

WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7 JULY 2014, 7.30PM

THE VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, WORTON

MINUTES

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

Apologies: Mr K Bellamy; Cllr P Salaman [Marston PC];

Also present: Mr A North [for part]; Mr R Shercliff [for part]; Mr P Baxter (Clerk).

Before the meeting opened, Mr Alex North introduced himself as the new Wiltshire Good Neighbour Scheme co-ordinator.

ACTIO

14/15/071 Declarations of interest.

Cllr Goss declared a pecuniary interest in the item on ground rents.

PB

14/15/072 Minutes of the last meeting

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

14/15/073 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman reported that he had attended the surgery of Claire Perry MP. The Clerk was asked to forward the Council's policy and discussion papers on road safety and speed limits to her PA.

14/15/074 Public participation

Mr Shercliff thanked the Council for its grant toward printing a WW1 Memorial booklet, and explained its content. The Chairman presented Mr Shercliff with a cheque for £350.

14/15/075 Provision of a Public Access Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that the defibrillator had now been received, and demonstrated the unit. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Ambulance Service was signed, the cabinet is awaited.

14/15/076 Road safety improvements

The Clerk reported that public consultation had concluded and that Highways officers would be planning the work for the school summer holiday period. The Clerk also reported the Cabinet Member decision from Wiltshire Council on the speed limit review, with an extension of the 30mph limit at Cuckolds Green and a 50mph limit to Black Dog crossroads. There was to be no change for the western end, which was rejected by the Council. The Clerk was asked to notify the Cabinet Member accordingly, and to make a report to CATG at its next meeting.

PB

14/15/077 Rights of Way Lead Member report

Cllr Johnson reported that pilot work on the Marston bridleway was successful. It was **agreed** that with a volunteer work party further work and cold lay patching would significantly improve the path. It was **agreed** that a leaflet should be given to some householders requesting that overgrown hedges be cut back from footways and paths. A draft is to be supplied to the Clerk for finishing.

DJ

14/15/078 Wiltshire Councillor's report

Cllr Gamble reported that the Marston Solar Park planning application would be heard by Eastern Area Planning Committee on 7 August. The next Area Board on 29 September would be themed for 'youth'. The return of invasive Japanese knotweed to Devizes Leisure Centre was **noted**.

14/15/079 Recreation equipment

Cllr Simpson proposed, seconded by Cllr Johnson and all **agreed** that a picnic bench be purchased with residual grant funds for the Sandlease play area, to be installed at the same time as the new public benches. The Clerk was asked to make the arrangements.

The Chairman reported on the contractor's inspection of the play equipment at Sandlease and at Whatleys Close. It was agreed that the movement of equipment at Sandlease was cost-prohibitive. It was proposed by Cllr Rose, seconded by Cllr Johnson and all **agreed** that the contractor be engaged to remove the two swing combinations at Whatleys Close due to their rotten condition and to service the remaining equipment, all before the next RoSPA inspection.

14/15/080 Village Hall

Cllr Bonfield reported on recent attendance at a Village Hall Executive Committee meeting, which reviewed a number of policy and constitutional matters. It also noted progress in the Viridor funding application, planned work on the entrance porch and equipment hire charges. Cllr Bonfield confirmed there were three types of meetings in use – the executive committee, management committee and the full AGM. Minutes were to be posted on the new Notice Board and website. Cllr Bonfield undertook to ask the Committee to seek a variation in this Council's funding condition regarding the Council becoming a Corporate Trustee of the Hall charity.

14/15/081 Planning matters

The Council considered the following application:

14/05855/FUL Gertasha, Seend Road – proposed relocation of access driveway;
There was no objection.

The Council also considered an application for lawful occupation:
14/04697/CLE – Ivy House, 41 High Street;
No evidence could be supplied.

14/15/082 Audit

The Responsible Financial Officer reported receipt of the External Audit for 2013/14 with no comments received.

14/15/083 Finance – bank reconciliation

The quarterly bank reconciliation was noted.

14/15/084 Finance – Clerk salary scheme with Poulshot Parish Council

A revised bank standing order mandate was signed.

14/15/085 Disbursements

The following disbursements were authorised:

Chq No	£
662 R Wilshire (Danish oil – benches)	30.00
663 R Shercliff (WW1 printing)	350.00
664 W & M VH (room hire)	21.00
665 Grant Thornton (audit fee)	100.00
666 HMRC (PAYE)	410.40

14/15/086 Correspondence received

An email on road safety had been received from the occupier of Halfway House, Seend Road, which was **noted** during the item on road safety.

14/15/087 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was set for Monday 1 September 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

14/15/088 Items of Maintenance

Cllr Simpson explained the prevalence of Himalayan balsam in watercourses, and the impact on habitats that can arise. Advice is to be researched and published. Hedges in the play areas are to be cut in September.

14/15/089 Key Messages

It was **agreed** that the changes to the speed limit, Whatleys Close swings, the defibrillator scheme and footway clearing by residents would be mentioned in an article for The Bridge, to be prepared by Cllr Simpson.

Cllr Goss left the room

14/15/090 Ground rents

The Chairman noted that ground rents for The Keep and allotments had not been reviewed for some time. The Clerk reported that the plot rents for allotments were at the national norm. It was **agreed** that no change should be made to plot rents. It was **agreed** that all the land assets of the Council should be valued, including The Keep for its rental potential. The Clerk was asked to make the arrangements.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed Chairman, 1 September 2014