

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2014, IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM

Present: Cllrs Smith (Chairman), Coates, Eassom, Eldridge, Ellwood, Knott, Moore, Tunkle, C/Cllr Mrs Compton, D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher and the Clerk.

1. None.
2. No declarations of Interest.
3. No public present
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2015 were approved.
 - a) Matters Arising from the minutes not included on the agenda -
Cllr Eassom, the Clerk and their partners attended the WDC Chairman's supper.
Letter sent to Alison Hodge with good wishes on her retirement has been acknowledged with thanks.
Quality Status renewed as discussed. (*details available on WALC website*).
Village Hall car park access/parking – Cllr Eassom reported that some informal advice has been obtained from County Highways, and the Trustees, now awaiting further information on the most suitable way forward.
5. PLANNING – status report previously circulated.

New - W15/0023 – 17 Waller Close, Leek Wootton discussed – no objection.

W14/1678 – erection of new dwelling –land off Hill Wootton Road, Hill Wootton has been granted.

Referring to W14/1276 refused by WDC in the autumn. Appeal submitted – notification now received that this appeal has been dismissed by the Inspector, on the grounds of inappropriate development within the green belt.

WDC electoral boundary changes have been accepted. Some small changes to the Parish boundaries north and south, will come into to force after the May elections.

Neighbourhood Plan progress.

The Chairman reported on meetings held recently. A grant of £4000 is available and has been applied for. Informal meetings have been held with members of the Steering Group, and an inception meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is to be held on 24th February to discuss further actions. Chairman believes that a further grant may be available in the new financial year from April.

It was also agreed to hold a public meeting on the 14th April to give information on progress, and this will also include the Annual Parish meeting. The main hall has been booked for this date. Details will be discussed further at the March meeting.

From information received it appears that the number of dwellings proposed for land at Police HQ has been drastically reduced, following a representation made by English Heritage regarding the number of new properties to be accommodated on the paddock, close to the listed Woodcote manor house. The projected number has been reduced from 30 to 11, which together with the other two sites designated for the Woodcote estate brings the total to 21 and the total for the Parish now down to 26. However it is acknowledged that the situation is very fluid and could change.

6. FINANCE – status report previously circulated. Balance in account = £5110.07.

a) Payment approved for Clerk's sundries and, as previously agreed, an increase in Clerk's salary of 1% for 2014-15, total £40.44, together with £12 sundries a total £52.44.

7. PLAYGROUND/MEMORIAL GROUND

Cllr Coates reported that progress on choosing and ordering equipment was going well and it is anticipated that work will commence early March, with a completion early April.

WREN has unfortunately now withdrawn their proposal to include the VAT in the total and will be awarding a grant of £41,049 which could cause some difficulties to cash flow, and advice is being sought regarding reclaiming the vat.

Suitable playground closed signs will be erected. It was agreed information should be circulated to the occupiers in Quarry Close and Quarry Field notifying them of possible disruption with some large vehicles needing access, and requesting their patience.

- a) Other maintenance - Cllr Eassom reported that the village hall car park and surrounding areas need maintenance, quotes are being obtained.
- b) Concerns that dog bins are not being emptied regularly will be investigated.

8. Highways – breaches of weight restrictions still happening. Evidence is being obtained, and local PCSOs are monitoring the situation as requested at the recent WRW Forum– it was suggested some of the signage is not clear enough.

a) Request from Old Milverton PC for volunteers willing to be part of a team trained to use a speed gun. Cllrs Coates and Eldridge agreed.

b) Other village maintenance – Further to the comments in January minutes on flooding in Hill Wootton Road, under the A46 motorway bridge, investigations have been carried out by County Highways, and it appears this could be the responsibility of the HIGHWAYS AGENCY not County Highways. The suggestion that this work could be included in C/Cllr Mrs Compton's delegated transport budget will not take place as this is the responsibility of the Highways Agency, details are being forwarded to them for action. In the light of this information it was agreed to request funding from C/Cllr Mrs Compton's delegated budget for improvements to the bus stop area at the foot of the path to the village hall which is very well used and needing improvement. Cllrs Eassom and Eldridge will meet with WCC representatives to discuss this further.

Highway lighting now repaired under the A46 roundabout.

9. a) C/Cllr Mrs Compton reported on the lengthy County Council meeting held to agree Council tax for 15/16, which is to increase by 1.95%. Savings of £92million have to be made. She highlighted some of the schemes agreed, which include funding for more apprenticeships, road safety for children schemes, and funding for early start nurseries. Full details on the WCC website.

WDC - D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher confirmed that the Local Plan has now been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government for Inspection. Also that WDC propose to freeze council tax again at their budget meeting.

- b) Details of boundary changes now available. Election details will be circulated in the Link and local noticeboards.
- c) WALC newsletter circulated - the minutes of the WALC (War) meeting also circulated for information. Representatives will attend Alison Hodge's retirement party 27th March, 1 – 2.30.
WALC's annual briefing day is the 7th March – no one available.
- d) Cllr Eassom reported on the recent WRW Forum meeting.
- e) Annual Parish Meeting - Details as above. (neighbourhood plan item 5)
- f) Neighbourhood Watch alerts circulated regularly by Ms Craine. There have been incidents of theft from cars in the school car park.

10. There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

11. Date of the next meeting – 10th March, 2015.

Signed.....Date.....