

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th April 2013 at 7pm
The Village Hall, Lingwood Lane, Woodborough, Nottingham

PRESENT: Cllr Richard Whincup (Chairman), Cllr Paul Berrisford, Cllr Alison Blinston, Cllr John Boot, Cllr John Charles-Jones, Cllr Andrew Gough, Cllr Dan Sharp, Cllr Jan Turton, Cllr Charles Wardle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Averil Marczak (Clerk); part: Martin Hubbard and Mike Downs (agents for planning application PC ref 866); part: 16 residents

1832. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Paul Hough (sickness) and Cllr Geoff Parkinson (holiday).

1833. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal interests were declared: Cllr Berrisford: allotments; Cllr Blinston: WCA and allotments; planning application PC ref 865; Cllr Wardle: WCA; Cllr Turton, Woodborough in Bloom, Cancer Research.

Before reconvening the meeting at 7.45pm, the Chairman declared an open session for members of the public, during which planning application PC ref 866 was discussed. A brief summary of comments made is appended. All members of the public left after the open session.

1834. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on March 11th were approved with minor amendment.

1835. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Blinston had been in communication with Cllr Spencer regarding the proposed reduction of the speed limit on Lowdham Lane. April 16th was confirmed as the date for the visit of Notts Wildlife Trust to the cemetery and churchyard. Cllr Turton confirmed that Woodborough in Bloom had applied for permission to prune the trees in the Governors' Field.

1836. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Whincup reported that Cllr Spencer had sent a donation of £1000 to help the PC purchase a cemetery noticeboard. All old flowers and tributes had been removed from the cemetery in readiness for Easter. Signs saying "No Dogs" and "Shut the Gate" had been affixed on the gates; however the gate had been found open on more than one occasion.

1837. COUNTY & DISTRICT REPORT

Cllr Boot reported that GBC would consider the planning application for Gedling Country Park on April 10th.

1838. BUS SERVICES

NCT had agreed to reinstate a bus stop at the allotments. Cllr Sharp reported that he would feed the remaining points in to the TITAN project, a roadshow for which was planned in June. AOT were reported to be considering a replacement for the old number 6 service which might solve the problem of access from Doverbeck Drive; they were however building their service one route at a time and their current focus was on the Hucknall route.

1839. FLOOD RESILIENCE

It was agreed to advertise for more flood wardens and flood buddies. Cllr Gough agreed to check whether NCC provided insurance for the volunteers. It was reported with some consternation that a group of residents had arranged to meet with representatives from the Environment Agency and NCC without involving the Emergency Committee; it was hoped that an early debate might ensure that the group might join the Emergency Committee's established group of volunteers rather than working independently.

1840. SPEEDWATCH & LORRYWATCH

Cllr Blinston reported that the Speedwatch programme had been temporarily suspended while the insurance status was investigated; it had now been confirmed that the Parish Council's insurance would cover the Speedwatch volunteers. Concern was expressed that more lorries were routing through Woodborough following the introduction of the HGV restriction on Tonne Lane and it was agreed that the matter should be discussed with Kate Butler at NCC Highways.

1841. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

The agenda was agreed. It was noted that PC Anelay would be unable to attend.

Cllr Charles-Jones arrived.

1842. CORRESPONDENCE & EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

An email had been received from a villager regarding the impact of topsoil from farmland being washed down into the village with flood water, and possible strategies that farmers might adopt. Cllr Charles-Jones had met with the villager and shared a frank discussion. It was agreed that the correspondence should be sent to the Environment Agency; the PC had neither powers nor expertise to contribute further to a debate regarding soil erosion. An email had been received from a villager regarding the increase in the precept; the Clerk had responded directly with an explanation which had been accepted. A zero non domestic rate demand had been received due to the continuation of small business rates relief. Mansfield Citizens Advice Bureau had sent a note of thanks for the donation of the chairs. Woodborough in Bloom had sent a note of thanks for the donation for the pruning of the trees in the Governors' Field. The forthcoming RoSPA inspection of the play equipment was noted. Details of Gedling Borough's Spring Clean Week had been received. The Notts Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter had been received. GBC had sent an update on the Aligned Core Strategy. Various minutes and agendas from GBC were noted. Cllr Gough had received complaints from residents regarding dog fouling and inconsiderate parking which blocked the pavements. It was agreed to place notices on vehicle windscreens and report persistent offenders to NCC highways department.

1843. CHURCHYARD

There was nothing discussed.

1844. PARISH LENGTHSMAN/VILLAGE CONTRACTOR

Cllr Wardle advised that Geoff Baggaley was ready to resume duties. The Clerk had received a positive response to the PC's expression of interest in NCC's lengthsman scheme; a grant of up to £2000 might be available to pay for works on the highway. Lengthsmen were required to attend a

basic training course provided by NCC. It was agreed in principle that the PC should progress this opportunity.

1845. PLANNING

PC ref 862, GBC 2013/0184, an application for a first floor extension to a bungalow at 22 Ploughman Avenue: it was agreed to note concern that the extension would not look out over an open field aspect (as quoted in the application) but over the garden of 165 Main Street. PC ref 864, GBC 2013/0275, an application for proposed alterations and an extension at 48 Sunningdale Drive: there was no objection. PC ref 865, GBC 2013/0238TPO, an application to remove an ash tree T8: it was noted that the tree contained a rookery, that the readings had been taken in a dry period and that ash die back was a national problem and that GBC should therefore consider whether the tree was solely responsible for the subsidence. PC ref 866, GBC 2013/0251 and 0252, an application for the demolition of a bungalow and proposed development of 6 properties: three letters/emails making detailed objections had been received. The PC had no objection to the demolition of the bungalow, and recognised that development of the site was appropriate. It was agreed to note the PC's concerns that the development should be reduced from 6 dwellings to 5; that Hawthorn Close was too narrow to sustain the additional traffic and that the withdrawal of the bus service from this part of the village would compound the issue of extra car journeys; that a wall and not a fence should form the boundary along Plot 1; that the reports of the Environment Agency and Severn Trent be critically analysed to see whether their findings still stand given the 4 flooding episodes in the last 12 months (it was noted with concern that the Environment Agency had inaccurately believed that there had been just one flooding episode). It was further agreed to request a condition that the site should be fenced off during any construction.

1846. ALLOTMENTS

It was noted that a handful of tenants had yet to renew and further plots might become available. There had been 2 requests from spouses of existing tenants to take on a half plot. In the absence of other prospective new tenants, this was agreed. The proposal would entail splitting allotment 28 into 2 parts; Cllr Whincup agreed to visit and approve the manner of the division to ensure that it was equitable for future tenants. It was noted that a request by a pub landlord to take on an allotment had been turned down as sale of produce was not permitted under the agreement. There had been two objections by allotment tenants to the proposal by one tenant to keep bees, and a number of comments in support of the idea. It was agreed to give the matter consideration at a later meeting.

1847. CEMETERY

A request had been received to place a bench in the old unconsecrated quarter and this was approved.

1848. HEALTH & SAFETY

It was noted that the legionella management tests for the pavilion were now due.

1849. GOVERNORS' FIELD

Cllr Wardle advised that the paintwork would be redone once the timber was completely dry; timing was dependent on a good spell of dry weather. The state of the railings was of concern but the PC remained unwilling to commit to expensive repairs without a lease; Cllr Wardle agreed to contact Mr Andrew Prestwich to check on progress.

1850. PLAYING FIELD

A quote had been received for a repair to the collapsed ditch; some members felt that the proposal had been over specified. It was agreed that a less elaborate solution was more appropriate and to obtain quotes on this basis. Cllr Charles-Jones reported that rolling and Vertidrainning would take place in the next week.

1851. FINANCE

The Clerk presented the financial statement and 8 payments totalling £2125.63 including £228.75 VAT were approved for payment. The Clerk presented a first cut of the year end figures; it was noted that total expenditure was in line with budget but that income had exceeded expectation due to grants from WREN and NCC, and a high level of activity in the cemetery.

1852. CLERK'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

1853. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Wardle agreed to obtain a further quote for the outstanding electrical works at the hall. Cllr Wardle hoped to be able to supply a specification for works to the wall shortly.

1854. RIGHTS OF WAY

It was reported that there had been a complaint to NCC about safety on footpath 9 and as a consequence the path had been closed temporarily.

1855. NEWSLETTER

It was agreed to remind dog owners to use the dog bins and to ask those parking on the pavement to ensure that there was room for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs to pass.

1856. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next PC meeting was confirmed as May 13th 2013. The meeting finished at 10.15pm.

SUMMARY OF DEBATE DURING PUBLIC SESSION

Planning application PC ref 866, GBC2013/0251 and 252, for 6 dwellings at 147 Main Street:

Mr M Hubbard, architect, explained that the planning officers had recommended approval of the previous application for 7 houses and that there were compelling reasons to believe that an appeal would be successful; the applicant preferred however to try to gain consent through modifying the plan. To this end, the number of properties in the proposed development had been reduced from 7 to 6; additional parts of the driveway were now proposed to be permeable, meaning that there should be less run off from the site than with the current arrangement; additional expert reports had been provided.

Several residents expressed their concerns: the footprint of the development was greater and the number of bedrooms remained the same; plot 1 remained overbearing; construction traffic will create intolerable problems for Hawthorn Close; the development should be built in red brick; one resident sought guarantees that there will be no run off from the site and pledged to sue in the event of any water flowing from the site to Main Street.

