

Wolverton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 10 Aug 2016 at 7.30pm
Venue: Wolverton Church Hall

1. Present

Cllrs Stone, Easterbrook, Rowley & Tunbridge, plus County Cllr Horner for part of meeting. Apologies were accepted from District Cllr Richards

2. Disclosure of interests

Cllr Rowley declared an interest in item 9f due to proximity of the application site to her residence. Cllr Stone pointed out that Cllr Rowley would be unable to take part in the WPC decision process on this planning application.

3. To confirm and sign minutes from 25 May

Minutes of AGM on 25 May were approved and signed

4. Matters arising

- a. **New Website.** Cllr Tunbridge reported that the existing website had been paid to 27 Aug. He anticipated completing the transfer by 27 Sep, so another month's payment would be required. Positive feedback had been received from other users of the new service, with the planning application tool proving of particular value.

Cllr Stone asked Cllr Tunbridge to check whether councillor's email addresses provided by the current website provider could be retained. This was particularly important given the clerk vacancy and the increase in emails through the Chair's WPC email account.

- b. **Bench and replacement notice boards.** The crossroads bench had been dismantled and timber and light oak stain procured. The edges of the slats needed to be rounded off and the metal supports painted. Cllr Stone will progress with help from David Payne.

The notice boards were ready for installation but would require new posts at the church hall. It was noted that the boards were heavy, so installation will need to be carefully planned. Cllr Stone was confident that he could find sufficient help to complete the installation safely. The Hall board had been supplied with two locking panels for Council use and one unlocked panel for community use. The two panel board for Norton Lea had been supplied with two locking panels, one of which will be modified to be unlocked. A final stain coat would be needed after installation.

- c. **Councillor vacancy.** The casual vacancy will be publically notified and a by-election held if within 14 days a poll is claimed by ten electors, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option. Cllr Stone to source and post the requisite notification.

- d. **Clerking arrangements.** As an interim arrangement, Kathryn Hollinrake was in the process of handing over to Cllr Stone and has notified various contacts of the change. As no volunteer had come forward, WPC agreed to investigate employment of a paid Clerk. Further discussion was held over to item 10 - Finances.

- e. **Community assets.** Mr Anthony had volunteered to progress registration of the Church Hall and possibly also of the Vicarage lawn, after he had achieved improved broadband.

5. Report on broadband provision.

Mr Anthony was congratulated in securing the minimum number required to progress a new microwave broadband service. Modifications would be required to the supplier's existing mast near Alcester plus installation of a new mast and power supply in the village. Installation will start with small scale testing and fine tuning with each subscribing household requiring their own aerial. Full roll out is expected in November.

Cllr Stone fed back on a meeting he and Mr Anthony had held with BT's Regional Head Partnership Director – Ian Banks, following intervention by our local MP. Mr Banks confirmed that the new microwave installation would not undermine the case for a BT fibre solution. Mr Banks will email findings of the meeting once he has received confirmation from colleagues.

6. Speed proposals outside Wolverton school.

Cllr Horner was thanked for securing funding through the Safer Routes to Schools initiative. This will provide for an advisory 20 mph limit (flashing 20 mph signs at school start and finish times), with flashing 40 mph signs at other times. Cllr Stone had asked County if this combination had been trialled successfully elsewhere and was told it had at Morton Morrell. It wasn't clear whether 'success' was based on a reduction in speed or a favourable reaction of residents. Installation was expected in the next few months.

7. Report from County Cllr Horner.

Cllr Horner touched on the establishment of the combined Authority. The main benefit seemed to be the greater borrowing scope, albeit supported by the wealth of a small number of the constituent councils. The drive for regional devolution was uncertain given the changes in Westminster government leadership.

Cllr Horner had been willing to sponsor clearance of the overgrown bridleway on the Wolverton/Claverdon boundary using community labour. This was supported by Cllr Stone and seconded by Cllr Easterbrook.

Cllr Horner was asked how the Claverdon solar farm appeal was progressing. He thought it out of time for a legal challenge but would check. *Post meeting note: The appeal had been refused in April on the grounds of loss of openness of the Green Belt and adverse visual impact on users of footpath SD162a, together with insufficient evidence that non Green Belt or brown field sites had been considered. A legal challenge would have to be made within 6 weeks of the decision.* Cllr Horner left after his contribution.

8. Report from District Cllr Richards.

SDC Core Strategy had been adopted and was legally compliant. Cllr Stone noted that there remained no robust definition of 'infill'.

9. Planning applications/decisions.

Items a.-e. were noted.

- a. 16/01154/LDP – Lower Blacon Farm extension – permitted

- b. 16/01155/FUL – Lower Blacon Farm garage extension – no representation – decision pending
- c. 16/01471/AMD – Spring House roof lights – approved
- d. 16/01548/LBC – Chestnut Barn retractable awning – no representation – permitted
- e. 16/01662/LDP – Saddlebow Cottage detached garage – permitted
- f. 16/02292/FUL – Brensham revised application. This item was discussed. Some improvements had been made following withdrawal of the earlier application, but nearest neighbour concerns had not been fully addressed. Cllr Stone would discuss the planning issues with the Case Officer and draft a response for circulation to Cllrs Easterbrook and Tunbridge for agreement before submitting.

10. Finance

- a. Bank balance at 20 July £3053.32.
- b. Annual financial return for 2015-16. The return had been signed off by our internal auditor, with a small change in the way an unpresented cheque was dealt with. A response from external auditors was still awaited. It was noted that the required formal notice of audit had been posted on our notice boards.
- c. Approved expenditure – notice boards £1668 – bench timber £111.09
- d. Regular expenditure – grass mowing £135
- e. The likely cost of a paid Clerk was discussed. Cllr Stone advised that National Pay scales applied, which increased annually by inflation. There was hoped that costs in the current financial year could be absorbed within the existing budget. Cllr Stone agreed to review the estimated resource requirements and update WPC accordingly.

11. Correspondence

- a. Notification from SDC of finalisation and adoption of Core Strategy - noted.
- b. Community Infrastructure Levy – circulated for information
- c. Revised legal topic note on reproduction of planning documentation – we would comply if we refer public to material available on the SDC website, rather than reproduce and distribute ourselves.
- d. Community led housing survey for completion by end of Sep. Opening full questionnaire for discussion not possible – *now resolved*.
- e. New Inn Salvation squad set up to explore options to save the pub in Norton Lindsey. WPC would support and publicise their aims.

12. Future meetings

- 14 September, 16 November