

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th November 2012 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 Paul Hough, Cllr Geoff Parkinson, Cllr Dan Sharp, Cllr Jan Turton, Cllr Charles Wardle

IN ATTENDANCE: Averil Marczak (Clerk), part of meeting: 14 residents, Mr M Hubbard, architect to planning application 850, Mr M Hope of Calverton Allotment Association, Mr S Hopwell and Mrs K Watson of Woods School

Before convening the meeting at 8.05pm, the Chairman declared an open session for members of the public, during which planning application 850, an allotment noticeboard and school parking were discussed. A brief summary of comments made is appended. All members of the public left after the open session.

1727. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal interests were declared: Cllr Whincup, Cllr Blinston: WCA and allotments; Cllr Wardle: WCA; Cllr Berrisford: allotments; Cllr Hough: Wood School; Cllr Turton, Woodborough in Bloom, Cancer Research.

1728. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on October 8th were approved.

1729. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Wardle reported that the WCA would be able to store only a limited number of old chairs. WREN planned to hold a regional meeting in the committee room in January once the chairs, to which they had contributed, had arrived.

1730. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had attended a meeting for parish councils at GBC. GBC members planned to do a biannual walkabout to meet residents. It was agreed that Cllr Sharp should accompany their first visit to Woodborough.

1731. DISTRICT REPORT

Cllr Boot confirmed that he would be involved in the walkabouts for GBC.

1732. CASUAL VACANCY

The meeting with the two applicants had been postponed to December due to the pressure on the agenda; it was agreed to continue to publicise the vacancy on the website.

1733. PLANNING

PC reference 851, GBC 2012/1215, an application for single storey extensions to a bungalow at 48 Sunningdale Drive: it was agreed to observe that a pitched roof should be used. PC reference 839, GBC 2012/0616 a revised consultation for a crematorium and cemetery at Catfoot Lane (Westerleigh): it was agreed to note the PC's disappointment that the revisions did not provide for the improvement of the junction with Mapperley Plains. PC reference 850, GBC 2012/1172, an application to demolish existing bungalow and erect seven dwellings at 147 Main Street; it was agreed to note that the site would be overdeveloped for a conservation area; development would

exacerbate flood risk in a zone known to flood, and the proposed tanks for rainwater harvesting would fill and then overflow if rain at 2012 levels fell again; properties would be overbearing to neighbours; access on Hawthorn Close is very narrow. It was agreed to ask that, should permission be granted, fencing of the site perimeter before construction be made a condition.

1734. SPEEDWATCH AND LORRYWATCH

Cllr Blinston reported that the Speedwatch team continued to be active; Lambley's programme had yet to start. The location of the permanent interactive speed sign was once again in doubt as the site identified in conjunction with Highways had been ruled unsuitable by NCC engineers.

1735. HEALTH & SAFETY

Cllr Sharp reported that the area around the toddler swings would need repatching in due course.

1736. CORRESPONDENCE & EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Four letters had been received from residents concerned about planning application 850, and these issues had been considered under planning. The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received regarding the inclusion of names and addresses in the minutes when reporting on planning decisions; while this information was in the public domain on GBC's website, it was agreed in future to refer only to the address to which the application pertained. A letter regarding Greenwood Community Tree Planting grants had been received and was passed to Cllr Charles-Jones, who expressed his intention to apply in due course for funding for a tree in the turning circle at the cemetery. A letter had been received from Mr Hopwell of the Woods School, declining the offer of the old chairs due to lack of storage, and confirming his understanding that the new chairs would not be allowed to leave the hall. Should any old chairs remain in the hall, he hoped that the school could still borrow them, and this was agreed. Details had been received regarding the consultation on new parliamentary constituency boundaries, along with GBC's report on its impact. NCC had launched its 12 week "Budget Conversation". A letter had been received from NCC's Local Improvement Scheme confirming that the application made by Cllr Wardle to improve the church yard wall would be considered and a response given in April/May 2013. Details of a proposed free school had been received. Various minutes and agendas from GBC were noted.

1737. WOODBOROUGH CHARITIES

Cllr Parkinson confirmed that he had met with Cllr Boot and would shortly take a proposal for modernising the charities to the trustees. It was agreed that in the meantime the PC would continue to hold back its donation of the allotment rents. The trustees had funds available to make their Christmas gifts if they so wished.

1738. CHURCH YARD

It was noted that work was required to remove brambles that had grown through the rhododendrons. Cllr Parkinson had been asked to review some papers which suggested that the PC might be able to pass on responsibility for the maintenance of the Church Yard to GBC; he cautioned that such action would be irreversible and carried the risk that any work done was not to the standards desired. Cllr Boot agreed to find out whether GBC managed any other closed church yards in parishes.

1739. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Wardle reported that plans were afoot to install lighting over the key box. Cllr Parkinson agreed to collect the keys from the keyholder. Cllr Turton reported that a fire alarm test had been run and the hall successfully evacuated.

1740. ALLOTMENTS

It was agreed that a noticeboard could be installed by the Allotment Association, subject to final approval of its size and location. Two tenants had given up their plots and these would be allocated to those on the waiting list. A request had been received for permission to keep bees. There was debate about the benefits and the dangers; it was agreed to consult the allotment holders regarding their views and to check any legal issues.

1741. CEMETERY

Cllr Whincup thanked Cllr Wardle for his work in rebuilding the standpipe box. It was noted that cemetery income had exceeded budget this year and Cllr Whincup proposed that the opportunity be taken to have the records scanned and transcribed at a cost of up to £1000. This was agreed. Cllr Charles-Jones identified that some work was necessary to replace some of the new hedging plants, killed by drift from the spray used to treat the Japanese knotweed, and to tidy up the trees in the old perimeter hedge. It was agreed that quotes should be obtained for the next meeting. Quotes were also being sought for the widening of the entrance gates.

1742. GOVERNORS' FIELD

It was agreed to clear the leaves at a cost of £120 and to install the Christmas lights at a cost of £370. Cllr Wardle reported that he was finding it difficult to purchase supplementary lights as the supplier had ceased trading.

1743. PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Berrisford had met with Mr Hopwell and talked to Mr Batt regarding the location of an astro turf wicket. The school would apply for grant funding. Cllr Berrisford had lagged the pavilion pipes. It was noted with disappointment that Rothera Dowson had not yet made the PC's deeds available to Cllr Parkinson for review.

1744. FINANCE

The new bank account with Unity Trust was now operational and it was hoped that in future a majority of payments could be made online.

The Clerk presented the financial statement and 10 payments totalling £1844.32 including £37.57 VAT were approved for payment. The Clerk presented a review of the spend vs budget for April to October. It was noted that the money allocated for the repair of the car park had not been spent as repairs had been carried out by NCC. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Ian Parker, copying Mark Spencer.

1745. STAFFING

The Clerk reported that GBC had agreed to give its staff earning less than £21,000 pa a £250 payment (or part time pro rata) following the announcement of such in the Chancellor's budget in 2010; as it was the PC's practice to follow GBC's policy on pay it was agreed that the PC's 2 employees should also receive a pro rata payment in December.

1746. NEWSLETTER

It was agreed to include Christmas greetings and the minutes.

1747. RIGHTS OF WAY

There was nothing reported.

1748. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next PC meeting was confirmed as December 10th 2012. The meeting finished at 10.50pm.

SUMMARY OF DEBATE DURING PUBLIC SESSION

Planning application 850, GBC 2012/1172, for 7 dwellings at 147 Main Street:

Mr M Hubbard, architect, spoke to explain the changes made since the prior application. To offset flood risk, drives would be covered in granite chippings and roof water would be stored in tanks for household use. The link to Main Street had been removed; mature trees on the perimeter would be retained and reinforced with planting; the level of plot 1 had been lowered; GBC's design advisor was pleased with the design. NCC would now permit up to 25 dwellings off a private drive, therefore 7 dwellings did not infringe policy.

Several residents expressed their concerns: Hawthorn Close is not wide enough for access (a parked car makes it impossible for wide vehicles to pass); plot 1 is close to the fence and overbearing; the worst flooding in July was near to this plot and the build would exacerbate the problem; drains and culverts cannot cope with extreme rain, and the storage tanks will have a finite capacity; the proposed development is too intense; the design is not appropriate for a conservation area.

Proposal by Calverton Allotment Association to install a noticeboard at the allotment site:

Mr Hope of the Calverton Allotment Association explained that many Woodborough tenants were members of the association, and there were plans to change the name to "Calverton and Woodborough Allotment Association". The objective of the noticeboard was to keep members informed.

Discussion regarding school parking:

Mr Hopwell informed the PC that the highways agency were opposed to double yellow lines and there were concerns that bollards might narrow the pavement. Signs asking motorists not to park on zig zags would shortly be available from the police, and signs asking parents to park at the Four Bells had been put up. Mr Hopwell agreed to discuss several ideas at the Governors' Meeting, including the issue of school "parking tickets" and incorporating parking rules into the home/school agreement. Mr Hopwell asked the PC to support his lobbying to achieve school signage on the approach from Lambley.