

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



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WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of the monthly meeting of Washington Parish Council held on 4th November 2024 in the Washington Village Hall (Doré Room) School Lane, Washington RH20 4AP

PRESENT: Cllr S Buddell (Chairman), Cllr A Dillaway, Cllr B Hanvey, Cllr P Heeley, Cllr T Keech, Cllr A Lisher (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A Perkins, Cllr R Scovell and Cllr J Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr P Marshall (WSCC), Cllr E Beard (HDC) Cllr J Grech (HDC) and Cllr C Fisher (HDC); 14 members of the public, PCSO Roberts and PCSO Kyle.

ALSO: Clerk to the Council

ABSENT: 1

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

FC/24/11/01 Apologies for Absence

The Council **RESOLVED** to **RECEIVE** and **ACCEPT** apologies from Cllr Lockerbie.

FC/24/11/02 Declaration of Members' Interests.

There were no declarations of interests as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

FC/24/11/03 Minutes of the last Full Council meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the Council Meeting on 7th October 2024 to be duly signed by the Vice-Chairman.

FC/24/11/04 Public Session

A resident gave a presentation on behalf of other residents who objected to the planning application reference SDNP2403835FUL for 5 homes on land in the Street known as 'The Yard'. Main concerns were: overdevelopment in a sensitive rural location in the national park and conservation area; impact on already congested parking in the village and its narrow road network; the safety of children and parents travelling to the village primary school and users of the nearby South Downs Way; impact on privacy of residents at the top of Chanctonbury Close who would be overlooked by the development.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments. He proposed and the Council Agreed to change the order of business on the agenda so that residents could

hear the Council's discussion on the application after the police reports.

FC/24/11/05 Police Reports

Councillors welcomed Washington's new PCSO Roberts and colleague PCSO Kyle. PCSO Roberts spoke about her role which includes a focus on Washington, Ashington and Storrington. PCSO Kyle reported that Washington had a relatively low crime rate which is skewed by traffic incidences at the A24 roundabout.

Both Officers welcomed any matters to be raised with them directly and thanked everyone before leaving the meeting.

FC/24/11/06 Planning applications, Decisions and Compliance Matters

Councillors discussed the following planning applications in the parish:

SDNP2403835FUL - Land at The Street Washington

Demolition of existing garages and erection of 5 no. residential dwellings, with associated access, parking and landscaping. Link to the SDNPA website for the application at:

[SDNP2403835FUL - Land at The Street Washington.pdf](#)

Councillors reviewed the application and agreed with residents' concerns. It was noted that the site had been specifically rejected in the neighbourhood plan because of overdevelopment and impact on the SDNPA's Dark Skies policy.

Two Councillors warned that the land could still be developed under the planning 'windfall' policy, and that it may be better to seek a mutual agreement with residents on a smaller, better positioned scheme, which improved the appearance of the land and properly address the parking issues.

Following a discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** to make an **OBJECTION** to the application in its present form on the points raised at the meeting regarding overdevelopment, parking and privacy. Comments to be drafted by the Planning & Transport Committee.

Cllr Marshall (WSSC) commented that there was no guarantee that the land would be adopted as a potential development site in the forthcoming SDNPA Local Plan review, and that he would be meeting with the Highways Authority on issues which are being raised.

Members of the public left the meeting.

FC/24/11/07 Reports from County and District Councillors

WSSC Reports

Cllr Marshall advised on the following:

- **WSSC 2025/26 Budget:** WSSC are facing a budget gap of around £8m next year and is working towards a sustainable budget with no cuts in services.
- **Hampers Lane Quarry traffic:** He had reported a significant increase in mud and debris on the highways from traffic leaving the site and sought clarification from WSSC on the planning conditions in place to manage this.

A Councillor commented on the adequacy of the conditions. He warned of the risks to highways safety and that if WSCC are simply replying on wheel-washing, it will be “a disaster” when the nearby Rock Common Quarry proposals go ahead.

- **Rock Common Quarry traffic management plan for recently approved application (WSCC/028/21)** – Cllr Marshall had pressed for conditions to prevent HGV traffic from using the Storrington and Washington villages as a detour.
- **TRO for 40mph limit on The Hollow and Pike**
He still supported this application despite a number of objections in the community.
- **Reduction in speed limit along the Washington Bostal road.**
He would support a 30mph speed restriction on this road and asked if the Parish Council is making a TRO application. The clerk advised that it would be on the agenda of the next Planning & Transport Committee meeting for consideration.

HDC Reports.

- **DC/23/2282 – Doggy day care proposals at 2 Jenners Field , Rock Road**
Cllr Grech advised that the application was due to be decided by Officers but had asked for it to be ‘called in’ because of the issues being raised.
- **The District Council’s CIL portion for Washington**
Cllr Grech agreed to find out what has happened to the funds for the District and if the Parish Council can make an application for a proportion of them for its own projects which might exceed its own available funds.
- **Southern Water consultation:** Cllr Grech reported that she supported the proposed desalination proposal but with reservations. She had asked if Southern Water would consider a partnership with West Sussex landowners similar to South East Water, for a ‘super national nature reserve’ which seeks to improve water quality by reducing pesticides used on land.
- **Old Clayton Kennels development:** Cllr Fisher advised of the S106 agreement for £245,000 to be ring-fenced for Storrington and Washington. It was insufficient to be used for its specific purpose of affordable housing but Councillors are instead looking into the option of redirecting it towards grants for home repairs and adaptations for vulnerable residents and those on low incomes. Otherwise it would go back into the ‘pot’ if it is not used in the 5-year spending deadline. Cllr Fisher agreed that if the Parish Council had any suggestions for affordable housing, to share it with her and she would pass it to the relevant Officers at HDC.
- **Rock Common Quarry recently approved application (WSCC/028/21):** Cllr Fisher reported on her disappointment that the WSCC planning committee did not take up any of the suggestions regarding the impact on the local community. The only restrictions were for quarry vehicle movements to be reduced to 200 per day for 8-12 years.
- **Storrington Traffic Group:** Cllr Fisher advised it is working with the Storrington Community Speed Watch to get a much better picture of the type of lorries cutting through the village. This would help the Washington parish too, and identify hauliers who are ignoring the advisory routes.
- **Footpath from Washington to Storrington:** Cllr Beard advised that WSCC would be cutting back the footpath verges in the final cut of the year and scraping it to improve pedestrian and cycling access. .

The County and District Councillors left the meeting at 8:30pm

FC/24/11/08 To Report on actions and matters arising from the last meeting.

A report was previously circulated to Councillors and considered read. There was no discussion.

FC/24/11/09 Planning applications, Decisions and Compliance Matters

Councillors discussed the following planning applications in the parish:

DC/24/1526 - High Larches Melrose Place Storrington West Sussex
Erection of a 2 bay carport.

Following a discussion it was **RESOLVED** to maintain a **STRONG OBJECTION** for the same reasons expressed previously in 2019: excessive bulk and position, and that the proposed changes are insignificant. Planning & Transport Committee to draft a response.

Planning Decisions:

The Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the following planning decisions:

WSCC/028/21 – Rock Common Quarry, The Hollow, Washington, Pulborough, RH20 3DA
The continued winning, working and processing of sand from the existing Rock Common Quarry, the importation of inert classified engineering and restoration material, the stockpiling and treating of the imported material, the placement of the imported material within the quarry void and the restoration and landscaping of the quarry.

Decision: Application permitted on 8/10/2024.

DC/23/0701 Old Clayton Boarding Kennels Storrington Road Washington RH20 4AG
Demolition of existing kennels and cattery buildings/structures, and existing dwellings. Erection of a 60-bed care home (Class C2) and 8No. age restricted bungalows (Class C3) with associated access, landscaping and other works (including relocation of existing staddle stone barn).

Decision: Application Permitted on 16/10/2024.

DC/24/0893 Washington Paddocks London Road Washington West Sussex RH20 4AJ
Change of Use of Existing Sand School for Dog Agility in addition to Equestrian Purposes (Retrospective)

Decision: Application Permitted 11/10/2024.

Planning compliance matters

None reported

FC/24/11/10 Storrington & Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan (SSWNP)

To Receive and note a verbal report from Washington members of the Steering Group of a meeting to advise on the Neighbourhood Plan review which took place on Tuesday 15th October 2024 at Sullington Village Hall.

Cllr Heeley, Vice-Chairman of the SSWNP Steering Group, reported on the training session on 15th October to review the NP. The NP Consultant had advised that housing numbers cannot be confirmed and that the Steering Group should focus on improving the NP policies. Further training sessions were confirmed on 19th November and 3rd December.

Cllr Heeley requested that an item is tabled at the Full Council Meeting in January to report on progress and recommendations for the future review of the NP.



FC/24/11/11 SDNPA Local Plan Review - Preview of draft site allocations in the parish and Land Availability Assessment

To Report and consider commenting on the potential allocation of sites in the parish.

Information on the SDNPA Local Plan Preview were previously circulated. It was noted that the land at 'The Yard' in the Street could be put forward for consideration as a potential allocation for development. An email notification from the SDNPA included the option for the Parish Council to discuss this with an Officer at a site meeting before the public consultation begins next January.

It was noted that the second potential site on land north of North Farm was already designated in the neighbourhood plan which was adopted by the Council.

Cllr Thomas agreed to meet with the SDNPA with resident representatives, and to convey the Parish Council's concerns about developing The Yard which had been agreed earlier in the meeting. Clerk to action.

FC/24/11/12 To Agree action on any urgent matters for consideration

Chairman to invite Councillors and Clerk to raise any matters which cannot wait until the next meeting.

The Clerk reported that she is ordering a replacement defibrillator pad for the AED at Pixies' Corner. The information was noted.

FC/24/11/13 Delegated Decisions

The Council **RESOLVED** to **RATIFY** the decision by the Chairmanship on 23rd October 2024 to approve [quotation of £45 per hour by HDC](#) to remove graffiti from the Council's bus shelter opposite Washington Cottages.

FC/24/11/14 Washington Recreation Ground Charity (WRGC)

The Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the [WRGC Annual Return 2023.24](#)

FC/24/11/15 Banking signatories

To Approve two additional banking signatories for the Council's Lloyds and savings accounts.

It was noted the Council requires two signatories to authorise payments and that a further signatory is required following the recent resignation of Cllr Luckin.

There are now 4 full power signatories: The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Cllr Heeley and Cllr Thomas. The Council agreed it should have more to allow for times when they may not be available. Cllr Perkins and Cllr Keech volunteered and it was **RESOLVED** that they be duly appointed as signatories.

FC/24/11/16 Payments

The Council **RESOLVED** to Approve the [Payments Schedule](#) of invoices totalling **£4,486.03**.

FC/24/11/17 Bank reconciliation



The Council **RESOLVED** to note the [Lloyds Bank Treasurer's Account Reconciliation](#) on 29th October 2024 for **£48,173.50**.

FC/24/11/18 Council's website

To Consider and Approve quotation for a website audit to meet WCAG 2.2 (Website Compliance Accessibility Guidelines).

The Council discussed its obligations to ensure WCAG 2.2. compliance and **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the quotation of £50 by the website host to conduct a full audit and report.

The Council deferred a decision to the next meeting on a quotation of £25 for an additional 30 minutes to fix any sections that are non-compliant, pending the report.

FC/24/11/19 Planning & Transport Committee

To Review frequency of the meetings and delegation powers.

The Council considered and **RESOLVED** to revert to the monthly meetings for the Planning & Transport Committee and OSRA Committee from January for continuity. It was agreed that the Clerk should consult with Committee Chairs if it was necessary to cancel a meeting due to insufficient business.

The Council further agreed not to extend delegation powers to staff for commenting on minor planning applications between meetings which did not meet the consultation deadline, as there was scope to call an Extraordinary meeting if required.

FC/24/11/20 Council editorial in Sussex Local

To invite members to suggest content for the Council's editorial in the December issue of the magazine.

The Council put forward a number of items and it was **RESOLVED** to include them in the editorial being kindly drafted by Cllr Heeley.

FC/24/11/21 Clerk's Report

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the Clerk's Report.

FC/24/11/22 Correspondence

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the report of correspondence received.

FC/24/11/23 Enterprising Horsham Consultation

To Consider an invitation for Councillors to complete an online feedback form for the [Enterprising Horsham consultation](#) before the 29th November closing date.

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the consultation and that Councillors may comment as residents.

FC/24/11/24 Remote Meetings and Proxy Voting Consultation

To Consider an [invitation](#) to comment on the public [Consultation](#) and nominate a working party to make the submission.

Following a discussion the Council **RESOLVED** to note the consultation and did not wish to comment.

FC/24/11/25 Chairman's Announcements

To Receive any Chairman's brief announcements at the meeting for business not on this agenda.

None reported.

FC/24/11/26 Date and time of the next meetings

The following meeting dates were noted:

Planning & Transport Committee: **Monday 18th November, 7:00pm**


OSRA Committee: **Monday 18th November 2024, 7:45pm**

Finance Committee: **Monday 25th November, 7:00pm (Budget and precept 2025/26 review)**

Full Council Meeting: **Monday 9th December 2024, 7:30pm**

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:45pm

Signed.....

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Dated..... 9-12-24