

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Woodborough Held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Lingwood Lane.**

### **PRESENT**

Cllr Whincup, Cllr Berrisford, Cllr Blinston, Cllr Boot, Cllr Gough, Cllr Hough, Cllr Parkinson, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Turton, Cllr Wardle, the Clerk and 23 residents.

### **AGENDA & WELCOME**

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

### **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Mark Spencer (NCC) and Cllr Charles-Jones had sent apologies. Unfortunately PC Phil Anelay was off work and unable to attend.

### **MINUTES OF THE 2012 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH**

The Chairman allowed the meeting 5 minutes to read through the minutes and the minutes were then approved (proposed: Mrs Wardle, seconded Cllr Boot).

### **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT (Cllr Richard Whincup)**

Our Village Hall continues to provide the Parish Council's main source of income, and so we continue to maintain and upgrade the facilities in line with the users' expectations. A major upgrade to the seating has taken place with the purchase of 160 new chairs. Various councillors put considerable effort into selecting and sourcing these items and I would like to thank both John Charles Jones and Paul Hough for the time they spent on this matter. In particular their diligence and persistence in seeking out sources of funding meant that £7000 was received in a grant from WREN.

Charles Wardle has been deeply involved in the refurbishment of the Pinfold on Main Street, a task that won him an award at the annual Notts County Council Local Improvement Schemes event at Newark Showground in March. Speedwatch, championed by Alison Blinston, continues to prick the conscience of wayward motorists, and another weapon has been added to the armoury with the installation of the illuminated sign on Main Street. Alison and her colleagues were instrumental in the acquisition of this device from Notts County Council.

John Charles Jones has also been working hard in the cemetery and seems to have won the battle with Japanese Knotweed. He has also installed some wooden posts at the side of the path to discourage certain individuals from driving on, and ruining, the grass verge. On a different subject there seems to be an increasing incidence of dog-fouling and car-parking on the pavements within the village. I would urge you all to be vigilant and challenge anybody whose behaviour falls below acceptable standards.

Of course all your parish councillors have been active in their given roles and those mentioned above happen to be the most visible signs of the Council's efforts, but much other work goes on in the background. Planning and legal matters, health & safety, rights-of-way, playing fields, cemetery and allotments are all issues that require constant work, the results of which often go unnoticed but are vital to keep matters running smoothly.

Flooding seems to be a problem at the moment, with several occurrences in the past year. Whether or not this is an annual tally remains to be seen and is entirely dependent on the weather patterns. Andrew Gough is the Parish Councillor with responsibility for liaison with the Environment Agency, ST Water etc. and he has taken over Margaret Briggs' mantle. The Emergency Committee has risen to the challenge each time, with various members out in all weathers directing traffic and helping residents wherever possible. Some members of the public have objected to the road closures and have been quite abusive to the volunteers on duty.

We now have an excellent PC website which our clerk, Averil Marczak, keeps up-to-date and is constantly amending. This will provide an excellent reference point for the PC's activities. We have recently digitised the cemetery records and hope to add those to the website in the next few weeks.

Thanks to the hard work of many residents we won the Best Kept Village award again, and having won it several times in succession are now barred from entering for a year. I'm sure everyone will continue to keep the village looking good despite there being no award to compete for.

#### **EMERGENCY PLANNING (Richard Pannell)**

The Committee has 12 members and their objective is to try to protect the village from any threatening occurrence until the emergency services arrive. The main risk is flooding; there had been 1 flood in 2010, 3 in 2012 and 1 to date in 2013. There was an emergency store in the village hall car park. A problem for managing risk was that the waters could come from different places; in 2012 water had come down Foxwood Lane and amassed in the east of the village, whereas in January 2013 thawing snow had caused water to run down Bank Hill and flood in a different place. The Emergency Planning committee approach the Environment Agency for consent to close the roads. There are 5 flood wardens and they hoped to recruit another 4 or 5. The last flood lasted 13 hours putting severe pressure on the flood wardens. Road signs are located at all entrances to the village. Some motorists try to defy the signs; the bow wave they create may be just enough to tip some of the defences. Children need to be reminded of the dangers of entering flood water – it may have lifted a manhole cover, and at the very least is likely to be contaminated with sewage or chemicals off the fields. The Committee also aimed to identify elderly/infirm residents who might be at risk during floods and to match them with volunteer "Flood Buddies" who would check on their wellbeing. A resident commented that GBC need to hose down the village after floods to clean away the mess left.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS**

##### **ALLOTMENTS (Cllr Richard Whincup)**

The allotments were running successfully with low costs. The padlock required annual replacement.

##### **FOOTPATHS (Cllr Paul Berrisford)**

All footpaths are used regularly, which is a great credit to the villagers. Footpath 9, Foxwood to Mapperley Top, needs repair works; footpath/bridleway 6 is subject to re-routing; footpath 5 Green Lane to Lowdham Lane has its sign missing. All of these are being progressed by Notts County Council. Villagers are invited to report any problems to the PC and they will then be brought to the attention of Notts County Council.

##### **GOVERNORS' FIELD (Cllr Charles Wardle)**

This is the third year that I have reported on the ambiguity about the true route of the boundary of the Governor's Field along its south side with the dyke. Due to the fact that the title deeds have gone missing there is a need to re-register the land. As a consequence expenditure during the last year has been kept to a minimum. In recent months we became aware that the painting of the furniture around the field, done in the Spring, was peeling badly. We contacted the contractor who has agreed to come back and re-do FOC when we have had some hot weather to dry out the wood - hopefully that will be this year. The state of the railings is giving cause for concern and will be a priority when the lease situation becomes clearer. Once again we are indebted to the Hursthouse family for allowing us to plug the Christmas lights into their mains supply. For the second year we have had comments about the dimness. After bunching up and then adding an extra string in each tree we have had to acknowledge defeat. Having checked that there was nothing wrong with the supply we have now budgeted to replace them for next year.

##### **VILLAGE HALL (Cllr Geoff Parkinson)**

Factoring out the investment on the chairs, the village hall has made a small profit this year. It runs at virtually full capacity. The VHWP has recommended that the next improvements made should be a revamp of the toilets. This year the bookings meeting has been brought forward to May to meet users'

needs. Cllr Parkinson thanked the VHWP, which includes a number of regular users and councillors, as well as the clerk and hall caretaker. Special thanks are owed to Cllr Charles Wardle for his constant work on the hall and Colin Fraser for taking care of sound and light requirements. Cllr Parkinson thanked Mrs Batt for providing the keys for 30 years; a new key safe had been installed recently which was working well.

#### **MAINTENANCE (Cllr Charles Wardle)**

9 months ago Geoff Baggaley announced he was regrettably retiring on health grounds. He did, however, leave the door slightly ajar as he said he was going on an extended holiday to Australia and would review his situation on his return. We were very lucky when Graham Weatherall volunteered to cover all the basic litter picking and identify any other issues on his rounds. Geoff returned in February with a new spring in his step and has enthusiastically resumed his duties. We are delighted to have his wide skill base available to us once again but thanks must be recorded to Graham for filling the breach at a crucial time when Best Kept Village judging was imminent.

The number of maintenance issues has reduced somewhat this year no doubt due to past efforts and our ongoing project investment. In the village hall there have been taps and cisterns replaced in the toilets, a new key safe for the front door, the worst pot holes have been filled in and numerous other small items have been dealt with. We also addressed a major blocked drain incident.

We have liaised with Highways which has resulted in the cut back of hedge bottoms on Bank Hill and Main Street. There is a plan to resurface the pavement either side of the Meadows down to Taylors Croft. The Pinfold is now 95% complete. We are just waiting for 2 days of warm dry weather to complete the grouting around the feet of the new seat. Litter Bins have been installed in the Bus Shelter opposite the Methodist Church and the Pinfold. There is a new protective box for the Cemetery water supply.

Finally, I would like to record our thanks to Tim Tritton who has battled to keep grass and hedges cut during a period when excessive precipitation has led to almost tropical scales of growth.

#### **PLAYING FIELDS (Cllr Paul Berrisford)**

No major repair work was needed on the pavilion last year, but the plumbing will need attention in due course. Work also needs to be done on the fencing to the south side of the playing field. Both these projects are in this year's budget. Work also needs doing on the corner of the playing field where it has collapsed into the stream.

#### **HEALTH & SAFETY (Cllr Dan Sharp)**

Once again, there is very little to report on the H&S front. Checks and maintenance routinely continue across all our facilities with the aim of making them as safe as is practicable. Last summer I attended a Playground Inspection training session at Elkesley, which enabled me to improve my technique, and caused me to purchase a mallet for hitting the metal and woodwork to check that it is in good order. I apologise to anyone near Governors Field who may from time to time be woken up from a late lie-in as a result! The safety surfacing surrounding the play equipment was made good around the edges, and we passed last year's ROSPA inspection, as I am sure we will do so next month. I would like to thank Cllr Paul Berrisford who has been performing the legionella precautions down in the Pavillion, and not found any cause for concern. Thanks also go to the Village Hall Working Party and our caretaker for all the additional tests and checks that they perform. Whilst we do whatever we can, and our users employ their own good old-fashioned common sense, H&S should not become the burdensome beast and killjoy that some portray it as.

#### **PLANNING (Cllr Paul Hough)**

Planning is always a regular agenda item which varies from the straight forward to major planning applications. We try and deal with all applications both fairly and professionally, taking into account all the facts as they are presented, but being particularly aware of the impact any application decision will have on the applicants, on neighbours and on the village as a whole. The essence of what we try and do as a Parish Council is to make a measured judgment on behalf of the village and the community with each planning application we receive. So a lot of time and consideration is invested

in each application, as we too want this village to be kept as a special place to live and to bring up our children.

We only have an opinion that we forward to Gedling and we hope that they take note of our observations and recommendations, but the final decision is theirs. You too as residents have a voice too and can comment, both directly to Gedling and as those of you who attended the last WPC know, at the Parish Council meetings too.

This week Eric Pickles is seeking to make amendments on the government changes to planning, the act introduced 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 allowing home owners to build extensions to their properties without submitting application. Fortunately these permissions do not apply to the conservation areas in Woodborough, though it may cause concern for other residents. We continue to monitor such changes and regularly consult with the officers at Gedling on many of the applications received.

We are always willing to listen to residents' concerns and as a group give a great deal of voluntary time to these matters affecting life in the village and we always value your support.

### **WOODS FOUNDATION SCHOOL (Cllr Paul Hough)**

The PC's relationship with the school was positive. Special mention was made of the school's caretaker who was a popular figure in the village and was now retiring after many years of service.

### **SPEEDWATCH (Cllr Alison Blinston)**

Speedwatch is very much a team effort. Special thanks are due to Sue Walker who is stepping down from her role as deputy coordinator for personal reasons. The team aim for 90%+ accuracy in noting the make, model, colour and speed of vehicles. Between August and January, 478 letters were sent out to speeding motorists by police, and just 6 of those were repeat offenders, which hopefully proves that speedwatch is effective. The interactive speed sign on Main Street, paid for by NCC, is now operational. Speeds on Main Street are comparable to speeds on Bank Hill and Shelt Hill, but it was felt that this location would have a greater impact. The PC had asked NCC to reduce the speed limit on Lowdham Lane from 60 to 50mph, and Cllr Mark Spencer supported an audit to gather official data. Recently a weight restriction had been applied to Ton Lane at Lowdham which encouraged HGVs to divert through Woodborough; a NCC consultation would look at all HGV routes.

### **FINANCIAL SUMMARY (Clerk)**

The PC finished the year with funds of £62,134. Payments were down 33%; 2012/13 had been an exceptional year because of the purchase of the solar panels and the cemetery extension. The Village Hall remains the highest expense. This year we have paid for decorating, professional cleaning of floors and curtains and made an investment in new chairs. Due to the higher than expected income from and activity in the cemetery we invested in new registers for the left hand side which will increasingly be used, and we digitised the records. Expenditure on the playing field was behind budget, with no major repairs or changes needed to the pavilion. Work to the Governors' Field railings was delayed in the absence of a lease agreement. Income: excluding the VAT refund, income was up by 34%. The precept was increased by 100% to offset the loss of parish aid from GBC which at its peak had been more than £19k. Cemetery fees were unusually high due in part to the sale of 6 graves and 3 burials to families outside the village. The Village Hall continued to thrive and is virtually let at capacity. The PC successfully applied for grants for the new chairs, £6000 from WREN and £500 from NCC. Solar panels performed 5% ahead of expectation despite a poor summer. The rise in allotment income was due to the phasing of payments; most tenants had paid by bacs this year. Finally the PC was the proud recipient of the Best Kept Village prize money, £780 of which had been passed to Woodborough in Bloom for the pruning of the trees in the Governors' Field.

### **DISTRICT REPORT (Cllr John Boot)**

National economic problems had led to deep cuts for local councils who were under pressure to improve services and reduce costs. Parish aid had permanently been cut and the long awaited conservation area review had been put on hold. An electoral review of GBC recommended reducing councillor numbers from 50 to 41, combining Woodborough and Lambley into 1 constituency from the 2015 election as part of this reduction. The Aligned Core Strategy deals with new housing needs for Greater Nottingham until 2028 and identifies the need for 7200 homes in Gedling; there is nothing

specific for Woodborough to date. Consultation would take place in July with the hope of adopting the core strategy by December 2013; adoption of the allocation strategy had a target date of December 2015.

### **WOODBOROUGH IN BLOOM (Mrs Jan Turton)**

Congratulations to Woodborough residents for their hard work which resulted in the village being crowned Best Kept Village in Notts. Last year's red and purple colour scheme helped the village to stand out. Woodborough in Bloom thanked the PC and residents for their support. The organisation is self funded and relies on donations. The planters have been maintained by Barry Sawyer and Graham Weatherall has volunteered to help in future. The bowser team still needs extra help. In the forthcoming year activities were planned for the Governors Field: Timmermans will replant the rose bed with ground cover roses; it was hoped to plant a flowering cherry to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WWI; the PC had granted money from the Best Kept Village prize fund for the pruning of the trees.

### **WOODBOROUGH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (Mrs Laura Wardle)**

The WCA continues to provide events for the village although with mixed fortunes thanks to the weather. Community Cinema Nights have been popular. Monty Oakley has been fronting this project, ably supported by Paul Hough, Stewart Nicholas and Eric Simpson. The over 60s coach trips continue to be popular, so much so that we had to have two coaches for the May trip to Hunstanton. Our thanks go to Carol Tansley and Mavis and Brian Leafe for all their help organising these trips.

As it was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee last year, we planned an outdoor event. Sadly our optimism was in vain and we had to cancel the Picnic in the Park and Fancy Dress Parade. We did however, run a very successful Scarecrow trail based on the theme of the Olympics. Our thanks go to Stewart and Liz Nicholas and to Ken and Michelle at the Nags Head. At one point we thought the Street Market would have to be cancelled but as things turned out the Governors Field was dry enough for stalls and vehicles. And the sun shone! Thank you to Linda and all her helpers. We were delighted to welcome Dean Jackson from BBC radio Nottingham to open the Market and our thanks go to him as well as to the 4 Bells.

Our August Pig Roast at the Nags Head followed – another lovely day with a good turnout. Tim and Stewart spent the day cooking the pig. It was a great afternoon and evening's entertainment and the co-operation from Ken & Michelle at the Nags Head was very much appreciated. In September we held a Barn Dance; it was a great fun night but as last year a very poor turnout.

Yet again Nigel Whalley supplied us with a brilliant selection of fireworks, ably set up and let off by Monty and Eric. The Four Bells put on a great barbecue and were also very generous with their donation. We welcomed Revival back to the village in December and everybody enjoyed the usual high standard from the band. A revised format for our regular Christmas Eve carols round the beacon was put into action; there was a very good turnout of carol singers, ably accompanied by Ellie Pearce.

I am proud to say that not only have we kept the Best Kept Village winners sign in the Governors' Field for the third year running, earning us the Fenwick award, but we have also won the coveted "Best in Notts" award with a prize of £1000! A tremendous amount of work was put in by everyone, in conjunction with Woodborough in Bloom, to get the village looking at its best. This included a dedicated team painting the posts and railings on Main Street, sprucing up the outside of the Village Shop, the Post boxes and litter bins to say nothing of the weed killing, sweeping and litter picking. Linda has led a strong team so thanks go to her and also to Graham Weatherall who stepped in when the village caretaker retired. We were lucky enough to get a Local Improvement Scheme grant to fund the seat in the Pinfold which has been designated as a Jubilee Memorial.

After last year's successful calendar production a 2013 edition was published thanks to Stewart. The Over 60s New Year Party had to be postponed until February due to heavy snowfall. Thanks to the catering group, led again by Margaret Briggs, and Ellie Pearce who played the keyboard for a

singalong of 60s songs. We are delighted to record that the Samuel Eden Trust, which has helped us in the past with a contribution for this event, has now agreed to sponsor it in its entirety for which we are most grateful. Our usual Shrove Tuesday Pancake races were blessed with dry weather and the children from Woodborough Woods and PreSchool had a lovely time.

Overall, we have a deficit in funds this year, but the WCA is in good health – we have welcomed a few new people to the committee. Thank you to shop which sells the bulk of our tickets and calendars, the two pubs who help us host our events and, like the other businesses, TSW, Timmermans, Woodborough Hall, Challenge Training and many others outside the village, donate raffle prizes. But thanks most of all of go to the committee who have worked so hard.

I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to the officers who have stood down. Pat Woodfield Secretary and Linda, my Vice Chairman. I thank her for all she has done and hope she won't desert us all together. I am grateful that her post has been taken by Liz Nicholas.

## QUESTION & ANSWER/OPEN SESSION

- At PC meetings, can items of interest to the attending public be brought forward on the agenda?
- Can minutes be available to the public before the meeting?
- The floodwatch team are to be commended but the PC needs to put pressure on the EA to contain the water. *Charles Wardle*: a tank would cost £100,000s and the EA prioritises by population density so we will struggle to secure resources. *Richard Pannell*: a problem for Woodborough is that there is no single spot for a reservoir that would save the village, water can come from different directions.
- The PC needs to lead on flood resilience, government agencies are not bothered. The PC needs to persuade the farmers to do more to stop mud flowing into the village; they can get grants.
- There are too many 42 and 45 tonne lorries going down Lowdham Lane, most are bound for Dorket Head waste disposal. *Charles Wardle*: NCC recognise there is an issue and are launching a consultation which takes in Woodborough, Lambley and Lowdham. *Geoff Parkinson*: discuss this with the NCC election candidates now and get their commitment. *Note to be removed from minutes – Steve Osborne wants to be included in any activities re lorries*
- The trees were pruned on the GF 8 years ago by members of the PC
- Farmers in the valley do all they can to protect their soil and prevent erosion. It is simplistic and misleading to say that grants are available.
- The GF trees should be pruned using the PC's budget and the BKV prize money should be used for something longer term eg play equipment or a picnic bench. *Geoff Parkinson*: make a detailed proposal for the PC to consider.
- The seat on Lingwood Lane has disappeared. *Charles Wardle*: it was commemorative and the family did not want to replace it.
- Under the old PC, the seat would have been insured and a claim made.
- A dishwasher is needed. *Richard Whincup*: there are not enough big functions at the hall to justify it.
- The Coop site is a disgrace. *John Boot*: the site has to be very bad for GBC to take action, he will mention it again.
- Thanks to the PC for their donation for the village life DVD.
- Thanks to the PC for all they do.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm by thanking all in attendance.