

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Woodborough Held on 21st May 2019 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Lingwood Lane

PRESENT

WPC: Cllr Woodfield (Chairman), Cllr Berrisford, Cllr Charles-Jones, Cllr Raynor, Cllr Starke, Cllr Stone, Cllr Wardle, the Clerk, Cllr Elliott (NCC), Cllr Greensmith (GBC), 13 residents.

AGENDA & WELCOME

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

APOLOGIES

Cllr Briggs, Cllr Gough and Cllr Smith had sent apologies.

MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

The minutes were approved.

WOODBOROUGH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (Mrs Linda Taylor)

2018 was extremely busy for the WCA. We continued to organise a diary of events, add to that 2 more National Events and you'll understand why we were both excited and exhausted. We were delighted to install a new bench on the playing field, in memory of Brian Leafe, whom we had sadly lost in October 2017. The coach trip to Bridlington was a success but lack of interest in the trip to Lincoln led to it being cancelled. Carol Tansley organises these trips and puts a lot of work into researching places to go and we thank her. This year we have already had a successful trip to Tamworth. We are already thinking about where to go in the Autumn- if you have any ideas please share them.

The film shows are still a part of our diary and take place twice a year. This Spring we showed 'Mamma Mia Here we go again'. A film full of fun was enjoyed by a mixed audience.

Have you noticed how the village is looking spruced up this month? Our volunteers have already been out and about weedkilling, clearing general debris and ensuring we are well set to have a strong entry for the Best Kept Village competition of 2019. In conjunction with the PC and The Woodborough in Bloom team we aim to ensure we keep the Sign for a third year and maybe, even, bring home Best in Notts. Such is the dedication of all those involved in this competition that as we left the NALC meeting last Autumn having received our prize cheque and certificate, conversations were already being had about what we needed to improve on for this year. One thing that is often mentioned is the amount of rubbish around the village. The PC have ensured that rubbish is collected regularly by our dedicated lengthsman. The WCA were recently approached by a young villager who was looking to serve the village as part of her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award by litter picking so we suggested she take responsibility for keeping the bus shelters and Pinfold clear.

The summer of 2018 was busy with both The Street Market and the Barbeque event. As always we are looking to develop events that will enrich and enhance the life of the village. The Street Market is also our major fundraising event. I have had many conversations with people saying it's not like it used to be – quite true, the village is not as it used to be. Each year we invite the local organisations to contribute but they often find it hard to fit us in to their very busy schedules. I did write early last year and ask that organisations think to put the event in their diaries but sadly there has been little take up. Nevertheless, this year we will have a fantastic afternoon, with the ladies choir, 'Just Sing' entertaining us on the field, last year we were entertained by Sullivan's Swords. Our annual dog show is always a winner and

this year we will be visited by the fire service. There will be both local and visiting stall holders so please come along and support them. The barbeque was a quiet affair and we have decided not to have a Hog Roast / Barbeque this year.

During this time we were busily preparing for a couple of rather special events. We were notified that the Tour of Britain would be cycling through our village. No sooner had I read the email from the PC asking if we wanted to become involved than Margaret Briggs was on the phone to plan a meeting. Such was the enthusiasm that local DIY stores actually sold out of yellow spray paint and even online stores were struggling to keep up with demand for yellow bunting! Thanks to all the volunteers who really did turn the village yellow. And of course all the fun and work paid off when the village were awarded another prize. Now all the time this work was going on I was conscious of another event being worked on by yet another group of individuals, determined to honour the special anniversary that was the commemoration of 100 years since the end of World War 1. But in between we had to fit in the annual firework display!

The Annual bonfire display was, as we always say, even better than last years! For the second year running the bucket collection was enough to pay for the actual fireworks and we thank our suppliers for their generosity and the bucket shakers. Such was the enjoyment created by the fireworks that we continued to receive donations from some residents even after the event.

The highlight of the year was for many, the commemoration of the 100 years since the end of the First World War. 'The Battle's Over' event brought out many many individuals from the village and even some of the relatives of residents that lived further afield, so many poppies were made that we got into four figures. Ideas were developing all the time and with lots of support we created a beautiful and very humbling display in readiness for what became a very special evening. Even writing this now I am moved by all the people who pulled together and I hesitate to name individuals for special thanks but I must pay tribute to Bette for coordinating the display netting, making the bunting and maintaining the display, and also Eileen who made the spectacular 1918, 2018 banner. But even then there were the Guides, the individuals who made banners, the child who made a poppy out of felt and the relatives out of the village who were enthused to get involved. This event was so special because of the many individuals who contributed to it.

2 weeks later we were back on the Governors' Field ready to support the PC's Christmas Light Switch On. We were joined by the Just Sing choir to lead the carols and the WCA was happy to provide the refreshments. We were lucky enough to be visited by Santa. The next night we were in the Village Hall hosting the Winter Party, featuring Revival.

That completes the events of 2018. Already this year we have held the Over 65s meal, a bus trip to Tamworth and were very happy this year when the school joined us on Roe Hill for the traditional Pancake races. I thank all of the people who got involved in any or all of the activities enjoyed by the village last year.

WOODBOROUGH WOODS SCHOOL

The Chairman reported that the School had requested WPC's support for a number of measures aimed at reducing speed and dangerous/selfish parking around the school: extension of yellow zig zags from the school to the Village Hall; an interactive sign on Lingwood Lane for traffic approaching from Lambley; a traffic survey that could support a lollipop lady or zebra crossing.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE (PC Chris Whild, PCSO Kirsty Szeluk)

Woodborough hasn't experienced too many issues requiring police attention. The figures year to date are as follows: burglaries from a dwelling, 1; burglary other (eg from sheds or

garages, 3; theft of a motor vehicle, 1; theft from a motor vehicle, 4; criminal damage, 5.

Questions for the police:

Q: can anything be done between 8.30 and 9.00 to stop school traffic and bad parking blocking the road?

A: the Police do not have the facility to ticket drivers – this can be done by NCC’s camera car – but PCSO Kirsty Szeluk will come and patrol as she does occasionally at Ravenshead.

Q: the vehicle weight restrictions are not respected.

A: this is not a matter for the Beat team but should be reported to Cllr Elliott, giving the vehicle registration.

Q: how should we report suspicious vehicles?

A: often they are just looking for scrap metal. But details and the vehicle registration should be reported to 101 as this ensures that the Beat team are aware of the matter.

WOODBOROUGH IN BLOOM (report from Jan Turton, read by the Clerk)

10 years ago Paul Reed came to the PC asking for support to take over Woodborough in Bloom. The PC unanimously agreed that they didn't want W in Bloom to fold and the team was formed. Although I have now stood down as a councillor the PC have confirmed they will continue to provide their annual financial and man power support needed and along with the generous support of our county and borough Councillors we hope to be successful again in the Best Kept Village competition. This competition is not about the prettiest but the best kept village, hence along with the WCA we hope villagers will take pride in the frontages of their properties keeping them weed free and tidy.

Last summer was delightful, hot and sunny and W in B relies greatly on the bowser rota team led by Paul Reed to maintain the watering of planters, barrier baskets and troughs. The bowser is now 15 years old and under the expert maintenance given by Robert Hanson we hope will continue for a few more summers before major repairs may be needed. During the autumn 2 planters were removed from outside 36 Main Street and replaced with a new one, and this last weekend the old planter near Smalls Croft was replaced. Thank you Colin, Paul and Charles for your help. I must also mention Rob Dixon who with J CJ hangs the baskets and takes them down again in the autumn.

A huge thank you to everyone who supports W in B and here's hoping for another successful summer. Happy Planting and enjoy the sunshine.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

PLANNING REPORT (report from Cllr Patrick Smith, read by the Clerk)

In the last twelve months your Parish Council has been asked by Gedling Borough Council to consider around 25 planning applications. This is a statutory right which has been fully utilised to ensure relevant planning comments are made to sit alongside other responses. Gedling then make the final decisions. A summary of the comments made by the Parish Council are recorded in the Parish minutes. The decisions made by the Borough are available on their website.

The Local Planning Document (Part 2 Local Plan) was adopted by Gedling on 18 July 2018. From this date these policies are used to assess planning applications. This is in addition to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Woodborough has its own Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan which was adopted a year earlier. Its purpose is to inform and manage planning decisions so that development can take place within the area without harming its special character and appearance.

The work of your Parish Council has been to ensure that the guidance, that must apply to decisions, is consistently used to ensure objectives are met, especially within the Conservation

Area and surrounding Green Belt. Several issues have been raised during the year with the Borough Council.

In September last year the Parish Council were 'wrong footed' by the receipt of material from Nottinghamshire County Council concerning a consultation on a Draft Minerals Plan. This had opened on 27 July and would close on 28 September. The County Council have stated that all Parish Councils were informed by email on 25 July, but this did not come through to our Council for timely consideration. The site presented was on the corner of Bank Hill and Mapperley Plains, roughly between Arnold Lodge and Podders, and into the Woodborough valley to the north. The plan was to extract brick clay, and after completion, the pit would be used as a landfill site requiring the importing of waste to help restore the site. The impact of these proposals would clearly have needed very careful consideration by the Parish Council.

Notts County Council granted the Parish Council an extension to the 12 October to allow us to consider an appropriate response. On 27 September the site was withdrawn from the Minerals Plan. This removed any need for the Parish Council to respond.

It is worth noting that The Environment Agency did raise concerns about this new proposal due to the history of odour complaints relating to the now closed Dorket Head landfill.

ALLOTMENTS (Cllr Paul Berrisford)

After some movement during the year, currently the allotments are fully occupied.

There was a spell of thefts from sheds and allotments, which hopefully has now ceased.

Access was obtained through the hedges bordering the allotments on Foxwood Lane, now repaired the PC. A reminder, though, to all tenants, not to leave expensive garden equipment on show, or at the allotments, it is their responsibility to be aware of the possibility of theft.

FOOTPATHS (Cllr Paul Berrisford)

No issues currently with the footpaths, which continue to be used regularly by all. If any issues do arise please report immediately to the PC who will liaise with the County Council to rectify.

PLAYING FIELD (Cllr Paul Berrisford)

The playing field continues to be in constant use by Woodborough Cricket, Woodborough Celtic football, Boot camp, Woodborough Woods school, Feast Sports and a charity football match. It can be used by any member of the village, when not in use by the aforementioned. If anyone wishes to use the pitches and pavilion, please contact the PC. The fenced area adjacent to the school can also be used by all.

The pavilion has had a new water heating system, and repairs to the roof from an errant cricket ball which also led to a rainwater leak and interior ceiling repairs. Re-decoration of the ceiling is in the 2019/20 budget. The pavilion is also open for the tennis club to use, when the village hall is occupied. To ensure the pavilion standards of cleanliness are kept high, Christine Leafe the village hall caretaker now oversees its upkeep.

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

We can safely say that it has been worth every penny and anxious moment, when we see the Field so well used and enjoyed by so many.

We re-opened the Field in late 2017 and reported at last year's Parish meeting on the difficulties we had experienced with the new play equipment project. During the last 12 months we have worked our way through a few remaining problems with the play equipment and finally eliminated the longstanding wet area near the zip wire. We expect to have a final settle-up with HAGS by next month.

Following a suggestion from a grandfather, the House-on-the-Hill has been fitted with new steps and handrails, making it much more accessible to less agile and younger children. At Cllr Margaret Briggs' suggestion, we are planning to buy two spring rockers for toddlers, provided we can get a 50% grant (£4000) from the County Council. The profit from the last GREAT QUIZ in the Village Hall has paid for the new double size litter bin recently installed near the Field entrance. At our last PC meeting, County Cllr Boyd Elliott kindly offered to donate two extra picnic tables for the Field; an offer which we have gratefully accepted. If you look carefully in the corner of the Field closest to the Four Bells, you will see a large "Best Dressed" sign awarded to the Village by the Tour of Britain Cycle Race organisers. Yet another accolade for Woodborough!

Finally, the safety of our children is important. They often don't see danger. Bearing this strongly in mind, we rigorously inspect the play equipment on a weekly basis and always follow up with maintenance, repairs and improvements. I am grateful to Richard Whincup for volunteering and sharing this responsibility with me.

SAM MIDDUP FIELD (The Clerk)

The Sam Middup Field was purchased in December 2016 and continues to be rented to a long standing tenant under a Farm Business Tenancy. The rent this year was £1000. The farmer does an excellent job at maintaining the land while cultivating his crop.

Last November we presented the results of our first round of consultation, in which we asked all households about their usage of facilities and their views on what types of facilities should and should not be developed on the field.

26.2% of households responded. The ideas to emerge most positively – were a picnic area, wild flower meadow, orchard, bowling green, MUGA. These were identified as facilities that would both benefit the village and be well used. The Scout facility was also identified as a facility that would benefit the village, but not one that would be used by many of the village – membership of the uniformed groups is rather small if you compare it to the number of school aged children as a whole. To look at the flipside, the biggest nos went to – skate park, BMX, dog agility, another large hall, more tennis facilities.

We recently conducted 3 very well attended discussion groups with neighbours whose gardens back on to the SMF. The purpose was to gather their views on how best to manage the issues that might trouble immediate neighbours once there is public access to the field, and also to talk about weed killing and maintenance plans.

One idea mooted by the old pc, and discussed with neighbours is the idea of a permissive footpath on the field.

It will be for the new PC to consider how to take plans forward. New councillor Daniel Raynor has bravely stepped up to take a lead on the next steps.

CEMETERY (report from Cllr Andrew Gough, read by the Clerk)

Firstly I would like to explain why we have had to lock the entrance gate. I have received complaints from those visiting 'loved ones' that they have been made to feel very uncomfortable and unsafe, due to a somewhat aggressive dog, being exercised in the cemetery off lead. Of course if a genuine visitor using a wheelchair or mobility scooter wishes to visit the cemetery they are advised to contact the Clerk and arrangements will be made to open the gate.

Throughout the year we have worked with our contractors, Gedling Borough Council, to maintain and improve the environment in the cemetery.

A number of more recent graves had been found to have suffered some subsidence. Remedial work has been undertaken and these have been levelled and re-seeded, so

I hope you will agree that when you visit the cemetery now, it is, whilst still a country cemetery, a tidy and peaceful environment, fit for its purpose.

VILLAGE HALL (Cllr Pat Woodfield)

The Village Hall continues to provide a steady income stream, with hire income at £25,035 which is a little higher than our budget of £24,000. PV income from the solar panels has totalled £1,891 which again is a little higher than our budget of £1,700.

As I indicated in April 2018, we have invested in new curtains and blinds for all of the windows – replacing the previous curtains which had served us so well for more than 25 years. I hope that you agree that they are an excellent addition to the facility. Additionally we have replaced the green crockery with new, fresh white crockery which will be well-appreciated by both regular Village Hall users as well as those who host parties and events here. The green crockery has been donated to a range of organisations and will be well-used and appreciated – rehoming is the best form of recycling.

Ongoing maintenance has included replacing some of the emergency lighting, and ensuring that the boilers are up to scratch – we are monitoring them closely.

Our plans for this year include internal decoration, which will be undertaken in the autumn including repairing the panels at the bottom of the windows in the main hall. There are also some external repairs planned to the soffits and fascias, along with external paintwork.

It is customary to take this opportunity to thank those who work hard, and on a voluntary basis, to ensure that our Village Hall is always the best that it can be – thanks especially to Charles Wardle, Colin Starke and Jan Turton along with other members of the Village Hall Working Party.

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 our regular users and special visitors alike. Christine, thank you.

MAINTENANCE (Cllr Charles Wardle)

The 2 T's, Tim Tritton and Tom Wiles continue to do a great job keeping our parish as tidy as possible. On behalf of the Parish Council, I thank you both. Tim, our groundsman meets all challenges head on and is always positive when we find him something extra to do. Tom, our lengthsman, has the unenviable task of waging a constant war against litter. The village can look spotless one day but that never lasts! I would at this stage like to make the point that he only works within the 30mph limits of the parish. In the past, litter was collected along our entry roads, but insurance and H&S constraints now hobble us. It is Gedling's responsibility and we are pressing them to be more pro-active. Can I also ask that if any bits have been missed then a report of the exact location and date with name and phone number of observer is made to me or the Clerk. This will help us to get the right people to the "hot spots" much more efficiently and report back results.

The major changes for the Village Hall this year have been the curtains throughout and the addition of a new lean-to shed on the south gable end, for the storage of Pre-School outside toys. This has helped to alleviate the constant pressure on storage space within the hall. We thank the Pre-School for funding this project.

Items of routine maintenance have included: unblocking kitchen sink drain; new closer on Ladies' door; new door handles; new radiator thermostats; repair to Pavilion roof and guttering. Other work includes: there used to be a bench just by the 30 limit on Lingwood Lane that had lovely cast iron ends but all the slats were rotten. This was rescued and Cllr

Charles-Jones set to renovate it. The result is the fabulous new bench at the entrance to Private Road – surely the most handsome bench in the Parish. On the matter of benches – Colin Starke and I went round all the other ones in the Parish using the Woodborough in Bloom Bowser, a portable generator and a pressure washer. We also worked as a team to put up the lamppost Poppies and the Silent Soldier in the Church Yard.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (Clerk)

This year our receipts exceeded payments by £36,400. A little over £16,000 comes from the difference between VAT paid and the hefty VAT refund – you'll see that in the year 2017/18 we paid out more than £22k in VAT, and this has been claimed back in the 2018/19 year. This is quite an exceptional figure for us, and largely down to last year's purchase of new play equipment. We also have earmarked just over £10k for invoices which were due for payment last year but are on hold for a range of good reasons.

Last year we received £72,000 in grants, again for the play equipment. This year's figure of £2035 is more modest, but we remain grateful to the County Council for part funding Woodborough's fantastic Lengthsman, and to our County and District councillors for their regular support for a range of activities, such as the Christmas switch on event, the Tour of Britain decorations, extra cuts for the Smalls Croft green and a new vacuum cleaner for the pavilion. This is in addition to the funding given to other important causes like Woodborough in Bloom and I would urge all of our village groups to make applications to Cllr Boyd Elliott and Cllr Helen Greensmith for funding as they are very often able to help with small projects. In terms of our biggest projects this year - we have continued to invest in the Governors' Field, with an investment of £4275 in new drains laid to alleviate the very boggy ground near the seesaws and zip wire, and new steps to make the house on the hill more accessible. Our rolling investment programme in the Village Hall continues, and this year £6000 was spent on capital projects. The curtains received a long overdue makeover. We were pleased to be able to use an excellent Woodborough based curtain maker. In March we bought new white china and mugs to bring our kitchen up to date, hopefully you noticed the change when you came in the hall tonight. We managed to place the vast majority of our green china with other community facilities, including the Institute, other village halls and a church group. Everyone was pleased to see the bulk of the china go to good homes rather than end up in landfill. It really is remarkably durable and who knows how long it will last in its new homes.

This year we have changed our arrangements with the sports clubs which use our playing field. In the past the football and cricket clubs paid the PC an annual fee but also took care of the grass cutting. The PC is now managing the grass cutting and charges a higher fee to the clubs, which is why both receipts and expenditure have risen. We are pleased that Woodborough Celtic have made us their home and that we now have year round sport on the field. We also welcomed a boot camp to the field this year which is helping to contribute the running costs.

Just under 9% of our expenditure went on the Sam Middup Field. Some costs were incurred on maintenance and the second round of consultation, but the repayment of the loan accounts for the main part of this expenditure. The interest rate is fixed and the annual payment of £8536 on this loan will remain unchanged for the next 48 years.

The PC has a healthy level of reserves with £132k spread across Unity Trust bank and the Nationwide Building Society. The balance of the loan taken out for the purchase of the Sam Middup Field was £211,301 at year end.

GEDLING BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT (Cllr Helen Greensmith)

I was delighted to be re-elected to represent the Dumbles ward. I sit on the Audit Committee and the Joint Consultative & Safety Committee. Well done to Linda Taylor and the WCA for

their sterling work in the village. There was a fantastic carnival atmosphere for the Tour of Britain. The Remembrance Day poppies were a splendid and dignified tribute. I am working hard to get Ash Grove adopted by NCC. I attend as many WPC meetings as I can. I am helping Mark Spencer MP to organise the litterpick event in June.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT (Cllr Boyd Elliott)

Ash Grove should be adopted by the end of the year as the last plot has been sold. I have liaised between WPC and Via to arrange modifications to the Lowdham Lane junction and to report potholes etc. A number of enforcement letters have been issued as a result of inspectors visiting the village and complaints from residents who have at times found some pavements impassable. The Minerals Local Plan is now a regular item on the PC agenda with any updates reported.

I think the whole village can be proud of the amazing turnout for the Tour of Britain when Woodborough, along with many villages, turned yellow for a day. For Woodborough's part this has been rewarded with a commemorative sign presented by the Chairman of the County, Sue Saddington. It was lovely to be able to provide the Christmas tree for the village, and I have already agreed to do the same this year.

I have chaired a cross party committee responsible for road safety around schools. We agreed to purchase another camera car at a cost of £47,000, making the yellow zigzags enforceable and extending the no parking restrictions around the school. I have now moved from children's services to vice chair of adult social care with a view to championing young disabled adults throughout the county. I would like to say thank you for giving me the privilege to represent Woodborough on NCC and I really do like to work with and support the local groups.

QUESTION & ANSWER/OPEN SESSION

- The status of Ash Grove needs clarification, timing communicated to residents does not accord with Cllr Elliott's report.
- Roe Hill needs resurfacing.
- The changes to Lowdham Lane junction have not eliminated the confusion for right turners – further change needed.
- Lowdham Lane has yet to be sided up.
- Wheelchair access around the village is generally poor due to poor pavement surfaces/width.
- Thank you for installing new steps on the house on the hill (from the grandfather who made the initial suggestion).
- The book exchange has been abused – once all the children's books were taken and all sorts get left eg old videos and leaflets.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm by thanking all in attendance.