

WOLVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WOLVERTON CHURCH ROOMS on 18 MAY 2015 at 7.30pm

1. **Present** Cllrs Stone, Payne, Rowley and Tunbridge; Ms Hollinrake, clerk; Mr Anthony, chair of Action Group; and parishioners Mr and Mrs Miller, Mr Carr, Mr and Mrs Sylvester, Mr Barnes, Mr Graham, Mr Bayliss, Mr Easterbrook, Mr Livingston, Mr and Mrs Mann. Cllr Stone welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** County Councillor Horner, District Councillor Richards, Ms Anthony, Ms Stone.
3. **Rural Policing** Cllr Stone introduced Lucy Lambert, Rural Crime Coordinator with Warwickshire Police and thanked her for coming to discuss issues concerning rural policing that parishioners had raised in the Parish Plan consultation, including speeding and parking in the village. Ms Lambert informed the meeting that, having previously worked for the Met, she has been employed by Stratford District Council, since August 2014, funded via the local Crime Commissioner. She stated that although crime overall is declining and the incidence of crime may be lower than in some urban areas, often in rural communities people are not expecting it, so the impact can be greater. She encouraged all to report crime, to ensure statistics represented the true picture. She was joined by a colleague from the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Rural crime issues include:
 - **Fuel / oil theft** – often repeat thefts, a key issue for south Warwickshire communities. Suppliers have been advised of the problem and asked to distribute awareness leaflets to customers. Preventative options include fitting alarms on oil tank caps – but this risks thieves drilling through the tank; or flotation alarms, although these can be expensive. The police are currently piloting PIR (external motion) sensors that activate when someone walks by. This will inform a decision on bulk purchasing – sensors are otherwise £30 each.
 - **Burglary** – pre-planned in case of high value items; opportunistic where homes are insufficiently secured; or distraction burglaries, ‘Nottingham knockers’ where people are fooled into letting thieves into their homes. Parishioners were advised to keep back doors locked when answering the front door to strangers, to deter distraction burglars. Ms Lambert distributed leaflets for vulnerable people, to present to unknown callers to the door.
 - **‘Courier’** frauds, where the elderly / vulnerable are targeted, e.g. scams to trick people into disclosing banking details. This type of crime is typically under reported as victims may feel foolish for getting caught out – despite the

sophistication of such scams. Police should be notified, and they will come out for courier and door to door fraud.

- **General theft**– lawnmowers, power tools, bikes etc. Ms Lambert provided parishioners with free marker pens to add post codes to people's valuables, providing an element of deterrence and enabling easier return of recovered goods. Ebay and car boot sales are checked to identify marked items. The service also uses SMART Water, covert marking, for high value items. Ms Lambert offered to hold a free marking event for the village, which Mr Anthony agreed to take forward.

Neighbourhood Watch

Ms Lambert confirmed the value of Neighbourhood Watch, which was proving especially helpful in tackling door to door crime and courier scams. It was up to local areas to determine what level of activity was required from their local scheme. Mr Anthony confirmed that the re-establishment of Wolverton's Neighbourhood Watch was a priority in the Parish Action Plan and appealed for new volunteers to help take this forward.

Speeding

Parishioners outlined problem areas, including through the village and outside the school. Cllr Stone explained some of the action already undertaken to deal with road safety in the vicinity of the school. Mr Miller summarised the Speed Watch initiative, as part of the Parish Plan, calling for more volunteers to take this forward.

Contacting the Police.

Ms Lambert advised:

- 999 in an emergency
- If important but not urgent 101
- If non urgent, Wellesbourne Safer Neighbourhood Team on 01789 444600

The meeting agreed the following action:

- Ms Lambert to come to a property marking event - possibly June 13th at the village fete. Mr Anthony to co ordinate
- Mr Miller to progress the Speed Watch initiative, to include Wolverton School
- Parish Council to represent the village at the Arden Community Forum
- Contact details for the police to be publicised – notice boards and parish magazine

Cllr Stone thanked Ms Lambert and her colleague for a very helpful discussion.

4. Summary from 2014 Annual Parish Meeting – discussed, agreed and signed as an accurate record.

5. Chair's report 2014-15. Cllr Stone summarised key changes over the last year. He thanked Chris Barnes, who stood down at the recent election, for her contribution to the Council and also Ms Hollinrake, clerk. He noted the work on behalf of the parish of

District Councillor Richards and County Councillor Horner. He advised of the recent changes in District ward boundaries – Wolverton now with Snitterfield and Claverdon.

Councillor Stone confirmed to the meeting that the Parish Plan had been adopted by Stratford District Council and as such was a 'material consideration' in planning applications. He thanked all for their contribution to the plan and advised that the summary was distributed to all households. He summarised the planning applications dealt with during the year, including six extensions; and two new builds which were refused. He reminded parishioners that the WRCC Housing Needs Survey made no recommendation for affordable housing, identifying need only for one small market house. He reported that he and Mr Wilton were investigating the matter of conservation area status, for parishioners to consider in due course.

Cllr Stone highlighted the new website, which had received 635 hits since February. This should increasingly become a source of current local news. It gives parish contact details, access to the Parish Plan and Action Plan, parish council meeting information and minutes, etc.

- 6. Presentation of Parish accounts.** Cllr Stone presented the unaudited accounts for 2014-15. He highlighted that the council had maintained some reserves, so the position is positive. He also outlined the arrangements for funding the housing and electrical work for the defibrillator - costs would be met initially by the Parish Council, with any funds raised by the Action Group reimbursed to the Council. Currently, Ms Silvester has raised in the region of £500.

7. Parish Council Action Plan

Mr Anthony, as Chair of the Action Group, provided the meeting with an update on progress – where we are up to, who is doing what and where help is still required. The Action Plan has 50 named actions, which are detailed in the summary and progress against which is documented on the parish council website - *please see*

www.wolvertonpc.org.uk/parish-plan/

Mr Anthony informed the meeting that progress was good, the highlight so far being the acquisition of the defibrillator and accompanying lifesaving training. He appealed for all to complete the survey in the recent parish council magazine about mobile phone reception, improvements to which Mr Barnes is leading, as well as the online survey about broadband issues, which he is leading upon. Mr Easterbrook has volunteered to take forward a group of actions concerning paths, hedges and verges but volunteers are still needed to support Mr Read in establishing the natural history group, to reform Neighbourhood Watch and to support Mr Miller in progressing the community Speed Watch. Mr Anthony thanked everyone for their hard work in getting the Action Plan moving.

8. Core Strategy

Cllr Stone summarised an update report provided by DC Richards and J Horner on Stratford District Council's Core Strategy. Although the strategy has run into problems with the inspector, a key theme that had emerged was the imperative of protecting the green belt.

9. County Councillor Horner - the meeting noted his report.

Cllr Stone thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and expressed his appreciation to all those who had contributed to the success of the Parish Plan. In the absence of any questions he closed the meeting.