

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th June 2017 at 7pm
The Village Hall, Lingwood Lane, Woodborough, Nottingham

PRESENT: Cllr Andrew Gough (Chairman), Cllr John Boot, Cllr Margaret Briggs, Cllr Colin Starke, Cllr Jane Stone, Cllr Jan Turton, Cllr Charles Wardle, Cllr Pat Woodfield.

IN ATTENDANCE: Averil Marczak (Clerk), Cllr Boyd Elliott (NCC, part).

3166. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Paul Berrisford, Cllr John Charles-Jones, Cllr Patrick Smith and Cllr Helen Greensmith (GBC).

3167. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3168. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May were approved.

3169. MATTERS ARISING

Queries regarding the shipping container at the Four Bells car park and action to enable mobility scooters to access the playing field had yet to be progressed. The Clerk had been unable to register for the latest round of Sport England grants as detailed plans were required.

3170. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman commented that the agenda had been rejigged to ensure that priority matters were discussed first. Timeslots had been allocated to items with the intention of finishing by 9.30pm.

3171. DISTRICT REPORT

Cllr Greensmith had forwarded a written report, including: details of the opening of the Gedling Country Park Visitor Centre; details of the Arnold Carnival. Cllr Greensmith was in discussions with GBC officers regarding inadequate grass cutting and dog fouling issues on the Smalls Croft green; the road surface at Ash Grove; the planning application for 121 Main Street.

3172. ACCIDENT ON THE GOVERNORS' FIELD

Cllr Starke gave a report on an accident which had occurred on May 13th. A boy from the village had banged his head when he fell as a result of one of the connectors which attached the swing chains to the seat becoming unscrewed, resulting in the seat becoming detached on one side. The swing had been removed until the visit of a HAGS engineer on 22nd May. He had inspected the connector and supervised the fitting of a new one. He confirmed there to be no known history of this type of failure and suggested that the failure was most likely caused by the fixing been tampered with and an act of vandalism. Cllr Starke confirmed that the routine inspection checklist includes these connectors. Cllr Starke put forward his personal view that should further acts of tampering or vandalism occur, then WPC would need to consider securing the park at night time.

3173. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There was no objection to PC1002, GBC 2017/0542 for a single storey extension to create a study and larger hallway, moving of the garage door from the side to the front, moving of the driveway from the side to the front and changing the garage roof to be pitched at 34 Holme Close.

PC1003, GBC 2017/0571 for the construction of a detached garage at 42 Bank Hill: it was agreed to object on the basis that this application fails to meet the aims of Green Belt policies (saved and emerging Local Plans), noting that GBC (in granting permission for prior application no. 2016/1011) had revoked permitted development rights.

PC 1004, GBC 2017/0661 to demolish existing house and outbuildings and construct new dwelling and garage with amended access at Bank Hill House, Bank Hill, it was agreed to object on the following grounds: the openness of the Green Belt would be detrimentally affected by the design and size of the proposal; the floor area of the proposed new dwelling was significantly larger and the overall elevation higher than plans given prior approval (2014/0415); Local Plan restrictions on the percentage increase for extensions in the green belt (LPD 13) had not been met; the dwelling was not isolated as claimed and would be a prominent feature of the valley, especially when viewed from the public footpaths.

3174. PLANNING STRATEGY

Cllr Smith had sent a written report on the latest status of the Local Planning Document. A further hearing day had been scheduled for 27th June. GBC's Cabinet had adopted the Woodborough Conservation Area Review on 2nd June. It was noted that some of the changes and factual inaccuracies communicated by a Woodborough resident had been addressed prior to the adoption, and further changes had been made at a meeting after the adoption. The Clerk had received a copy of the final document and a revised map of the Woodborough Conservation Area and it was agreed to circulate these to all members and also to the resident who had raised the issue of factual inaccuracies. The PC's objective remained for the document's accuracy to be beyond reproach. Cllr Elliott arrived at 7.35pm.

3175. COUNTY REPORT

Cllr Berrisford had forwarded a copy of an email from Via EM Ltd which stated their plans for substantial patching of Main Street during October half term. Members raised their concerns that NCC did not appear to be taking the state of Woodborough's Main Street seriously despite the petition calling for a full resurfacing exercise and numerous complaints. Cllr Elliott said that he was shouting as loud as he could. The issues of the speed signs, which had not been operational for some time, and faded road markings on Lowdham Lane and Foxwood Lane were raised and Cllr Stone offered to meet a highways officer at Lowdham Lane to explain the dangers posed by inadequate marking at this unusual junction. A query was raised regarding grass cutting responsibility for various verges and sites within the village. Cllr Elliott agreed to share a copy of the schedule of the grass cuts carried out by NCC, and also GBC. The Chairman raised once again Cllr Elliott's failure to arrange a meeting to discuss traffic calming following the accident with a horse and rider in 2016. Cllr Elliott explained that he would not get involved as it was a police matter, but apologised for not keeping the Chairman informed. Cllr Elliott finished by reminding members that they could apply for funding for maintenance items from his NCC grant pot.

3176. NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

Cllr Starke informed PC that there had been a delay to the proposed installation date, caused by HAGS switching production to a new factory. A planning meeting at the Governors' Field was planned for June 21st and the installation would now commence on July 17th (following the Street market). The old play equipment excluding the swings had been sold on ebay for £1200. The Chairman thanked Cllr Charles-Jones for arranging this. It was agreed that the Governors' Field should be shut from Monday 3rd July for works by WPC to dismantle the old equipment and address the drainage issue on the southern side. It was agreed to accept Cllr Charles-Jones' offer

to hire a mini digger and supply associated materials and labour at cost, to work around the requirements of HAGS and the buyers of the old equipment. HAGS' price had included the removal of the play equipment and it was agreed to ask HAGS to relocate the swings to the Playing Field as a quid pro quo.

3177. CO-OP SITE

Having evaluated the costs of preparing the site and the requirements for planning permission, a proposal to convert the site for use as a temporary car park was defeated. It was agreed that Cllr Turton should approach the owner to ask for permission for the PC to apply the weedkiller this year as a gesture of goodwill.

3178. CLOSURE OF METHODIST CHURCH

In light of the Methodist Church's objective of achieving a commercial rent or commercial sale price, it was agreed that the PC would not express an interest in the building after its closure.

3179. SAM MIDDUP FIELD

A resident of Smalls Croft had asked for clarity on the PC's plans to maintain the strip of land between the dwellings and the agricultural field. It was noted that two residents had already strimmed the grass there. It was agreed that the PC should manage this land, and it was further agreed to ask Rob Dixon to strim it now, with further strimming in future (frequency tbc). 15 of the 30 consultation questionnaires had been returned with some very constructive feedback on how the document could be improved. It was agreed that the Clerk should pilot an updated version with further residents, with the objective of circulating a final questionnaire to the whole village after the summer holidays. One resident had sent a detailed letter with his questionnaire making further suggestions regarding the field.

3180. HEALTH & SAFETY

Cllr Starke had completed the fire risk assessment for the Village Hall. He recommended the installation of a fire detection system and had obtained one quote. It was agreed that two further quotes should be obtained. The fire risk assessment had prompted a number of changes to the booking terms and conditions. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange a meeting with the health and safety consultant used by Calverton Parish Council to discuss potential help with health and safety matters.

3181. VILLAGE HALL

Boiler engineers from Oglesbys and Pump Services had attended the Hall to diagnose the problem of "aircraft noises" coming from the boilers each time they fired up. Two different solutions had been suggested and it was agreed to proceed with Pump Services' suggestion to try a chemical silencer (£140 inc VAT). It was noted that a call out charge would be made by Oglesbys for attending. It was further noted that the boilers were nearing the end of their useful lives. During the caretaker's recent holiday, contract cleaners had attended on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the arrangements appeared to have worked well. Cllr Woodfield presented the one quote that she had received for the refurbishment of the children's toilets at the rear of the Hall. Despite briefing four different firms, and advertising the opportunity to tender on the WPC website, only one quote had been received by the deadline. It was agreed to accept Linear's quote to refurbish the toilets during the summer school summer holidays at a cost of £7,450 +VAT. A request had been received from Woodborough Cancer Research UK to pay a single cashable bond to the PC

to cover all future bookings and this was agreed. It was noted that the income from the solar panels appeared to be in slow decline and it was agreed to check whether they needed cleaning.

3182. FINANCE

The Clerk presented the financial statement and 18 payments, totalling £3500.34 net, were approved for payment.

3183. CLERK'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The audit of 2016/17's accounts had been advertised on the WPC website. The LGPS employers' contribution rate had increased to 17.7%, effective until 2020. The Clerk had attended a parish clerks' meeting at GBC to discuss the playing field strategy. A key learning was that grants were awarded on the basis of high usage of the pitch with sites on school premises frequently being favoured. The Clerk's phone had been out of action and a third engineer's visit was scheduled for June 14th.

Monty Oakley had resigned from the position of parish lengthsman and it was agreed to advertise the position, 8-10 hours per week at GBC's pay rate.

3184. CORRESPONDENCE & EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Emails had been received regarding the inadequate quality and frequency of GBC's grass cutting at Smalls Croft. An email regarding highways issues had been forwarded to Cllr Elliott and Via EM. An email complaining about caravan rallies on Shelt Hill had been forwarded to Cllr Greensmith, to determine whether a licence was required from GBC. Details of the Tree Charter had been received and it was agreed to enrol. It was agreed that the Clerk should attend a NALC allotments seminar at a cost of £15. The following items were noted: NALC: details concerning the General Data Protection Regulation; an invitation to NCC's civic service; NCC, withdrawal of Minerals Local Plan; note of thanks from Woodborough in Bloom; GBC, various agendas and press releases.

3185. OTHER UPDATES

Woodborough Wetlands: the EA aimed to submit the final planning application at the end of June. Allotments: three plots remained vacant and it was agreed to commission a vacancies sign which could be hung on the gate.

Rights of way and footpaths: Cllr Berrisford had forwarded confirmation that Via EM would side up the footpath on Lowdham Lane. The bench on the corner of Roe Hill/private road had been removed and would in due course be replaced with a new commemorative bench for the same family.

3186. NEWSLETTER

It was agreed to include information about the installation of the new play equipment and closure of the Governors' Field, and the forthcoming consultation on the Sam Middup Field.

3187. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next PC meeting was confirmed as July 11th 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 9.40pm.