



WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL



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Minutes of the **Planning & Environment Committee** meeting held on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7pm at
Wootton Community Centre, Harris Way, Wootton, MK43 9FZ.

Agenda no	Agenda item title			Power
Open Forum	There were three members of the public present who wished to observe the meeting. There were no other members of the public or press present and so the meeting continued without adjournment.			Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, s1(1).
Present	Cllrs O'Dell (in the chair), Lloyd, Noakes and Randell. In attendance: Sue Edgar Playford (Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer).			
Absent (no apologies received)	Cllr Quirk.			
Agenda no	Agenda item title	Resolution	Action	Power
P23/053	Apologies for absence. Cllr Hensher.	Noted for the minutes.	Clerk to keep on file.	Local Government Act 1972, s85 (1) & Sch 12, Part VI, p40.
P23/054	Disclosure of local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests. None.	N/A.	N/A.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 7, s31.
P23/055	To consider any dispensation requests received by the clerk in relation to local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests, not previously recorded. No requests received.	N/A.	N/A.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 7, s33.
P23/056	Report from outside organisations – for information only. None.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

P23/057	List of correspondence received (copies of correspondence can be requested from the Clerk) – for information only. None.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.
P23/058	Minutes of the previous meeting. Members of the Planning & Environment Committee were asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 22 nd February 2023.	Resolved to receive and adopt. Proposed: Cllr Randell. Seconded: Cllr Noakes. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to keep on file.	Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, Part VI, p41 (1).
P23/059	Matters arising from the minutes – for information only. P21/262 + P22/214 – Transfer of parish council-owned streetlights to Bedford Borough Council. Resolved 27th June 2018 (P18/154) to continue with the transfer and request Bedford Borough Council carry out structural examinations to all columns. Clerk has been told the Borough Council are dealing with this, but they have several other parishes to deal with too and timescales are not yet known. The clerk provided Bedford Borough Council with latest risk assessments and inspection reports on 24th June 2020. Bedford Borough Council has since requested further testing which cannot be undertaken due to the style of columns and it was resolved 28th October 2020 (FC20/228) that Bedford Borough Council take on the columns if further testing is required. The further testing issue has now been resolved and the clerk is currently awaiting the relevant paperwork, confirming bar one minor issue, all is in order. Resolved 31st March 2021 (P21/082) to accept that paperwork and again request Bedford Borough Council take on the ownership/maintenance of the streetlights. The clerk has now been informed Bedford Borough Council will draft a scheme plan, costings and payback period for consideration and continues to chase for an update. Resolved 10th November 2021 (P21/262) to have Bedford Borough Council upgrade all parish council-owned streetlights to non-heritage style, on the understanding Bedford Borough Council would then adopt the same, at no additional expense to the parish council. Upgrade works should be completed by the end of May 2022, however Bedford Borough Council has stated (9th March 2022) two	No further comments received.	N/A.	N/A.

	columns (one at Hall End and one at Potters Cross) are situated on private land (unadopted road) and cannot be upgraded/adopted *. Upgrade works were completed week commencing 12 th September 2022. Resolved 28 th September 2022 (P22/214) not to undertake any further maintenance works to the one silver-style column at Hall End. The clerk is awaiting further information from Bedford Borough Council regarding the final transfer.			
P23/060	To receive and approve the Income & Expenditure report for all Planning & Environment cost centres and Earmarked Reserves report for all cost centres for 2022-23, to date and to resolve a suitable course of action.	Resolved to receive and approve both reports without further comment. Proposed: Cllr Bygraves. Seconded: Cllr Randell. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to keep on file.	Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance for Smaller Authorities in England 2022.
P23/061	a) Planning Applications – for resolution. None. b) Planning Approvals (by Bedford Borough Council) – for information only. None. c) Planning Applications withdrawn (notified by Bedford Borough Council) – for information only. None. d) Planning Refusals (by Bedford Borough Council) – for information only. None. e) Planning (other – including Bedford Borough Council and the Secretary of State). 22/02635/FUL – 62 Folkes Road. Relocation of fence. An appeal against Bedford Borough Council's OBJECTION to this proposal has been made to the Secretary of State (Inspectorate No: APP/K0235/D/23D3315585). Any comments should be made directly to the Planning Inspectorate.	Cllr Lloyd had provided a summary report detailing the parish council's previous objections to this application and after discussion it was resolved to submit that report in its entirety to the Planning Inspectorate, in continued objection to the proposal.	Clerk to take forward.	Town & Country Planning Act 1990 & subsequent.

	This council has previously raised AN OBJECTION to this, and previous applications.	Proposed: Cllr Noakes. Seconded: Cllr Lloyd. Resolved by all present.		
P23/062	To request above application(s) be considered by the Full Planning Committee of Bedford Borough Council.	N/A.	N/A.	Town & Country Planning Act 1990 & subsequent.
P23/063	To consider representation of the Council at the Full Planning Committee meeting of Bedford Borough Council discussing the above application(s).	N/A.	N/A.	Town & Country Planning Act 1990 & subsequent.
P23/064	To consider a new street trading consent outside of Bedford Town Centre for Janice Howe T/A Howe & Co Fish and Chips and to resolve a suitable course of action.	Resolved to accept the new street trading consent without further comment. Proposed: Cllr Noakes. Seconded: Cllr Randell. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Stakeholder Consultation.
P23/065	To consider the Proposed Diversion by Bedford Borough Council of Public Bridleway 23, Wootton Land in the environs of Bourne End Farm and to resolve a suitable course of action.	The clerk read a statement from Cllr Wallace (not a member of this committee) who, as an avid walker and rambler, was strongly in favour of the proposal. Cllr Lloyd then provided an illustration of an alternative proposal, which would see part of Bridleway 23 (through the farmyard) remain open. After discussion it was resolved to submit that alternative proposal to Bedford Borough Council for its consideration. Proposed: Cllr Lloyd. Seconded: Cllr Noakes. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Stakeholder Consultation.
P23/066	To resolve under the terms of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, s1(2) that any members of the public or press present please leave, in order to discuss the following item(s).	Resolved to ask those members of the public still present to leave the meeting whilst the following agenda item was determined. Proposed: Cllr O'Dell. Seconded: Cllr Lloyd. Resolved by all present.	All members of the public left the meeting.	Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, s1(2).

P23/067	To receive completed tender application(s) in respect of the Grass Cutting (Amenities and Highway) contract and to resolve to appoint a contractor for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2026.	Resolved to appoint Warner's of Bedford Ltd as the favoured Grass Cutting (Amenities and Highways) contractor for the period 1 st April 2023 – 31 st March 2026. Proposed: Cllr Bygraves. Seconded: Cllr Randell. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8.
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Meeting closed at 7.17pm.