

# WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES 207

### Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 23 February 2023

The meeting started at 7.00 pm.

#### In attendance:

Cllr Paul Glasgow, Cllr Nicola Job joined the meeting at 19.33 pm, Cllr Richard Job, Cllr Richard Luker, Cllr Ciaran Molloy, Cllr Wade Nash, and Cllr Lucy Quinn

Also in attendance were Aniko Szocs (ASZ) Clerk, Cllr David Ledger (ABC), Cllr David Robey, and 14 members of the public

#### 1. Election of Chair

Cllr Lucy Quinn has been elected as the chair of the parish council.

Proposer: Cllr Wade Nash	Seconder: Cllr Richard Luker	Against:0
Abstain:0	In favour:5	Motion: Carried

#### 2. Apologies for Absence and Approval

Cllr George Sparks' apologies was noted, Cllr Sparks couldn't attend as the Parish Council meeting clashes with ABC's cabinet meeting.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Nicola and Richard Job (Item 10)

#### 4. Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January have been accepted as a true record.

Proposer: Cllr Paul Glasgow	Seconder: Cllr Richard Job	Against:0
Abstain:0	In favour:6	Motion: Carried

#### 5. Reports

##### 5.1. Play Area working group

A preliminary discussion with ABC suggests that the refurbishment of the play area could cost in the region of £150-300k, this depends on the installation of the number of equipment and the size of the play area. A consultation to seek both children's and parents' views will be conducted.

##### 5.2. IT Infrastructure Group

Various options have been explored on how to move forward. Both Microsoft and Google offer packages at a similar price. Microsoft, however, is more integrated. Currently, there is a single point of contact for all the Parish Council's IT support, which is not sustainable in the long term. Discussions have been held with a local IT company regarding support and possible cost. This will be followed up.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION at 7.07 pm.

A representative of All Saints 'Here to Help' initiative shared a brief report on recent activities and support they provided for the residents who experience hardship. The project is funded

by donations and a grant from Ashford Borough Council. This funding helped to set up a Foodbank, provide vouchers for food boxes, and run weekly warm days in which soup and rolls, hot drinks biscuits, cakes, and fruit are served. There is scope to work along with the Sir Edward Charity whose charitable aims meet the objectives of the Here to Help initiative. A resident expressed an interest in becoming a trustee if there was an opening. Cllr Nash confirmed that currently only parish councillors are the trustees but are open to welcoming new trustees. It was agreed that a date will be set up to discuss this further.

Woodchurch in Bloom has a number of events lined up for the year, one of them will see the return of the Flower and Produce show. This will be held on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> of July. The event will be promoting traditional crafts. More details to follow.

Cllr David Ledger reported that the Oversight and Scrutiny Committee has challenged Ashford Borough Council's proposed budget. The report on the new Planning system with recommendations has been submitted to the full council. Currently, parish councils are reviewing the proposed changes to the planning system and a response is being drawn up.

A resident noted that the traffic cones are a welcome addition on the corner of the school as the traffic and parking issues are still a major concern. Cllr Quinn responded that the parish council is working with KCC and trying to reach a resolution for the issue.

The closed play area was full of children, a concerned resident raised questions about who is liable should an accident occur. Cllr Nash updated the residents that there are repair works planned for the surface area once the weather improves and is drier, in the meantime the signage around the play park will be renewed.

Members of the public sought an update on the Kirkwood Avenue Development. Cllr Molloy confirmed that the parish council's position remains the same. Cllr David Ledger advised that the planning officer is keen to reach a conclusion very soon.

There is no further update on the proposed Gladsman development, but should there be any update the Parish Council will engage with the case officer. Cllr David Ledger confirmed a case officer has not been appointed yet.

Cllr David Robey reported that KCC must make some very difficult decisions to balance the budget. One of the major expenses is adult social care and health. Due to a lack of investment, the current road network suffers from damage due to the recent cold snap. The number of potholes around the borough has drastically increased. A walkabout will be arranged to review hotspots for speeding issues in the village. The speed survey will collect data and evidence that will help to form a way forward. A short discussion has been had regarding the best places to monitor speed. Cllr Robey confirmed that budget cuts will not have an impact on public transport.

## **AND RECONVENED at 19.42 pm**

### **6. Planning**

#### **6.1. Public Rights of Way**

The Parish Council acknowledged of the modification of definitive statement for public footpath numbered AW306A. The footpath is not within Woodchurch Parish Council boundaries but form part of a footpath in Mersham and Kingsnorth.

**6.2. Planning application number PA/2023/0233**

Green Acres, Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, TN26 3PY Variation of condition 2 on planning permission 12/00495/AS to change the occupancy restriction applied to the mobile home.

The council resolved to support the variation of condition 2 on planning permission 12/00495/AS subject to addition of 'occupation by immediate family only' to the condition.

Proposer: Cllr Ciaran Molloy	Seconded: Cllr Wade Nash	Against:0
Abstain:0	In favour:7	Motion: Carried

**6.3. Planning application number PA/2022/2760**

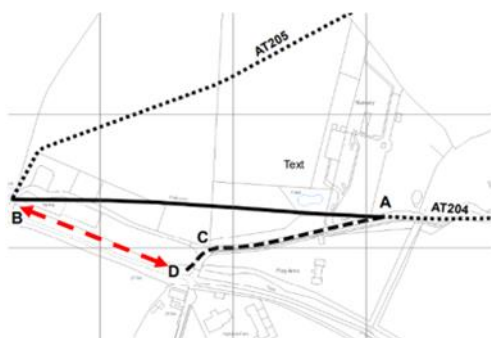
Glover Farm, Moor Lane, Woodchurch, TN26 3SS Proposed first storey side extension.

The council resolved to support the planning application as the proposal does not impact the Public Rights of Way.

Proposer: Cllr Ciaran Molloy	Seconded: Cllr Lucy Quinn	Against:0
Abstain:0	In favour:7	Motion: Carried

**6.4. Diversion and extinguishments of Public Rights of Way AT204**

- The Woodchurch Parish Council wishes to object to the diversion of part AT204 on the following basis:
- The current alignment, as defined by the Definitive Map, between Terminus Points A & B (see Figure 1), forms one unbroken Public Right Of Way (PROW) AT204, which is frequently used by the public.
- The diversion of part AT204 from terminus point A to points C and D, will break the continuous unobstructed alignment of AT204 between points A and B.
- The proposed A, C, D diversion is shown, is used by the public, centre visitors and agricultural traffic alike. It is consequently agreed that this part of the proposed diversion will be in the interests of the applicant and the public, provided suitable a suitable gate/stile is installed at point D, that is open 24/7 and not locked.
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- The Woodchurch Parish Council suggest that to make the proposed realignment between points A, C, D a workable proposal and to guarantee unobstructed access as a PROW, the length of track between points B and D (see below), is also designated as part of PROW AT204.
- Figure 1: Proposed Diversion and WPC suggested alignment modification.



- Proposed Extinguishment of Part AT204 between points A & B (see plan below)

- The Woodchurch Parish Council confirm that PROW AT204 & AT205 are frequently walked by villagers and visitors alike, and consequently object to the extinguishment of part of PROW AT204 (see Figure 2), based on the following:
- The current alignment, as defined by the Definitive Map, between Terminus Points A and B forms one unbroken PROW AT204 and positively connects to PROW AT205.
- The extinguishment of part PROW AT204 between terminus points A and B, effectively breaks the continuous alignment of PROW AT204. This section extinguishment will consequently not be in the interest of the public as free and unobstructed access will no longer be guaranteed as a PROW.
- The extinguishment of part PROW AT204 between terminus points A and B, also effectively breaks the connection to PROW AT205. The proposed section extinguishment will consequently not be in the interest of the public, as free and unobstructed PROW access to/from AT205 will no longer be guaranteed.

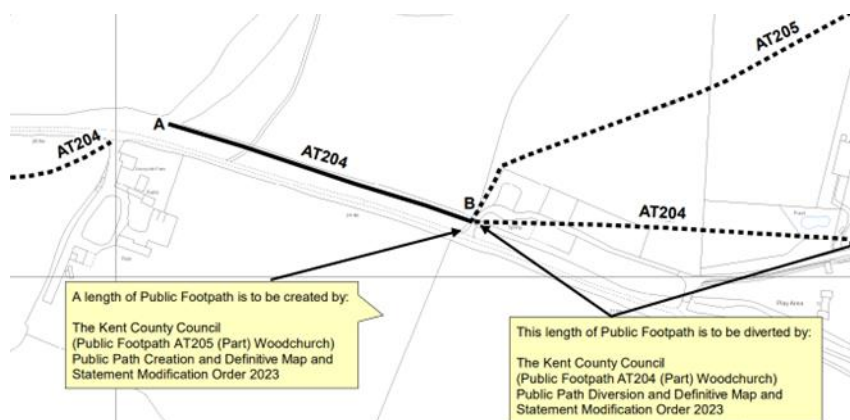


Figure 2: Proposed Part AT204 Extinguishment between A & B.

Proposer: Cllr Ciaran Molloy	Seconder: Cllr Paul Glasgow	Against:0
Abstain:0	In favour:7	Motion: Carried

## 7. Planning Decisions

The list of planning decisions has been noted (see Appendix 1)

## 8. Finance

### 8.1. Items for payment

The parish council resolved to approve the list of items on the payment list with the addition of payment to HMRC for an underpayment in Month 9.

Payment Method	Items for Approval February	Description	Total payable	VAT
Bacs	Salaries	Employee salaries February	£ 600.87	
Bacs	HMRC	Employer contribution	£ 195.36	
Bacs	Caretaker	Reimburse Hammerite paint	£ 22.00	£ 3.67
Bacs	Greenworks Solutions	Quarterly cleaning of public toilet and monthly ladycare unit	£ 576.10	£ 96.02
Bacs	HMRC	Underpayment Mth 9	£ 307.68	

Bacs	Flagpole Company	Flagpole inspection	£ 365.00	
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Proposer: Cllr Paul Glasgow	Seconder: Cllr Nicola Job	Against:0
Abstain:0	In favour:7	Motion: Carried

### 9. Canopy

The Parish Council received the trees in December and they are ready to be planted. 12<sup>th</sup> of March was agreed to plant them with support from volunteers. This will involve occasional watering and ensuring the tree remains healthy and thriving. The remaining trees will be offered to other societies for adoption and to residents who have previously expressed an interest. Later an adoption event will be held which could be tied in with the Woodchurch in Bloom Flower and Produce event in July.

### 10. Correspondence

The Parish Council received the following correspondence in February:

- Letter from residents concerning the 2023-2024 Budget, the Parish Council has responded to the letter, explaining the budget in more detail. The budget is also available to view on the parish council website.
- Men In Shed contacted the Parish Council seeking help to find a location for the project. The group has a constitution, bank statement, and funds ready to start. An article will be shared in the upcoming newsletter.
- Residents contacted the Parish Council raising concerns over the proposed footpath closure of Public Right of Way AT204
- Woodchurch in Bloom sought permission to modify the Christmas tree stand to make it stronger.
- The Parish Council received a report on the All Saints Here to Help initiative. Residents involved in the project have been thanked for their great work.
- Friends of Shirkoak Park Residents Association enquired about the possibility of installing a phone mast to improve the signal. They were advised that the installation of the mast and their location is done through the telecommunication company.
- Planning Officers from ABC confirmed that the structure by the garage on Front Road does not constitute a permanent building and as such building regulations do not apply to it.
- CS Development has contacted the Parish Council with a further offer to secure the gifting of the land, the PC has not formally responded yet, but their position remains the same.
- Residents enquired about the possibility of installing EV points, the Parish Council has previously applied for funding but unfortunately has been unsuccessful, however, the council is willing to review this and explore this option further.

### 11. Items to be included on the next agenda

- Windmill (April meeting)
- Village Pump (April meeting)

### 12. Date and venue of next meeting

The next scheduled council meeting will be held on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023** starting at 7.00 pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.40 pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Chair

Appendix One

## Planning application decision notice

### **PA/2022/2277**

Resubmission of 22/00744/AS, Proposed new chalet bungalow along with associated works in the front garden of 37 The Green

37 The Green, Woodchurch, Ashford, TN26 3PF

**Withdrawn**

### **NOT/2022/3126**

Prior Approval for the change of use of agricultural building and land within its curtilage to a dwelling house and associated operational development

Annexe, Cruttenden Farm, Brook Street, Woodchurch, Ashford, TN26 3SR

**ABC: Prior Approval Refused PC: Support**

### **PA/2022/3013**

Proposed hatchery building

Land south of Orange Farm, Brook Street, Woodchurch, Kent

**ABC: Approve with Conditions PC: Support**

### **PA/2022/2519**

Proposed ground floor extensions to the existing dwelling, including the addition of first floor, dormer windows, and alterations to external material treatment.

8 Plurenden Manor Farm Cottages, Plurenden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent  
TN26 3JW

**ABC: Approve with Conditions PC: Support**