect this sensitive countryside location and also prevent a precedence which would encourage ribbon development along the A283 in this area.

Councillors took into consideration that the equestrian business on the proposed site is well established. It is in the Local Plan and the emerging Plan of the SDNPA; there is no objection from the Principal Environmental Health Officer's subject to a number of controls. These include a recommendation for an agricultural occupancy condition for the log cabin accommodation and farm to remain in the same ownership.



Councillors **RESOLVED** to make **NO OBJECTION** and to support the views of the environmental health officer

23.49.6. SDNP/21/01885/HOUS – Pincroft The Holt Washington RH20 4AN

Removal of existing garage, side porch and rear conservatory. Erection of single-storey side and rear extensions together with provision of 'walk in' bay window to principle elevation.

Councillors discussed this application and **RESOLVED** to make **NO OBJECTION**

23.49.7. DC/21/1649 – Beech Tree Corner Georges Lane Storrington Pulborough

Surgery to 1 x Group of Beech (subject of tree preservation orders)

Councillors discussed this application and **RESOLVED** to defer to the HDC Tree Officer.

23.50 Planning Decisions, Appeals and Planning Compliance

The Chairman reported on recent planning decisions in the parish which are published on the HDC Planning Portal.

23.51. To Review, Consider, Recommend and Report on Parish Council issues, including Maintenance

23.51.1. To Report any maintenance issues affecting Parish Council property outside the Recreation Ground and Allotment and Agree any required action.

Faulty lamp on the pathway to The Holt

Councillors discussed a report by a resident of a faulty light on a pathway between The Street and the Holt in the village. It was noted that the light is not on the Parish Council's asset register. The same resident, reported that the PC had made a grant for the light several years ago. The Chairman commented that he did not recall the decision. There were no archive minutes before 2011 in the Clerk's files in order to make a search. The Clerk recommended that the faulty light is reported to Horsham District Council which may know of its ownership. In the meantime, the light appeared to have been made safe.

RESOLVED to make the report. Clerk to action.

23.51.2. To Consider nominating two replacement bank signatories for the Council

It was noted that the *Council* agreed at its meeting on 4th March 2019 (Minute Reference 18.65.4) that there should be 6 signatories for payments. Following the resignations of former signatories and Councillors James Ross and John Henderson, there are now 4 signatories: Cllr Christine Beglan, Cllr Patrick Heely, Cllr Geoff Lockerbie and Cllr Tony Lisher.

Following a discussion, Cllrs Steve Buddell and Jason Thomas agreed they would be willing to act as banking signatories. **RESOLVED** to approve their nominations. A bank mandate variation for the additional signatories to be signed at the next meeting.

23.53. Washington Recreation Ground Charity

23.53.1. To Report any maintenance issues on the Recreation Ground and Agree action



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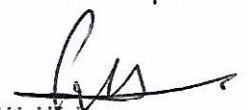
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Repair of bench by the cricket roller

The Clerk reported that volunteers were unable to repair the bench at the weekend and that she would renew her request to Mr Collis to quote for the work as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk would use her emergency powers to action the works within the budget agreed for maintenance.

To Nominate and Agree a volunteer to conduct the inspection of the Recreation Ground on the morning of the Village Day, Saturday 11th September 2021.

AL confirmed his willingness to undertake the inspection and it was **RESOLVED** to agree his nomination.

23.54. To receive reports and recommendations from Committees and Working Parties.

23.54.1. Meeting with HDC senior planners about the Local Plan, 3rd September 2021

The Chairman reported on the meeting which he attended with AL and representatives from the Parish Council’s neighbourhood Plan partners at Storrington & Sullington Parish Council He reported that the meeting is part of a series of workshops by HDC to discuss further sites for possible inclusion. Amongst those discussed included Luckings Yard in Old London Road which was previously supported by the Parish Council for up to 15 dwellings. HDC apologised for changing the Plan to include sites (namely Melton Drive, Storrington) which had not been agreed in the neighbourhood plan, and attributed it to issues arising from the Covid pandemic.

RESOLVED to note the report

23.55. Approve Payments, Receipts and Quotes

23.55.1 To Approve Bank Reconciliation, Payments and Report Income.

The reconciled bank statement showing transactions between 30.06.21 and 12.07.21 accounting year to date statement, payments schedule and invoices were circulated before the meeting.

RESOLVED that the following payments totalling £2,636.34 be **APPROVED**

Payee	Details	Amount
D. Collis	Maintenance	1,240.00
HDC	Q2 2021.22 Dog Bin Cleansing	34.45
Z Savill	August 2021 salary & expenses	1,299.94
NEST	August 2021 staff pension	61.95
Total		£ 2,636.34

Councillors to RESOLVE to AGREE the financial reports as follows:

Outstanding purchase orders: 0

Outstanding sales invoices: 0

Income: £50

Reconciled Bank Balance: £82,409.85

23.55.2. VAT

To Note that Q2 VAT due October 2021



23.55.3. PAYE and National Insurance contributions

To Note that Q2 due October 2021

23.56. Correspondence Received

RESOLVED to NOTE the correspondences report previously circulated.

23.57. Clerk's Report

Nothing to report.

23.58. To Receive items for the next agenda.

RESOLVED to defer the following items to the next meeting agenda for consideration:

- To Consider creating and managing and Facebook account for the Council
- To Consider a recruitment drive for new councillors.

23.59. Dates and time of next meetings at Washington Village Memorial Hall (Dore Room).

Committees: Monday 20th September, 2021 from 7:00pm

Full Council Meeting: Monday 4th October, 2021, 7:30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:08hrs

ⁱ It is noted after this meeting that BH reported apologies (holiday) at the Full Council Meeting on Monday 2nd August 2021. Due to an oversight, they were not reported at this meeting and so are not included in the minutes.

A


4/10/21.