

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Woodborough Held on 28th April 2014 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Lingwood Lane.

PRESENT

Cllr Whincup, Cllr Berrisford, Cllr Boot, Cllr Gough, Cllr Hough, Cllr Parkinson, Cllr Turton, Cllr Wardle, the Clerk, PC Phil Anelay, Sharon Johnson (Woods School) and 72 residents.

AGENDA & WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the purpose of the evening.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Blinston, Cllr Charles-Jones and Cllr Sharp had sent apologies.

MINUTES OF THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

The minutes were then approved after minor amendment from Mrs Wardle of the WCA, to clarify that the WCA were disappointed by the decision made by the PC in March 2013 to use the BKVC winnings to prune the trees in the Governors' Field.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT (Cllr Richard Whincup)

Looking back at my previous reports I feel I may have been guilty of too much verbiage, not to mention pre-empting the reports of some of my fellow councillors. I will therefore keep my comments to a hopefully succinct minimum. I happily repeat my words on a couple of subjects, those of dog-fouling and control, and car parking, particularly outside the school. I would urge you all to be vigilant and challenge anybody whose behaviour falls below acceptable standards. There are always some significant outstanding issues for the council to grapple with, the two current ones being Gedling BC's planning initiative and inevitably flooding. These will both be discussed later in the meeting. I would be remiss if I didn't mention my fellow parish councillors. They have as always been active in their given roles, most ably supported by our clerk Averil Marczak. Their dedication to the benefit of Woodborough and its inhabitants is to be commended, and invariably goes above and beyond the call of duty. Together we try and make a difference. Every four years your Parish Council comes up for re-election. You may be pleased to know that this time next year you can again decide who you would like on the Council to represent your interests.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE REPORT (PC Phil Anelay)

PC Anelay was now based at Sir John Sherbrooke School following the closure of Calverton Police Station. A priority setting meeting for the 7 villages in Gedling North was held every 3 months (dates on Notts Police website); no one from Woodborough had ever come but villagers would be welcome in future. The priorities set by other villages and applied to Woodborough were: 1 speeding; 2 anti-social behaviour; 3 burglary other (eg from sheds and garages). The police had spent a fortnight trying to enforce good parking habits at school, with help from the Speedwatch team. Good parking had been achieved while police were present but parents had reverted immediately to bad practice when the police operation finished.

Woodborough continued to be a safe place to live, with total crime down 14%.

	No. of crimes 12/13	No. of crimes 13/14
Burglary dwelling	2	4
Burglary other	9	2
Criminal damage	5	4
Drugs	1	0
Fraud	1	0
Robbery	1	0
Theft	8	7
Theft from vehicle	6	4

Violence against the person (all domestic)	2	6
Domestic incident not a crime	7	5

PC Anelay concluded by thanking the Community Speedwatch team; they were regarded as the “senior team” in Gedling and had this year helped to train 7 new teams.

WOODS FOUNDATION SCHOOL (Sharon Johnson, Business Manager)

The School thanked PC Anelay for his help with Speedwatch. The School does try to encourage good parking, and encourages anyone in the village to suggest new ideas and challenge parents who park badly. Sharon is part of the Emergency and Flooding Planning Committee to ensure that contingency plans are in place in the event of an incident during school time. 30 new children would start at the school in September; most lived in the village or very close. The School hoped to install new play equipment for infants this year.

POTENTIAL NEW HOUSING: LATEST ON ACS & LPD (Patrick Smith, Woodborough Action Group)

The Woodborough Action Group (WAG) was formed after a public meeting held on October 28th 2013, to help articulate and communicate concerns about development (primarily flooding, traffic, loss of greenbelt), as a response to the consultation on the Local Planning Document (LPD). The LPD identified 3 potential sites for housing development in Woodborough, to satisfy “local need” in “other villages”. WAG members attend PC meetings to raise concerns and attended the Government Inspector’s review hearings as observers. It should be noted that Woodborough could not participate at the hearings as no reply had been made to the 2012 consultation. The WAG had recommended the engagement of Ken Mafham (KM) for planning advice, produced a village newsletter and run 2 drop in sessions to help residents respond to the LPD consultation. The WAG had reviewed KM’s notes and also compiled the dossier on flooding that was submitted to GBC by individuals and the PC. They had liaised with the Environment Agency, Mark Spencer MP, GBC’s planners. Mr Smith thanked the Photographic Society for help with flooding evidence and the Woodborough Web for providing publicity. The latest consultation was in response to changes made by GBC to the Aligned Core Strategy (ACS) after the 2 sets of Inspector’s hearings. The WAG had prepared a response that all villagers could “piggy back”, which argued that greenbelt must be protected, growth can come from infill, the ACS should consider the flooding risk. Mr Smith asked all villagers who agreed with the response to fill out a form and hand it to him for delivery to GBC. The likely number of houses to be built in “other villages” including Woodborough was a maximum of 174; Woodborough was likely to bear the brunt of development due to the lack of suitable sites elsewhere. Some parishes wanted to challenge the process in the High Court but the WAG did not support this. The responses made last December would be considered by GBC’s cabinet in June and “workshops” were likely to be held in the village thereafter. In September an updated LPD would be published for consultation. Mr Smith thanked other members of the WAG, and took questions:

Q: what is local need? A: unclear, it will be defined in September.

Q: what weight does flooding have in arguments against? A: it is considered, however a developer will put forward ways to mitigate risk, this may be accepted although proof of efficacy or not will only come in practice.

Q: does the recent rejection of the crematorium application strengthen greenbelt in the borough? A: yes, an exceptional case must be made.

Q: why not support the judicial review of the way that the Inspector has conducted herself? A: if the process is proved to be flawed, it must start again. Without an agreed Local Plan a developer can apply for planning permission on any of the Woodborough sites.

FLOODING & EMERGENCY PLANNING (report by Nick Blinston, Woodborough Emergency Planning Committee Chair, read by Cllr Paul Hough)

The Woodborough Emergency Planning Committee was originally established by Margaret Briggs as part of the excellent work she did for the village when she was a Parish Councillor. She continues to be active in the Committee. The purpose is to plan for emergencies that might impact on the village – to be the first responders prior to the Emergency Services arriving. The main focus is floods! We were

the first village to agree with Nottinghamshire County Council a flood signage scheme. Through this agreement trained volunteers can close the road at designated points through the village (Main Street (Nags Head), Lingwood Lane (Village Hall), Roe Lane, and Main Street/Bank Hill). This is a formal agreement with the Highways Department and the Police and the purpose of road closures is to prevent cars from driving through the village during floods. This is to prevent the creation of bow waves that have the potential of breaching residents' flood defences and put property at risk. There is also the hidden danger of burst drains. Flood wardens will stop cars from entering the village. We know that "everyone is a special case, just going a few metres down the road, has a vehicle that can drive through water" but we cannot let anyone pass unless there is a medical emergency. This point really needs emphasising as there have been a number of occasions when flood wardens, who are volunteers and will turn out at all times of day and night, and in all weathers, have been abused and treated with utter disrespect. Flood wardens will also ask people not to enter flood waters on foot. Flood waters are nasty and potentially dangerous. The water comes from the sewers and there are hidden dangers of burst drains. There are a growing number of volunteer flood wardens who have been trained by the County Council. Special thanks should go to Sue Walker, who acts as co-ordinator and single point of contact during floods. She has done excellent work building up contacts with residents, schools and day nursery. The strength of the scheme is based on the partnerships it has built up; with the community (schools and day nursery) and local residents affected by flooding and the statutory bodies. Flood wardens have attended meetings outside the village with the Environment Agency and meetings arranged by the MP. We are seen as an area of good practice and have a good reputation outside the village appearing on television, in the newspapers and the County Council's newsletter. It should also be noted that the Village Caretaker now regularly cleans the leaves from the drains on Main Street and Lingwood Lane. If anyone finds a blocked drain they should report this to Nottinghamshire County Council, there is an on line form. The Emergency Planning Committee will meet after any flood incident and try and learn lessons. We are seeking new ideas and suggestions for improvement.

Cllr Whincup read out a paper from Cllr Charles-Jones, who had sent his apologies for absence. Various flooding mitigation schemes have been discussed in the past, and I am currently involved with others exploring in some detail how a scheme might be designed to the West of the village. I am not at liberty to discuss the detail of what we have in mind or where, but in essence we are looking at a scheme that will slow the passage of excess water before it reaches the village. We have already met with the Environment Agency who are extremely supportive of such a scheme, but the catchment area is large and so are the potential quantities of water that we are needing to consider. A detailed topographical survey has already been completed to guide our thinking. Many potential problems have already been identified, and so we are working through them before we can reach any final conclusions. It is also important to bear in mind that the best that any scheme such as this might achieve is a reduction in the flooding risk and not the removal of it. Whilst we think we have identified a suitable site, the whole question of finance remains. At this stage it is far too early to predict what the ultimate cost of any scheme might be, but it is probably realistic to believe that it could cost six figures above the receipt of any potential grants or donations. Personally, I believe that the only fair and relatively simple way of raising finance might be by raising the precept. If there is any single or specific risk to property values within the village, it arises from either the reality or perception of flooding risk within the village. Initial investigation would suggest that for each additional £100,000 raised by precept, the total extra cost to a band D property would be in the region of £115 and to a band H property about £230. I would be particularly interested in learning of villagers' opinions to the thought of raising money in this or any other way.

A villager commented that the developers of Grimesmoor Farm (should development take place) could be required under S106 to support such a scheme.

PARKING PROBLEMS ON LINGWOOD LANE: DOUBLE YELLOW LINES?

Cllr Whincup introduced a suggestion made by County Councillor Boyd Elliott, that double yellow lines could be painted outside the school to improve parking at the start and end of the school day. There was no strong support for the idea and it seemed that many attendees were not familiar with the problem. One villager suggested that parked cars were helpful in slowing traffic although PC Anelay

countered that a child had been knocked down by a vehicle manoeuvring amidst parked cars (no serious injury sustained and no fault of the driver). Another villager suggested that it was necessary to park in Lingwood Lane as it was so difficult to cross Main Street near the Four Bells. There was a suggestion that the old Co-op site could be developed as a car park with an entrance into the school.

BUS SERVICES (report by Cllr Dan Sharp, read by Cllr Richard Whincup)

Originally, the changes to local bus services under the County Council's TITAN Project should have happened in January. However, a change of administration has delayed things, and a revised budget has been agreed. A few months ago, I posted notices quoting County Transport Manager Chris Ward's email to me regarding what will happen. To briefly recap, the 47 will be re-routed to serve Doverbeck Drive, and beyond Calverton will be diverted to serve Oxton and terminate at Lowdham. There should not be much change to the pattern of service through Woodborough. This is expected to take effect in August, from which time, the number 5 will be curtailed to run between Netherfield and Burton Joyce. As for services to Arnold, I have proposed ideas for a replacement, but NCC are still keen on connecting services (ie the 47 feeding into the 46 or 25 at Mapperley). This is not very convenient, especially when laden with shopping. I am hoping that with the revision to Notts Bus services, there may be some spare capacity with an operator servicing the Colonel Frank Seely School in Calverton to be able to provide some sort of shoppers' service. I intend to identify possible operators and make a proposal to this effect to them and the County. I am also working on another proposal which would be pitched as a stand-alone service. One development to report, NCC have finally installed a bus stop for the allotments, which I do hope will prove useful. Also, following my requests, a stop has been installed at the far end of Lingwood Lane, and the Moor Lane stop has been relocated to a more sensible location. Please make good use of the bus services this summer- they may not be perfect, but the more seats that are filled, the better. Why not spend an afternoon at the riverside? The 47 takes you to Gunthorpe and the 5 to Stoke Bardolph. Enjoy easy access to these locations whilst you can.

SCOUT HUT (report by Cindy Bamford, read by Cllr Paul Hough)

We have a meeting about the Scout Hut with the Central Notts District Commissioner, who has just completed a successful funding bid for a hut at Lowdham. We have raised over £23,000 and are hoping to raise another £2000 before applying for grants. We are meeting with the PCC to discuss the lease of the land from the diocese and the rebuilding of the hut in mid May. Any monetary or building materials/labour donations to help us achieve our target would be greatly appreciated. All are welcome at the jumble sale on 14th June.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

ALLOTMENTS (Cllr Richard Whincup)

The allotments were running successfully and were fully let.

FOOTPATHS (Cllr Paul Berrisford)

Repairs during the last year have been made to footpath/bridleways 9 and 12, with repairs also to some way markers and stiles. All footpaths are used regularly, and are in a very good state of health. A fallen tree blocking the bridleway at the end of Roe Hill was cleared by GBC.

GOVERNORS' FIELD (Cllr Charles Wardle)

Following several years of uncertainty, I am delighted to report that all parties have finally agreed the boundary of the Governors' Field and we have a 7 year lease in place. We are about to commence a program of refurbishment of the railings which will include strategic replacement of some sand stone base blocks as well. Following a poor attempt at painting the furniture around the field, reported on last year, the contractor returned and did a much better job without further charge. Following some justified adverse comment about the brightness of the Christmas lights, the Parish Council decided to replace them with new lights using the latest technology. We were relieved to get an overwhelming positive response to this change. Next year the distribution will be slightly changed to fill gaps that

only became obvious when they were switched on! Once again we are indebted to the Hursthouse family for allowing us to plug the Christmas lights into their mains supply.

The play equipment is showing signs of age and a number of people have drawn our attention to newer and more up to date equipment in other villages. One cannot escape the fact that whilst it is still sound it is looking rather dated – but, of course, new equipment will come at a price. Andy Pearson who lives in the village has agreed to front a group to explore all aspects associated with such a project. He is here this evening so can I ask him to tell you of plans so far and how you may be able to help.

Andy Pearson: we have formed a group of 6, “Woodborough GREAT”, to drive forward a project to replace the play equipment. Options will be researched with the school and the village at large. Anyone wanting to get involved should get in touch. It was hoped that new play equipment could be installed in 2015.

MAINTENANCE (Cllr Charles Wardle)

Geoff Baggaley has continued to do sterling service as our village caretaker but now with the added title of Village Lengthsman – a medieval term for someone employed to look after a stretch of road or canal. This title is the result of a Nottingham County Council initiative whereby the parish receives a lump sum to take on some responsibilities previously covered by highways. The most immediate signs of his new work are the widening of the footpath around the corner by The Meadows and regular patrolling of the road drains when they are at risk of blockage by leaves. In future, jobs like this can be handled “in house” straight away without the need to wait for others to do it. At the village hall the major item of the year has been the rebuilding of the car park wall on the Lingwood Lane side. This had developed an alarming lean, as the shorter wall had done a few years ago. Once again, Barrie Ward, a structural engineer living in the village, kindly gave freely of his advice. Our purchase of new chairs hasn’t been entirely straight forward! There have been a number of cases where the backs have broken and as a result the manufacturer only last week replaced all backs using a different material. The previous halogen car park lighting used to fail regularly. We now have LED spots which whilst not quite as bright do an adequate job, last much longer and are much cheaper to run. We have a new panic bar on the exit from the chair store and a new, more robust pulley for the stage curtains following its recent breakage. There are new cupboards in the Committee Room for storage and refurbishment of the toilets will commence in the summer holidays.

Following our grant success with the Pinfold we have recently been awarded a further grant of over £12,000 by the Nottinghamshire County Council LIS scheme to re-point the entire surrounding wall of the churchyard and replace bricks where necessary. There is no additional funding required by the parish. Finally, I would like to record our thanks to Tim Tritton who has battled to keep grass and hedges cut during a second year when excessive precipitation has led to uncontrollable growth. In March he was awarded another 3 year contract. It was gratifying to hear of a story last year of some visitors remarking that they often visited new villages and that they had rarely come across a churchyard looking so well kept. Well done Tim.

VILLAGE HALL (Cllr Geoff Parkinson)

The hall continues to be the focal point of community life and runs at virtually full capacity. The PC subsidises up to a third of running costs. This year the solar panels have provided a second income stream; hire rates have not been increased. Cllr Parkinson thanked the VHWP, which includes a number of regular users and councillors, as well as the clerk and hall caretaker. Special thanks are owed to Cllr Charles Wardle for his constant work on the hall and Colin Fraser for taking care of sound and light requirements.

SPEEDWATCH (report by Cllr Alison Blinston, read by Cllr Richard Whincup)

Speedwatch is coordinated by WPC but we work in partnership with PC Anelay and his colleagues and appreciate the support we receive. The aim is to encourage responsible driving in the village as

village roads are potentially dangerous; all entry roads have a 60mph speed limit, so drivers must step down to 30mph when entering the village; some roads inside the 30mph area have no pavements, only very narrow pavements, are not lit, or only poorly lit. Cyclists, horse riders, children, vulnerable adults are particularly at risk. Achievements so far: the interactive speed sign was installed on Main Street, as a direct result of data collected by the speedwatch team; NCC Highways Department have confirmed that an interactive sign for Lowdham Lane is in the 14/15 programme, again as a result of data collected by the team, and lobbying by the coordinator; the numbers of vehicles found to be speeding on Bank Hill has been substantially reduced. Since the scheme started 831 letters have been sent out, and the percentage of offending vehicles continues to fall. Woodborough Speedwatch has been used as an example of good practice by the Gedling Community Partnership, and the team has been involved in advising coordinators of schemes in other villages, such as Ravenshead, and in contributing to training of volunteers. More volunteers are needed! There's currently a team of 14 volunteers. We do need more members in order to continue to carry out regular monitoring sessions. The team's visibility is important in reminding drivers that 30mph is the maximum speed in the village. Also a weight limit of 7.5 Tonnes has recently been introduced, but this is not always adhered to. It is planned that the team will soon begin to log heavy vehicles breaking the weight restriction. This data will then be passed to the Police for follow up.

PLAYING FIELDS (Cllr Paul Berrisford)

The pavilion is being used by the Woodborough Football and Cricket Clubs. No major repair work was needed last year. The playing field has been "verti-drained" and the repairs to the dyke will hopefully be dealt with during the summer months. The tennis courts are still being used by Woodborough Tennis Club.

HEALTH & SAFETY (report by Cllr Dan Sharp, read by Cllr Whincup)

Unfortunately, we have had a small number of incidents in which the backs of our new chairs have given way. The problem was eventually discovered to be a quality issue with the wood used to make the backs, and I understand that these have all now been replaced. Many thanks to Cllrs Richard Whincup and John Charles-Jones for their perseverance in getting the suppliers to carry out the remedial work. Elsewhere, I am happier to report that the play equipment on Governor's Field passed last year's ROSPA safety inspection, and I see no reason why it shouldn't do so in the 2014 assessment. The other ongoing issue we have is the need to safeguard against legionella in the pavilion. Many thanks go to Cllr Paul Berrisford for organising the required tests and precautions to maintain our clean bill of health.

Finally, one issue that frequently arises at our meetings is parking outside the school. Despite the generosity of the management of The Four Bells who allow parents to use their car park whilst they walk their children across the road, a small number still park up outside the school and also obstruct the entrance to the Village Hall car park. Not only can this pose problems for other motorists and pedestrians, but it could potentially delay the emergency services' arrival at an incident in the village. We therefore politely ask that parents refrain from parking on Lingwood Lane.

PLANNING (Cllr Jan Turton)

The last 12 months have been very busy for planning matters, many contentious and challenging issues. As previously explained over past years the P.C. can only comment on the plans presented to us by Gedling; we hope they take note of our observations and recommendations but the final decision lies with them. The P.C. is always willing to listen to resident's comments but our response must come within planning law and stick to planning issues. Whilst we all value a view, this is not a point of objection as we have no right to that view unless we own it. Flooding; we have commented on many occasions that there will be an increase in surface water run off to the main street from some infill developments. In mid-September I attended a training course held by Nottinghamshire Association of local councils on responding to major planning applications, this has proved valuable knowledge over the past 6 months. Following the open meeting of the village regarding the proposed development sites the council decided to engage the services of Ken Mafham a planning consultant to assist and guide us on behalf of the residents. In February having spent 3 days at the Greater

Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies' Hearing, I was awash with information some relevant to Woodborough but with a view of the overall picture of proposed planning in Gedling. The sites identified in Woodborough (Broad Close, Private Road, Charnwood Way and Grimesmoor Farm) all lie within the green belt.

The P.C. will be making their response to the ACS main modifications by 30th April. We consider flooding a significant point especially as the Charnwood Way site falls within an area identified by the Department of the Environment as at high risk of flooding. The Woodborough Action Group will make their response and any resident can also make their own. But be aware any of the sites could be developed at any time, prior to the adoption of the ACS if a prospective developer submitted an application through the normal planning procedure.

Finally the old Co-op site: I have been looking closely at this derelict site in the centre of our beautiful village. The site is no longer secure, is being used as a dumping area for building materials and must come under health and safety issues. The former owner sold the site on and my understanding is that planning permission has now lapsed. Council have agreed to ask GBC to serve a Section 215 (Enforcement in Respect of Untidy Land) Town and County Planning Act 1990 notice on the land owner. This is the first step towards what I would like to see as a car park in the centre of the village with a rear gate access to the school playground, which would relieve parking on Lingwood Lane, a dream yes but maybe possible.

CEMETERY (Cllr Richard Whincup)

Work continues to improve the cemetery. The Japanese Knotweed is succumbing to treatment and the gates have been widened to allow the largest of hearses to enter more easily. Cllr John Charles Jones managed the gate modifications and he oversees the use of his special brew on the knotweed. Some years ago an area of wild flowers was planted amongst the gravestones, and this has been a source of contention since. Cllr Alison Blinston has pushed hard to plant a wild flower area in the new part of the cemetery, and work will begin shortly on preparing the ground. This will kill two birds with one stone – the area of wildflowers will be less contentious, we hope, and we will be actively using the new cemetery land. There is precedent for parish councils to be challenged if they acquire an asset which then lies unused, and we believe this threat will be mitigated by the introduction of the wild flowers. Some preparatory work has been done by me on the promised noticeboard, but I have deliberately delayed the project until the cemetery is in a stable state. Now that the gates have been done and the wildflower meadow is agreed then work can recommence.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (Clerk)

Overall, the PC is in a strong financial position. Income was down year on year but this was no cause for concern as year ending March 31 2013 was something of an exceptional year (previous year's income was £63,700). The key reasons for decline can be found in cemetery fees, unusually low but never something we can influence, and the loss of revenue aid from GBC. GBC no longer pay us revenue aid but have passed on a grant from central government which is designed to smooth a negative impact resulting from a change to the way the tax base is calculated. It should be noted that some authorities chose to pocket this money, rather than pass it on as intended, so thank you GBC.

The Council successfully secured 3 grants from NCC, for tree planting, a new cemetery noticeboard and, the most sizable one, £2400 to operate a "parish lengthsman" scheme, essentially for taking more local responsibility for keeping our highways, paths and verges clear and tidy. Last year we were awarded £1125 for our success in the Best Kept Village competition. The downside of such success is that we are ineligible to enter for 2 years. However we did see an upside from our VH solar panels, generating an extra 28% of revenue thanks to the better summer. Expenditure is up modestly by just under 1.5%. Our 2 main areas of expenditure are administration – which this year has included payment of £500 for planning consultancy - and the village hall. This year, as well as keeping the hall clean, warm and compliant with the latest rules and regulations, we have improved storage for the committee room (cupboards are available for hire), but our major outlay was on the carpark wall, a safety issue rather than an improvement. The figure for playing fields is also up year on year – largely explained by an investment of £2450 for new Christmas lights which is included in that category.

Reserves have built due to the delay to the refurbishment of the VH toilets which had been planned for 2013/14. This work is planned for the summer holidays to minimise disruption for users.

The Parish Council now carries out the majority of its financial transactions via bacs using a triple authority system - this has helped us save many pounds on stamps and stationery. I was delighted that 26 out of 32 allotment tenants paid us by bacs this year.

DISTRICT REPORT (Cllr John Boot)

Gedling's planning officers have been stretched to the limit by the number of responses to the ACS and LPD. When the Inspector responds to the latest consultation the building plan for the next 5 years should be determined. The Inspector has 4 weeks after the consultation either to sign off the plans or request further hearings. If signed off, the plans go to June's cabinet. Villagers should remain vigilant for any further information coming out. Finally, Woodborough Ward will be merged with Lambley at the next borough council election in 2015.

WOODBOROUGH IN BLOOM (Mrs Jan Turton)

Hopefully all agree that the planting has looked excellent over the last 12 months. The heavy rain during July didn't damage the plants and with the mild winter the heathers, pansies and bulbs have given colour to the winter months. Since Paul Reed started W in B in 2005, with the aid of a lottery grant the number of planters and troughs have increased from 16 to 47, we have now said no more. The amount of work has grown immensely, costs have risen and we are short of funds. We are well supported by the Parish Council also the Community Association and Carpet Bowls along with a very few private donations but this does not cover the amount that is needed to fund both summer and winter planting. Elizabeth, Jane and I enjoy our work for W in B and wish to continue to maintain the high standard achieved which won us the Best Kept Village in 2012. In 2015 we will be eligible to enter the competition once more.

As the summer arrives you will see the poppies we have planted around the village to commemorate the start of the 1st World War. We have chosen a colour scheme for our planting of white, cream and different shades of green, representing peace interspersed with a few red troughs. The planters have been cuprinoled ready for the summer and we hope the village is keen for the planting to continue.

WOODBOROUGH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (Mrs Laura Wardle)

Woodborough Community Association was founded in 1965 which means this is its 50th year, a momentous achievement. I must say I am very proud to be the Chairman of this select group of volunteers who give their time and energy so willingly to make the village a better place for all the residents. Many of our events are firmly in the regular calendar and the Over 60s Coach Trip has become one of them. Last year the trips went to Beverley and The Deep in Hull in May followed by Chester in September. Both worked well in spite of the problems caused by Premiere Travel going out of business meaning that a new coach company had to be sourced. Thank you to Carol Tansley for all her hard work on this. This year's trips are planned for the National Arboretum at Lichfield, to coincide with the WW1 100th Anniversary and a tour of the Derbyshire Dales in the Autumn.

We had a good supply of scarecrows last year with the theme of Fairy Tales. We had several Princesses attempting to sleep on peas and more than one Jack up – or down – a beanstalk and many other very imaginative scarecrows. We held a scarecrow workshop in the garden at the Nags Head which was blessed with beautiful sunshine. We are repeating the exercise this year with the theme of "Heroes and Villains". We are lucky to be supported in this event by Ken and Michelle at the Nags Head. As you know, they are on the move at some stage this year. I hope their successors will be as interested in village activities but they will be a hard act to follow.

Street Market dawned dry if not bright and we had a lovely variety of stalls. Thank you to everyone who put in a lot of work for this event. It is also the event for our Annual Prize draw. We had some excellent prizes from local businesses who have supported us so well. Craig and Gaynor at the Four Bells are a great help for this event and their co-operation is very much appreciated.

A pessimistic weather forecast and a very grey sky put many people off coming to the Pig Roast which is usually a popular event. In fact, other than a fairly heavy shower at around 8 pm, it wasn't too bad and those that did come enjoyed the evening. Thank you to all the valiant helpers who work

very hard cooking and serving the pig with perfection. We are also very grateful to Ken and Michelle at the Nags Head who kindly host the evening.

Firework night was an experience! The event got picked up by Radio Nottingham and that, coupled with the fact that there were very few other displays in the area, meant that we were overwhelmed with visitors from outside the village. I think it is fair to say that the situation caused difficulty with crowd and traffic control. We have made plans to ensure that the situation isn't repeated but suffice to say, we still had a brilliant display of fireworks again supplied by Nigel Whalley and we sold all our toffee apples and novelties.

Tickets for the ever popular Revival sold out and the band put on a very good performance. There was plenty of dancing and the bar was very well supported. Yet again, we were beaten by the weather on the day of carols round the Beacon.

Stewart again produced a calendar full of fabulous village pictures which has been very well received by all and sold well. Brian and Mavis have continued to host the monthly Bingo nights. They raise a significant amount of money for our funds and we are very grateful for their efforts.

We started this year with the New Year Party for the over 65s which was the usual well oiled machine thanks to Margaret Briggs and her team. Mavis and Brian handled the guest list with efficiency. All were delighted to be entertained by a trio made up of Andy Hodges, Lorna Mellors and Chris Parrot and many joined in to sing along with a selection of 60s songs. Steve Derry again delivered a quiz. Thanks to all involved – it is much appreciated by the older residents of the parish.

Shrove Tuesday followed with the children enjoying the traditional races up Roe Hill. It was a lovely sunny morning and there was a good turnout of supporters to cheer on the children who had been brought from School and Preschool. The Village Cinema events continue to be popular. In the Autumn, we tried a new format showing 2 films, Wreckit Ralph in the afternoon for the younger viewers in the village and Lincoln in the evening. It was not as well supported as we would have liked but we tried the same format last month with Frozen in the afternoon and Great Gatsby in the evening. This was much more encouraging with Frozen selling out.

In conjunction with the Nags Head Charity, the provision of the defibrillators in the village is very soon to be realised. The one destined for the Nags Head will be installed early next month and will be fixed in a box which has been funded by Gedling Homes. This will be followed by one in the old phone box at the top of the village. This has been funded by the Parish Council and, on behalf of the village, I would like to express thanks.

I would like to say thank you to all those who have put so much effort into making our events run so smoothly. I am very grateful to Liz, our Vice Chairman who has put a great deal of work in behind the scenes. I would like to also give a vote of thanks to David Tansley who retired as Treasurer after several years' sterling work and I am delighted to say Graham Weatherall has taken over the role. More members are needed to join our team – it would be nice to see some new faces and new ideas.

This year will mark the 5th Anniversary of my Chairmanship and I think 5 years of me is enough for anyone! I am therefore putting on record that this will be my final year as Chairman. I hope I can make it a good one.

QUESTION & ANSWER/OPEN SESSION

- Can approved minutes be posted on the Post Office noticeboard the day after the meeting?

- Woodborough in Bloom should put an envelope through every door requesting donations.
- How much do Woodborough in Bloom need to raise? Jan Turton: an extra £250 would enable winter and summer planting to continue.
- Why have NCC subsidised the no. 5 bus, which is hardly used, and taken so long to provide the no. 47 service?
- Is a dishwasher in this year's budget? Geoff Parkinson: it is not considered viable.
- How much did the car park wall repair cost? Clerk: £8750
- A villager commented that the weeds on Main Street had not been sprayed and now the window of opportunity has been lost; he persisted in his complaint despite being told that plans were afoot. Several: spraying is undertaken by volunteers from the WCA; if it's not done to your satisfaction you should act yourself. Laura Wardle: it is very upsetting to have volunteers criticised in this manner when the WCA goes to great lengths to keep the village looking at its best.
- Will the PC respond to GBC's latest consultation? Chair: yes.
- Thanks to the WAG for wading through all the consultation documents and distilling the key points for the village to use and respond.
- Can Woodborough get grants for attractive village signs, as seen in other villages? Clerk: these have been provided via NCC's LIS scheme. Future funding for Woodborough is unlikely due to cuts although the village has done very well in the past from this scheme.
- Could new signage be funded from the precept?
- Thanks to Graham Weatherall for applying Cuprinol to the planters round the village.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm by thanking all in attendance.