

**WORTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES**

4 July 2016 Worton and Marston Village Hall 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: R Wilshire (Chairman); Mrs S Bonfield; Mr M Fisher; Mr W Francis; Mr R Goss; Mr D Johnson; Mr A Midgely; Mr B Devine

Apologies: Cllr Richard Gamble

Also present: 21 members of the public including members of Seend Parish Council, Headmistress and governors of Five Lanes School, Mrs E Read (Clerk) and Cllr Whitehead (Wiltshire Council)

1. Apologies for absence.

No apologies were received from the Parish Councillors.

2. Declarations of interest.

Cllr Johnson declared an interest in the item regarding the Nursery application

Cllr Midgely declared an interest in the item regarding The Mill Race

3. The minutes of the last meeting of the Council.

These were amended slightly as the Neighbourhood Plan meeting is occurring on the 17th, not the 13th as stated in the minutes. It was accepted that the meeting date had subsequently been changed and so the minutes stand.

4. Chairman's announcements.

Sandleaze has now been land drained, but it does look somewhat unsightly, it will be rotivated, but should be given time to allow the soil to settle naturally for a few months.

The Chairman clarified that the leaflets put onto cars obstructing the pavement are legal and the police are aware of them.

5. Speeding on C20 road – Cllr Philip Whitehead to speak to the Council.

Cllr Midgely stated the nature of the road, having had five deaths in the last 25 years, and the high speeds on the road mean the road is a danger. Having met and discussed the issues with neighbouring villages, Worton Parish Council came up with proposals to the Devizes Community Area Transport group (CATg) of Wiltshire Council to make the road safer. He hoped that Cllr Whitehead would put forward proposals that can make the road safer.

Cllr Whitehead, Cabinet member for Highways, responded that the measures would achieve little.

Speed limits - these do not control the speed of traffic, surroundings and drivers control the speed of traffic. If people are already ignoring the speed limit, due to the nature of the road controlling speeding and behaviour, they will not respond to a lower speed limit. Across its length the C20 is a reasonably straight road. If you slow the limit, the 15% who are speeding will overtake more.

Removing the white lines – these can make people behave more sensibly – no white line down the middle of the Bath road, making drivers more uncertain, and therefore slower. It is not done on 60mph roads, as creating uncertainty when they are going 60mph leads to more accidents.

Road surfacing near junctions – The road surfacing does not last as long as the normal tarmac - normal last 20 – 30 years, coloured last less than 5 years.

50mph limit outside Worton towards Seend – Department for Transport (DFT) and Wiltshire Council engineers advise against increasing a speed restriction beyond the built up area of the village. Zones for speedlimits should not be less than 200m, and the problem with increasing the limit from where there is an obvious change in housing, is it would have some effect, then wear off when there are no signs that cars should slow down. Two houses as you leave the village is not a complex enough nature of buildings to promote braking. If Wiltshire Council goes against DFT guidance, and there is an accident/fatality then WC is liable.

Within Worton, Speedwatch is effective, and if there is overtaking within the village then this is a police issue. Speed limits will be reduced to 20 around school arrival and leaving times indicated by flashing lights, where a school has a travel plan. White gates at the entrance to a community are even more effective when looked after and with pretty flowers around them.

6. Public participation on matters set out below – for up to fifteen minutes, three minutes per person. [Note: this item is only for questions or representations addressed to the Council on any matter set out below and is the only opportunity for such at this meeting. New business cannot be raised but should be requested for a future agenda to a councillor or Clerk to the Council outside this meeting].

There were no representations from the public.

7. **Whatleys nursery application – any questions**

The applicants have surveyed the whole of the village regarding their proposal to put a small children's nursery, promoting outdoor learning and teaching, on the Whatleys play area. They attended the meeting to receive and answer any questions.

The nursery is proposed to be a small log cabin for 17 – 18 children – opening away from the adjacent houses, with a condition on parents to park in the car park provided on site and not on the road. The applicants have received letters of support from the Village Hall, children's football club and the School. The applicants state that the nursery is not just about accommodating the current families, but a good nursery would bring people in to the village to live, and would be a good thing for the school.

One question regarded where the children would be drawn from, and the answer was that the nursery will look to encourage those who are driving through Worton and going to the school to use the nursery. The aim is to feed and promote the local Five Lanes School. This will be in conjunction with Carers Nest in Potterne, offering a slightly different service, being a year-round day nursery rather than term time only. Others raised concerns over the building size and car parking within the play park. The building will be 4m from the hedge and will be single storey.

8. **A Shop for Worton – update**

Cllrs Midgely and Johnson have written up a proposal which is at a sensitive stage at the moment, but they will approach the pub and put forward the idea.

9. **Neighbourhood Planning update**

Terms of Reference are now being considered by the Neighbourhood Planning group as amended by the clerk following Cllr Wilshire and Cllr Johnsons suggestions.

The amendments were:

To keep Parish Councillor involvement to a minimum - such that there are sufficient councillors independent of the process to vote on whether to support the plan.

To have a minimum of 10 people on the group – such that there is sufficient representation from the whole village on the group

The chairman not to have an interest in any of the SHLAA sites.

Malcolm Powell is the Vice Chair of steering group, and Dicky Parsons is chairman.

With regards to funds, Malcolm Powell, Vice chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group asked how much funding is allocated within the Parish Council. The group is applying for other funds which may have restrictions.

The consultation on the designation of the Neighbourhood Area has now finished, and the group are expecting the report from Wiltshire Council, and have invited Robyn Nicholl, the Link Officer from the Spatial Planning team at Wiltshire Council, to come along to the next meeting.

The group requested access to the Community Planning page of the Worton website for the NP group news and communications. This was agreed.

Clerk to provide Malcolm with password.

10. **Green Wheely bins obstructing pavements**

The Council are concerned about wheely bins being left on the pavement, both by residents and refuse collectors.

Clerk to include information in The Bridge regarding responsibilities to keep the pavement clear.

Clerk to contact Wiltshire Council refuse department to encourage them to leave bins off the pavement and on residents properties.

11. **Mill Race footpath**

The Mill Race has been breached on Marston land east of the Ray bridge, Worton sluice is not operating as it should do. Cllr Midgely's turbine runs intermittently, but the timing mechanism is not working properly. This is particularly influencing flooding around the Ray bridge, however the problem is being worked on.

12. **Sandleaze playing field – update**

The Playing field has been drained and the Council have received some advice from the contractor that it might be better to extend the pipe into the brook. The price is £2.00 per metre, plus materials, so around £180 for the pipe and £150 for the materials. This can be decided in September. *Clerk to put this on to agenda for Septembers meeting.*

13. **Whatleys update regarding hedge cutting**

The hedge next to Whatleys Close has been cut down very low and the material has been left on the playing field.

Clerk to request a site meeting with Sovereign regarding the hedge issues.

Clerk to contact both Housing Associations in Worton (Sovereign and Aster) about their standards of upkeep.

Clerk to put this on to agenda for Septembers meeting.

14. Planning matters – to receive those decisions notified and to consider the following applications

Delegated powers to decide any planning applications which arise – Cllr Devine, Cllr Johnson and Cllr Fisher.

15. Bank reconciliation

The Clerk ran through the bank reconciliation for the year to date, and pointed out that the Council has received a second payment from Good Energy for the Community Fund. Also, the capital fund can pay for the ground works at Sandlease, but will need a transfer of funds to the current account to do this.

Clerk to action transfer of funds.

16. Clerks pay and pension

The Clerk informed the Council that they are not obliged to pay a pension contribution and that she has completed the actions required by The Pension Regulator. NALC and the SLCC have agreed to an increase in hourly rate for Clerks, which amounts to £3.30 a month increase in 2016/17 and to be back dated, and a further increase in 2017/18.

Clerk to write letter of instruction to bank to alter Standing Order.

17. Disbursements

Community First £36

Clerk £9.90 back dated pay rise

E Read £328.69 (S/O)

E Read allowance £15.00 (S/O)

Wiltshire Air Ambulance £300*

David Johnson expenses £11.90*

*these were agreed the previous month but the new cheque book had not arrived.

18. Correspondence and circulars received.

The clerk passed on thanks from Nick Stokes regarding the clearance of footpaths for the Open Gardens event.

19. Future agenda item planning.

Housing Associations - standards

Sandlease drainage

Application for money for monster trail (insurance cover)

Village traffic plan in view of the survey results – C20 – apply for a metro count along Mill Road.

Highways, byways and footpaths.

20. Date of next meeting (proposed for Monday 5 September 2016)

21. Items of maintenance (for information or the next agenda).

Sandlease drainage.

22. Key messages.

Bins, Parked cars, Hedges and pavements and next meeting in September report on Cllr Whiteheads visit – continuing concerns and working with Seend.

End of meeting 21.34