

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7pm  
The Village Hall, Lingwood Lane, Woodborough, Nottingham**

PRESENT: Cllr Richard Whincup (Chairman), Cllr Paul Berrisford, Cllr Alison Blinston, Cllr John Charles-Jones, Cllr Paul Hough, Cllr Geoff Parkinson, Cllr Dan Sharp, Cllr Jan Turton, Cllr Charles Wardle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Averil Marczak (Clerk); Patrick Smith (Action Group, part), 3 members of the public (part)

**2068. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr John Boot (holiday) and Cllr Andrew Gough (unwell).

**2069. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Non pecuniary interests were declared: Cllr Berrisford: allotments; Cllr Blinston: allotments, WCA; Cllr Hough: Woods School, planning application GBC2013/1404; Cllr Turton: Woodborough in Bloom, Cancer Research, Woodborough Ladies.

**2070. PUBLIC SESSION**

The meeting was adjourned between 7.05pm and 7.15pm to allow public comment.

Mr Patrick Smith spoke on behalf of the Action Group. GBC had brought forward development of 2 brown field sites and had reduced proposed housing numbers in the key settlements including Calverton, but had not amended its proposal for Woodborough or any of the other villages. WPC had not responded to the June 2012 Aligned Core Strategy consultation and as a consequence had not been invited to attend the meetings with the Inspector. Mr Smith hoped the PC might learn from this. He suggested that the PC write to GBC asking that any housing target be reduced should a development off Ploughman's Avenue be approved. He called on the PC to have a full debate about the type of village that it wanted for the future; opposing the 3 sites was not enough.

**2071. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The meeting was reconvened and the minutes of the meeting held on December 9<sup>th</sup> were approved with minor amendment.

**2072. MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk reported that the completed lease for the Governors' Field was expected imminently. Cllr Charles-Jones requested that figures net of VAT be presented in the minutes.

**2073. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Charles-Jones and Rob Dixon for their work clearing part of a tree that had blown down on Roe Hill during December. The Chairman had commissioned GBC to remove the remainder of the tree which was deemed unsafe and to pollard its 2 neighbours at a cost of £300.

**2074. COUNTY & DISTRICT REPORT**

There was none.

#### **2075. LOCAL PLANNING DOCUMENT NEXT STEPS**

Cllr Charles-Jones echoed Mr Smith's disappointment at GBC's proposal to leave Woodborough's target housing numbers unchanged, but did not agree that the PC should lead the thinking on the future shape of development in the village. He contended that the PC should represent the views of the parish and there was consensus on this; there proceeded lengthy debate on how such views might be gathered.

It was agreed to seek advice from Ken Mafham on appropriate next steps, and to write to GBC expressing disappointment regarding the latest developments. It was further agreed that the PC should air the broader question of long term development in the village at the Annual Meeting of the Parish; the format for that debate was not agreed but it was felt that it should not be confined to the Annual Meeting.

#### **2076. SAFETY AND OWNERSHIP OF TREES ON ROE HILL**

The recent damage to a lime tree on Roe Hill had prompted a debate about ownership; NCC believed that the PC owned the trees and therefore had responsibility for them. Cllr Berrisford's research had revealed that the land occupied by the damaged trees was not registered; another potential land owner was suggested and Cllr Berrisford agreed to follow this up.

At 7.50pm Mr Smith and 3 members of the public left.

#### **2077. PROPOSAL TO PLANT A WILD FLOWER MEADOW IN THE CEMETERY EXTENSION**

Following discussion at earlier meetings Cllr Blinston proposed that a wildflower meadow be planted in the cemetery extension, which was unlikely to be required for burials for 20+ years. There was lengthy discussion about whether such a meadow would enhance the appearance of the cemetery. The proposal to spend £1000 to prepare the land and plant a wildflower meadow was approved by a vote of 7 to 2. It was agreed that the meadow should be sown to the left of the extension (given a small amount of persistent knotweed in the right hand part) and that the wildflower patches in the old part of the cemetery should be cut back after the primroses had flowered.

#### **2078. PURCHASE OF DEFIBRILLATORS**

It was agreed that this should be raised at February's meeting.

#### **2079. VILLAGE HALL TOILETS REFURBISHMENT**

Cllr Wardle presented the colour schemes selected by the VHWP and a comparative cost analysis. Cllr Charles-Jones expressed his concerns at the likely total cost and the ambiguity that he perceived still to be present. After lengthy debate and consideration of new cost information it was agreed by a majority vote to accept the quote of Scott Stone (4 votes in favour, 5 abstentions). This was a change to the previous decision to award the business to In house. It was recognised that due to other commitments Mr Stone could not start work until May at earliest and given the likely 6 week time frame for the project, the PC expressed a preference to carry out the work over the school summer holiday.

There was a further debate concerning tiling and partitions; these aspects remained to be agreed. Cllr Turton had agreed to recommend tiling options to the VHWP.

#### **2080. SPEEDWATCH**

Cllr Blinston reported that an administrative volunteer had been found from another village and that the resource problem had therefore been resolved. NCC were considering a request for a second interactive speed sign, which, if granted, would probably be sited on Lowdham Lane.

#### **2081. TENDERS FOR GROUNDSMAN CONTRACT**

It was agreed to seek tenders for a groundsman for a 3 year period. It was agreed that Cllrs Wardle, Charles-Jones and Turton would review the specification in light of the PC's recent requirements, and that the opportunity to tender would be publicised via the PC's website, the noticeboard and the Woodborough Web.

#### **2082. PLANNING**

There was no objection to the following 2 applications: PC ref 884, GBC 2013/1469 an application to raise the roof to existing garage, convert existing garage to bedrooms and build new attached garage at 11 Pinfold Crescent; PC ref 885, GBC 2013/1438 TPO an application for works at Thorneywood House, Foxwood Lane, to remove 3 low branches from T2 oak to enable tractor to pass under tree to cut hedge and T3 oak remove small branch that hangs down (timing of works to be recommended to take place before March 1<sup>st</sup>). There was a lengthy consideration of PC ref 886, GBC 2013/1404 an application for 5 dwellings off Ploughman's Avenue and it was concluded that while there was much to admire about the design and the sizes of property proposed the PC should ask GBC to consider the risk of increased surface water run off and the inadequate provision of just 1 parking space each for 3 dwellings, an issue that could be remedied by the reduction of the development from 5 homes to 4.

Copy correspondence from a villager to GBC regarding the applications 2013/1390 at 6 Buckland Drive, and 2011/0523 at Woodborough Park, was noted. It was noted that Mr Lynn Rose was appealing to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the refusal of an application for a crematorium at Orchard Farm (Lambley Parish). Cllr Hough left the meeting at 9.35pm.

#### **2083. BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2014/15**

Cllr Whincup presented a proposal for the precept and expenditure budget. It was resolved to raise the precept by 2.6% to £37,745 in line with inflation and GBC's Form C was signed by Cllrs Whincup, Turton and Charles-Jones. It was resolved to approve an expenditure budget of £77,518 and an income budget of £64,361, and a consequent reduction in the PC's reserves.

Cllr Whincup agreed to contact NatWest regarding the investment products available to the PC; it was agreed in principle that the PC's money should be divided between NatWest and Unity Trust.

There was a discussion regarding fees and charges made by the PC; a proposal to increase the village hall hire rates was not carried, but it was resolved to raise the cemetery fees from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 (a resident's plot or burial to increase from £250 to £300, a non-resident's plot or burial to increase from £600 to £700). It was agreed to publicise the increase to give residents a chance to purchase an Exclusive Right at the current rate.

**2084. CORRESPONDENCE & EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

An invitation from NCC to a broadband update was noted. The PC's insurers had sent a reminder about the insurers' requirements during ice and snow. It was agreed to publicise Mark Spencer MP's surgery to be held on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner's newsletter was noted.

**2085. CHURCH YARD**

Cllr Wardle reported that the PCC had asked for written confirmation that they would have no responsibility for the cost of the repair to the wall and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to them once NCC had confirmed that it would meet the cost under the Local Improvement Scheme. There remained a risk that the LIS grant would be lost due to the delay to the works.

**2086. WOODBOROUGH CHARITIES**

Cllr Parkinson was disappointed that the PC had not written a "cash" cheque to enable a distribution of gifts before Christmas. The trustees were in the process of resolving authorised signatories with Santander.

**2087. ALLOTMENTS**

It was agreed to raise the rent to £26 from April 2015.

**2088. CEMETERY**

Cllr Whincup would shortly progress artwork for the entrance noticeboard.

**2089. HEALTH & SAFETY**

Cllr Sharp confirmed that despite ill health he had been able to carry out checks of the play equipment. The Clerk passed on an offer made by GBC that their inspector could offer a temporary service if ever required.

**2090. GOVERNORS' FIELD**

It was agreed that the existing strings of new Christmas lights should be re-distributed across the existing trees in 2014. It was agreed to write a letter of thanks to the villager who had repaired a picnic table.

**2091. PLAYING FIELD**

There was nothing to report.

**2092. FINANCE**

The Clerk presented the financial statement and 9 payments totalling £2810.90 net were approved for payment. Gross payments over £500: Jack Kent Service £666 (£555 net) for the installation and removal of Christmas lights.

**2093. RIGHTS OF WAY**

There was nothing to report.

**2094. NEWSLETTER**

It was agreed to include November and December minutes.

**2095. AOB (INFO ONLY)**

Preschool had acquired a professionally produced sign that would be displayed on the door while their sessions were in progress.

**2096. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next PC meeting was confirmed as February 10<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 10.25pm.