

WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 12 JANUARY 2015, 7.30PM

THE VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, WORTON

MINUTES

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

Apologies: Mr W Francis;

Also present: Cllr P Salaman [Marston PC]; Mr M Fisher; 15 members of public; Mr P Baxter (Clerk).

ACTIO

14/15/162 Declarations of interest.

Cllr Goss declared a pecuniary interest as owner of a property liable to council tax, in respect of the item on setting the precept.

14/15/163 Minutes of the last meeting

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

14/15/164 Co-option to councillor vacancy

Mr Fisher and Cllr Salaman were invited to make statements in support of their applications for co-option, and took questions from council members. Cllr Johnson proposed, seconded by Mrs Bonfield and with all **agreed** that Mr Fisher be selected. Mr Fisher signed the Declaration of Office and took his seat at the table.

14/15/165 Dispensations to participate

Cllr Goss and Cllr Fisher, having declared pecuniary interests as owners of property subject to council tax, sought dispensation to participate in the precept item. It was proposed by Cllr Rose, seconded by Cllr Midgley and with all **agreed** that the dispensations be granted.

14/15/166 Chairman's announcements

There were none.

14/15/167 Public participation

A query was raised on the planned movement of the 30mph limit at the east end of the village. The Clerk responded with a probable time line in the new financial year for Wiltshire Council.

14/15/168 Wiltshire Councillor's report

Cllr Gamble reported that next Area Board is on 26 January, which will include a young people's filming activity, and that grant funding for projects remains available.

14/15/169 Road safety – C20 multi-parish initiative

The Clerk reported on responses received so far to the circulated discussion paper. A final summary will be available at the next meeting.

14/15/170 Precept 2015/16

The Responsible Financial Officer re-presented a draft budget for 2015/16. Cllr Simpson proposed, seconded by Cllr Johnson, and with all **agreed** that the precept be set at £10,015.58, being a Band D house equivalent of £38.87.

14/15/171 Flooding preparedness

Cllr Simpson reviewed the outcomes of the public discussion event preceding this meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Mrs Bonfield, and with all **agreed** that a draft flood response plan would be prepared to support an application by the Parish Council to the Wiltshire Council Parishes Emergency Assistance Scheme. A draft plan would be presented to the next meeting of the council. It was **agreed** that work to prevent flooding would continue whilst also making these preparations to respond.

14/15/172 Rose and Crown public house

Mr Keith Green, landlord, reported the circumstances of his departure from the pub at the end of the month. The Chairman invited comment from members of the public, which included thanks to Mr Green for his contribution to community life. Questions covered the use of the statutory Asset of Community Value registration process, the prospect of a community-led bid to purchase the property, and the role of the Parish Council. Cllr Gamble responded to a number of questions and offered his support. Mr Johnson proposed, seconded by Mrs Simpson and with all **agreed** that the Council make application to register the property as an Asset of Community Value, and that a letter be sent to Enterprise Inns plc as owners of the pub expressing the Council's concern for the social impact of closure and sale of the building. The Clerk was asked to make these arrangements. It was further **agreed** that the Chairman and Cllr Johnson be delegated the authority to represent the Council in meeting Claire Perry MP to discuss the situation. Cllr Francis was nominated to represent the Council in wider community-led discussions on the preparation of a purchase bid.

14/15/173 Tree planting initiative

Mrs Bonfield outlined a scheme to replace trees that are being lost as they mature or are otherwise removed by owners. The scheme would request nominations for parcels of land on which planting could take place, which may be in either public or private ownership, but further Policy development would also be required before launch. It was also suggested that a fund could be established to make grants for the purchase of either saplings or more mature specimens, and that top-up grant funding might also be available from Aster Communities. The Gardening Club might also be approached to act within the scheme or as grant applicant. The scheme was **agreed** in principle, subject to further policy development and discussions with the Gardening Club.

14/15/174 Planning matters

The following decision was reported:

14/11056/TCA 121 High Street - works to trees;

The following applications were considered:

14/12065/TCA Inglenook, 113 High Street – Fell 3 x plum trees and remove four lower limbs and prune back to boundary one Ash tree;

It was **agreed** that Cllrs Simpson, Rose and Goss would inspect the site and recommend a decision.

14/15/175 Disbursements

The following disbursements were authorised:

Chq No	£
690 HMRC (PAYE, to include Poulshot PC)	625.20
691 Village Hall (room hire)	105.00
692 Wiltshire Citizens Advice	25.00

A Bankers Mandate was also revised to provide for the 2014-16 national pay award for the Clerk.

SB

CS

MR

RG

14/15/176 Correspondence received

The Clerk reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner is consulting on his proposal to increase the Police element of the Council Tax precept by £3.06 per annum, which was **noted**. An invitation to a conference held by the Devizes Community Area Partnership on Neighbourhood Planning was received. Cllrs Bonfield and Midgley undertook to attend on 4 February. A request from the Potterne Youth Worker to attend the next meeting to explain recent changes to Wiltshire Council youth services was **agreed**. The Clerk was asked to remind the Rights of Way Warden that a response had not been received to an October request for a site meeting at the mill-race footpath.

14/15/177 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was set for Monday 2 February 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

14/15/178 Items of Maintenance

The next Streetscene co-ordinator visit is scheduled for 19 February, Cllr Johnson undertook to liaise.

14/15/179 Key Messages

It was **agreed** that an explanation of the circumstances at the Rose and Crown, the draft flood plan, availability of Cllr Gamble for questions and support, the tree scheme, new youth network, the precept decision and Cllr Fisher's co-option be mentioned in an article for The Bridge magazine, to be prepared by Cllr Simpson.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed Chairman, 2 February 2015