



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday, 11 October 2016, in the Committee Room, Leek Wootton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Smith (Chair), Coates (Vice-Chair), Eassom, Eldridge, Kirkwood, Knott and Moore, C/Cllr Mrs Compton, D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher and the Clerk

1.	To accept apologies for absence Cllr Tunkle and D/Cllr Whiting
2.	Declarations of Interest – None
3.	Public Participation – No members of the public present
4.	Minutes 4.1. The minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday, 13 September 2016 were approved and signed. 4.2. Matters arising not on agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">Item 16: The Clerk has been in contact with the Neighbourhood Watch representative and confirmed that a survey can be circulated to NHW distribution list. <i>Clerk to liaise with Cllr Eassom about questions to be included in survey</i>
5.	Progress Reports for information 5.1. Playground (Cllr Coates) Nothing to report. No notice received that RoSPA has undertaken its inspection. 5.2. Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground (Cllr Coates / Cllr Eassom) Car Park: Gary Fisher, WDC Planning Officer, is back in contact. No confirmation as to whether the trees in the car park can be removed yet. WCC Highways to look at alternative access. Funding will be considered after that time. Access Layby Improvements: Work to commence 24 October (half-term week). Village hall is busy that week, but Sports Club will make its car park available for village hall users. [Confirmation has now been received that in the evenings workers will ensure that if the kerbs are not reinstated the same day then they can put some stone in the trench to make a temporary access] 5.3. Community Engagement: Summer Fête 2017 (Cllr Coates / Cllr Eassom) Nothing to report. Open meeting arranged for 20 October 2016. Nothing further to report. 5.4. Community Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">WCC Highways (Cllr Kirkwood) Woodcote Lane: Resurfacing Phase II is now complete, however there are problems with pooling water in places throughout Woodcote Lane; these will be dealt with in due course. Skew Bridge, Hill Wootton Road: WCC Highways have 8 registered pot holes in this area, which have not been fixed yet. Concerns that two pot holes in the immediate vicinity of the bridge may be water related, the Clerk is in touch with Severn Trent Water about the water leak on the Hill Wootton side of the junction and will raise the other two areas with them. [The issue of STW and water leaks at Skew Bridge were 'overtaken' by a major burst water main the next day, 12 October, on the Leek Wootton side of the junction. This will be resolved as a priority and STW has confirmed that the leak on the Hill Wootton side is not related and engineers will attend at a later date]

- Other (Clerk)

Possible Japanese Knotweed (JK) at The Warwickshire: A resident raised this as an issue with Cllr Knott. The Chairman advised that The Warwickshire has been dealing with JK for some time.

Cllr Knott to ask resident for a precise location of the suspected JK.

Cllr Coates to inform The Warwickshire of this suspected outbreak.

Beech Hedge, Woodcote Lane: This is being followed up by the Clerk. [Confirmation now received that this work should have been done, but WDC has had issues with one of its contractors and will be inspecting. The Clerk has specified that bramble needs removing from the hedge and it requires cutting both inside and out]

Contractors: Cllr Eldridge gave the name of a local contractor who may provide an alternative to commissioning Ben Tebby. Other contractors were also mentioned by other Councillors.

The Clerk to ask different contractors for their rates.

The Chairman to explore possibilities of PC having greater freedom to commission maintenance work outside of the WDC contract/precept at meeting with Mike Snow, WDC Finance.

6. **Warwick District Council: Refuse collection / replacement of bins**

Members considered an estimate for project costs totalling £1,884.20 (+ optional £110 for poo bag dispenser). Concerns were raised that a bag dispenser was unnecessary. The Clerk explained that this option was proposed with a view to providing bags on the War Memorial Recreation Ground to ensure there is no excuse for leaving waste on the recreation ground and for non-dog walkers to dispose. Cllr Eassom proposed to explore grants for approx half of the amount with a view to raising funds to match.

Cllr Eassom and Clerk to submit application for £1,000 grant to WRW Community Forum Grant

7. **Planning**

7.1. A note was made of planning decisions made:

- W/16/1329: The Old Post House – Proposed single storey conservatory to replace existing and new oak framed and glazed balcony to rear bedroom – **OBJECTION** (Submitted). **WDC Decision: WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT**
- W/16/1373: Firlea, 13 Hill Wootton Road - Proposed erection of a two storey rear extension – **NO OBJECTION** (Submitted). **WDC Decision: REFUSED** (see 7.4)

7.2. There are no current planning applications.

7.3. A note was made of new planning applications:

- W/16/1618: Saxon Mill - Proposed display of 1no set of flat cut letters and logo 2no post mounted signs with wooden posts 3no projecting hanging signs 1no flat cut logo. **The Council has no objection**
- W/16/1519: Giminivi, Warwick Road - Addition of first floor bedroom/balcony extension to rear of dwelling, single storey open sided canopy to front, and external alterations. **The Council has no objection**
- W/16/1796: Avenue Lodge, North Woodloes - Erection of a single storey side extension - Re-submission of previously approved application no. W/13/1144. **Application only received shortly before meeting – decision to be communicated once Council has had time to review the application**

7.4. Cllr Eldridge has investigated why the extension of Cedar Lodge on the drive to Stone Edge did not require planning permission, when two previous applications for the same property were refused. WDC response is that it is within permitted development, whilst the planning application for Firlea was refused on the grounds, amongst others, that it is within the Green Belt. There appear to be many contradictions in WDC planning policy. Cllr Eldridge has

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asked Tracy Darke, Head of Development Services at WDC, to meet with the Parish Council. She, or a Senior Planning Officer, will attend the November meeting (which clashes with the WDC Planning Committee Meeting).

Cllr Eldridge to confirm that whoever attends will be able to discuss WDC policy

8. Neighbourhood Development Plan

8.1. The Chairman attended the opening sessions of the Local Plan hearings. The Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe hearing is on 17/18 November and the Chairman requested that all Councillors on the NDP Steering Group should attend. A meeting of the PC Steering Group will be held in the interim to agree the basis of the LW&GC representation.

Milverton hearing is to take place on 13/14 October and Kenilworth on 18/19 October. These are hearings that it would be helpful if Councillors on the Steering Group attend.

A number of responses to the statutory consultation have now been received. Some discussion took place about the response from Broad Lane Leisure Ltd and the Health & Safety Executive, which raised the issue of a major gas main running through the parish.

8.2. The drop-in meeting for the public will take place on Sunday, 16 October at Leek Wootton Sports Club. Councillors on the Steering Group will attend.

9. Finance

9.1. The October 2016 financial report was approved.

9.2. Payments approved:

• SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Local Council Administration (10th Ed.)[book]	£76.60
• H N Eldridge	Clerk's Expenses	£58.97
• Fairways Ltd	Maintenance (Oct)	£286.50
• Grant Thornton UK LLP	2016 Audit	£360.00
• YouTree Printing	Printing of FAQ leaflet (NDP)	£76.26
• Leek Wootton Village Hall	NDP Hall Hire (04/2014-07/2016)	£100.00

9.3. Other Finance Matters:

Cllr Moore raised issue of changes to election costs, as discussed at Warwick WALC meeting

Cllr Smith to meet with Mike Snow, Head of Finance at WDC, to discuss precept issues, as per response to WDC Funding Consultation.

Finance Committee to be formed and meet to discuss the 2017/18 Budget.

10. The Future of Community Forums

The WDC Community Forum Review paper, which was presented at the Warwick Rural West Community Forum was discussed. It was agreed that the loss of the community forums would be regrettable as they are a valuable tool for communication between all Councils and the Police. Possibly combining the forums would help to reduce costs.

The Clerk to draft a letter expressing the above opinion.

11. County and District Councillors' reports

11.1. Warwickshire County Council

WCC is currently working on its budget. Residents can use a tool on the WCC website which allows residents to propose changes to the expenditure by WCC for consideration.

11.2. Warwick District Council

The Local Plan and financial matters continue to dominate matters at WDC. Hearings concerning the Plan have restarted, taking up considerable amounts of time for all of our senior Planning officers. It is too soon to give any indication of the likely outcome, but at least progress is once more being made.

The responses to the proposed reductions to Parish funding have now been received, and are in the process of being collated. Our financial projections continue to show the need for

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savings beyond those already planned, so the squeeze on our spending shows no sign of diminishing. Progress on the major projects that are forecast to deliver savings becomes ever more important as these move closer (the changes to the management of our leisure centres, and the relocation of the Council offices being the two most significant).

12. Correspondence for information

12.1. WALC: Government consultation on proposed changes to precept

As mentioned in 5.4 and 9.3 above, The Chairman has proposed a meeting with Mike Snow, Head of Finance at WDC, to discuss changes to funding/precepts and would like to discuss the possibility of what services the Parish Council can take over from the District Council.

13. Representation at meetings

Cllr Moore is resigning from representing the Parish Council at Warwick WALC meetings. The Chairman expressed the Council's thanks for his many years of work with WALC. Cllr Coates volunteered to attend the WALC AGM on 9 November.

14. Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda

- Cllr Eassom and C/Cllr Mrs Compton reported on WRW Forum Meeting where a presentation about the works on Stanks Island was made. Further information is available at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/stanksisland
- Cllr Kirkwood noted that bin bags are being left outside the village hall and they sometimes blow away. Cllr Eassom confirmed that this was the cleaners, by arrangement. A resident used to take bags away, but that resident has now moved away, so alternative arrangements need to be made. There is a bin in the layby when leaving the hall, so this could be used.
- C/Cllr Mrs Compton raised the issue of the proposed 2018 parliamentary boundary changes. Anyone can have their say on the Boundary Commission's Consultation website at www.bce2018.org.uk
- There was a discussion about the advantages of WCC and WDC combining as a unitary authority. Cllr Mrs Compton confirmed that this should be raised with local MPs.
- After an informal discussion last month, the Clerk has investigated how an Asset of Community Value can be registered. A discussion took place about whether the Anchor Inn and other properties should be registered as an ACV. The Chairman proposed that a discussion takes place with the current owner.
- For information, the hotel at The Warwickshire has been full since opening in September.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is on 8 November 2016 at 7:30pm in the Committee Room of Leek Wootton Village Hall.

Signed: Colin Smith (Chairman)

Date: 8 November 2016

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