

WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment & Town Committee held 5 June 2023

ET23/1 Present
Cllr S Barker (Chairman), Cllr P Carr, Cllr F Rostron and Cllr P Taylor

In attendance:
2 members of public and Paul Jennings (Town Clerk)

ET23/2 Apologies for Absence: Cllr A Pollock, Cllr K Player

ET23/3 Variation in Order of Business: None

ET23/4 Members' Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items:

| |
|---------------|
| None declared |
|---------------|

Open Forum opened 6:35pm

ET23/5 Open Forum

A resident provided update on Barnes Croft, where the planning authority have served a s215 notice requiring that the developer:

1. Permanently remove from the land all waste materials.. ..that have been deposited on the land
2. Reinstate the land back to grass

The notice was served on 22/12/22 with 4months given for compliance with the notice. The resident advised that today works had begun to address condition 1 of the s215 notice.

Open Forum closed 6:45pm

ET23/6 Minutes: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment and Town Committee held on 6 March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

ET23/7 Barnes Croft Development

The issue of spoil and associated damage/nuisance has been escalated with the Town Council (who in turn have raised with the planning authority). DDDC have now issued a Section 215 to address the matter.

REC that the Council write to advise DDDC that the work has commenced on condition 1 of the S215 notice, requesting that the planning authority continue to monitor the matter to ensure the works are concluded given the late start to the works. That the Town Council raise the issue with the elected DDDC officials to ensure that they are aware of the issue and request that they seek a greater degree of communication from the planning authority with residents on such matters.

ET23/8 Post collections
A resident has raised the changes made to Post Office collections (effective 14/4/23) which reduces the level of service that is provided within the Town.

REC that the Town Council write to Rural Action Derbyshire (cc DDDC and DCC elected representatives) to raise the continual degradation of postal services and ask that they lobby the Post Office to reinstate the service

ET23/9 Footpaths
To consider how to build a stronger link with Ramblers Association to support and provide guidance on matters related to existing Footpaths as well future enhancements.

REC that the Clerk investigate what mechanism could be used to allow a greater degree of co-operation/participation with a representative of this association e.g. Footpath Warden (unpaid)

ET23/10 DCC Electric Vehicle Consultation
DCC Sustainable Travel team are undertaking a survey seeking views about the electric charging infrastructure provision in the County to provide an evidence base to help identify areas of demand and subsequently inform the most suitable locations to provide EV charge points.

REC that all Councillors are encouraged to respond individually to the consultation, and to encourage residents to reply. That DCC are invited to attend the green themed Tuesday Market. That the consultation be posted on WTC Facebook page.

ET23/11 Ecclesbourne River Water Quality
In 2022, the Council resolved to contact Severn Trent to obtain information regarding water quality. To date no information has been provided aside from a link to their website, Severn Trent has refused a request under FOI as they are not a public body.
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has separately reported that they are undertaking works to improve Ecclesbourne River's natural habitats. <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/news/atlantic-salmon-return-parts-derbyshire-after-more-100-year-absence>

REC that a matter be noted and no further action be taken.

ET23/12 Bolehill Coronation Bench
Bolehill Improvement Group (BIG) have proposed that a bench be installed on the land adjacent to the carpark spaces on Bolehill Car Park. The group have created a design and contacted TDP regarding a suitable bench. Pre-Application advice has been obtained that confirms that the works may proceed under permitted development rights subject to adherence to certain criteria.

REC that the Council grant permission for BIG to proceed with the project.

ET23/13 20s Plenty Campaign

The Town Council is a member of this initiative which seeks to introduce 20mph in suburban/residential areas. The campaign recommends that local groups are established to raise awareness and demonstrate support for the movement.

REC that a working party be established "Safer Roads". Cllr Taylor to prepare draft terms of reference for agreement by the Town Council.

ET23/14 Parking

A DDDC Councillor met with DCC to discuss parking issues within Wirksworth but this matter was not progressed with Town Councillors due to the imminent elections. During the pre-election period a resident has separately raised concerns about parking issues within town.

REC that the Town Council consider parking when looking at its strategic priorities.

ET23/15 Brooklands Avenue Verge

A resident has raised concerns over the proposed sale of land by DCC.

REC that the resident is thanked for making the Council aware of this matter (which was not raised by DCC directly with the Council). That the Council seek clarification from DCC elected representative as to whether this is DCC policy and if this is likely to be replicated in other sites within the parish.

ET23/16 Public Noticeboard adjacent to Cruck Beam

A resident has flagged the condition of the notice board which would benefit from refurbishment.

REC that the Clerk arrange for the caretakers to sand and re-treat (oil/varnish) the noticeboard during the summer.

ET23/17 Plane Tree adjacent to Memorial Hall

To consider possible alternatives to the current surface treatment under the tree.

REC that the matter be reviewed in September (at the end of the growing season).

ET23/18 Grit Bin Request

A request has been received for an additional bin or change of location for the grit bin located on Yokecliffe Av.

REC that residents are advised that the Town Council are unable to identify a suitable location that would not obstruct/constrict the footpath and therefore request suggestions on possible site. That the Clerk prepare a draft Grit Bin policy for agreement to assist with future requests.

ET23/19 Derbyshire County Council Verges Policy

Wilder Wirksworth is encouraging people to provide feedback to DCC who are reviewing verge management across the county (“..to look for possibilities to improve biodiversity and explore the environmental opportunities, practical implications and costs associated with different management approaches..”) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1311313205874068/permalink/1987546928250689/>

REC that the Town Council respond to this review that it is supportive of actions that increase biodiversity. That the Council seek clarification on how the policy will be communicated to the public and how are the sites to be assessed for suitability for rewilding.

ET23/20 Strategic Priorities

Council Resolution C23/17 – that both Committee’s should consider what the Council’s priorities should be for this Council term, including recommendations on whether working parties should be created to support these.

REC that the following priorities be considered:

- **Increasing Biodiversity in the Town**
- **Safe Roads**
- **Tarmac (engage proactively regarding the housing development)**
- **Meadows**
- **Communication**
- **Community Cohesion**
- **Neighbourhood Plan “NP”**
- **Community Plan (lead from NP)**
- **Economic Development and Marketing Officer**
- **Infrastructure to support developments**

ET23/21 Planning Applications received

Prior to Elections

| | | |
|--|--------------|---|
| 1 | 23/00178/FUL | Demolition of dwellinghouse and erection of 5no. dwellinghouses with associated access and parking The Gables 14 Bolehill Road Bolehill Matlock Derbyshire DE4 4GQ |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 2 | 23/00180/FUL | Single storey rear extension 38 West End Wirksworth Matlock Derbyshire DE4 4EG |

| | | |
|--|----------------|---|
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 3 | 23/00198/FUL | Single storey side extension Toadflax 1 Summer Lane Wirksworth Matlock Derbyshire DE4 4EB |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 4 | 23/00028/FUL | Replacement roof and alterations to rear lean-to store Town Hall Coldwell Street Wirksworth Matlock Derbyshire DE4 4EU |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 5 | 23/00253/FUL | Installation of replacement windows 63 The Dale Wirksworth Matlock Derbyshire DE4 4EJ |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 6 | 23/00028/FUL | Replacement roof and alterations to rear lean-to store Town Hall Coldwell Street Wirksworth Matlock Derbyshire DE4 4EU |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 7 | 23/00245/FUL | Proposed attic conversion with flat roof dormers to front and rear elevations and rooflights to rear elevation Blackrock House 22 Nan Gells Hill Bolehill Matlock Derbyshire DE4 4GN |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 8 | 23/00229/FUL | Residential development of 57no. dwellinghouses Land To The North Of Jacksons Ley Middleton By Wirksworth Derbyshire |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 9 | T/23/00058/TCA | Removal to ground level of 2no. Ash trees (T1, T2) Our Lady And Saint Teresa Of Lisieux Roman Catholic Church Gorsey Bank Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4AD |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| <i>Prior to June meeting</i> | | |
| 1 | T/23/00058/TCA | Removal to ground level of 2no. Ash trees (T1, T2) Our Lady And Saint Teresa Of Lisieux Roman Catholic Church Gorsey Bank Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4AD |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 2 | 23/00242/FUL | Replacement windows and door 14 Greenhill Wirksworth Matlock Derbyshire DE4 4EN |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |

| | | |
|--|----------------|--|
| 3 | 23/00353/FUL | Erection of single storey extension 30 King George Street Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4AU |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 4 | T/23/00071/TCA | Fell 1no. Wild Cherry Tree (T1) and 1no. Sycamore Tree (T2) at Wirksworth Church Of England (Controlled) Infant School North End Wirksworth DE4 4FG |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 5 | T/23/00073/TCA | Removal of lying dead trees. Removal of 6no. Sycamore trees, 14no. Elm trees and 24no. Ash trees as indicated on location plan Dale Wood Opposite Yokecliffe House West End Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4EG |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 6 | 23/00415/FUL | Erection of single storey extensions Barn Field Farm St Helens Lane Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4PP |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 7 | T/23/00078/TCA | Fell 1no. Beech tree at Beech Lawn 5 Wirksworth Hall Gardens Wirksworth DE4 4GX |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 8 | 23/00318/FUL | Proposed rendering of jumped gable between numbers 17 and 21 17A West End Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4EG |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |
| 9 | 23/00418/FUL | Change of use of office building to 1no. dwellinghouse (retrospective) Land Adjacent 11 Little Bolehill Bolehill Derbyshire |
| WTC - No comment Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint. | | |

REC to receive the recent delegated planning decisions of this Council.

ET23/22 Planning Decisions & Appeals

(decisions are only to be reported where the Town Council have objected to application.)

None to report

REC that the matter be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman