

WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2 DECEMBER 2013, 7.30PM

FIVE LANES SCHOOL, HIGH STREET, WORTON

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: R Wilshire (Chairman); Mrs S Bonfield; Mr W Francis; Mr D Johnson; Mr A Midgley; Mr Rose; Mrs C. Simpson[for part]; Mr R Gamble [WC, for part].

Apologies: none

Also present: Mr K Bellamy; Mr C Butler; Mr R Goss; Mr R Robilliard; Mr P Baxter (Clerk).

ACT

13/14/139 Declarations of interest

There were none.

13/14/140 Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

13/14/141 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman reported his concern for the number of refuse bins obstructing the pavement on collection days, noting that no response had been received by the Clerk to an enquiry lodged with the Area Waste Team. It was **agreed** that the matter should be placed on the next agenda for discussion. The Chairman also reported his attendance at the Aster Living Neighbourhood Panel meeting, at which grant awards are made available. An application pack was handed to the Clerk.

PB

13/14/142 Public participation

The Chairman welcomed members of the public, and Mr Robilliard queried progress on the review of the C20 speed limits. Mr Gamble clarified Wiltshire Council's review process and the Chairman noted that the recent discussion at the Community Area Transport Group is for a later agenda item. Mr Butler introduced himself as an interested observer.

13/14/143 Councillor vacancies

Mr Rose reported on a review of the skills and attributes to be sought in potential applicants for the vacancies, which had concluded that both men and women should be encouraged, including those with young children and the over-60's. Interest should also be welcomed from the farming and rural communities, as well as local business, other professionals, and those with a wider interest in the views of the village. Any applicant should be able to commit to the work of the council, which involves activities beyond the monthly meeting. All **agreed** that this summarised the Council's needs, and the Chairman invited each of the applicants present to respond. Messrs Bellamy and Goss made short presentations on their backgrounds and reasons for applying. The Chairman led a short discussion on the submissions and then proposed, Mrs Bonfield seconded, and all **agreed** that Mr Bellamy be co-opted to the Council, and the Chairman proposed, and Mr Johnson seconded, with all **agreed** that Mr Goss be co-opted to the Council. The Clerk provided copies of the Standing Orders and Council policies to each candidate, both signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office and received instructions for the declaration of interests in the Public Register, and both then took their seats at the Council table. [Mrs Simpson left the meeting]

13/14/144 Training

The Clerk confirmed that arrangements had been made for a training session for the council to be received from WALC on the evening of 22 January 2014, and that one place had been made available for Marston Parish Council, which had declined more substantial involvement.

13/14/145 Wiltshire Councillor's report

Mr Gamble confirmed that he had requested that the Highways dept repeat the speed limit review, as it was considered that the first process was flawed. Discussion brought out the suggestion that barrier zones of, say, 40mph, before the national speed limit was again encountered might be a reasonable compromise, and the Clerk was asked to prepare a discussion paper for the next meeting with a view to presenting the option to CATG at its January meeting.

Mr Gamble queried whether the road scalplings store had been located, the Chairman reporting that it was not present in the parish, but that the Rights of Way warden may be able to provide some in the new year. Mr Gamble also clarified the Area Board grant funding cycle.

13/14/146 Draft Budget 2014/15

The Responsible Financial Officer set out the second draft of a budget for 2014/15, explaining the confirmed position of the Council Tax Support Grant. It was agreed that subject to further technical amendments caused by clarification of the tax base figure this draft should be presented at the next meeting in support of the precept decision.

RG

MR

13/14/147 Rights of Way and Conservation

Mr Johnson reported on the recent meeting with the new Rights of Way warden, noting that options for the resurfacing the Worton/Marston footpath were being considered by WC. A range of defects on the network around the parish were reported to the warden. The warden had also explained a process available for the installation of kissing gates using supervised local volunteers, and requiring the permission of the relevant landowners. The Chairman asked that this matter be discussed more fully at the next meeting, and Mr Goss undertook to review the issues on his family farmland. Mr Rose also undertook to prepare an article for The Bridge.

13/14/148 Roads and Transport

Mrs Bonfield reported on her recent attendance at the Community Area Transport Group, accompanied by the Clerk, noting that the Group Chairman had commended the approach taken by this Council in preparing an holistic report on all its traffic issues. Mrs Bonfield reported that the Highways dept, whilst supporting the measures in this Council's report could not provide the officer time to progress them until the new financial year. The speed limit review was also challenged and a request made that it be repeated, and that the views of the Council be recognised within.

SB

The Clerk reported on his site meeting with a Highways officer to consider a range of parking control lines. Only two sites were supported, being Mill Head/Village Hall and outside the Rose and Crown public house. The latter would require consultation with the landlord prior to works commencing, and Mrs Bonfield undertook to make an approach.

The Chairman reported that a qualified contractor had been found to remove the hedging at the junction of Cedar Close, as permitted by Wiltshire Council. It was proposed by Mrs Bonfield, seconded by Mr Bellamy, and **agreed** by all that the contractor's fee of approximately £60 be paid and that volunteers would be sought to trim down the remaining branches and tidy the site.

13/14/149 Village Hall survey

The Chairman introduced a revised questionnaire. Some changes were **agreed** to the explanatory text, and additions made to the published arrangements for collection, with a deadline applied, and contact details for the Clerk should queries arise. Marston Parish Council were to be invited to participate at their discretion, and Mrs Bonfield undertook to enquire further of the Village Hall Management Committee, having expressed concern that distribution of the questionnaire before their comments had been considered might seem inappropriate. The Chairman proposed, and all **agreed**, excepting Mrs Bonfield, that the revised questionnaire be copied in sufficient number by the Clerk and distributed as soon as possible by volunteers to every household in Worton.

SB

PB

13/14/150 Planning matters

The following decision was reported to the Council:

13/05364/TCA 98 High St, Worton – remove Leylandii and apple trees – no objection.

The following application was considered by the Council:

13 Cedar Close – removal of apple and plum trees. Mr Rose was delegated the authority to inspect the site and pass comment to the Clerk.

The Clerk reported receipt of a consultation from Wiltshire Council on the proposed designation of the Potterne Parish Council boundary as a Neighbourhood Planning Area. The Clerk was asked to circulate a map of the boundary and for the matter to be considered again at the next meeting.

13/14/151 Disbursements

The following disbursements were authorised:

Chq No	£
632 Mark Goddard & Sons (grass)	350.00

13/14/152 Correspondence received

The Clerk reported receipt of a three-year corporate plan from the Fire & Rescue Service, a report of incidents from the Police, and an invitation from the Village Hall Management Committee for the Parish Council to attend its next meeting on 25 February. The Clerk was asked to accept.

13/14/153 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was set for 6 January 2014 at 7.30pm in the Five Lanes School.

13/14/154 Items of Maintenance

The Clerk was asked to arrange for the cutting of the playing fields' grass.

13/14/155 Key Messages

It was agreed that an article be prepared for The Bridge asking householders to manage the positioning of their refuse bins, to ask drivers to avoid parking on pavements, and to raise awareness again of dog fouling on footpaths. The Road Safety Strategy is also to be mentioned and the circulation of the Village Hall questionnaire announced.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm Signed Chairman, 6 January 2014