

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th July 2014 at 7pm
The Village Hall, Lingwood Lane, Woodborough, Nottingham**

PRESENT: Cllr Richard Whincup (Chairman), Cllr John Boot, Cllr John Charles-Jones, Cllr Andrew Gough, Cllr Paul Hough (part), Cllr Geoff Parkinson, Cllr Dan Sharp, Cllr Jan Turton, Cllr Boyd Elliott (NCC, part)

IN ATTENDANCE: Averil Marczak (Clerk); 49 members of the public (part)

2202. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Paul Berrisford and Cllr Charles Wardle.

2203. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non pecuniary interests were declared: Cllr Parkinson: allotments; Cllr Turton: Woodborough in Bloom, Cancer Research. Pecuniary interests: Cllrs Boot, Gough, Turton: Local Planning Document.

2204. PUBLIC SESSION

The meeting was adjourned between 7.02pm and 7.40pm. The public session included a presentation by Cllr John Charles-Jones and Mr John Macdonald on a possible flood mitigation scheme. A brief summary of the presentation and comments made is appended. 34 members of the public left the meeting.

2205. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting was reconvened and the minutes of the meetings held on June 9 and June 30 were approved.

2206. MATTERS ARISING

The clerk was asked to chase a response from GBC regarding the Co-op site. Cllr Charles-Jones thanked Cllr Wardle for helping to manage the restoration work to the churchyard wall.

2207. PROPOSAL TO APPLY FOR LICENCES FOR FLOOD MITIGATION SCHEME, AT A COST OF UP TO £6000

Cllr Charles-Jones explained that in order to access the £50k funding from the EA, the PC needed to apply for various licences and permissions with some urgency. The likely costs would probably be less, but he sought approval to spend up to £6000. There was a risk associated with the expenditure as success was not a foregone conclusion. Cllrs Parkinson and Boot expressed concerns and wished to delay the decision until other sources of funding had been explored. Cllr Parkinson challenged the PC to consider whether large investment in the construction of the scheme might be deemed to benefit only those homeowners whose houses had flooded. Cllr Hough countered that the flooding affected all Woodborough residents through inconvenience and raised insurance premiums. Cllr Charles-Jones confirmed that a more robust public meeting would follow, the urgency of tonight's decision only being dictated by the availability of EA funding for works to take place before March 31. Cllr Turton proposed, Cllr Gough seconded that the PC apply for the licences and it was resolved by majority vote (6 to 2) to do so. At this point a member of the public attempted to address comments to the PC and villagers present. This attempt was shut down by the Chairman.

2208. WOODBOROUGH GREAT (PLAY EQUIPMENT PROJECT)

The chairman suspended the meeting at 8pm to allow Andy Pearson of the Woodborough GREAT team to speak. The group had drafted a constitution, done further research, and started to fund raise. It was proposed that WPC should manage the finances for the group, procure the equipment and take responsibility for insuring, inspecting and maintaining the equipment in the long term. Cllr Parkinson confirmed that he had looked at the group's constitution and suggested a couple of amendments. Andy Pearson asked whether the BKV prize money could be made available, but Cllr Turton clarified that this had already been spent on tree works. Cllr Boot agreed to find out if any S106 money was due to Woodborough. The meeting was reconvened at 8.10pm and it was resolved to manage Woodborough GREAT's finances via a separate bank account and to take over the equipment in due course as requested.

2209. COUNTY REPORT

Cllr Elliott had presented a petition for the 47 bus in full Council, recognising its importance to the independence of Moor Park/Moor Lane residents. The Environmental Weight Limit appeared to be working, as only one email had been received. Cllr Turton raised the issue of bollards installed by a private individual on footpath 19, technically in Calverton Parish. Cllr Elliott commented that this was a civil matter and not for NCC to resolve.

2210. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

There had been no call for an election, and it was agreed to ask candidates who wished to be co-opted onto WPC to write to the Clerk by 22nd of August for consideration at the next meeting.

2211. CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

It was resolved to pay Ken Mafham £150 to draft a response.

2212. WOODBOROUGH IN BLOOM

Cllr Turton reported that £200 worth of red geraniums had been stolen from the planters. The matter had been reported to the police.

2213. SPEEDWATCH

It was agreed to purchase 3 speed watch signs at a cost of £27.40 each as requested by PC Phil Anelay. Cllr Sharp had agreed to act as an intermediary between the PC and the speedwatch team, but did not wish to add overall responsibility for the scheme to his current workload. The Clerk reported that Calverton PC now wished to take over the gun for a longer period of time, potentially disrupting the rota put in place by Alison Blinston before her resignation. It was agreed that the chairman should write to the chairman of Calverton PC asking that the current rota be honoured and timings reviewed in December. The Clerk observed that there was a risk that the volunteers would become disillusioned if expected to re-organise the handovers or change their schedule with little notice.

5 members of the public left the meeting at 8.50pm.

2214. CORRESPONDENCE & EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The following items were noted: Paddy Tipping's "The Beat" newsletter; details of Notts Police priority setting meeting; letter regarding membership of Notts ALC executive committee; consultation on rural affordable housing; consultation concerning local audit. The clerk agreed to forward details of a consultation on underground drilling, and it was agreed to respond to a

consultation on draft regulations concerning rights of press and public to report on meetings. An email regarding overgrown vegetation on the pavement alongside Shelt Hill from Doverbeck had been forwarded to NCC. A request had been received for an additional dog bin on Main Street. An email had been received to say that work on Cabinet 6 had started, making BT Infinity available to the east of the village and this was welcomed.

Cllr Berrisford had sent a general update: the cricket club had damaged a tile on the Pavilion and this had been repaired by Council Wardle. Arnold town ladies football team were using the playing field during July and a request had been received from a Lowdham football club to train on the field.

2215. PLANNING

There was no objection to PC ref 895, GBC 2014/0680, an application for front extensions to garage and bungalow, replacement of conservatory with dayroom and replacement of flat roof with pitched roof at 22 Pinfold Crescent. PC ref 894, GBC 2014/0637, an application to convert garage to bedroom and link to dwelling with a utility room and increase height of boundary wall at 173 Main Street: it was agreed to object on the basis that it would be overbearing to the adjoining property, and would deprive neighbours of light. PC ref 897, GBC 2014/0388, a proposed two-storey side extension and rear ground floor extension and garage at 123 Main Street: there was no objection to the demolition, but previous comments stood regarding the extensions themselves. PC ref 896, GBC 2014/0698, an application to remove the agricultural tie (condition 5 of planning consent number 1991/0127) at 31 Lingwood Lane: after considerable debate, it was resolved to object and request that the agricultural tie should remain. All remaining members of the public left the meeting.

2216. CHURCH YARD WALL

Cllr Wardle had sent a written report: work on the wall has now been completed and the final payment was in order. A section of the wall by the dyke on Lingwood Lane (just above the bus stop) was found to be very unstable, but the cost of rebuilding this section would have been prohibitive. The section had been pointed up, and would need to be observed carefully in future years; at some point major repair might be required. It was agreed to thank Bonsers for their fine work.

2217. DAMAGE TO A BOLLARD ON MAIN STREET

A part of the railing outside 26/28 Main Street had been damaged. It was agreed to forward details to Cllr Elliott at NCC.

2218. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Turton reported from the VHWP. Preschool were happy to apply for a grant to convert only one of the toilets in the room next to the stage; it had been suggested that they should get a quote to refurbish the adult toilet at the same time, for the PC to consider. There had been a general discussion regarding clutter in the hall and the need to keep the building clear for use by everybody. Preschool had agreed to clear their boxes from the entrance hall and to keep the pegs clear. They had also agreed to clear their noticeboard for a wedding booking in 2015. It was hoped that the tables in the entrance hall could be stored in the telephone exchange. The VHWP had suggested that 60 of the old plastic chairs should be kept for use by children, the Feast Sports etc, and it was agreed to release the remaining 35 chairs kept at the hall. It was noted that preschool were now using the committee room as a dedicated area for the youngest children, and

removing the chairs and tables on a daily basis. It was agreed to write to the preschool to ask them to ensure that the arm chairs and tables were returned to the committee room at the end of their day. Mr Colin Fraser of the VHWP had suggested that it might be possible to dispose of a table tennis table and 4 baize topped card tables from the storeroom; it was agreed to find out if these were being used by any of the groups.

It was noted that the toilet refurbishment stood would start later in July, and it was agreed that the windows would be cleaned after that work had been completed. At 9.40 pm Cllr Hough left the meeting.

2219. ALLOTMENTS

There was nothing reported.

2220. CEMETERY

It was noted that the wildflower areas now needed cutting back.

2221. HEALTH & SAFETY

Cllr Sharp and Cllr Wardle had met to discuss the play ground inspection and had addressed the suggestions. It was agreed to cancel the order for an annual checklist and access audit with RoSPA, given that the equipment was likely to change in the next 2 years. Ideal's report for the annual cleaning and inspection of the pavilion water tanks had been received.

2222. GOVERNORS' FIELD

Repairs to the first "pilot" section of railings had been successfully completed, and Cllr Wardle recommended that the budget now be released to repair all of the railings. This was agreed. It was noted that the new tree in the Governors' Field was looking rather sad due to lack of water and a plan was now in place to ensure that it was watered regularly.

2223. PLAYING FIELD

The property owner who had responsibility for part of the damaged dyke in the playing field had used some sandbags on the PC's zone of the dyke and requested £50 reimbursement. This was agreed.

2224. FINANCE

The Clerk presented the financial statement and 20 payments totalling £9855.38 net were approved for payment. Gross payments over £500: Scott Stone £1500 (deposit for toilet refurbishment); Bonsers £5138.64 (final payment for repair to church yard wall). It was agreed that the July invoices from Gardenscape and Geoff Baggaley should be paid by bacs on 1st August following checking by the Clerk.

The clerk reported that the interest rate on the NatWest deposit account had now fallen below the rate offered by Unity Trust bank on the PCs current account. It was resolved to transfer funds from the NatWest to Unity, and then to close the account.

2225. CLERK'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The clerk reported that a meeting with a representative from the PCs insurance brokers had been arranged for 23rd of July. Cllr Turton agreed to attend this meeting with the clerk.

2226. RIGHTS OF WAY

It was agreed to consider a request for an additional dog bin on Main Street when Cllr Berrisford was in attendance.

2227. NEWSLETTER

It was agreed to include the minutes, a notice about the flood alleviation scheme, details of the co-option and a request for people to be vigilant and pull up ragwort.

2228. AOB

Cllr Turton reported that a planning application had been made to GBC for a major development at Linby.

2229. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next PC meeting was confirmed as September 1st 2014 at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 10.20pm.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SESSION

1. Flood mitigation scheme

Cllr John Charles-Jones and Mr John Macdonald presented details of a potential flood mitigation scheme which could be built on Mr Macdonald's land off Westfield Lane. Mr Macdonald had considered creating a wetland area and the idea had been developed so that it could temporarily hold back rainwater from the Woodborough valley and hence reduce the risk of flood damage to properties in the village.

The Environment Agency (EA) had reviewed the scheme and were enthusiastic for it to progress as a pilot which might yield important learnings for broader application. EA's expertise was being made freely available to underpin the scheme and bids for funding; £50k of internal EA funding had been provisionally secured (to be spent by 31/3/2015). The funding was contingent on a number of consents being in place (abstraction licence, drainage licence, planning permission, footpath diversion).

The scheme would comprise 2 lakes and had been designed by an expert to be self managing and aesthetically pleasing. There would be no ecological impact on the stream as the water would only be captured once it exceeded established flow rates, and once normal flow patterns resumed the water would be slowly released back.

The estimated cost of this scheme was £254k. Cllr Charles-Jones recommended it as a significant opportunity made possible by the willingness of the landowner to take 10 acres of his land out of farming. £50k had been offered by the EA, and he was optimistic that further funding might be available from the EA and several other sources. It was important however to understand whether the parish would be prepared to foot the bill in the event of no other funding being available. No scheme would remove the flood risk, but it might make the difference between water flooding the street and water flooding people's homes.

Comments: this is the best news heard for a long time; Severn Trent, Epperstone, Lowdham, Gunthorpe, NCC should help pay for the scheme as they would also benefit; a working party could help provide data; the Wildlife Trust might help fund the project; ongoing maintenance

must be considered; it would silt up and would not work; pleased that it is not just two big holes but would be a benefit to the village year round; the EA should have told the village first and not just discussed this with 2 interested parties.

2. Post Office

Councillor Parkinson reported that the Woodborough Post Office was likely to close soon. Royal Mail had changed its payment terms.