

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7pm  
The Village Hall, Lingwood Lane, Woodborough, Nottingham**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Averil Marczak (Clerk), Cllr Mark Spencer, 9 parishioners (part)

**1516. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Boot, who had a prior commitment to attend the Horticultural Society.

**1517. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Personal interests were declared: Cllrs Blinston, Wardle and Whincup, WCA; Cllrs Berrisford, Blinston and Whincup: allotments; Cllr Turton, Woodborough in Bloom; Cllr Hough: Woods School. Personal and prejudicial interests were declared: agenda item 3, WACAT's request for money: Cllr Charles-Jones and Cllr Parkinson.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.05 pm, and invited members of the public to address the PC and afforded the same opportunity to Cllr Charles-Jones and Cllr Parkinson under section 12 (2) of the Code of Conduct (a brief summary of comments made is appended). The meeting was reconvened at 7.30 pm. 2 parishioners left.

**1518. REQUEST BY WACAT FOR DONATION TO FIGHTING FUND FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW UNDER S137 OF LGA 1972**

Cllrs Charles-Jones and Parkinson left the room. The clerk briefed members on the conditions of expenditure under S137 and raised some of the considerations to be taken into account. Calverton PC had received a complaint to the auditor regarding earlier funding of a photomontage for WACAT and had concerns about the legality of making a donation; WACAT had subsequently withdrawn their request to Calverton for further monies. The Clerk advised that, if supportive, the PC should settle an invoice for an agreed amount directly with the legal professionals involved.

There was considerable discussion on whether a parish poll or other vote should be carried out. Cllr Wardle argued that if a majority of the village wanted to make a donation, then it should be made; having apologised for not holding a public meeting last summer, the PC should now take the opportunity to consult. Concerns were expressed about the validity of an informal vote. Cllr Whincup expressed his concern that a donation to WACAT would not necessarily bring a direct benefit to the area or inhabitants (as required by S137 of LGA 1972), as litigation was by its very nature speculative and the outcome uncertain. It was argued that villagers who opposed the turbine did not necessarily support WACAT and that those who did could make a donation themselves. Cllr Hough reminded members that there were other causes deserving of public money, including the scout hut.

At 7.45pm the Chairman adjourned the meeting for 3 minutes to allow Mrs Seaton to clarify the circumstances surrounding Calverton PC's payment for a photomontage.

There was consensus that a donation could not be given at this stage.

Cllr Wardle proposed that an informal vote be taken, asking whether a specified amount should be spent in support of the judicial review, with a 60% “for” vote triggering a donation. The proposal was not seconded.

With debate concluded, at 8pm 7 parishioners left the meeting and Cllrs Charles-Jones and Parkinson returned.

#### **1519. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the meeting held on February 13<sup>th</sup> were approved.

#### **1520. COUNTY REPORT**

Cllr Spencer said that he was lobbying for a weight restriction on village roads. He reported that Lingwood Lane would be resurfaced from Main Street to the Village Hall and he was hopeful that NCC would also do drawings for the entry to the hall. Members expressed concern at the dangers caused by inconsiderate parking at school drop off/pick up times; an accident had occurred and it was agreed to contact the Police Area Commander at Carlton explaining the details and requesting a visit at school pick up time.

Cllr Spencer left the meeting.

#### **1521. SPEEDWATCH**

Cllr Blinston reported that audit equipment had been installed across Bank Hill; a report of its findings would be available in April. Speedwatch monitoring will sometimes be supported by the police. Early morning surveys on Main Street will probably take place in the summer. Cllr Blinston reported with disappointment that a group of new speedwatch volunteers had, without explanation, changed their minds about getting involved. Calverton PC had made known their intent to re-start speedwatch but a further volunteer was needed before their programme could start.

#### **1522. HEALTH & SAFETY**

The report on the pavilion’s water system had finally been received and Cllr Sharp reported that he had met with Cllrs Berrisford and Wardle to agree actions required to reduce risks of legionella.

#### **1523. CHURCH YARD**

Cllr Blinston reported that she had discussed the PC’s and St Swithuns’ joint involvement in Notts Wildlife Trust Churchyards for Wildlife scheme. For a cost of £50 the Trust would make recommendations to encourage wildlife in both the churchyard and the cemetery.

Cllr Parkinson left the meeting to take a phone call.

It was proposed and agreed to spend £25 on Notts Wildlife Trust Churchyards for Wildlife scheme, providing St Swithuns paid the remaining £25.

Cllr Parkinson rejoined the meeting.

#### **1524. WEBSITE**

Cllr Hough reported that the new website was nearing completion.

**1525. CORRESPONDENCE AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

An email and photo had been received regarding parking on the pavement and it was agreed to publicise the photo on the noticeboard to ask motorists to be more considerate. A letter had been received from a parishioner regarding the fence at Podders; it was agreed that this was not a matter for the PC. A letter had been received suggesting that the footbridge in the playing field should be covered with wire to make it less slippery, and expressing concern about the weeds on allotment 17a. Cllr Berrisford confirmed that he had referred the suggestion regarding the bridge to Gareth Hudson at NCC. A request had been received from the Horticultural Society to display their show banners on the Governors Field railings and this was agreed.

A copy of CPRE's guide to neighbourhood planning had been received. Notification of NCC's Waste Core Strategy submission document and a consultation on change to governance arrangements was noted. An invitation to NCC's Local Improvement Scheme Event to be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> had been received and Cllr Parkinson had agreed to attend. GBC had booked the village hall for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, and users of the hall had been notified.

**1526. WOODBOROUGH CHARITIES**

Cllr Parkinson reported that he had met with Cllr Boot and would put together a paper on how the charities might be run for consideration in May. He planned to speak to the trustees in advance of this date. It was agreed in the meantime to hold back the donation of the allotment fees from 2011/12.

**1527. PLANNING**

There was no objection to PC reference 832, GBC 2012/0136, an application by Shelt Hill Farm Ltd to construct a ménage at 82 Shelt Hill.

**1528. VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Turton reported that she had been unable to find a second company to quote for the dry cleaning, repair and re-fireproofing of the curtains; it was agreed to accept the quote for £650 + VAT from National Dry Cleaners. Colin Fraser had asked for consent to spend up to £300 on a smaller amplifier that could be permanently wired into the speakers and this was agreed. Cllr Wardle proposed that the taps and hand dryers in the toilets be replaced; it was agreed to replace the taps but not the hand dryers at this stage. Cllr Wardle reported that he had ordered replacement gliders for the stage curtain; the cost was in excess of the £50 bond retained from the Nottingham Folk Dance group but he suggested that the PC meet the balance and this was agreed.

**1529. ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Whincup reported that a further tenant had asked for permission to erect a polytunnel and it was agreed to write agreeing to this but reserving the right to request its removal in the event of any material complaints or problems.

**1530. CEMETERY**

Concern was expressed that the hedge cut had not been done to a satisfactory standard and Cllr Wardle agreed to talk to Gardenscape concerning this and the first cut of grass at the cemetery. The clerk asked that Gardenscape also turf a recently topped up grave.

A W Lymn had tried out the turning circle in the new extension; dimensions were tight for the longest of their hearses. This was disappointing as A W Lymn had specified the dimensions. A fresh coat of gravel was needed on the path in the established part of the cemetery. Cllr Turton proposed that Cllr Charles-Jones do the work for a cost of not more than £250 and this was agreed (votes in favour: Cllrs Blinston, Briggs, Berrisford, Hough, Sharp, Turton, Wardle, Whincup; votes against: Cllr Parkinson).

**1531. PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr Berrisford reported that his application to Sport England for a grant to improve pitch drainage had been unsuccessful. It was agreed that the rents for the sports clubs should be increased by CPI for 2012/13, assuming that the PC received the same level of Small Business Rate Relief as it had in 2011/12.

**1532. FINANCE**

The clerk presented the financial statement and 21 cheques totalling £5034.50 including £495.33 VAT were approved for payment. Gross payments over £500: Dulux Decorator Centre £1594.50 (materials for redecoration of hall), Ideal Cleaning Services Ltd £714 (legionella risk report for pavilion).

**1533. CLERK'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The clerk's request for an increase in homeworking allowance to £5 per week was agreed.

**1534. STANDING ORDERS**

The clerk recommended that the PC revisit their financial regulations, including the requirements for multiple quotes and the conditions for members to tender, and consider in detail the new NALC model standing orders. It was agreed that Cllrs Whincup and Charles-Jones should lead the review and present back at the meeting in May.

**1535. RIGHTS OF WAY**

NCC had sent a consultation regarding a diversion to bridleway 6 and it was agreed to support this.

**1536. NEWSLETTER**

It was agreed to include a notice about the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

**1537. AOB**

Cllr Parkinson advised that he had received the planning application forms for the PV panels. 2 further chair samples had been brought to the meeting for trial; it was agreed that one sample could be eliminated and that the search should continue.

**1538. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next PC meeting was confirmed as April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012. The meeting finished at 10.05 pm.

**SUMMARY OF DEBATE DURING PUBLIC SESSION**

The clerk read out an email from Keith Stanyard expressing his hope that the PC would agree to WACAT's request for money.

The PC had a duty to spend money wisely for the benefit of all of Woodborough; the issue of the turbine had divided the village and a donation would perpetuate the disharmony; some people were too frightened to attend to speak out against WACAT.

A majority of attendees attending PC and other public meetings had been against the turbine; anyone who cares one way or the other would have attended, so the PC should support that majority. The donation to WACAT is for action against GBC and not against Mr and Mrs Charles-Jones.

The PC should conduct a parish poll, or an informal vote, to gather numbers for and against the turbine. If the majority are against the turbine, then the PC should support judicial review and give money to WACAT. The costs associated with a parish poll are high so an informal vote would be better.

The money being requested is nothing to do with supporting or opposing the turbine, it is helping to pay for Mr Holder's legal action against GBC.

WACAT need money to continue the action.