



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday, 10 January 2017,
in the Committee Room, Leek Wootton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Coates, Eassom, Eldridge, Kirkwood, Knott, Moore and Tunkle, County Councillors Compton and Redford, District Councillor Gallagher, 1 member of the public and the Clerk

1.	To accept apologies for absence D/Cllr Peter Whiting
2.	Declarations of Interest Cllr Tunkle declared the planning application on his property (W/16/2020)
3.	Public Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Resident, Jim Worrall attended and wished to draw to the Council's attention the issue of roadside litter, especially between The Warwickshire roundabout and Blacklow roundabout (A46) south of the village. He spoke to a roadside litter collection crew that was picking up after the recycling lorries, who told him this additional collecting was to end. The types of roadside litter are predominantly household waste and have fallen from or blown out of the recycling lorries, rather than dropped by passing cars. <i>The Council will raise Mr Worrall's concerns with Recycling, WDC</i> Cllr Smith also mentioned the state of the footpath in this area.Mr Worrall also mentioned the condition of the new tarmac in the layby at the bottom of the entrance ramp to the recreation ground. Cllr Smith said that it was laid in cold weather, which is not ideal, and coupled with the speed that cars take the sharp bend when approaching from Kenilworth also churns up the surface. <i>See item 5.2</i>
4.	Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1. The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 10 November 2016 were approved and signed.4.2. Matters arising not on the agenda – None
5.	Progress Reports for information <ul style="list-style-type: none">5.1. The Playground (Cllr Coates) The sign required in the RoSPA Inspection Report is up, located where it should be clear of footballs, etc., hitting the fence. The other item raised in the report is the mesh in front of the goal. The report stated that the corners were coming up. Cllr Coates has inspected this whole area and cannot find evidence of the corners/edges being exposed. No further action.5.2. Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground (Cllr Eassom) Car Park: A meeting has taken place with Gary Fisher (WDC) and Ben Simm (WCC). Notes on that meeting have been received and there will be a meeting of the Trustees of the Recreation Ground next week to discuss them. Cllr Eassom will report on this meeting at the next PC meeting. Access Layby: Cllr Smith suggested the addition of a secondary sign to say “& CAR PARK ↗” will make the Village Hall sign clearer. Members of the Council initially received a number of negative comments about the new arrangements in the layby, but these have now calmed down. One

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criticism was that the pedestrian refuge by the bus stop was too big, but Cllr Smith has since observed 38 children waiting for the school bus in this area.

5.3. Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Summer Fête 2017 (Cllr Eassom/Cllr Coates/Clerk)

There is to be another planning meeting on 31 January.

Insurance: Cllr Eassom has looked at the Parish Council's insurance documentation and would like to confirm with the insurance company that the event will be covered.

The Clerk to contact Came & Company to confirm insurance requirements

5.4. Community Maintenance:

- WCC Highways (Cllr Kirkwood)

Current issues are being managed as follows:

Warwick Road

The drainage system opposite All Saints' CofE Primary School was jetted on 22 August and although the system is now clear we need to arrange for the roots in the system to be cut to allow the water to flow faster.

The leaning tree between Leek Wootton and Kenilworth on the opposite side of the road to Broad Lane Leisure was passed to the Forestry Team on 16th May 2016

Hill Wootton Road

The section of road on the bend near Mallows was jetted on 8 June and there are roots in the system adjacent to Greenacres. Root cutting will be ordered.

There is a similar situation with the section of road from Skew Bridge towards Hill Wootton, root cutting needed.

Woodcote Lane

WCC will issue a defect register to the contractor with an agreement that all defects are to be completed before the end of March.

Potholes

Pothole repairs will be ongoing.

- Other (Clerk)

Severn Trent Water

Leaks in Warwick Road and Hill Wootton Road have been dealt with. Issues in Hill Wootton over New Year were two-fold; an electrical issue led to taking up the road and temporary lights. This was compounded when a mains leak occurred on Hill Wootton Road to the west of the hamlet, which meant Hill Wootton residents were cut off for some time on New Year's Eve. Cllr Moore commented that the weight of traffic through Hill Wootton and subsequent widening of the road had led to the aging water mains being too close to the road surface. It was agreed that there is a probability of further leaks due to the age of the mains network, especially in cold winter weather.

Rights of Way

Mr Barnard (Footpaths & Rights of Way, WCC) has confirmed that the replacement of the footbridge on FP W173 will take place in the next six months, when ground conditions have improved.

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

6.1. Awaiting decision on grant application by WRW Community Forum (26/01/2017)

7. Planning

7.1. To note planning decisions made:

- W/16/1519 – Giminivi – **GRANTED**
- W/16/1618 & 1620 LB – The Saxon Mill (signage) – **GRANTED**
- W/16/1796 – Avenue Lodge – **GRANTED**
- W/16/1921 & 1922 LB – The Saxon Mill (int/ext refurbishment) – **GRANTED**
- W/16/2020 – 85 Warwick Road – **WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT**

Cllr Tunkle informed the Council that he had withdrawn his application subsequent to

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being advised that it would be refused, citing overdevelopment in the green belt.

7.2. A report on the progress of current planning applications:

- W/16/1971 & 1972 LB – Thatched Cottage, Hill Wootton – **No Objection** – sent
- W/16/2061 – 9 The Meadows – **No Objection** – sent (notification has subsequently been received that this application has been withdrawn by the applicant)

7.3. To consider new planning applications:

- NONE

7.4. Other Planning Issues:

- Saxon Mill

Issue raised by neighbour relating to W/16/1921 & 1922 LB will lead to a meeting of WDC, the neighbour, the Saxon Mill and PC. Whilst the core issue is a party wall dispute with which the PC cannot become involved with, Cllr Eldridge will attend to monitor the meeting and any plans by the neighbour or the brewery.

- Planning Site Notices

Tracy Darke, Head of Development & Planning, WDC, has provided a site notice for use by Parish Councils. This is because there are some instances where WDC Planning no longer erects site notices as it is beyond their statutory requirement. However, we asked if we could display the notices instead. In response to this, Ms Darke has produced a notice to be used. This will be owned by the parish council due to the legal framework the DC have to work within in publishing notices. The notice has been agreed with their legal team. Along with selected other parish councils, we have been invited to trial the new notice. A copy of the notice was circulated and it was agreed that, when necessary, these will be displayed on yellow paper.

8. Neighbourhood Development Plan

8.1. Report on progress

The Local Plan Examination Hearing sessions have now closed.

The NDP Steering Group will have a meeting with the Parish Council's partner next week.

8.2. Cllr Smith reported that the Inspector had run a fair hearing.

Place Partnership were asked whether 115 units on the Woodcote site would be viable, which they said it would. Cllr Eldridge observed that the pricing of the new units in Place Partnership's plan were in his view conservative for property prices in the area.

The Inspector has written to the Council to outline his position at the close of the Hearings. He considers the submitted Local Plan not to be sound, but it can be made sound by modifications. He will liaise with WDC to recommend modifications.

Subsequent to modifications, WDC will undertake a sustainability appraisal of the main modifications and facilitate a full public consultation exercise.

8.3. Community land and the future of 'The Lunch'

At a meeting with Place Partnership, the NDP Steering Group was informed that Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Secombe will take a personal hand in the development a Woodcote. Cllr Smith informed Place Partnership that this is outside Mr Secombe's remit as PCC Commissioner.

In earlier versions of the development of the Woodcote site, it was proposed that The Lunch and playing fields would be transferred to "the community". The latest plan by Place Partnership proposes that these areas remain part of the development and a 'maintenance fee' be levied on the future property owners. However, the steering group considers this will effectively privatise these amenities and would prefer to revert the original transfer option.

Cllr Smith presented the potential obligations that this option would present for the Parish Council and asked for the Council's agreement for the steering group to pursue community ownership of the amenities. Some research has been undertaken before about leader funds and HLF grants, which can be resurrected and updated. Cllr Coates observed that work to investigate future uses of the woodland and lakes will need to be undertaken – making more

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use of it than simply establishing footpaths. Cllr Kirkwood observed that an outline budget will be required. Cllr Smith suggested that an independent Trust would be the preferable outcome.

A vote was taken and the majority agreed to investigate and pursue community ownership as the ultimate aim for these two parcels of land.

Cllr Smith will prepare a concept paper

9. Finance

9.1. The January 2016 Financial Report was approved.

9.2. Payments approved:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------|
| • P A Eldridge | Land Registry Entries & Title Plans | £45.00 |
| • H N Eldridge | Clerk's expenses (Nov/Dec/Jan) | £24.00 |
| • YouTree Printing | Printing of Place Partnership Masterplan | £35.08 |

9.3. 2017/18 Budget

Precept

Cllr Smith proposed raising the precept to £20 (an increase of 33%, which will raise the precept from £8,010 to £10,675.46). This is to counteract the loss of the 50% of the Concurrent Grant, bring the precept better in line with neighbouring parishes and establish a buffer for unforeseen future issues, e.g. an election fund. He proposed that the Council should be being more proactive and supportive of the community.

C/Cllr Compton agreed that it is preferable for parish councils to be proactive, rather than reactive. Cllr Eassom stated that, whilst the Community Forum grants have been a useful source of support a number of times, the Community Forums are going to change and this funding stream will not be available in the same way in the future. Cllr Moore expressed concern that more money would lead to more work being passed on by WDC and WCC.

Cllr Smith and the Clerk met with Robert Hoof (Head of Neighbourhood Services, WDC), Mark Bennett (Contract Services, WDC) and D/Cllr Peter Whiting to discuss whether the Parish Council could take on any services provided by WDC if raising the precept, but the WDC's contracts cannot be matched.

A vote was taken and the Council agreed to raise the precept by majority. Cllr Moore did not support the proposal.

Clerk to write to WDC informing them of this precept figure

Finance Committee

Cllrs Smith, Kirkwood and the Clerk will have a preliminary budget meeting in January.

10. County and District Councillors' reports

10.1. Warwickshire County Council

There are a number of changes in the County Council coming. The Chief Executive is to retire the day after budget day. There is no news on a replacement at this time. The Heads of Human Resources and Information Technology are also to retire.

PCC Commissioner Philip Seccombe will not be raising his budget.

Warwickshire Cyber Crime Survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RegionalCyber16>) closes in 2 weeks' time

Warwickshire expects a boost in grants for tourism in the County following the announcement of a £10 million funding for the region, after the events of 2016.

Kenilworth station delayed until 10 December.

Warwickshire has now housed a number of Syrian refugees.

WCC's Living Well with Dementia in Warwickshire (<https://dementia.warwickshire.gov.uk/>) website has now launched. The target for Dementia Friends has already been exceeded.

Bus Passes – Please check that your bus pass is up to date. Onboard scanners will now identify expired bus passes and you will have to renew them at

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/renewabuspass>

WRW Community Forum Grant Fund has a small amount of money left. The January

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meeting will be the last meeting of the WRW Community Forum in its current form.

10.2. Warwick District Council

1. The Local Plan - while the letter from the Inspector makes clear that changes are necessary to make the plan acceptable, this is being seen as the best possible outcome in the circumstances - his letter refers to the initially submitted draft, which we knew he thought was unsound (as we had to negotiate with him to agree to an amended version). Officers are therefore relatively confident that a plan will be in place in the next few months, though we clearly still have to hear what his precise recommendations for changes will be.
2. The Executive recently approved a change in the exemption period for empty properties. While exemptions will continue to be granted in certain circumstances (eg when a property is subject to probate) the blanket 30-day exemption that previously applied is to be removed (subject to approval by full Council). Significant amounts of officer time were being spent resolving disputes between incoming and outgoing tenants and landlords, as the current exemption 'belongs' to the property, not necessarily to any one of these individuals.
3. Major works are now underway at the council's leisure centres in Warwick and Leamington Spa, and a decision will be taken shortly on the bids received from third-party operators of all of our leisure facilities. Consultation on changes and improvements to the facilities in Kenilworth is likely to begin later this year.
4. Once a local plan is in place, WDC will be able to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on new developments. This is similar to, but does not replace, Section 106 funds used to pay for various forms of infrastructure. A consultation will be launched shortly, with details sent to Parish Councils (among others).
5. Finance - latest projections show that the District is on course to generate a modest surplus in the current financial year. Subsequent years continue to look challenging, with the renewal of the major waste management contracts a particular cloud on the horizon. The pressures on council tax, and on spending on services, therefore remain considerable.

11. Correspondence for information

- WALC Training Survey – Clerk to circulate to all councillors
- WCC Warwickshire Minerals Plan (2017–2032) Publication Consultation – passed to Cllr Kirkwood

12. Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda

- Cllr Coates
Attended Warwick WALC AGM. Speakers were:
 - Jim Graham, Chief Executive of WCC. He said that the Council was on track to take £67M out of the budget by 2020. He is also strongly in favour of Warwickshire becoming a unitary authority.
 - Marcus Jones MP (Nuneaton). Talked about benefits of devolution. He also stated that 11% of Local Plans have been approved.
- Cllr Knott
Attended a Warwick WALC meeting where Philip Seccombe was the speaker.
- Cllr Kirkwood
The Parish Council is now in possession of a supply of sandbags. Does the Council now require a supply of sand? If so, how much and where will it be stored?

13. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, 14 February 2016 in the Committee Room at Leek Wootton Village Hall.

Advance Notice:

Cllr Smith also mentioned that the Annual Parish Assembly meeting, usually held on the same evening as the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, will be held on Wednesday, 17 May in the Village Hall and will be combined with a reception to mark C/Cllr Compton's

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retirement.

14. To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:

14.1. Personnel issues – None

14.2. Legal issues – None

Signed: Colin Smith (Chairman)

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