

WRINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on 24 April 2024 in the Memorial Hall, Silver Street, Wrington, BS40 5QE

The Parish Council Chair, Cllr Yamanaka, chaired the meeting which opened at 7.00pm. Approximately 16 residents, Parish Councillors and members of staff were in attendance.

1. **Welcome**

Cllr Yamanaka welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Woolway.

3. **Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 29 March 2023**

As the Minutes had already been adopted by the Parish Council (PC) at the full PC meeting on 14 March 2024, copies were provided for information only.

Cllr Yamanaka said if there were any questions on the Minutes residents should contact the PC office.

4. **Chair's report and financial statement for the year 2023/24**

Cllr Yamanaka drew residents' attention to the annual newsletter (copies of which were available on the chairs) which covered the PC's responsibilities and activities over the year. The newsletter also contained a financial statement for the year 2023/24 and she said residents should contact the PC office if they had any questions about this.

Cllr Yamanaka explained that at the last local elections seven parish Councillors were elected, leaving several vacancies. Since the elections, the PC had been pleased to co-opt Sarah Treweek, Toby Woolway and Trevor Jones onto the PC but there were still no representatives for the Redhill ward. Redhill is an important part of the parish and she urged anyone from Redhill, or with a particular interest in the area, to consider applying for co-option. She explained she had been elected Chair at the PC's annual meeting last May. Cllr Taylor had been holding the fort as Acting Chair since Phil Neve's resignation, and Cllr Taylor has continued as Vice Chair and as Chair of the Planning Committee.

In addition to the newsletter:

- The PC has been working with the Sports and Social Club on a proposed extension to the pavilion on the Recreation Field to provide more changing facilities for referees and teams. This is still a work in progress.
- The Twinning arrangement with Villeneuve lès Béziers - the PC has been twinned with Villeneuve lès Béziers since October 2010. For most of this time twinning events have been run by the Twinning Association (renamed the French Connection). However, earlier this year, they handed back the responsibility of twinning to the PC because they had difficulty finding people to run events. The French Connection still run French conversation groups and

other French-linked activities. Cllr Yamanaka thanked all those involved in the French Connection, especially John Adams.

- As many residents are probably aware there are ongoing problems with the water supply to properties in Kings Road and Cllr Yamanaka thanked Cllr Abdul-Wahab for her work looking for a resolution.
- The planters and yellow lines on School Road - Cllr Yamanaka reported that NSC had promised to hold a consultation on this. District Cllr Thomas Daw was liaising with NSC. It was understood a draft scheme had been drawn up but the PC had not yet seen it.
- Reports from Legg's Charity and Wrington Charities were available on the chairs and any questions on these should be directed to Gabrielle Wilson (contact details on the report) or David Marsh (who can be contacted via the PC office).

Finally, Cllr Yamanaka thanked: Cllr Taylor for his work on Planning, Cllrs Vaughn and Steinbach for their work relating to Bristol Airport, all Councillors for their support, the Clerk and Assistant clerk for compiling the newsletter and for all their work over the past year, resident Tony Harden and all the volunteers for their work on rewilding and also on the regeneration of Prestow Wood Nature Reserve (Wrington Quarry) and resident Pam Millman for keeping the book exchange in the Broad Street phone box tidy.

5. Report from the Chair of Wrington Memorial Hall & Recreation Field Committee

Marshall Clements outlined how the Committee is constituted. The Committee is a registered charity which is funded by a grant from the PC and the income from hiring out of its facilities. The Committee comprises twelve members (eight from the PC and four from users of the Hall/Recreation Field) who meet quarterly. However, the Committee is currently short of members so anyone interested should contact the PC Office.

Marshall Clements explained that a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) is to be installed on the Recreation Field. This will be funded by money relating to the development at Cox's Green (Whittings Way), which is referred to as S106 money. He drew the meeting's attention to a survey (forms available on the seats) which sought to find out what sports residents would like to see the MUGA cater for. Residents asked about the existing play equipment and Marshall Clements explained that some of the equipment is old and needs replacing anyway but some equipment and benches would need to be relocated. Residents also asked about the dampness of the site and Marshall Clements explained the MUGA would be raised. He also explained that a consultant would be used to manage the project and there were still many unknowns such as floodlighting and a booking system.

Cllr Yamanaka thanked Marshall Clements for attending the meeting.

6. Guest Speaker – Andy Jones (Reserves Manager, Avon Wildlife Trust) “Wilder Woodlands” transforming a plantation in Goblin Combe into a nature reserve

Andy Jones gave a presentation explaining the history of the site and Avon Wildlife Trust's work to encourage a greater range of biodiversity. A copy of the presentation is available in the Minute Book.

Andy Jones then asked for questions from the floor and some residents expressed their views that they felt the area is currently unattractive and 'messy', some footpaths have been damaged by heavy machinery, questioned why trees were being felled rather than coppiced, whether it would be possible to forage from any fruit trees planted on site and one resident expressed the view that there was a potential that the area could become a fire hazard and the land should be managed as it was a hundred years ago.

Andy Jones repeated parts of the presentation that explained that the area would soon recover and the work was essential to halt the drastic decline in wildlife and biodiversity since the area was turned into a plantation in the 1960s. He also reiterated that what we might perceive as 'messy' wildlife will view as a vital opportunity which will help them thrive.

Cllr Yamanaka thanked Andy Jones for attending the meeting.

7. Questions to the Council

The Chair invited questions.

Following on from item 5, a resident asked where the S106 money was shown in the financial statement in the newsletter. Cllr Yamanaka explained that the PC will receive S106 money relating to the Cox's Green development (Whittings Way) and has also already received money relating to the Gatcombe Farm development (Gatcombe Croft) which is known as CIL (Community Infrastructure levy) money. The Clerk explained how this S106 money can only be used for specific areas: £16k on woodland (which is being used at Wrington Quarry/Prestow Wood Nature Reserve), £40k on allotments, £3.3k on youth services and £121k for a MUGA (as mentioned previously). Therefore, the majority of the S106 has not yet been received. There is flexibility on how the CIL money relating to Gatcombe Farm is spent and the PC will be considering this shortly.

A resident expressed annoyance at the low turnout of both Councillors and residents at the meeting. He complained about the presence of a skip on High Street. Cllr Yamanaka assured him this was a NSC Highways matter which had been previously raised with NSC but the Clerk would contact NSC again. The resident also complained about the state of the verges leading into the village on Havyatt Road. Unfortunately, these are on private land (it was believed to be owned by Bristol University) that the PC has no control over.

The Chair thanked those present for attending the meeting and with there being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.16pm.

Chair