

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Walford Parish Council



Held Wednesday 9th November 2022, 7:30pm
At The Inn on the Wye

Present: Councillors Akers - Chair, Evans, Vine, Petersen, Cole, Dolman, O'Brien, Whelan, Curtis, van Lienden

In attendance: N Richmond (Clerk), and 9 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Councillors Drummond, Chinn and Francis - reasons for absence were accepted. Cllr Cole advised the meeting that he was attending as a member of the public.
2. **Declarations of interests:** No dispensations were requested. The following declarations of interest were made:
Cllr Dolman – agenda item 8 Planning application 223326 – pecuniary.
3. **Public Participation Session:**
Members of the public were asked if they wished to speak. One member of the public had several questions, firstly to ask if all representations had been included in the submissions document to which the council was considering its responses. Cllr Akers advised that the representations were made to Herefordshire Council not to the parish council so it was not possible for parish council to know. The member of the public advised that he had made a representation that was not included and Cllr Cole also said that his representation had not been included. It was decided that the clerk would ask Herefordshire Council to confirm that all representations had been included, and if any were found to have been missed they should be sent to parish council who would then amend their responses document to include comments on those missing representations. The member of the public expressed the view that the meeting had not been sufficiently advertised reducing the numbers of the attending members of the public, and also suggested that the large number of objections to the NDP particularly in respect of site 11 indicated a widespread opposition to the NDP. Cllr Akers advised that the meeting had been advertised on at least six council noticeboards and on the council website and facebook page within the statutory time limits. Andrew de la Haye pointed out on behalf of the council's NDP steering group that the NDP now goes to an independent examiner who may raise concerns if decisions of the parish council were considered inappropriate to a good NDP. Opposition to the NDP can be made by parishioners who would have the opportunity to vote against it in a referendum.
4. **To consider and select a preferred Independent Examiner from the 3 supplied by HC.**
Councillors were asked for their views of the three candidates. Cllr O'Brien expressed the view that two CV's stood out as worthy of consideration, those of Barbara Maksymiw and Deborah McCann. Cllr Whelan agreed and Cllr Vine favoured Barbara Maksymiw. Cllr O'Brien proposed that Barbara Maksymiw be selected as council's preferred examiner. This was seconded by Cllr Vine and all voted in favour. It was then proposed that Deborah McCann be chosen as a second preference in the event that Barbara Maksymiw was unavailable, and all voted in favour of this.
5. **To consider and approve submission of the Response to Representations at Reg 16 document to be sent to HC with the selected Independent Examiner decision.**
Cllr Akers explained that council's consultant Bill Bloxsome had grouped together submissions into individual issues and provided council's responses issue by issue. The member of the public who spoke earlier suggested that by the inclusion of site 11 in the NDP this was paving the way for many more houses than the five envisaged in the settlement area. Cllr Akers advised him that the settlement boundary for Site 11 had been drawn to specifically restrict the number of houses on that Site. Cllr Dolman proposed that council approve the responses document. This was seconded by Cllr Whelan and all voted in favour. It was decided that the clerk would place the responses document on the council website.

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6. **To consider and approve delegation to the NDP SG to respond to any questions or fact checking in relation to the NDP document for the Examiner should they occur.**

Bill Bloxsome the council's consultant had outlined the likelihood that the examiner could ask for clarification of matters within the NDP at short notice, Cllr Dolman echoed this and said that if a response was requested within 48 hours it would not be possible to call a WPC meeting on that timescale. Cllr Dolman then proposed that council approve the delegation of responses regarding factual matters such as housing numbers to the NDP steering group, with policy challenges being matters for full council. This was seconded by Cllr Curtis and all voted in favour.

On completion of item 6 Cllr Cole joined the meeting as a councillor.

7. **To approve the appointment of Carrie Wright to the position of WCSS Co-ordinator.**

Cllr O'Brien outlined the interview that the personnel committee had organised with Carrie last week. It was proposed by Cllr Akers and seconded by Cllr van Lienden that Carrie be appointed to the position of WCSS Co-ordinator. All voted in favour. Cllr O'Brien will contact Carrie to formally offer her the role.

8. **To consider the following planning application; P- 223326 - Chequers Lodge, Leys Hill, Walford, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire HR9 5QU: Proposed dwelling.**

Cllr Dolman left the meeting. Councillors unanimously voted to abstain from any comment in respect of this application.

9. **The next meeting** - Wednesday 16th November 2022 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.21

SIGNED

Joanne Akers

DATE

16/11/22