

WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3 FEBRUARY 2014, 7.30PM

FIVE LANES SCHOOL, HIGH STREET, WORTON

MINUTES

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

Apologies: Mr Rose; Mrs C. Simpson.

Also present: Cllr P Salaman; Mr R Robilliard [for part]; Mr P Baxter (Clerk).

ACTION

13/14/175 Declarations of interest.

There were none.

13/14/176 Minutes of the last meeting

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

13/14/177 Chairman's announcements

There were none.

13/14/178 Public participation

Mr Robilliard queried whether a decision had been made by Wiltshire Council on a review of speed limits. The Clerk advised that a report to the Cabinet Member for Highways was being submitted by Highways Officers arising from the last Community Area Transport Group (CATG) meeting that would include the recommendations of this Council and the Highways Officer. No response had yet been received.

13/14/179 Wiltshire Councillor's report

Cllr Gamble further directed Mr Robilliard to Wiltshire Council's website for details of the CATG's meeting; the 'Your Community Matters' event on 4 March in Devizes was publicised; and an update on progress with the Core Strategy, now delayed by the Inspector's interim report findings requiring further work on housing provision, settlement boundaries, and the ratio of affordable housing in developments. Discussion ensued on the relative merits of a Neighbourhood Plan, and the Clerk was asked to provide more briefing material to an agenda item for the next meeting.

13/14/180 Community seating project

The Chairman reported that the Council's application to Aster Communities for £2,000 funding to provide two public benches had been approved. After discussion, the Council **agreed**, subject to consultation, that the benches might be sited at the Cuckolds Green junction, next to the stile, and on the verge in Cedars Close. Members agreed to meet on site in Cedars Close on Monday 10 February at 1630hrs to consider a precise location. This to be consulted with neighbours, which would include the Council's decision on the future of the table sited under the Atlas Cedar, itself the subject of prior consultation. The Clerk advised that application would need to be made to Wiltshire Council for licence permission to site the benches on Wiltshire Council-controlled verges.

13/14/181 Public amenity table, Cedar Close

The Chairman introduced discussion on the future of the table, in the light of comments received from some residents of the Close. The Chairman confirmed that the table had been in the ownership of Kennet District Council, transferring with the land upon which it sits to Wiltshire Council upon the creation of the Unitary Authority. House-to-house consultation had shown

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ALL

inconclusive opinion on whether the table should remain or be either replaced or refurbished. After discussion it was proposed by Mr Bellamy, seconded by Mr Johnson, and with all **agreed** that the table should remain in the ownership and liability of Wiltshire Council, it being for that Authority to determine the future of the table.

13/14/182 Village Hall questionnaire

The Chairman noted the forthcoming joint meeting with the Trustees and Management Committee of the Village Hall. It was **agreed** that the circulation of a community questionnaire would no longer serve the purpose for which it was intended and the project was cancelled.

13/14/183 Community noticeboards

Mr Johnson reported progress in the manufacture of the first board, with posts now installed at the Gaisford Chase site. The final installation would soon be completed subject to weather conditions. A second identical installation is planned for a site near the Village Hall, and the location will be subject to final agreement with the Hall Committee.

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13/14/184 Ditches and watercourses

The Chairman introduced discussion on this Council's role in supporting the maintenance of ditches and watercourses, liaising with landowners to encourage clearance and free flow. Concern was expressed for the parishes downstream if current blockages were removed and flow improved. Mr Salaman commented that local liaison with landowners in Marston had led to a significant improvement in local conditions. The Clerk was asked to contact the parishes of Bulkington, Keevil, Seend and Semington to advise of this Council's intentions upstream.

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13/14/185 Recreation and Leisure

Mr Francis reported on his attendance at a RoSPA training event, hosted by Calne Town Council. He confirmed that he was shown how to assess playgrounds for routine hazards, and reported the management arrangements that should be in place for those bodies that provide play equipment for public use. The Clerk confirmed that an overall Policy should be agreed by the Council, with inspection routines and reporting systems in place. The Clerk undertook to prepare a Policy for approval at the next meeting.

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Mr Francis also reported that the Sandlease play area was waterlogged. Discussion was had on the cost benefit of drainage, but it was **agreed** that this would be too expensive. The Clerk confirmed that arrangements remained outstanding for a contractor to quote for moving the play equipment to higher ground. It was **agreed** that this enquiry should progress and to then review the situation.

13/14/186 Planning matters

The following decision was reported to the Council:

13/06577/LBC 88 High Street – retrospective permission for two rear extensions - Refused.

The following application was considered by the Council:

13/06744/FUL Prince Hill House, High Street – alterations to Orangery, new roof lantern, raising of parapet wall and new railings. Alterations to front boundary wall.

13/06952/LBC Prince Hill House, High Street – internal and external alterations to main house, (partially retrospective) and alterations to boundary wall.

No objection was made.

13/14/187 Disbursements

The following disbursements were authorised:

Chq No	£
635 Calne Town Council (course)	35.00
636 WALC (course)	240.00
637 R Wilshire (noticeboard concrete)	22.80
638 Worton & Marston village Hall (hire)	21.00

The Clerk also reported receipt of the VAT reclaim of £276.41 for 2012/13.

13/14/188 Correspondence received

The Clerk circulated an exchange of email correspondence with a resident of Cedar Close regarding a lack of consultation on the action to cut down a hedge on the highway verge. The Clerk advised that the decision process was lawfully correct, however it was noted that specific consultation on the proposal was not conducted. The Council reviewed its means of publicising meeting agendas and minutes of its proceedings, together with the presentation of Key Messages in The Bridge magazine, noting that normal publication deadlines can restrict the topicality of some items. It was **agreed** that for a trial period draft minutes would be published of the most recent meeting, subject to agreement as usual at the following meeting, and that the next The Bridge article would seek to encourage more participation at monthly Council meetings. The Council noted its current work to provide community seating and on the future of the Cedar Close table were examples of effective consultation which directly informed decision making, and that this type of engagement would be regarded as good practice in future.

13/14/189 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was set for 3 March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Five Lanes School.

13/14/190 Items of Maintenance

There were none.

13/14/191 Key Messages

It was agreed that an article be prepared for The Bridge inviting volunteers to come forward to take part in future streetscene and footpath clearing; on progress with the Community Noticeboards; on the provision of public benches; on work to promote the clearance of ditches and watercourses; and to encourage attendance and participation at Council meetings, and of the website as a resource.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm Signed Chairman, 3 March 2014