

**Wolverton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting on 15 September 2014 at 7.30pm**  
**Venue: Wolverton Church**

**1. Present and apologies**

Cllrs Stone, Payne, Rowley and Barnes; Clerk. DC Richards and CC Horner attended for part of the meeting.

**2. Co-option to vacancy**

Councillors warmly welcomed interest from two parishioners to undertake the role and agreed that both were excellent applicants. However, on the basis that Mr Tunbridge had already completed induction, planning and other training and given his recent, prior experience, councillors were unanimous in co-opting him to the vacancy. Councillors acknowledged the contribution Mr Anthony had made to the Parish Plan and expressed the hope that he would continue to support WPC in progressing the Action Plan. *Clerk to notify the applicants.*

**3. Disclosure of interests**

None declared.

**4. Minutes from the Annual Parish Assembly on 27 May 2014**

Amended to clarify decision making regarding any possible application for conservation status, the minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

**Minutes from WPC meeting on 15 July 2014.** The minutes, previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record and signed.

**5. Matters arising**

**a. Highway matters**

The Clerk confirmed she had asked Mr Sagrott to include the re-sown grass on the Green in his grass cutting schedule; and to cut back the bushes obscuring the speed warning sign outside the school (since completed by the council).

**b. WPC address and website**

No progress on email addresses.

Cllr Payne has added the Parish Plan and Housing Needs Survey ( which is also on SDC's website), and updated the site but there remains work to do, especially in ensuring its easy access via search engines and navigation of the site to raise the profile of key documents, notably the Parish Plan. Cllr Payne to ask Mr Tunbridge to resume this area of responsibility, on his return. External support may need to be commissioned, for circa 1.5 hours, (estimated cost £67.50), although Cllr Richards has expertise in this area and may be able to assist if Mr Tunbridge is not able to progress - *Cllr Payne to discuss with Mr Tunbridge in the first instance.*

## 6. Parish Plan

Cllr Payne and Mr Tunbridge, on his return to the Council, to produce a summary document for distribution to parishioners.

The pressing need now is for WPC to get on with delivering the Action Plan, giving priority to key issues, such as improving the broadband speed. A sub-committee is required to drive and manage the delivery process, on behalf of WPC, that includes parishioners as well as councillors. *Clerk to draft terms of reference for the November meeting.*

The meeting noted that in a recent CWS newsletter, Wolverton is designated a 'white' zone, with implications for funding to support broadband improvement. *Clerk to inform CWS that parishioners view high speed broadband as a high priority and to advise that the upgrade to the Snitterfield box has, very disappointingly, had no benefit for Wolverton.*

*Cllr Payne to attend the Arden Forum on 2 October to raise policing issues and invite a representative to a future WPC meeting.*

## 7. Report from CC Horner (at start of meeting)

- a. CC Horner gave feedback on a recent event for children with disabilities and their families.
- b. He informed the meeting of WCC plans to increase the take up of flu jabs to identified vulnerable groups, under the umbrella of the council's public health remit.
- c. CC Horner noted the ongoing issues with broadband, considering that new prominence of the technology was required to remedy the situation – which was unlikely to be available in the near future. WPC needed to develop a strategy, given the issue in the Parish Plan.
- d. WCC is channelling £2 million to develop apprenticeships, targeting school leavers without qualification.
- e. There is a joint WCC/ Police Commissioner initiative on rural crime. He requested that all report any such crime to ensure it is properly reflected in the statistics.
- f. Good news - WCC has been praised for its performance, as one of the best local authorities for promoting small businesses.
- g. Big implications for councillors and for councils are anticipated in the light of the sexual exploitation 'scandals', such as Rotherham, and following on the heels of child deaths, such as Baby P.

*CC Horner agreed to follow up with highways issues in relation to potential trip hazards near Norton Lea.*

## 8. Report from DC Richards

DC Richards reported that, as a new councillor, he had been undertaking an initial period of intense training.

He updated councillors on the Core Strategy, now approved by SDC, which has been submitted to the national inspectorate, and thus carries weight. Gaydon and Lighthorne remain the main area designated for development, with final agreement to a housing number overall of 10,800 and a land supply of 500 per annum.

DC Richards informed the meeting that he now sat on four committees – Regulation, Licensing, Audit and Planning (East).

## 9. Planning Applications

- a. **White Cottage.** Cllr Stone reported that one part of the site is now a plot for sale. Cllr Stone shared with councillors his draft letter of complaint regarding the handling / process of this application
- b. **14/01563. Lower Blacon Farm** – 6 Velux roof windows. Agreed, on condition two are obscured. Neighbours have objected to the solar panels – Cllr Stone has asked planners to ensure the information is forwarded to the allocated planning officer.
- c. **14/01839. VARY The Chase** – Pending although the matter was due to be decided by 31 August. Cllr Stone to ask planners to ask the applicants to ensure they liaise with neighbours.
- d. **14/01578. Oak Trees** – construction of new vehicular access. Pending, following an objection from highways due to visibility.
- e. **The Green.** Councillors discussed the extent and implication for access of any possible alteration to the line of the track across the Green. Cllr Barnes was convinced that the track has been repositioned, away from the adjacent property, Stock Bank Cottage. Councillors Stone and Payne, following a site inspection, did not support this view. Cllr Payne reported that he had sought a definitive map of the Green, without success. Cllr Stone stated that councillors need to agree to disagree on this occasion. Councillors noted that the grass had been reinstated, as requested; the clerk confirmed she had asked Mr Sagrott to include the newly sown grass in his mowing schedule. *Clerk to write to Mr and Mrs Easterbrook to clarify responsibility for grass cutting; and to contact SDC to request replacement of the footpath sign.*

## 10. Finance

- a. Current position = **£2924.61**
- b. Possible expenditure on website development support – circa £67 - to be discussed at November meeting

**11. Consultations**

- a. Core Strategy – further consultation on site allocation – no comment
- b. Planning training – Clerk to coordinate
- c. WALC AGM -4 November 2014. Cllrs Stone and Payne to attend.

**12. Date of next meetings**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> November – *subsequently rescheduled to 11 November at 7.30pm*

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