

# WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4 NOVEMBER 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; Mr R Gamble [WC, later].

**Apologies:** none

**Also present:** Mr K Bellamy; Planning application Agent; Mr P Baxter (Clerk).

ACTION

### 13/14/118 Declarations of interest

There were none.

### 13/14/119 Minutes of the last meeting

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

### 13/14/120 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman announced, in the interest of completing business, that Lead Member reports would in future be requested by exception only. The Chairman also noted that a local farmer had volunteered the use of a tractor and trailer for the village clean-up campaign.

### 13/14/121 Public participation

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Salaman, Chairman of Marston Parish Council, to his first meeting as an Observer. Mr Bellamy confirmed his continued interest in becoming a co-opted Member.

### 13/14/122 Planning matters

This item was brought forward on the agenda by the Chairman. *Application 13/04949/VAR 'Gertasha', Seend Road, Worton – Variation of permission K/14342.* The attending Agent explained the current permission given for occupancy of an Annexe only by persons unrelated to the main house occupier, and the pre-application advice from Wiltshire Council. The current occupier wished to remove the condition, to which this Council **agreed** it would not object.

*Application 13/05364/TCA The Briards, 98 High Street, Worton – Removal of two trees.* The Council expressed some concern for the proposals, the impact of which were not clear in the documentation. It was **agreed** that Mrs Simpson and Mr Rose would take the delegated authority to assess the site and report their findings to the Clerk before the deadline.

### 13/14/123 Councillor vacancies

The Chairman introduced a discussion on the skills and attributes to be sought in potential applicants for the vacancies, before the Council could complete its co-option process. It was **agreed** that there would be an informal session for councillors to review current strengths and for a report to be presented at the next Council meeting prior to a co-option process.

### 13/14/124 Training

The Chairman reported an opportunity for the Council to receive training as a group in the work of parish councils. The Clerk explained the costs, suggesting that Marston Parish Council be invited to participate at the same time. Mr Salaman undertook to present the offer to his Council at its November meeting. It was **agreed** that a joint event be arranged for January, subject to confirmation from Marston PC, and the Clerk was asked to make the arrangements with WALC for late January.

CS

MR

**13/14/125 Wiltshire police report**

In the absence of an officer, a written report had been received which the Clerk relayed to the Council. Two burglaries were noted, one of a catalytic convertor, and the other with no loss.

**13/14/126 Draft Budget 2014/15**

The Responsible Financial Officer set out the first draft of a budget for 2014/15, explaining the likely arrangements for revising the Council Tax Support Grant, and the impact on the local precept. It was **agreed** in principle to retain the proposed increase in grant-making capacity with the consequent impact on the precept, and that a further draft budget be presented at the December meeting with the confirmed position of the Support Grant applied.

**13/14/127 Rights of Way and Conservation**

The Clerk reported receipt from Wiltshire Council of a request for support in the observation of potential blockages to drainage ditches and watercourses. Mr Johnson undertook to co-ordinate responses from any observations made by Members.

The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received about the management of gates across the Back Lane bridleway. The Clerk was asked to write to the occupier concerned. The Clerk also reported receipt of advice that a small tree had fallen across Horse Lane bridleway, which Mr Salaman confirmed had been cleared that morning.

**13/14/128 Road Safety Strategy**

The Clerk introduced a Road Safety Strategy, prepared from the decisions taken at the last meeting of the Council. It was proposed by Mr Rose, seconded by Mr Johnson, and **agreed** by all that the Strategy be adopted, and it was further **agreed** that the prepared paper also circulated be presented by the Clerk to the Devizes Community Area Transport Group to replace previous issues raised, and requesting a range of engineering improvements to the highway. Mrs Bonfield undertook to attend CATG with the Clerk.

**13/14/129 Playgrounds safety inspection reports**

The Clerk reported receipt of the annual playgrounds safety inspection reports. It was **agreed** that a number of reported defects should be attended to, and the Clerk was asked to engage an engineer to attend to the mechanical issues. The Chairman undertook to attend to the wooden equipment.

**13/14/130 Community facilities survey**

The Clerk introduced a draft questionnaire prepared from suggestions made by a small working party. It was **agreed** that a revised version was required, to refer only to the Village Hall, the management committee of which must be consulted before publication. Mr Bellamy undertook to arrange house-to-house delivery. It was **agreed** that Mrs Bonfield, Mr Wilshire, Mr Johnson and Mr Midgley take delegated authority to progress a revised questionnaire, and that the Chairman would approach the Village Hall Committee. Mr Salaman undertook to propose distribution to Marston residents to Marston Parish Council.

**13/14/131 Disbursements**

The following disbursements were authorised:

Chq No	£
629 Village Hall (bin)	132.05
630 Playsafety Ltd (Inspections)	156.00
631 P Baxter (stationery expenses)	18.50

PB

SB

PB

RW

SB

RW

DJ

AM

PS

RG

**13/14/132 Wiltshire Councillor's report**

The Chairman asked Mr Gamble what had happened to the road scalplings arranged for Back Lane; Mr Gamble undertook to investigate the matter.

Mr Gamble noted the next Area Board on 25 November would have updates on the Community Campus project, and further discussion on Neighbourhood Planning, and reported that the Wiltshire Online broadband project was scheduled to start work in the Area in October 2014.

**13/14/133 Correspondence received**

There was none.

**13/14/134 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting was set for 2 December at 7.30pm in the Five Lanes School.

**13/14/135 Items of maintenance**

The Clerk reported that Wiltshire Council officers had received a verbal complaint about the condition of a public table in Cedar Close. It was **agreed** that the table should remain in place, and that its ownership remains Wiltshire Council's together with responsibility to maintain.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**13/14/136** It was **agreed**:

- (a) That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting as it will now involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, and
- (b) That the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:-*The item relates to staffing.*

and that the public interest in seeking this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure because of the need to protect the privacy of employees.

**13/14/137 Staff terms and conditions**

The Clerk reviewed the terms upon which agreement had been reached for his employment, and the scale points remaining available in the national pay scales, recently uplifted by 1%. It was **agreed** that the scale point for the Clerk would be advanced with effect from 1 April 2014.

**13/14/138 Key Messages**

It was agreed that an article be prepared for The Bridge reporting the co-option process scheduled for December, the adoption of a road safety strategy, and offering thanks to those householders that have cleared autumn debris from the pavements outside their homes.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed ..... Chairman, 2 December 2013