

WETHERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING WETHERSFIELD, BLACKMORE END & BEAZLEY END



MINUTES of the Wethersfield Airbase Scrutiny Committee Meeting held at Blackmore End Village Hall on Monday, 25 July 2022, commencing at 7:30pm.

Present:

- Cllr A Hull (Chairman) (Shalford PC)
- Cllr R Duffin (Vice Chairman) (Finchingfield PC)
- Cllr A French (Shalford PC)
- Cllr T Roberts (Toppesfield PC)
- Cllr S Short (Wethersfield PC)
- Cllr R Aggis (The Salings PC)
- Cllr P Kennedy (Great Bardfield PC)
- Cllr S Harris (Sible Hedingham PC)
- Cllr J Toocaram (Castle Hedingham PC)
- Cllr S Moutard (Gosfield PC)
- Cllr J O'Brien (Little Bardfield PC)
- Cllr J Pearce (Wethersfield PC)
- Donna Roder (Clerk & RFO)

In Attendance: Members of the Public: 2

WA47/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Collard (Toppesfield PC), Cllr G Southgate (Castle Hedingham), Cllr D Hockley (Great Bardfield PC), Cllr M Lee (Sible Hedingham), Cllr D Coverdale (Finchingfield PC), Cllr N Nicholson (Helions Bumpstead PC)

WA48/22-23 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None declared.

WA49/22-23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 June 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record. and signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr T Roberts, seconded Cllr P Kennedy.

Cllr J O'Brien entered the meeting at 7.32pm.

WA50/22-23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A member of the public asked why the airbase site came out the best option of all other sites for two mega prisons. It was discussed to send FOI's to find out from the MOJ. Information received was agreed to be sent to the Clerk.

WA51/22-23 CLERKS REPORT

Appendix I

REPORT FROM THE CLERK

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Neighbourhood Plan meeting took place on July 20th, 2022 between the four parishes of the airbase site.
2. A grant funding request has been made to The Fields Association for £10K. A meeting took place on 15 July 2022, where a grant of £5K was agreed due transport assessment not started yet and 3 quotations must be sourced. The £5K secured is toward the Heritage work underway and Landscaping assessment.

THE FIELDS ASSOCIATION / SWAP

Banners: Finchingfield, Wethersfield and Shalford now have their banners displayed. The Salings PC have also approved for a banner to be purchased and displayed. For other PC's without General Power of Competence, you can do this via *Local Government Act 1972 s142 legislation*. The information has been sent to all other Parish Clerks.

A SWAP ITV News interview took place on 3 July 2022 at 10am, it was headlined that evening on Anglia News.

SWAP held an information public evening on 3 July 2022, at Wethersfield Village Hall. Very well attended by the public with >100 people including local and district councillors.

SWAP have produced an excellent documentary on the prison proposal. [Stop Wethersfield Airfield Prison Documentary - YouTube](#)

PARISH INVOLVEMENT

No further updates from Stebbing, The Sampfords, Stambourne, Radwinter, Rigewell and Birkbrook PC currently.

WA52/22-23 SUB-COMMITTEES:

Cllr A Hull gave an update: Dr R Sidebottoms study and presentation of Prisons in the National or Local interest has been send to the Prison Reform Trust and other bodies. Currently there has been no response so it has been suggested to make a printed brochure of this document, and send this to them. Approx 50 copies will be made and distributed to The Justice Select Committee, Prisons Reform Trust and also to liaise with SWAP on other bodies for direct engagement. The 700M pound cost of the prison vv the study needs to be disseminated and decided which parts to make public on social media and the press. ECC Carbon Net Zero by 2030 policy: The Wethersfield site could help ECC realise there ambitious targets. The A120 and other >500M projects have been shelved despite being

woefully inadequate. ECC have stopped the imminent meeting between Highways Cabinet Member and WASC/SWAP. Copies of the correspondence to be sent to all WASC members.

Cllr J Pearce gave an update on the Technical work undertaken. Virtually all works planned in the programme has been undertaken now. Heritage assessment has now started, and it was mentioned that all birdwatches have also been banned from the base now. Dr R Sidebottom is also making a follow-up with ECC on their Levelling Up White Paper including requests for further data. Dr R Sidebottom will continue with this in the background of WASC.

WA53/22-23 HERITAGE REPORT

Underway at a cost of £4.5K plus £500 expenses. The consultants visited the site on 7 July 2022, and found it extremely helpful, and supported a stronger case now. They identified 4/5 buildings for listing, plus other for potential listing as a group/cluster. In addition a conservation area status will be applied for pending, the initial building listings.

WA54/22-23 BDC FOI'S

Cllr R Duffin gave a further update from follow-up, from the meeting with Cllr P Tattersley on June 23, 2022. Cllr P Tattersley confirmed his follow-up actions had been completed and that everyone was now fully aware of the local feeling regarding the MOJ Prison Proposal.

WA55/22-23 JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

An initial meeting took place between the 4 Parishes which incorporate the base. It has been mapped which Parishes cover how much of the area. Finchingfield and Wethersfield are the biggest Parishes and therefore it should be proportionally costed, plus Finchingfield and Wethersfield have the biggest advantages and therefore Toppesfield and Sible Hedingham should be consulted on synergies that exist for those Parishes. The airbase is not in the BDC Local Plan.

WA56/22-23 BDC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Previously discussed in the Sub-Committee updates.

WA57/22-23 ECC LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

Dr R Sidebottom is making the follow-up on this including further data required from ECC. Dr R Sidebottom will continue with this analysis in the background of the WASC Technical Sub-Committee. Individual PC's should remain in the lead on the project.

WA58/22-23 SWAP NEWSLETTER

Sible Hedingham PC cannot assist with SWAP's monthly newsletter. It is distributed by the Church and not the PC.

WA59/22-23 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITY

Cllr A Hull gave an update on the presentation sent. It was agreed that Cllr A Hull would continue to discuss with ECC the viability of there being a community led solar farm at the base.

WASC Finance
Updated 22/07/2022

Invoices Received

<u>Date</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount ex VAT</u>
27/02/2022	Captial Road Safety	Traffic Monitoring	£ 600.00
10/03/2022	Sedley Place	Prison Model	£ 2,137.50
01/03/2022	CBA	Mobilisation Payments	£ 2,000.00
28/02/2022	Andrew Martin Planning	Briefing note and research	£ 1,000.00
05/05/2022	CBA	Consultancy	£ 2,800.00
15/07/2022	Spectra Studios Ltd	Sketchup Model	£ 1,200.00
		Total	£ 9,737.50

Income Received

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
21/02/2022	Shalford Parish Council	10% Contribution 21/22	£ 2,150.00
14/03/2022	Toppesfield Parish Council	Contribution	£ 500.00
11/04/2022	Little Bardfield Parish Council	Contribution	£ 300.00
08/04/2022	The Fields/SWAP	Grant	£ 5,000.00
05/05/2022	Bardfield Parish Council	Contribution	£ 1,000.00
18/05/2022	Finchingfield Parish Council	Contribution	£ 4,474.20
15/06/2022	Sible Hedingham Parish Council	Contribution	£ 500.00
15/06/2022	Shalford Parish Council	Contribution	£ 2,150.00
		Total	£ 16,074.20
		Current Position	£ 6,336.70

Wethersfield PC contribution of salaries (Deputy Clerk) and village hall costs for meetings.

WA61/22-23 TRANSPORT ASSESEMENT

RESOLVED: To agree the Transport Assessment costs of £4.5K. 2 quotes received currently, awaiting the 3rd. Pending the 3rd quotation it was agreed the Technical Sub-Committee could proceed with the engagement of consultants and cost. Proposer Cllr T Roberts, seconder Cllr S Harris.

WA63/22-34 SUMMER RECESS

RESOLVED: It was agreed to hold a meeting in August. Proposer Cllr J Pearce, seconder Cllr T Roberts.

WA64/22-23 ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGEN

All items should be sent to the Clerk by 22 August 2022.

WA/2652-23 NEXT MEETING OF THE WETHERSFIELD AIRBASE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

The next meeting of Wethersfield Airbase Scrutiny Committee will be held on Tuesday 30 August 2022.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.36pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: