

Date / Time: Tuesday 16th April 2024, 8pm

Location: Wallington Village Hall

In Attendance: Kate Heath (Chair), Graham Lamb (Parish Councillor); Mark Hopley, (Clerk); 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 11th April 2023 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 Councillor's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair, Kate Heath, presented a report (attached) detailing the key matters addressed by the Parish Council, 2022-2023, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Wallington Neighbourhood Plan referendum.</i> There was a 68% turnout of voters, with 87% of those approving the Wallington Neighbourhood Plan. The plan is now 'made' and forms part of the formal planning process that NHDC are required to follow which now takes into account the wishes of Wallington's residents. <i>Parish Council website</i> - www.rushdenandwallingtonpc.co.uk. Usage of the website is 80% up on last year and each visitor views on average 3 pages per visit. It continues to share both local and county wide news and activities as well as Parish Council information such as meeting dates and minutes. <i>The PC continues a light touch in managing and maintaining the trees in the village.</i> <i>Highways and Drainage</i> – Extensive drainage works completed from the top end of The Street down to the Village Hall. Thanks to the help from Steve Jarvis for getting this scheduled and completed. <i>Defibrillator</i> has been serviced and is ready for use. Residents are reminded that the 999 service has the code for the unit should it be required in an emergency. <i>20mph speed limit</i> - community speed check available but unlikely to get enough volunteers from Wallington alone. However, we can now join with other local communities to carry this out. <i>Talk from the Revlvel Community Group</i> regarding the cat ditch and the state of the local water table and the effects of Anglian water removing too much water from the locality. Revlvel have been in discussion with Wallington Farms to find possible ways of working together. <i>CDA presentation was postponed awaiting the arrival of their new CEO.</i> <i>Ways of setting up charitable trusts in the form of 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)' in which unregistered PC Land and Facilities can be 'owned' and managed by a CIO.</i> 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Footpath 22 update</i> – The proposed solution along the driveway continues to be problematic for NHDC and HCC. This solution protects the Spinney as a green space which was the PC's remit in taking it on. Further on-site meetings with NHDC and HCC are planned. - <i>A Parish Council Safeguarding policy has been introduced and will be a standing item at each future Parish Council Meeting.</i> - <i>The PC shared information about the Beane Valley Solar Project and all the relevant information can be found on the Parish Council Website www.rushdenandwallingtonpc.co.uk.</i> - <i>PC Finances</i> remain under control despite the high inflationary environment over the past 12 months. The PC is forecast to be under budget this year but some of this underspend is just a timing issue and will be spent in the coming financial year. The PC have kept their precept / grant request for this financial year at the same level as last year so that no unnecessary pressure is placed on increasing council tax rises. • A copy of the full 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 but is also being reviewed for possible amendments due to it being out of date. It will be amended to come back into line with national policies. • <i>Waste Collection</i> – the trial of recycling soft plastics (plastic bags etc.) is being extended in certain locations with the idea to roll out in 2025. Additional waste bins may be required but probably smaller than the current bins. It was suggested to Steve Jarvis that the local council put signage on the bins to let residents and visitors know what is to be dropped in each bin, especially if there are likely to be more bins per household. In 2025 they will be introducing the new collection timetable which will be 1 of the three current bins every week (so a cycle of 3 weeks). Brown food waste bins will be collected every week. • <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 having been extended to Hertford and Ware. Additional buses have been added to the service and the routing software has been much improved. • <i>Road resurfacing</i> – there are plans over the next 18-24 months to repair and top-dress the road from the junction of Kits Lane and The Street, down Wallington Hill to the Sewerage works. • <i>Road Repairs:</i> Potholes are an ongoing problem and repairs are poor. Residents are requested to report any potholes at https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/report-a-problem/report-a-street-light-or-pothole.aspx 	SJ
5.0	<p>Update on Wallington Neighbourhood Plan</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Councillors' report provides further details. 	
6.0	<p>Drainage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the Parish Councillors' report for details. The pond by the church remains an issue for flooding but this is deemed a village matter as the pond is unregistered and is not deemed to be a council responsibility. The corner of The Street by the pond remains an issue and it is not clear whether the water is running off the fields or there is a leaking mains pipe. This can be reviewed once drier weather arrives. 	
7.0	<p>Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission plans to plant 25,000 trees in 18 Ha of farmland previously owned by Shaw Green Farm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A private individual purchased the land in 2022 and is working with the Woodland Trust to develop a plan with funding from the Forestry Commission, to plant 25,000 trees. The site is to be known as the Rose and Lion Wood, will be a place for locals to visit and use for recreation purposes. Work is due to start this Spring. 	
8.0	<p>Issues which are raised by Residents attending the Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further cutting back of the nettles by footpath 31 cannot be done by the PC as it is HCC's responsibility and the PC do not want to be seen as taking responsibility for the maintenance as HCC may well defer their responsibility as a consequence. 	
	The meeting closed at 9.00pm.	

Chair's Signature:

Date: