

Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 1 May 2024 at Leek Wootton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Coates (Chairman), Eldridge, Kingston, Morgan, D/Cllr Redford, C/Cllr

Redford and the Clerk

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

1.1. Cllr Kingston proposed Cllr Coates as Chairman, and was unanimously elected by all present. Cllr Coates was duly elected Chairman.

Cllr Coates proposed Cllr Eldridge as Vice-Chairman, and was unanimously elected by all present. Cllr Eldridge was duly elected Vice-Chairman.

1.2. Chairman signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman

2. Apologies

Cllrs Elsy [Approved reason: work commitments] and Kirkwood [Approved reason: family commitments] and D/Cllr Payne.

3. Committees

3.1. **Existing Committees**

- 3.1.1. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff and other local authorities No changes were required
- 3.1.2. Review of the terms of reference for committees No changes were required
- 3.1.3. Appointment of members to existing committees.

The Clerk circulated the 2023 Councillors' Areas of Interest in advance of the meeting and this was reviewed and amended as follows:

- Finance Committee: Cllr Elsy to join and become banking authoriser
- Planning Group: No change
- Environment Group: No change
- Children's Playground: No change
- Community Development: Cllr Morgan to join (no Lead at present)

ACTION: Chair to give Cllr Morgan a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan for information

- Emergency Planning: Cllr Morgan to join
- Area Guy's Cliffe: No change
- Area Hill Wootton: No change

Please see the Appendix 1 for a new version of the Councillors' Areas of Interest

3.2. **New Committees**

3.2.1. Appointment of any new committees in accordance with Standing Order 4

• LWWMRG Car Park Maintenance Working Group

It was felt this was not immediately necessary, because the car park is so new, but should be established in due course. The Clerk has contacts (Chairs and Treasurers) for the stakeholders for the purposes of distributing fund statements and invoices for annual contributions. This contact list will form the basis for the Working Group.

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4. Policy Documents

www.leekwootton.org.uk/the-parish-council/parish-council-policy-statements

4.1. Existing Documents

- 4.1.1. Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations No changes were required
- 4.1.2. Review of other policy and strategy documents
 - NALC Civility & Respect Pledge

The PC agreed to adopt the Civility & Respect Pledge unanimously. https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/civility-and-respect-project#take-the-pledge

ACTION: Clerk to register the PC's adoption of the Pledge

- 4.1.3. Review of the PC's complaints procedure No changes were required
- 4.1.4. Review of the PC's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21) No changes were required

4.2. **New Documents**

4.2.1. To consider adoption of new policies and procedures - No new policies or procedures were required

5. External Organisations

5.1. Review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses.

• Licence for Works and Deed of Covenant

The Parish Council [PC] entered into a Licence for Works and Deed of Covenant with Trustees of the LW War Memorial Recreation Ground related to the Car Park and Access Road from that Car Park to Warwick Road, Leek Wootton, Warwickshire. The works have now been completed and this agreement has now expired.

[UPDATE: On checking the agreement documents, it should be noted that the PC's obligation does not fully expire until such time as the agreement between the Trustees of the Recreational Grounds and the Village Hall Committee modified. This amendment initialled: PAE]

• Car Park Maintenance Fund Agreements

The PC and three other stakeholder parties [Leek Wootton Sports Club, Leek Wootton Village Hall and Trustees of the LW War Memorial Recreation Ground] entered into voluntary agreements to contribute annually.

- Public Works Loan Board Loan Agreement
 - In January 2023 the PC applied for a Public Works Loan Board loan of £22,886, which was approved by letter dated 21/03/2023. The PC drew down the full amount on 01/06/2023 and is in a loan agreement for 20 years. In 2023/24 loan repayments (interest + capital) of £1,174 were made.
- 5.2. Review of representation on, or work with, external bodies and arrangements for reporting back

The Clerk circulated the 2023 Councillors' Areas of Interest in advance of the meeting and this was reviewed and amended as follows:

- Recreation Ground Trustees: Cllr Coates [Trustee]
- Leek Wootton Village Hall Committee: Cllr Kirkwood [Member]
- Leigh Educational Foundation: Cllr Coates [Trustee]
- All Saints' C of E Academy: Cllr Morgan [Liaison]
 The Chair has been approached by the Vicar about replacing former Cllr Knott on the Leek Wootton School Trust with a non-Councillor. A discussion followed. Cllr Morgan offered to represent the PC on the Leek Wootton School Trust, having experience from the time of the development of the new school building

ACTION: Cllr Coates to contact the Vicar to discuss

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	 All Saints' Church: Cllr Kingston [Liaison] Community Speed Watch: Cllr Kingston [Liaison] Leek Wootton Link (Parish Magazine): Clerk [Co-Editor] Leek Wootton Sports Club: None [Liaison] Neighbourhood Watch: Clerk [Contact] Warwickshire Police / Police & Crime Commissioner: Cllr Coates [Liaison] WRW Safer Neighbourhoods Team (currently unstaffed) A brief discussion about the current status of the SNT followed. ACTION: Clerk to write to Chief Constable about WRW SNT
6.	General Power of Competence The PC declared General Power of Competence on 23 May 2023. No changes were required.
7.	Assets
7.1.	The inventory of land and other assets, including buildings, office equipment and new assets acquired in 2023/24, was approved.
	Cllr Kingston asked about the lifespan of assets. The Clerk explained that the lifespans are based on general guidance for different materials and the chief advantage of lifespans is to give the PC an idea of when it needs to consider replacement/renewal.
8.	Insurance
8.1.	The PC's 3-year long-term undertaking [LTU] with BHIB expires on 31/05/2024. The Clerk provided alternative quotes, including a 1-year and 3-year LTU with Clear Councils Insurance (the successor to BHIB). The PC agreed to enter into a 3-year LTU with Clear Councils Insurance. ACTION: Clerk to arrange cover from 01/06/2024
9.	Subscriptions
9.1.	 The PC currently has the following subscriptions to other bodies: Warwickshire & West Midlands Association of Local Authorities [WALC] Society of Local Council Clerk's (<i>The Clerk</i> magazine only)
10.	S.137 Expenditure
10.1.	No expenditure under Section 137 is planned in 2024/25
11.	Future Meetings
11.1.	The PC approved the time and place of ordinary meetings of the PC up to and including the next annual meeting of the PC, which will be on Wednesday, 7 May 2025. Please see Appendix 2 for the meetings in the year to 31/03/2025.
12.	Close Meeting
12.1.	The Annual Parish Council Meeting was closed at 8:13pm

Signed:	Paul Eldridge (Chair)	Date:	05/06/2024

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Parish Council Meetings 2024/25

The Agenda for each meeting is published on the Parish Council website (a minimum of 3 days before). Once approved, Minutes are available to view on the Parish Council Website

DATE	TIME	VENUE	MEETING
3 Apr 2024	7:30pm	Leek Wootton Village Hall	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
10 Apr 2024	7:00pm	All Saints' Church Leek Wootton	Annual Parish Assembly 2024
1 May 2024	7:30pm	Leek Wootton Village Hall	Annual Parish Council Meeting Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
5 Jun 2024	7:30pm	Leek Wootton Village Hall	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
3 Jul 2024	7:30pm	Leek Wootton Village Hall	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
4 Sep 2024	7:30pm	Leek Wootton Village Hall	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
2 Oct 2024	7:30pm	Leek Wootton Village Hall	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
6 Nov 2024	7:30pm	Leek Wootton Village Hall	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
8 Jan 2025	7:30pm	Leek Wootton Village Hall	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
5 Feb 2025	7:30pm	Leek Wootton Village Hall	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
5 Mar 2025	7:30pm	Leek Wootton Village Hall	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
ТВС	ТВС	TBC	Annual Parish Assembly 2025

www.leekwootton.org.uk

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ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1.	Declarations of Interest None
2.	Public Participation None present
3.	Minutes
3.1.	The minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2024 were approved and signed [Proposed: Cllr Eldridge / Seconded: Cllr Kingston].
3.2.	There were no matters arising not on the agenda.
4.	Development at Woodcote (Police HQ)
	No decision published on the Public Inquiry.
	An additional delay has been caused by the WDC Net Zero Carbon Development Plan Document [DPD] that has been approved. Any outline planning permission granted will need to apply this retrospectively and the applicant objects. The Rule 6 Party has been invited to comment and the Council agreed that it has no comment to make. A brief discussion followed.
	ACTION: Chair to confirm a 'no comment' response with LW Focus Group ACTION: Once confirmed, Clerk to submit 'no comment' response
5.	Fibre to the Premises [FTTP] Broadband
	The Clerk has written to Openreach which have 'bounced back', so has written today to the Community Fibre Partnership email today.
	The Clerk has also C/Cllr Watson, Portfolio Holder for Economy, to ask about Project Gigabit and WCC's arrangement with CityFibre, and is awaiting a response.
6.	Progress Reports for information
6.1.	The Playground (Cllr Coates)
	Playbark was delivered and spread over the playground on 25/04/2024.
	Link on the swing has been inspected. Cllr Kingston suggested a review before the next inspection, circa September.
	The Clerk noted that there is no 'NO DOGS' sign on the gate from the LWSC car park. This is an oversight or lost, as both other gates have clear signs, but several people have been observed using this gate with dogs. It was agreed to purchase and install a new sign in this location.
6.2.	Community Speed Watch (Cllr Kingston) Possibly meeting on 10/05/2024 Waiting for confirmation from Warwickshire Police

Possibly meeting on 10/05/2024. Waiting for confirmation from Warwickshire Police.

6.3. LW&GC Environment Group (Cllr Elsy)

Group has taken off; weed suppressant sheets are down and plug-planting took place 23/04/2024. The HS2-provided whips have also been planted on the recreation ground. Engaging with Scouts & Guides and will have bird boxes, bat boxes, etc put up in June.

The Group has requested 3x bird box kits for the Guides to build. The Clerk presented the current expenditure on the Biodiversity Fund and the purchase at £44.33 + VAT was approved.

	Net	VAT	Balance
Fund Balance B/F @ 01/04/2024			830.20
Less: Plug plants for biodiversity area	-174.27	-34.85	621.08
Less: Bird boxes (x3)	-44.33	-8.87	567.88
Plus: VAT (not yet reclaimed)		43.72	611.60

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6.4. Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground (Cllr Coates)

Cricket net project is to go ahead, with the Trustees' approval and fundraising is under way.

Storage issue is ongoing. The Sports Club is considering applying for planning permission to extend the maintenance shed in the north west corner of the field, which would provide storage for footballers and cricketers. Footballers are also planning to refurbish the brick store in the north corner of the car park area. Another shed behind the brick store would require discussion with planning.

6.5. Leek Wootton Village Hall (Cllr Kirkwood)

Nothing to report – Cllr Kirkwood not present.

New solar lights (Community Grant Funded) have been installed and appear to be effective.

6.6. Leek Wootton Sports Club

Cllr Eldridge attended the LWSC AGM on 26/04/2024 and gave a brief summary.

A new committee was elected.

Attendance has improved over the last year. Subscriptions will go up from £17/yr to £20/yr, increasing to £30 or £40 next year, with two categories of membership; 'social' is higher with a discount at the bar and 'sports' is lower without the discount. The reason for the increase is that subs in 1985 were £10/yr. If membership prices had followed RPI it would be at £42/yr by now and potential revenue lost over the years. There will be another arrangement for clubs using the club as a venue, e.g. PROBUS.

6.7. Any other organisations:

Kenilworth Rugby Club

The Chair understands that the Kenilworth Rugby Club development, which would be partially located in this parish, has currently stalled. The current club site has been sold for development, finance options have run out and planning permission expired. The Chair's contact is now no longer involved.

This is disappointing as the project proposed that the facilities would offer a strong community engagement element.

- 6.8. Community Engagement
- 10/04/2024: Annual Parish Assembly
 Attendance was reasonable (27 inc. Cllrs). The audience was engaged in the subject. The PC was grateful that Officers from Kenilworth SNT attended and were able to assist in the response to speeding concerns. A date needs to be confirmed in good time in order to book the village hall.
 - 6.9.1. To note upcoming community events and allocate any action(s) required at this time.
 - 15/06/2024: Parish Summer Fête Cllr Kingston has this in-hand. Waiting for weather reports before arranging gazebos, etc.
 - 07/09/2024: Community Live! 2024 Former Cllr Allison is organising this. Clerk to assist as necessary.

Cllr Morgan gave an update on the CPR Training initiative. Has received a positive response to inquiry to *Kenilworth Heart Safe* team. Training session are 1½ hours with 12-16 attendees, but happy to run more than one session. No charge, but donations are welcome. Wednesday, 16 October is *International Restart a Heart Day*, which would offer a publicity tie-in. This would give an opportunity to advertise at *Community Live!* and they have offered to also attend that event. Cllr Morgan will let various community organisations know.

The Clerk confirmed that the defibrillator is registered on *The Circle* and confirmed the arrangement for monitoring and maintaining with the Sports Club.

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6.10. Community Maintenance:

 WCC Highways (Cllr Kirkwood) Nothing to report.

Clerk mentioned condition of hedge on south-east side of Hill Wootton Road junction. Cllr Kingston offered to speak to the resident.

ACTION: Cllr Kingston to contact resident

Carriageway patching scheduled on Warwick Road next week.

The Chair received correspondence from a resident complaining cushions on road into Kenilworth. Passed on contact details for C/Cllr Matecki, Portfolio Holder for Highways.

Cllr Morgan raised issue of condition of pavements around the parish. It was decided to compile a catalogue of problems and report to WCC Highways.

The condition of roads, pavements and verges left by National Grid and/or Severn Trent on Hill Wootton Road was also mentioned.

C/Cllr Redford offered to set up a site visit with Councillor(s) and the Locality Officer.

ACTION: Clerk to provide maps of the area for Councillors to annotate and report locations, with photographs where possible

 Unadopted/Abandoned Land Policy ('Orphaned' Plots) Nothing to report.

Cllr Kingston raised the land outside The Elms where the vegetation in and on the wall is overhanging the pavement (What3Words reference approx. ///making.jokes.pokers). Land Registry gives the owner as the developer of The Elms, De Montfort Development Limited, 05/05/1982.

[UPDATE 17/05/2024: The Clerk has looked into this. On closer inspection the Clerk notes from the Land Registry plan that the corner of the raised land appears to be omitted from the land transferred in 1982, as can be seen on the image below left. Parish Online's HM Land Registry layer clearly shows this area is outside of cadastral parcels (below right) and the Clerk will seek advice from WCC Highways]



- Grounds Maintenance Contract Nothing to report
- Other (Clerk)
 Nothing to report

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7. County and District Councillors' reports

- 7.1. Warwickshire County Council
 - C/Cllr Redford asked that potholes be reported immediately to WCC Highways, either via FixMyStreet or directly to C/Cllr Redford.
 - Flooding has been a serious ongoing problem in recent months, and not exclusively near rivers and watercourses. Water destroys the road surfaces, causing further damage. Again, C/Cllr Redford asked that flooding issues be reported immediately.
- 7.2. Warwick District Council
 - WDC's Customer Service Operations have officially relocated to the Royal Pump Rooms 'Service Hub' in Learnington and will be open from Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm, offering residents in-person support and advice on a range of Council services. There are also private areas available for one-to-one meetings.
 - Armed Forces Day on 29/06/2024 at St Nicholas Park.
 - WDC is taking part in No Mow May again this year. However, if vegetation
 causes an issue for visibility on highways, etc., this can be cut. Please let D/Cllr
 Redford know.

8. **Planning**

- 8.1. To note planning decisions made:
 - **GRANTED -** W/23/0841 & W/23/0842 LB Woodloes Farm, Woodloes Lane, Guys Cliffe, Warwick, CV35 7RE Demolition of existing timber sunroom side extension, lean-to, outbuilding and garage. Proposed internal and external works, repairs, alteration and all associated works to Grade II* Woodloes Farmhouse including the erection of a rear extension, garage, gates and wall. Internal and external works of alteration, extension and conversion of Grade II listed/curtilage listed barns to 4 dwellings, along with the demolition of some modern agricultural structures and all other associated works and landscaping. **SUPPORT**
 - GRANTED W/24/0147 The Lodge Cottage, 1 Hill Wootton Road, Leek Wootton, Warwick, CV35 7QL - Proposed porch, replacement of existing ground floor WC roof into new porch roof, ground floor flat roof into gable roof. No objection
 - GRANTED W/24/0144 12 Woodcote Drive, Leek Wootton, Warwick, CV35
 7QA Variation of condition 2 for application W/21/2250 Proposed alterations to single-storey side extension including reduction in size. No objection
 - REFUSED W/24/0174 Cherry Apple Cottage, Warwick Road, Leek Wootton, Warwick, CV35 7RB Application for the removal of condition 8 (Biodiversity Enhancements) of application W/23/0523 (Erection of 1no. Four Bedroom Dwelling House and Associated External Works.). OBJECTION: Protection of the Conservation Area
- 8.2. A report on the progress of current planning applications:
 - W/22/0465 Land at Warwickshire Police Headquarters, Woodcote Lane, Leek Wootton, Warwick, CV35 7QA Erection of 83 dwellings (including affordable housing), access, internal roads and footpaths, car parking, public open space, landscaping, drainage and other associated works and infrastructure OBJECTION (Sent: 30/05/2022)
 - W/22/1877 Land at Warwickshire Police Headquarters, Woodcote Lane, Leek Wootton, Warwickshire, CV35 7QA Application for Outline Planning Permission for up to 83 dwellings (including affordable housing), access, internal roads and footpaths, car parking, public open space, landscaping, drainage and other associated works and infrastructure (all matters of details reserved except for the vehicular access to the site) OBJECTION (Sent: 10/02/2023) Decision to be made at Planning Inquiry, but WDC 'would have refused' 20/06/2023 –

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'Wheatcroft Amendment' - OBJECTION (Sent: 23/08/2023) - WDC 'would still have refused' 12/09/2023

 W/24/0287 - Quarry Lodge, Warwick Road, Leek Wootton, Warwick, CV35 7RD -Erection of a single storey rear extension and alteration of first floor flat roof element with a mansard roof. – No objection (Sent: 22/04/2024)

8.3. To consider new planning applications:

- W/24/0362 & 0363/LB Saxon Mill, Coventry Road, Warwick, CV34 5YN Erection of two cantilever jumbrellas, installation of jasmine arch, refurbishment
 of car park, repainting window fixtures, alterations to external joinery and other
 associated works. Comment due: 01/05/2024 No objection
- W/24/0443 2 Quarry Fields, Leek Wootton, Warwick, CV35 7RS Erection of single storey rear/ side extension – Comment due: 03/05/2024 – No objection
- W/24/0386 & 0385/LB Saxon Mill, Coventry Road, Warwick, CV34 5YN Display of 1no. externally illuminated fascia sign with logo, 1no. externally
 illuminated projecting hanging sign off existing bracket, 2no. post mounted signs,
 3no. window decals, 1no. menu board, 10no. safety/ information signs throughout
 the site. Comment due: 14/05/2024 No objection
- 8.4. Any other planning related issues (For information only).
 - Appeal reference number: APP/T3725/C/18/3212295 Meadow Cottage, Hill Wootton Road, Hill Wootton, Warwick, CV32 6QN – Public Inquiry to be held at Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX on 7 May 2024 [UPDATE 03/05/2024: The Public Inquiry was postponed]

9. Finance

- 9.1. An application from Leek Wootton Cricket Club to the Community Grant Fund was considered. The application did not request a specific amount, but its approval would be evidence in the Club's application for a WDC RUCIS Grant that the project has community support. Grants are given up to £500 and the fund total is £1,500 and it is early in the financial year to commit to a large grant. It was therefore decided to make a nominal grant of £300 (1/5 of annual budget), with the addition of any surplus remaining in the fund at the end of the financial year.
- 9.2. The Financial Report for the month to 1 May 2024 was considered and approved.
- 9.3. The following payments were approved:

•	WALC Subscription 2024-24	Vch 008	£434.00
•	Payroll Services 2023/24	Vch 009	£120.00
•	Annual Insurance Premium	Vch 010	£847.73
•	Training: Councillor Training (Cllr Morgan)	Vch 013	£42.00
•	Community Grant Fund Award (LWCC)	Vch 014	£300.00
•	Clerk's Expenses (APR) + Refunds	Vch 020	£89.25
•	Nest Box Kits [from Biodiversity Fund]	Vch 023	£53.20

10. Parish Council Administration

10.1. Recruitment

Potential new Councillor visiting later in the year.

10.2. Communication

The Clerk is continuing to look into the .gov.uk domain issue.

10.3. Training

Cllr Morgan to receive Councillor Training next week.

The Clerk noted that all Councillors needed to be added to the PC's WALC account on its new website, which was done. This appears to have triggered emails to all Councillors informing them.

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11.	Correspondence for information
	No items of note.
12.	Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda
	Cllr Kingston would like to raise issue of muddy footpaths/rights of way. Noted that Regency Run route had been very wet in advance, but on the event day highway scalpings had been spread and were very effective.
	ACTION: Clerk to lookup historical information and add item to June agenda
13.	Date of next meeting
	The next meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Wednesday, 5 June 2024 at Leek Wootton Village Hall.
	Advance apologies: Cllrs Coates and Morgan, C/Cllr Redford and D/Cllr Redford
14.	To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:
14.1.	Personnel issues.
14.2.	Legal issues.

Signed:	Paul Eldridge (Chair)	Date:	05/06/2024	

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