

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Woodborough Held on 24th April 2018 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Lingwood Lane

PRESENT

WPC: Cllr Gough (Chairman), Cllr Berrisford, Cllr Briggs, Cllr Charles-Jones, Cllr Smith, Cllr Starke, Cllr Turton, Cllr Wardle, Cllr Woodfield, the Clerk, Cllr Elliott (NCC), Cllr Greensmith (GBC), 20 residents.

AGENDA & WELCOME

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

APOLOGIES

WPC Cllrs Boot and Stone had sent apologies.

MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

The minutes were approved.

WOODBOROUGH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (Mrs Linda Taylor)

This has been a very busy year with many social events and a lot happening away from the meetings. The WCA remains dedicated to its film shows. We have held two evenings, showing 'Sully' in the spring and 'Their Finest' in the autumn. We provide a bar, popcorn and ice-cream - but ticket sales continue to fluctuate. The committee are determined to keep going as the films are enjoyed by those that attend and we are still successfully self-funding this activity. This year we have already shown 'Paddington Two', which was well subscribed and it was great to hear the hall resound with laughter from young and old.

The bi-annual bus trips are firmly established. Last year's trips were to Ludlow and Beverley. There is a large group of regulars who clamour for tickets and if there any spaces there is usually a waiting list for people living outside the village to fill any spare seats. This year we introduced some new policies to support Carol in her management of these day trips, namely a cancellation policy and guidance on handling emergency contacts.

This year's Annual Street Market was quieter than normal and caused us to reflect on what we can do to reinvigorate it. Activities such as the Dog show are relatively new and still fresh, but there was a distinct lack of local support. We have speculated as to why this was a quiet one but ultimately a good time was had by all and a profit was made. We must thank Craig and Gaynor at the Four Bells for their support. We are also grateful to the Parish Council for co-ordinating closely with us over the use of the field for events now that the new play equipment is in place.

We revisited our tradition of holding a Hog Roast at the Nags Head. This year we organised a barbeque and managed to provide a fun event and make more money, in less time than with the Hog Roast. Our thanks to Clive and Kim at the Nags Head for supporting this event.

'We've won' was the delightful message we received in the autumn as we won the Best Kept Village again. It is very satisfying to see the Best Kept Village sign back in the village after all that hard work. We thank John Charles-Jones for supplying the weed killer. Our able 'weed-busters', Bob and Arthur will shortly begin their spraying for this year. We aim to have the weeds died off in time for our village clean up, on May 19th.

October brought the sad news that our President, Brian Leafe had passed away. We pay tribute to Brian and his family for all they have contributed to the village community. The Over 65's party was an appropriate gathering to share our appreciation for Brian. We were also delighted to present both Tim Leafe and Mavis with Community awards. Eric had prepared our tribute for the website and presented a framed copy of the tribute to Mavis. We

were delighted when Mavis agreed to accept the title of Life President of the WCA. We have purchased a bench from Timmermans and will display it at the Nags in May when the pub joins with the Leafe family to host a special Hog Roast in tribute to Brian. We would then like to place the bench on the cricket field as this was a special place for the family.

November brought the firework show and as we say every year – they were even better than the year before! A fantastic show was enjoyed in the village by the Governor’s field and Four Bells. We again had a donation from a family and the bucket collection was the best ever. Margaret Briggs invited us to join the Parish Council in making an event out of the switch on of the Christmas Lights. Consequently we chose to combine our carols around the Beacon event with the light switch on to create a new event on December 1st. We were delighted when Mavis agreed to lead the countdown to the big switch on. We had a visit from Santa and the new Women’s choir led the carol singing. The mulled wine and mince pies were a hit and a good time was had by all.

The December party saw the return of favourite local band ‘Revival’. All had an excellent evening of music and dance, with a bar. We thank Graham and Pamela Weatherall for all they have contributed to the WCA and the village in general. We are also very happy to welcome Arthur and Linda Hancock to the WCA who have both become trustees and Arthur has become our new treasurer.

For several years we have been dealing with the impact of the Church selling land we had habitually used to access the Telephone Exchange. This led to us deciding to update our constitution to better support us and last year we were successful in our application to the Charity Commission to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a CIO. As part of this transition we had to pay for the telephone exchange to be revalued, and manage the transition of ownership from the old WCA charity to the new one. Huge thanks to Eric who has vigorously pursued this business in order to complete the transition by last month’s AGM. The issue of access to our property also led to further legal fees being incurred, thanks go to Laura who initiated this consultation and introduced us to solicitors who did some of the work pro bono. Although we have therefore had some unusual expenses this year the accounts show we are still healthy as a charity. I am delighted to announce that after several years of discussions we have now settled our dispute with the church. We have now received a gift of £7,500 from the Church, to be used to support the community. We thank the church for this gift and intend to use it towards the costs of developing the frontage of the telephone exchange to enable us to safely access our resources.

We must acknowledge and thank the village businesses; the 2 pubs who help us host our events, the Spar shop and the other businesses, Timmermans, Woodborough Hall, TSW, and many others outside the village, who support us.

Looking to the future - A national event is to be planned for the ‘Battle Over’ commemoration on November 11th. We have been invited to take part in this National Event by joining in with the lighting of a chain of Beacons across the land.

Before I finish I must thank all the Trustees and regular attendees for their ongoing commitment to the village and the work of the WCA. I thank them and the PC for all their support.

CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT (Cllr Andrew Gough)

The last 12 months have again been challenging for all of us on the Parish Council, none more so than those involved in the development of the new play equipment on the Governors’ Field. However when you see the joy on the faces of all the children enjoying this brilliant new facility, it makes all the hard work worthwhile. Unfortunately in a couple of weeks’ time, we will have to close the Governors’ Field for a few days as we have the installers returning to put right some problems. Once re-opened, a small area will be fenced

off for a few months to allow the new turf to establish. I am pleased to report that we now have a new Lengthsman, Tom Wiles, who started last year and is very enthusiastic, a real asset to the village. Some of the duties of the Lengthsman include keeping the highways and verges clear, removing litter, clearing the drains and reporting hazards. Tom has also helped Averil with the Sam Middup Field questionnaire and putting results on Excel. He also delivered many of the second round of questionnaires. We're very keen to make sure that everyone has had a chance to contribute their views on the development of the field. We are sure this is going to be a real asset to the village, but do want to make sure that we take as many ideas as possible into consideration. This doesn't mean we can afford everything! You may remember there was some urgency about the purchase of the field but the PC is keen to take due consideration over the development and not rush into anything.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all their hard work and dedication to the village of Woodborough over the last 12 months. I do not usually like to single out a particular councillor but this year I would especially like to thank Cllr Colin Starke for his tremendous commitment over the installation of the new play equipment. Thanks Colin! We could not have managed to achieve what we have without the incredible support from Averil, our Parish Clerk, and I would again like to record my thanks to her for her hard work and knowledge.

LEST WE FORGET – COMMEMORATING 1918 – 2018 (Cllr Jan Turton)

This year we commemorate 100 years since the end of WWI. The PC in remembrance intend to put poppies on all the lampposts along Main Street. We have ordered through the British Legion a "Silent Soldier". This is a metal life size silhouette which stands as a tribute to those who didn't return home and to those whose lives would never be the same again. We hope the Silent Soldier will be positioned in the church yard near the war memorial with the light in the evening casting a silhouette onto the church. In November the Beacon will be lit.

WOODBOROUGH IN BLOOM (Cllr Jan Turton)

The church entrance, war memorial and the Governors' Field will be planted in white, cream and green for peace to commemorate 100 years since the end of WWI. The Village Hall, barrier baskets and hanging baskets will be planted in vibrant reds to give impact as you drive through the village. We hope that individuals will continue the colour scheme in their own planting. Last year Woodborough in Bloom, in conjunction with the WCA, helped Woodborough win its section of the Best Kept Village and reach the final 3 for Notts. We have replaced the small troughs positioned by the street names with new troughs that are wider and deeper, making planting easier. The cost of these were borne by NCC Cllr Elliott and the PC, thank you. This year we hope to replace the remaining planters which are now rotting and move 1 of the 2 outside 36 Main Street to the wide corner at Ploughman Avenue. As always, Woodborough in Bloom wishes to thank the PC for their support and generous annual donation, along with donations from societies, clubs and individuals in the village, not forgetting our County and Borough councillors.

GOVERNORS' FIELD AND NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT (Cllr Colin Starke)

At last year's meeting, Ian Brown gave an update on GREAT's success in raising the funds for the new playground equipment for Governors' Field and their selection of a supplier supported by ESPO, the public sector professional buying organisation which is based in Leicester. In late April, the Parish Council placed an order with the chosen supplier, HAGS SMP, and the focus switched to developing a project plan and installation timeline. It was agreed that the installation would be completed by early August. At this point the GREAT

team took more of a back seat, though they continued to have an input, particularly with regards to the exact positioning of equipment and the choice of safe surfaces.

The timing of the installation soon became difficult. Unbeknown to us until a month after we placed the order, HAGS were transferring their manufacturing to a new factory in Poland and were in chaos as a result. Much of our equipment was delivered to considerably later than promised. In turn, the installation became chaotic. As well as feeling under pressure to reopen the Field before the end of the school holidays, we were concerned that we might miss the deadline for claiming the main £50k grant from WREN. We expended a lot of energy dealing with this situation.

As the installation finally neared completion in October, the GREAT team sprang into action organising an opening event to celebrate our wonderful new play park. The WCA, GREAT and the PC worked together to ready Governors' Field. The day of the event was a beautiful sunny autumnal day. There were goody bags for the children, music and refreshments provided. The ribbon was cut by our guest of honour, local Paralympic superstar Richard Whitehead. It was fantastic to see so many people in attendance and when the ribbon fell... to see the children sprinting to try the new equipment was a proud moment for everyone involved in this project. The day was a GREAT success. Thank you to everyone who made it so special.

Following the success of their previous fundraising quiz, the GREAT team held another one this February, raising nearly £1200. To show our appreciation to Richard Whitehead, we donated half the proceeds to the charities of which he is Patron. The other half going to the Parish Council towards further work that needs to be done to the Governors' Field. Ian Brown has asked me to say that the Woodborough GREAT team enjoyed working on this project over the last four years. They have seen how teamwork, enthusiasm and determination can make a big idea come to fruition. The project was a real collaborative success between a community group and a parish council; rewarding for all those involved. It has been a tremendous success for the benefit of our young people. Thank you to everyone who has supported us.

Finally, please be assured that we are undertaking further drainage work to improve the ground condition adjacent to the zipwire, seesaw and junior swings and we are still working with HAGS to rectify some outstanding landscaping issues arising from their poor quality installation work. The latter primarily involves the two mounds and the immediate surroundings of the trampolines. To give the ground time to recover, we are going to have to close part of the play equipment for a few months after HAGS have completed their work.

NEW HOUSING (Patrick Smith for the WAG)

The WAG was formed following the village open meeting in October 2013, when 13 residents responded to the chair of that meeting to form a group to resist the potential development plans. At that stage the village could have been faced with up to 190 new houses. None of us expected to be still involved with the process nearly five years later. Updates have been regularly posted on the Woodborough Web.

The preparation of the Local Plan, which identifies the sites to meet the housing numbers for the Gedling Borough and our village up until the year 2028, is near to completion. There have been no major changes to the plans for Woodborough during the last 12 months. The Local Plan is not just about where to build houses but involves laying down local rules that will affect every planning proposal in the area. These range from flood controls, parking provision, size and shape of properties.

The Government's Planning Inspector had been holding hearings sessions in May and June last year which resulted in a further consultation last September and October. Further hearings followed at the end of November. Where topics under discussion could have had an

impact on plans for Woodborough I went along to observe first hand. A further consultation was held by GBC this year to gather comments on the main modifications to the plans. We now await the Inspector's final report which should confirm that the proposed revised Local Plan meets the requirements for housing needs in our area. Provided this is the decision, then GBC will be able to adopt the plan this summer. At this point the WAG can consider the task started in 2013 to have been completed. The issues that will arise out of the limited development north of Broad Close can then be raised by the Parish Council and residents when any detailed plans are submitted for approval.

PLANNING REPORT (Cllr Patrick Smith)

Along with neighbouring property owners the Parish Council have a statutory right to be consulted on any plans from within the Parish. This time last year, the Woodborough Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan was adopted by GBC. This provides one of the key reference points for any planning applications within the defined area. It was written by consultants with the help and guidance of many village residents who have a good knowledge of the historic importance of various locations, buildings, and the landscape of the village. The expectation was that during the year the benefits of all the work would bear fruit with appropriate decisions made by planners. The CA is not intended to prevent development taking place but to ensure it preserves or enhances its character and appearance.

So, what has the year brought to us? Around 33 applications came in during the last twelve months for comment, in addition to numerous revised applications following feedback provided by those consulted. They ranged from uncontentious small extensions to demolition and replacement of existing homes. Proposals to remove long standing hedgerows. Applications to gain retrospective approval for changes made without permission. The PC comments range from no issues, to agreeing in principle to a proposal but asking for minor revisions perhaps to landscape more effectively, and occasionally outright objection when local planning guidance has not been followed. Applicants and neighbours have used the public session at PC meetings to raise their concerns or support for projects on the agenda. Examples of prominent new developments include replacement dwellings that are already under construction, or will be in the not too distant future, and include examples very visible at the entrances to Woodborough on Bank Hill and Shelt Hill.

What then of the management of the Conservation Area? It is the PC's current belief that GBC's planners are not considering the findings of the Conservation Area review to the extent that they have an obligation to do so. We have recent proposals that have been approved but are subject not just to criticism from the PC but also from NCC's Conservation officer and the consultants responsible for the drafting of the CA review. The professional conservationists and the PC expect a more rigorous approach so that the village benefits from developments that preserve and enhance its unique character and appearance.

I instigated a meeting which was held this afternoon between myself and senior planning officers to try to resolve these issues raised by the Parish Council. I am now awaiting their formal detailed reply. The good news is that they are listening carefully to what is being said.

SAM MIDDUP FIELD (The Clerk)

This year the field has continued to be rented under a Farm Business Tenancy while the process for planning what might ultimately appear on the field has got underway. The rent that the PC receives (this year £500) of course does not cover the costs, but it is a beneficial way of keeping the land maintained and in cultivation. The loan repayments have totalled £7737 and we have also spent a modest sum on maintenance to strim behind the homes on Charnwood Way and Smalls Croft and also on the consultation. The purchase of the land was

conducted with haste and urgency as having decided to bid for the land, the PC was in competition with other would be buyers and housing developers. Once the land was secured, the PC has made known its intention to consult carefully and plan at a much more cautious pace – the phrase “there is no hurry” is often used at PC meetings. Last autumn, a green questionnaire was delivered to all homes, as the first step in the consultation process to understand what facilities would be valued and would fit in. About 23% of households responded. By industry standards this is an impressive return and statistically representative. However the PC is keen to hear from more people – hence a 2nd round of paper questionnaires and this time an online Survey Monkey version as well. I have heard it said that some people will not be persuaded to respond because there isn't the option to say “I don't think you should have bought the field at all”. I do hope that if some of you have that opinion you will still give us your thoughts, even if it's just to identify the ideas that you object to. If you don't give the PC your views, others will be making the judgments on your behalf. Can I finish by thanking Tom Wiles, who has made a big contribution in delivering and analysing the questionnaires.

ALLOTMENTS (Cllr Paul Berrisford)

There's been a small amount of tenant movement this year resulting in one current vacancy. There were some thefts from sheds at the beginning of 2018, hopefully this will not recur. The PC are looking at changing the padlock and/or combination more regularly. Tenants must be aware of the risk and not leave tools etc on display, plus always lock the gate and scramble the padlock. Profit from the allotments goes to Woodborough Charities.

FOOTPATHS (Cllr Paul Berrisford)

The village footpaths are an asset to the village and prove that by their constant use. Repairs to the bridge between footpaths 12 and 5 were undertaken by NCC during the year, however damage to the stiles along footpath 9 have yet to be resolved. The damage to the stiles and fencing bordering fields appears to have been deliberate vandalism. If anyone sees such vandalism occurring or having occurred, please report immediately to the PC.

PLAYING FIELD (Cllr Paul Berrisford)

Woodborough Celtic are about to complete their first season playing 16 matches here as their home ground. Woodborough Cricket Club are set to commence their season, and the school will also use the field. The pavilion/field looks set to host a charity football match in June, feast sports and a tennis tournament. Overall the field has coped with the usage and the bad winter/spring weather. The PC will look at rejuvenating the paintwork in the pavilion during the next financial year.

CEMETERY (Cllr Andrew Gough)

In the last 12 months there has again been a huge amount of work at the cemetery involving the pruning of some hedges and shrubs, during the course of which more old graves were rediscovered. On a safety issue, we are having all the old headstones topple tested which ensures they are safe and will not fall over and injure someone. Those that are unsafe will be laid down with the inscription visible. I believe that the cemetery is now looking better than it has for a number of years and I hope that regular visitors will agree.

VILLAGE HALL (Cllr Pat Woodfield)

The Village Hall continues to provide a steady income stream, with hire income at £26,022 which is some 6.5% higher than the previous year. The children's toilets have been refurbished this year, replacing flooring as well as the toilet cubicles and all sanitary ware.

This has significantly improved the facility and the pre-school group are delighted with the upgrade. Ongoing maintenance has included replacing the back fire exit door and surround, a number of door handles and other minor repairs. Additionally this year we reviewed our fire risk, and (following Grenfell disaster) determined that we could afford to make some improvements to fire alarms. An alarm has now been fitted into a number of areas which will alert people if they are using the village hall, but also will alert people if the hall is not being used. This is a significant investment, which we hope never to have to use. We have now determined that we will be investing in replacement curtains, which will replace the current red patterned curtains which have served us so well for more than 25 years. Finally I would like to offer our many thanks to Christine Leafe, who is our caretaker/manager. Christine is a dedicated member of the team who takes pride in ensuring that the village hall is always presented at its very best. She is always available, makes special efforts to help and assist and provides a great service to both regular users and special visitors. Christine, thank you.

MAINTENANCE (Cllr Charles Wardle)

One of the major reasons our village always looks so tidy is the hard work put in by Tim Tritton, our groundsman and Tom Wiles, our new Lengthsman. Tim has almost become part of the fixtures and fittings as he continues to mow, cut and clear his way around the parish as he has done so for many years. Tom only started as our Lengthsman last November but has already established himself as a most willing and able servant of the parish, out in all weathers and always willing to do any task asked of him. Thanks Tom.

The refurbishment of the Governors' Field railings, including their painting, is finally complete and they have been set off superbly by the new gates manufactured by Howard Marshall to a very high standard. The litter bin at the entrance has also had a face lift saving it from the skip! Other items of maintenance have included: repairs to the VH heating system by Pump Services whose expertise has been most welcome; improved access for wheelchair users onto the Playing Field; replacement of various windows following breakage; plumbing repairs in the Pavilion and the Village Hall; 2 broken benches have been removed with the planned re-instatement of one of them following refurbishment.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (Clerk)

This year our receipts and payments have been more closely matched, although we have a fair few loose ends still to tie up on the Governors' Field. Had these been completed we would have dug into our reserves by £10k or so. Our precept has accounted for just over a third of our income. The Village Hall and Cemetery income exceeded expectation and we also benefited from a magnificent £72k of grants, £70k of which was the result of much bid writing hard work by the GREAT team. We also get steady support from our councillors at GBC and NCC and I would urge all of our village groups to make applications to them for funding as they are very often able to help with small projects.

Our biggest outlay this year has been on the new play equipment. We have paid HAGS just over £81k and there is a further £14k due when they resolve the final issues. The transformation of the park also involved a new gate and profiling of the entrance to improve accessibility – this cost a further £4k bringing the project as a whole to just over £100k. In total the GREAT team raised £71.5 k in grants, which was topped up through fundraising activities (£1263), and the sale of the old equipment and gate on eBay.

Our staff costs have risen this year with reviews to the payscales and in line with new legislation we also provide a pension for our staff. The Local Government Pension Scheme is not a cheap option for employers but the staff who have taken it up are grateful to the PC for making this option available and bringing us in line with neighbouring PCs.

We have replaced the Clerk's computer and also invested in finance software which should make things easier and quicker in future. Our village hall expenditure grew due to the investment in new kids' loos (£9k) and the new fire alarm and monitoring (just over £5k). The improvement in the kids' loos is unseen by most groups but has made a big difference to the Preschool which this year contributed 45%/nearly £12k of our VH income.

GEDLING BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT (Cllr Helen Greensmith)

I represent the Dumbles ward. I liaise with Parish Councils, try to help residents, including with confidential items, and I sit on the Audit Committee and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. I work alongside Boyd Elliott and refer matters to him when they need NCC involvement. My case work has included: GBC error that meant some residents had 2 Council Tax direct debits taken at the same time; Smalls Croft grass cutting; licensing and noise issues; Ash Grove road surfacing (the developer and council officers are in talks to get the road brought up to standard, after which NCC can adopt it); Gedling Homes issues; liaising with the owner of a house hit by a speeding vehicle regarding emergency work and traffic works; ensuring that the road sweeper cleaned up after flooding. I attended the Christmas lights switch on, the play equipment opening as well as monthly PC meetings. I have a small pot of money that I can use to support local groups, and this year gave £300 to both the PC and Woodborough in Bloom. Current issues include: the departure of GBC's Chief Exec; the availability of planning papers to PCs; GBC's purchase and plans for Arnold market; construction of the Gedling Access Road.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT (Cllr Boyd Elliott)

Thank you to the Parish Council for their support and to residents for re-electing me. I am Vice Chair of NCC's Children and Young People Committee and we are taking a close look at school traffic. This year most of Main Street has been resurfaced which is a vast improvement. Following a "Walkabout" with Via EM, many potholes have been filled in. I funded a Christmas tree for the village and helped Woodborough in Bloom. I am organising a trip to Parliament on 26th June and on 15th September there is a surgery with Mark Spencer MP and Helen Greensmith.

QUESTION & ANSWER/OPEN SESSION

- The footpath near Timmermans has been reduced by 50% over the years. A: Cllr Elliott: Via will renew the sidings and reinstate the pavement.
- Grass will never last in the playground – how about artificial turf? A: Chairman: the grass never had a chance to establish itself so this time we will close the area to allow due time. Grass is a 2 year project and will bounce back if it's allowed to establish.
- What are the plans to improve accessibility for a disabled child? A: Chairman: this will be planned after the corrective work is carried out by HAGS.
- Flooding – what are the plans now? A: Cllr Charles-Jones: the field identified for the scheme has now changed hands. There is a chance that the new owners might talk to the EA about reviving the scheme and the PC will provide what support it can.
- Are there any plans to acquire the Methodist Chapel? A: Cllr Charles-Jones: we do not know yet what the Methodists plan to do, the rental figure provisionally suggested was very high and included full repair responsibility. A resident: there is a new superintendent who has to get to grips with this and make a decision on whether to rent or sell. As a charity they are obliged to charge a market rent.
- Thank you to the PC for looking after the village – and taking the flack along the way.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm by thanking all in attendance.