



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 9 February 2016,
in the Committee Room, Leek Wootton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Coates, Eassom, Eldridge, Moore, Tunkle, County Councillor Mrs Compton, District Councillor Mrs Gallagher, the Clerk and Mrs E Clayton. Three members of the public, Ms Deborah Chapman, Mr James Worrall and Mr Jim Kirkwood.

1. Apologies Received from Cllr Knott and District Cllr Whiting
2. Declarations of Interest None
3. Public Participation 3.1 Deborah Chapman introduced herself as the Community Manager, Leek Wootton, of the Green Leek 10K Run. To further develop the partnership between the <i>Green Leek Federation</i> schools and the communities of Burton Green and Leek Wootton, a group of volunteers are planning a 10K off-road run between the two schools. This event will also mark the 20th anniversary of the building of All Saints' C of E Primary School. The 10k run will commence at Burton Green School and finish at All Saints' School in Leek Wootton. The date is not yet confirmed but plans are for a Sunday in October 2016. The organisers are currently seeking permissions before finalising a date. The Council offered its support to the project. 3.2 James Worrall, a Leek Wootton resident, brought the Council's attention to the condition of the pavement adjacent to the Warwick Road between Leek Wootton and Kenilworth, with specific reference to a blocked drain that is discharging grey water and the hedgerow that is collapsing over the footpath. Cllr Smith explained that Environmental Health has investigated the issue of grey water, which appears to be due to an unmaintained septic tank. Various dye tests have been undertaken on different septic tanks for properties at Wootton Grange, but these have not been successful and it may be a forgotten outflow to an old tank. This issue has been referred to Severn Trent Water. An additional issue with the drains is that the remedial ditch-clearing that has been undertaken appears to have caused the drains to become blocked with soil causing water to flow onto the pavement and road. Mr Worrall commented freezing will cause hazardous conditions. Cllr Smith assured Mr Worrall that the Council will continue to seek a resolution to the issue. Cllr Smith referred the issue of the collapsing hedgerow to agenda item 10.2.2.
4. Minutes 4.1 The previously circulated draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016 were approved. 4.2 No Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting and not included on the agenda
5. Planning 5.1 To note planning decisions made: <ul style="list-style-type: none">W15/1797: Firlea, 13 Hill Wootton Road - GRANTED 5.2 Planning applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">W16/0059: 30 The Hamlet – No Objection lodged – awaiting WDC decisionW16/0125: Firlea, 13 Hill Wootton Road – Cllr Eldridge explained that the previous application had been lodged by the homeowner's agent without his knowledge and

that a neighbour had raised an objection privately. The proposal is therefore now being reduced from that granted. This planning reference refers to an application for a Lawful Development Certificate, which the Council has received no further information about.

Other:

- Retail unit at 1A Home Farm. Cllr Eldridge has received information from the Landlord that this unit is to be let to an existing tenant for use as a showroom for fitted kitchens. The Landlord will therefore not be seeking a change of use to residential at this time.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

6.1 Report on progress

Cllr Smith gave an update on progress with The Neighbourhood Plan, which is nearing the final draft stage. AECOM's final report is due shortly. Financial deadline is end of March. There is a NP Steering Group meeting on 23 February 2016 and public consultation meeting on 10 March 2016. A meeting to discuss the Woodcote plans will be arranged with WDC prior to the Council's discussion of the Local Plan (*since confirmed for 22/02/2016*)

7. Finance

7.1 Quarterly Financial Report

Cllr Smith proposed that the Council is presented with a quarterly financial report instead of monthly. The finance spreadsheet will continue to be available to view. The Council agreed.

A copy of the finance spreadsheet was also circulated for information. No issues raised.

7.2 Payments approved:

- £450.00 to Ben Tebby for clearing the fallen tree in Quarry Fields and repairing the playground fence. *As the tree was on WDC land the Council will pursue the District Council for a contribution towards this bill.*
- £64.99 for purchase of a printer

8. The Playground

8.1 Nothing to report

9. Leek Wootton War Memorial Ground Access & Car Park

9.1. Progress Report by Cllr Eassom

Car Park

The civil engineering survey and preparation will take approximately 4 weeks. Once prepared this will go to the Trustees for consideration.

It has been proposed that the line of trees and shrubs between the car park and the access road be removed prior to works on the car park itself. Cllr Smith commented that this may fall within the conservation area; this will be checked and WDC permission sought if necessary before any further action is taken.

Access

Initial estimates for the scheme to improve the layby area at the bottom of the access ramp have been given at £15,000-£20,000. Cllr Eassom asked County Cllr Mrs Compton what funding may be available for this. Cllr Compton explained that her 2015/16 delegated transport budget is fully allocated, but that she proposes to set aside £10,000 for this project.

Cllr Coates raised the issue of fundraising within the community. Many grant funding organisations require evidence of community support for projects in the form of match-

funding. Members of the community use the hall and are aware of its value and the issues with the car park and access. Cllr Eassom agreed, but said that before a fundraising campaign can be launched, there needs to be a target.

10. Highways, Lighting, etc

10.1 Progress Report

Traffic light phasing on the pedestrian crossing has been set to what is termed pre-timed maximum mode on the 20 January 2016, "The vehicle maximum timer starts when vehicle traffic gets a green signal. If you as pedestrian arrive before the end of the max timer and press the pedestrian push button the demand is registered. Where there is traffic extending the vehicle green period you may need to wait up to the end of the max timer - currently 28 seconds, this is unless there is a gap in vehicle traffic from both directions whereby the vehicle green terminates. If the max timer has already expired beyond the 28 seconds then the lights change immediately (this is the primary change over the previous mode)"

Street lighting on Hill Wootton Road has been fixed.

10.2 Maintenance of rights of way

10.2.1 Woodcote Lane: bank adjacent to The Anchor Inn car park

WDC contacted, awaiting response from Contract Officer. Clerk to chase up.

10.2.2 Warwick Road: between Spinney House & Wootton Grange

WDC contacted, awaiting response from Contract Officer. Clerk to chase up. If no action taken the Council may ask Ben Tebby to look at this particular issue as it is causing a health and safety issue with pedestrians stepping into the road to avoid the obstruction.

10.2.3 Other

- Cllr Moore asked for it to be noted in the minutes that the unnamed lane in Hill Wootton, leading to Wootton Grange Farm, becomes a private roadway at the end of the public highway.
- Recent storms have highlighted a number of places that are prone to flooding:
 - Warwick Road: Outside the Old School and School House
 - Hill Wootton Road: Under the skew bridge (railway)
 - Hill Wootton: Outside Mallows

It was noted that there was no flooding under the A46 in Hill Wootton Road, although the overflow from the road above is still running down the embankment and across the pavement.

- Road closure and gas works being undertaken in Woodcote Lane. Cllr Eldridge commented that the holes in the road have been left for some 3 weeks with no apparent progress. This is due to the workmen being unable to locate the leak.

Cllr Smith proposed a list of ongoing issues be compiled and maintained, with each issue being followed up and progress reported to the Council on a regular basis.

11. County and District Councillors' reports

11.1 Warwickshire County Council

C/Cllr Mrs Compton presented a brief report on WCC's budget and finances. After the Council's recent budget debate the Government's final settlement was announced which, in addition to the £92M cut over 4 years, included an adjusted funding formula creating an additional £10M cut. WCC appealed and the government has reduced this to a £7M cut. WCC will now need a new budget debate.

Council Tax will increase by 3.99%, 2% of which will go to Social Care.

The devolution debate has re-opened due to Stratford-upon-Avon announcing it will join the combined authority.

On a positive note, it has been announced that the Women's Aviva Cycle Race will come to Warwickshire. It is possible that it will come through Leek Wootton as it will go through Warwick and Kenilworth, but the final route details have yet to be publicised.

WCC Trading Standards wish to draw attention to a number of tumble drier fires and ask that owners do not leave tumble driers unattended and do not run them overnight. The risk of fire is increased by not cleaning out accumulated fluff.

Finally, the Lengthsmans Scheme. Jenny Murray, WCC Localities Team, made a presentation at Lapworth Parish Council meeting last night (08/02/2016). A report about the pilot scheme run in Rugby area will be forwarded shortly.

11.2 Warwick District Council

D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher reported that the Local Plan is nearing the final stages. The final plan will be presented to WDC on 24 February. The plans for upgrading WDC leisure centres had been presented to the public, the majority of who were happy with the plans.

WDC's budget and finance is similarly affected by Government changes and will be debated again. The WDC precept will be going up by 1.99%.

12. Council Administration

12.1 Vacancy: Parish Councillor

Mr Jim Kirkwood expressed an interest in taking up the existing vacancy on the Council. Cllr Eassom proposed Mr Kirkwood be co-opted onto the Council and was seconded by Cllrs Coates and Tunkle.

12.2 NALC re-accreditation process

It was agreed that NALC accreditation scheme should be delayed until the new Clerk feels able to address the necessary paperwork. This item is to be revisited in 2-3 months' time.

12.3 Correspondence

A letter was received from a resident of Waller Close, drawing the Council's attention to parking issues in Waller Close on sporting event days. The Council is aware of the issues, which are also experienced in other roads throughout the village. Similar to issues of parking on The Hamlet, it appears little can be done - local police advice is to dial 101 if there is any illegal parking.

12.4 Other – None

13. Any other business

For discussion only

13.1 Invitation to WCC Chairman's Open Evening & Reception

Interested Councillors to contact Chairman

13.2 Royal Garden Party

The opportunity to nominate a Councillor has now passed

Other:

- Queen's 90th Birthday

No response to request for interested parties to form a Committee from readers of *The Link* to date. The Church Fête is booked in the hall on Saturday 11 June, which is the main weekend of events nationally. Jonathan Kingston, who is organising the fête is keen to make it part of wider community events. No cricket match is booked for that day. Cllrs Eassom and Coates have discussed forming a committee with Martin Rennolds and Graham Couchman from the Sports Club and Jonathan Kingston. They will also be contacting all community organisations inviting them to be involved.

14. Date of next meeting

14.1 Tuesday, 8 March 2016 at 7:30pm in the Committee Room, Leek Wootton Village Hall

COLIN SMITH

8 MARCH 2016

Signed:

Date: