

Date / Time: Tuesday 11th April 2022, 8pm

Location: Wallington Village Hall

In Attendance: Kate Heath (Chair), Graham Lamb (Parish Councillor); Mark Hopley, Michelle Hopley (Clerks); Steve Jarvis (District and County Councillor); 1nr. resident

Item	Description	Action
1.0	<p>Approval of the Minutes of Wallington Parish Assembly 13th April 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of Wallington Parish Assembly 13th April 2022 were approved. 	
2.0	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	
3.0	<p>Report from the Parish Councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair, Kate Heath, presented a report detailing the key matters addressed by the Parish Council, 2022-2023, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Parish Council website</i> - www.rushdenandwallingtonpc.co.uk <i>PC Land and Facilities in Wallington Parish</i> <i>Highways and Drainage</i> <i>Footpath 22 (See Item 6.0)</i> <i>Defibrillator</i> <i>20mph speed limit</i> - Steve Jarvis advised that Wallington could collaborate with other communities to undertake a combined scheme for the pilot community speed check project. <i>Neighbourhood Plan (See Item 5.0)</i> <i>Planning</i> Copy of the Parish Councillors' report is attached. 	
4.0	<p>Report from the District and County Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Local Plan</i>: The Local Plan has now been adopted. <i>A507 Weight Limit</i>: Weight limit likely to be introduced between the South Road, Baldock roundabout and Buntingford. <i>Herts Lynx on-demand Bus Service</i>: The service has proved to be successful, with extended service times (running to 11pm on Friday and Saturday evenings) and the serviced area is being extended to south of Buntingford. Additional buses will be added to the service. <i>Road Repairs</i>: Potholes are an ongoing problem. Recent repairs have included repairs to the A505 bypass. 	
5.0	<p>Update on Wallington Neighbourhood Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 14 Consultation has been completed. The next stage will be to feed back the results of the Regulation 14 consultation, which are currently with NHDC for a final check. 	

Item	Description	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Councillors' report provides further details of the progress to date. 	
6.0	<p>Footpaths - FP022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions are currently being held between the Rights of Way representative of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and Kits Lane property owners/tenants (No.1-7) who would like the Footpath 22 to be rerouted, as it currently crosses over their front gardens. Wallington Parish Councillors have engaged with the process, due to the proposed rerouting options crossing over land leased by the Parish Council (The Spinney). Maintenance of Footpath 22: Resident noted that the nettles were not cut last year making access along the footpath difficult. If the matter arises again, residents can contact the Rights of Way Department at HCC. The matter of unsightly plastic barriers across footpaths, to prevent vehicle access, was raised. Wallington Councillors to communicate with the Landowner to see whether an alternative solution can be put in place. 	GL/KH
7.0	<p>Drainage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the infrastructure is not up to modern standards, problems will be an ongoing issue. See the Parish Councillors' report for details. Steve Jarvis confirmed that further investigations will be scheduled. 	SJ
8.0	<p>Issues which are raised by Residents attending the Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	
	The meeting closed at 8.40pm.	

Chair's Signature:

Date:

Website

At the last meeting we reported the newly established Parish Council website, which is fully compliant with the latest accessibility legislation: www.rushdenandwallingtonpc.co.uk. The website continues to be updated regularly by the Clerk, showing PC meeting minutes, future meeting dates, agendas, financial reports, neighbourhood plan information and updates on elections.

PC Land and Facilities in Wallington Parish

The tree areas at the junction of Kits Lane and The Street and The Spinney are leased by the PC from NHDC. In addition, the "Duck Pond" area is owned by the PC.

The PC is required to have an annual tree survey carried out. The latest survey did not reveal any urgent or unexpected works. This year a second wave of tree replanting took place in The Spinney no cost, carried out by a local volunteer. In addition, residents have volunteered to take care of the young trees, including mulching and watering to give them the best chance of survival – many thanks to them.

Many thanks also to residents who continue to maintain the pond for the community. Herts County Council were not able to help us with a wildflower area at the pond after all. We have been taking advice on a possible DIY wildflower planting project. This could still be possible with sufficient volunteer support.

We have no resource, financial or otherwise, for further land purchase or management activities, but we are happy to support wider community initiatives.

Highways and Drainage

Surface water drainage continues to be a problem from time to time in both Kits Lane and The Street. Notably, during the freezing weather over the winter, a thick layer of ice accumulated and took a long time to melt. The drainage gullies in Wallington are not up to modern standards and will be an ongoing issue. Blockages will continue to occur, partly due to encroaching tree roots and partly due to collapsing pipes. The ultimate solution will be to upgrade the drains with liners. HCC has no current plans to schedule this work.

In addition to the usual problems, there was a burst water main in August. The village WhatsApp groups proved valuable for letting residents know what was happening. Although water supplies were restored on the same day, we were left with a hole in the road for over a week. The resulting road closure caused a great deal of inconvenience, including considerable disruption to bin collections. Eventually the road was repaired when we pointed out to the Highways team that the water company's road closure permission had expired.

The PC successfully lobbied for the missing "not suitable for goods vehicles" sign to be replaced at the A505 Baldock junction, in anticipation of trucks potentially seeking a detour around the A507 weight restriction.

We will continue to monitor and report problems as necessary, with the help of our county councillor. Residents can also report problems such as potholes on the Herts County Council website, and fly-tipping on or next to the highway on the North Herts Council website.

Footpath 22

Residents are considering a new attempt to re-route Footpath 22. In principle the PC remains happy to consider a reasonable route across PC land. We cannot agree any solution that may threaten our

trees, as this would cause a financial liability for the Parish Council and would also negate our reasons for leasing the land from NHC. Other wildlife considerations will also need to be taken account of.

Defibrillator

The East of England Ambulance Trust has continued to maintain the AED which the PC arranged for our former-phone box (purchased by the PC from BT). No training is needed to use the defibrillator, so please don't hesitate if you think it might be needed. It is fully automatic so that you can't cause harm with it. The priority is always to dial 999 first, and if the person is not breathing then giving CPR is the next priority. If you are on your own in an emergency, use the village WhatsApp group to see if someone else can fetch the AED for you.

20mph Speed Limit

Hertfordshire Constabulary has widened its Community Speed Check project with a pilot to explore effectiveness in 20mph areas. Unfortunately, the requirements to take part in the pilot were far too onerous for such a small community. We await the results of the pilot to see whether Wallington might be able to take part in any future roll-out of the scheme.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Councillors have been working on a Neighbourhood Plan for Wallington with the help of a working group of volunteers and a consultant, whose fees are covered by National Locality Funding.

For the last 12 months work has focussed on consultation processes to refine and improve the plan, including an open weekend event. The policies and content of the plan originated from the priorities set out by Wallington residents at the first open weekend, from views expressed in the two surveys we carried out on housing and green spaces / conservation, plus NHC's recent conservation area character statement and professional reports we received on local housing needs, building design, archaeology, and wildlife. This culminated in the formal Regulation 14 consultation. We received a wide variety of responses which all needed to be reviewed and considered.

The next stage will be to feed back the results of the Regulation 14 consultation, which are currently with NHC for a final check. After this there will be a "Regulation 16" formal consultation by NHC, and finally a referendum to adopt the plan.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have played a part in the plan up to this point, and to all the residents who have given their input. Our priority has been to represent the views of the majority of residents as thoroughly as we can, and the level of engagement from the village has been a great help with this.

We aim to publish the consultation findings next month, and we hope to hold a meeting for anyone who is interested to discuss the updates and ask questions.

Planning

There have been several planning applications for house alterations and extensions over the 12-month period. Where there were comments from residents, we represented their views to the Planning Authority, North Herts Council.