

Warburton Parish Council.

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Mr Bob Jones (BJ), Mr Richard Clegg (RC), Mr Mark Priestner (MP), Mr Paul Beckmann (PB), Mrs Lucy Houghton (LH), Mrs Rosemary Cummings (RCFC), Cllr Michael Whetton (MW), Mrs Gaye Fletcher (GF).

**Apologies:** Ms. Clare Grace (CG)

BJ welcomed everyone to the meeting including Mrs Rosemary Cummings who had joined the council after the resignation of Dr Tim Fairbairn. Following on from the last meeting with the new format, BJ explained the finance group needs more indicative budget forecasts on which to build a financial strategy.

**Minutes.**

Minutes of the council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were approved.

**Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan (NP)**

WPC have been offered and accepted a grant of £5,454 by Groundwork UK. A major query arises over requirement for the NDP to comply with the Local Plan. The current Local Plan is expected to effectively expire once the PfE Regional Plan is confirmed after which a new Local Plan will be produced. PfE will release land for development and this is likely to be prior to the new Local Plan. This could mean that the Warburton NDP will be effectively irrelevant. We are enlisting help from Kirkwells to steer us around this stalemate.

**Road Safety**

The defibrillator was removed from the working group's itinerary as it was nearing completion. MP advised we have an updated quotation from Gemma Wheatly but questioned the cost of automatic traffic counters (ATC) at £350 each. It was decided to accept the original quote and ask for more detail on ATCs. It is imperative we move forward on this as road safety was listed as the most important element in the recent survey. MW would chase Trafford Council with regard to repairing more electronic road signs in the village. The purchase of a Speed sign/data capture device would be delayed until the survey is completed.

**Pavements**

The initial invitations to the working group have been extended. There is to be a Kick-off meeting in October to align around the scope, It was suggested this working group should consider calling itself Footways. It is essential some outline annual costings be presented to the council to enable a financial strategy to be formulated in the next working Group update.

### Signage and Heritage Trail

Artwork was passed around for comment. There have been 3 quotations sought but the cheapest one was not recommended because the signage wouldn't last as long in situ. Instead the dearest of the quotations was accepted because the company gave a better all round service and offered signs with more longevity. It would cost £7,400 for four signs. BJ will request a meeting with Trafford/Amey to discuss the most effective way of implementing this. The signs would be added to our Asset Register so they would be insured.

### IT/Communications/Engagement (ICE)

During the meeting it was realised more training was necessary with regard to IT. A brief workshop would be held before our next meeting at 7.00pm. The new PC e-mail addresses would be activated by then. The draft of the newsletter and website updates has begun. This will include the Neighbourhood Plan and Toll Bridge. The Health & Safety Policy Statement which needed updating would be removed from our website as it was deemed unnecessary.

### Planning

An updated spreadsheet of planning applications had been sent to all councillors. It was reported that the planning application for The Rectory was lawful development but the application regarding Carrington Moss is significant as it has implications affecting Warburton. Highways had said not to approve until they had had chance to analyse the situation and asked for a deferral until 24<sup>th</sup> November, both CPRE and Natural England had objected to the development as had TfGM as there were errors in the Traffic Assessment. PB had attended a meeting with Save Greater Manchester Green Belt (SGMGB) on 5<sup>th</sup> October. The consultation period for PfE will start on 11<sup>th</sup> October for 8 weeks closing on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The consultation will only concern modifications on areas already discussed. The PfE is a Regional Plan and will have precedence over a Local Plan but only in respect of allocating sites for Warehousing & Private Housing. SGMGB urges everyone to object to PfE proposals not least because of the removal for affordable housing and insufficient infrastructure. They will be writing to Michael Gove SOS for DLUHC. Hynet, the hydrogen pipeline, has gone very quiet but they say they are carrying out tests for twelve months

### Finance

GF reported that we had received £5,454 from Groundwork UK towards the cost of our Neighbourhood Plan and £4,250 from Trafford Council being the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of our precept. A cheque for £714.52 for reimbursement to CG for website costs had been made. Our bank balance stands at **£47,896.66**. As the bank had not answered our queries regarding security, i.e. two signatories needed for cheque transactions and only the RFO transacting using bank transfer the Council decided that purchases up to £500 should be approved by the initiator and RFO, purchases up to £2000 should be approved by two councillors and RFO. For purchases over this amount full council's approval is necessary. A document outlining this change would be signed by all councillors.

### Others

It was reported that Manchester Airport was to hold a Parish Forum meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October. The Inspector's report on Warburton Toll Bridge was disappointing as Peel had been given the approval to increase the tolls on the bridge. Listed in the report it states among other things that the

- 1) maximum toll would be £1 including VAT
- 2) local residents in WA13 9, WA3 6 and M31 4 would have a discount of 50%

- 3) the toll can be increased once per year - no more than CPI -1%
- 4) cycles, motorbikes and blue badge holders would be exempt
- 5) all toll revenue can only be used for the maintenance, repair and upkeep of the bridge
- 6) MSCC must keep separate and transparent accounts for the bridge to demonstrate they are only charging the amount required to maintain the bridge
- 7) the toll revenue can be used for maintenance and repair of the old bridge,
- 8) VAT receipts will be available on the ANPR website
- 9) no tolls can be charged between works commencing and completion
- 10) fines for non payment will be £30 if paid within 14 days, £60 if paid from 14-28 and £100 if paid after 28 days

A coronation bench to match the one for QE II's silver jubilee had been sourced by GF and purchase was authorised, PB would source daffodils for the proposed coronation crown planting.

### **Points of Interest**

- The Saracen's Head has agreed to host the defibrillator. They are having a Bonfire Night on 4<sup>th</sup> November which we will urge residents to attend. It will be advertised on our website and in the Parish Newsletter.
- The grain drier in Moss Lane is up for sale.
- The Senior's outing to La Bohème had been very successful.
- There had been a new boundary sign for Warburton erected just after the toll bridge with no consultation.
- The commemorative oak tree would be replaced with a root ball one.
- A lady in a motorised wheelchair had been spotted in Henshaw Lane who was indisposed because of lack of public transport. A letter regarding the decline in our bus service would be sent to Andy Burnham.
- A reply would be sent to the resident who suggested a village celebration as HS2 had cancelled the Birmingham to Manchester extension.
- PS Phill Taylor (Neighbourhood Sergeant) would be advised there is no Farm Watch anymore.
- It had been reported vehicles had been seen 'Hare coursing' at night in a field alongside Heathlands Farm

Chairperson's signature.....

dated.....