

WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment & Town Committee held 2 October 2023

ET23/60 Present
Cllr S Maskrey (Chairman), Cllr S Barker, Cllr P Carr, Cllr K Player, Cllr F Rostron, and Cllr P Taylor
In attendance: 1 resident, 4 members of Wilder Wirksworth, Susan White DCC Verges Officer and Paul Jennings (Town Clerk)

ET23/61 Apologies for Absence: Cllr A Pollock

ET23/62 Variation in Order of Business: To take item 6 – Solar Panels and item 9 Rewilding be taken immediately after the approval of minutes.

ET23/63 Members' Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items:

None

ET23/64 Open Forum

A resident asked for support from the town council to secure a change to DDDC Planning rules to ensure that the action taken to reduce a building carbon footprint (e.g Solar Panels) are prioritised over other planning considerations.

4 Members of Wilder Wirksworth spoke about rewilding (attendance at the invitation of the Council)

Susan White, DCC Verges Officer spoke about the recent project trialing rewilding of the verges in Derbyshire Dales (attendance at the invitation of the Council)

ET23/65 Minutes: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment and Town Committee held on 4 September 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

ET23/66 Solar Panels

Following a recent planning Decision to decline the installation of solar panels, a resident has sought the Town Council support.

REC that the Town Council lobby the DDDC for a change in planning policy to prioritise measures that tackle climate change/ reduce a buildings carbon footprint i.e. the presumption that the installation of solar panels should be allowed subject to stringent guidelines to minimise the visual impact.

Cllr Carr dep 7:30pm

ET23/67 Rewilding

To consider what steps can be taken to encourage and support rewilding within Wirksworth.

REC that the Town Council propose that Wilder Wirksworth place an article in Community Fayre. WTC to provide information

regarding Meadows and reference made to the planting under the Plane Tree adjacent to the Memorial Hall. It is suggested that the article should also reference the work being undertaken by DDDC and DCC (WTC to provide introduction/liaison to facilitate this if necessary). Delegate Cllr Barker to review the article on behalf of Wirksworth Town Council.

ET23/68 Budget 2024/25
To consider any potential / additional expenditure required in the following financial year.

REC that consideration be given to providing funding for the ongoing Meadows project.

ET23/69 Snow Warden Scheme
To consider Derbyshire County Council’s Snow Warden Scheme where volunteers help to clear snow, ice and grit footways and pavements.

REC that the Town Council do not participate in this scheme. That a further print run of the “Winter Weather in Wirksworth” be undertaken and that copies be distributed around local business in Wirksworth.

ET23/70 Access to Hannages for Emergencies
Implementation of restriction/signage off Wash Green to ensure access at all times.

REC that the Town Council request double yellow lines be applied across the access point (off Wash Green) to the Hannages to ensure access at all times (i.e. for emergency services). The Town Council to contact Head of AGS and the Secretary of Foundation Governors requesting that they also lobby for this measure. This issue to be raised with C Cllr D Murphy as well as the Leaders of DDDC and DCC given the recent RTA requiring the air ambulance to land at the Hannages and the potential impact on public safety if this access is blocked by parked cars.

ET23/71 Housing Development adjacent Wirksworth Cricket Club
The Cricket Club has advised that they are engaging with DDDC Planning over the implication of the recent planning decision and the requirement for a protective barrier (fence/net) on the boundary.

REC that Wirksworth Town Council support the Wirksworth Cricket Club in resolving this planning issue.

ET23/72 Planning Applications received (Delegated Planning - Appendix 1)

1	23/00229/FUL	Residential development of 57no. dwellinghouses Land To The North Of Jacksons Ley Middleton By Wirksworth Derbyshire
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint” and that the Planning Procedure be amended accordingly.		

The Town Council position will be that a building's impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape		
2	23/00907/CLEUD	Certificate of Existing Lawful Use - Siting of a caravan used for storage for a period in excess of 10 years Manor Lodge Little Bolehill, Bolehill Derbyshire
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint" and that the Planning Procedure be amended accordingly. The Town Council position will be that a building's impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape		
3	23/00835/FUL	Conversion of workshop to dwelling and change of use of land to garden Land To Rear Of Malt Shovel Public House Car Park Wirksworth Moor Bolehill Derbyshire
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint" and that the Planning Procedure be amended accordingly. The Town Council position will be that a building's impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape		
4	23/00758/FUL	Remove existing render from the front of the building and repoint, replace current UPVC windows with wooden windows, replace old front door with solid wood door and replacement porch 58 Greenhill Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4EN
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint" and that the Planning Procedure be amended accordingly. The Town Council position will be that a building's impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape		
5	T/23/00145/TCA	Crown lift Land Around Middle Peak Quarry Wirksworth Derbyshire
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint" and that the Planning Procedure be amended accordingly. The Town Council position will be that a building's impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape		
6	T/23/00146/TCA	G4.1 Remove ash with advanced ash dieback G4.2 Crown lift to clear 4m over PRow and prune to give 300mm lateral clearance. Remove ash with advanced ash dieback G4.3 Remove selected ash with advanced ash dieback Land Around Middle Peak Quarry Wirksworth Derbyshire
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint" and that the Planning Procedure be amended accordingly. The Town Council position will be that a building's impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape		
7	T/23/00144/TCA	Crown Lift on G1.2, G1.3, G1.4 Land Around Middle Peak Quarry Wirksworth Derbyshire
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint" and that the Planning Procedure be amended accordingly. The Town Council position will be that a building's impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape		
8	23/00927/FUL	Erection of dwellinghouse Land North Of Crown Yard Crown Yard Market Place Wirksworth Derbyshire
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint" and that the Planning Procedure be amended accordingly. The Town Council position will be that a building's impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape		

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

ET23/73 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 8.30pm

Chairman