

Wolverton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting on 15 July 2014 at 7.30pm
Venue: Wolverton Church Room

1. Present and apologies

Cllrs Stone, Payne, Rowley and Barnes; Clerk. CC Horner attended for the latter part of the meeting. Mr Anthony, a parishioner, attended as an observer. No apologies.

2. Notification of vacancy

Duly advertised, but no applicants thus far and so no call for an election. The council is therefore able to fill the vacancy via co-option.

3. Disclosure of interests

None declared.

4. Minutes from AM on 27 May 2014.

The minutes, circulated previously, were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Minutes from Annual Parish Assembly on 27 May 2014.

Cllr Barnes raised a concern that item 4, 'Parish Plan', did not reflect the breadth of discussion, in particular the possible negative implications of conservation area status for the village. In particular, she wished to reinforce that any such decision should be based on a full understanding of the pros and cons of conservation area status, for council and parishioners; and that it should be up to parishioners to decide. The clerk clarified that the intent is to explore the matter of conservation area status at this stage, without prejudice. The meeting agreed that any decision thereon should be informed by parishioners in full understanding of the implications. The minutes were amended to reflect this.

5. Matters arising

a. Highway matters

Clerk to contact Mr Sagrott to cut back the bushes obscuring the speed warning sign outside the school; and to ask him to include the re-sown grass on the Green in his routine grass cutting schedule.

b. WPC address and website

Cllr Stone to assist council members to operationalise their email addresses.

Cllrs Stone and Payne to check public can find WPC's website; how to add items to the website; and decide a process and named person to ensure the website is maintained and kept updated.

6. Housing needs survey

Cllr Stone to follow up with Mr Ward. (Already forwarded to SDC).

7. Parish Plan

Cllr Stone reported the feedback received from Mr Neale at SDC, circulated previously. SDC had discussed the plan at cabinet on 13 July and feedback

was positive, including compliments on participation rates and use of census data. **The cabinet made a recommendation to adopt the plan as a material consideration in planning applications.**

Cllr Stone reported that he had subsequently met with Cllr Payne to discuss the feedback and outlined the amendments to the plan planned in the light of this feedback, including adding the graphics and some re-ordering of the structure.

The meeting discussed aspects of the plan. Cllr Barnes queried whether there was an over-emphasis on development and highlighted the imperative of progressing the action points. CC Horner outlined Wolverton's position in relation to SDC's Core Strategy and status as washed over by the green belt, noting that the village would be open to limited infill – although SDC does not have a specific definition of infill.

Cllr Stone to complete amendments and forward the plan for final comment and proof reading to parish councillors, clerk and members of the steering group.

The plan then to be adopted as soon as possible by WPC and sent to SDC. A strategy for disseminating the plan to parishioners to be determined.

8. Report from CC Horner (at end of meeting)

CC Horner asked that issues regarding pot holes be forwarded to him. *He agreed to pursue with planning / enforcement a possible trip hazard due to building work at The Chase, as raised by Cllr Rowley.*

He advised the meeting on WCC Community Grants – up to £1,000.

He updated the meeting on the proposals being consulted upon for changes to Fire and Rescue Services; on the Care Act; and on progress on high-speed broadband, 2018 being the likely date for Wolverton.

9. Planning Applications

a. **14/01563. Lower Blacon Farm – 6 conservation style Velux roof windows**
Application discussed at length. Cllr Stone reported that he had spoken to the planning officer, who was dealing with part of the application under 'discharge of planning conditions' procedures. The windows apparently comply with the design guidance for barns and are not excessive but two overlook neighboring property and two are in bathrooms and may need to be frosted. Cllr Stone had also contacted ecology services regarding the implications for bats, whose advice was to ensure an ecologist is on site as the work is undertaken. He reported that he had also discussed the matter with the neighbour.

b. **14/01578. Oak Trees – construction of new vehicular access.** No objection.

c. **White Cottage.** Cllr Stone to progress, in view of a complaint

d. **The Green.** The line of the track appears to have been altered following recent building works to the neighbouring property. Cllr Payne to investigate via SDC (Liz Taylor) if there is a detailed map of the Green; and, with Cllr Stone, to inspect the area. As part of the proposed verge management plan (Parish Plan) consideration to be given to replacing the wooden posts. *Clerk to contact SDC to request replacement of the footpath sign.*

10. Finance

- a. End of Year Accounts and Audit statement – proposed by Cllr Stone, seconded by Cllr Rowley
- b. Current position - balance £2,842.15, (including £200.30 from neighbourhood watch) plus £1,000 = TOTAL of £3,842.15
- c. Proposed expenditure – £112.50 grass cutting for April 2014 - proposed by Cllr Stone, seconded by Cllr Rowley
- d. Proposed expenditure - £92 annual subscription to WALC - proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr Rowley
- e. Proposed expenditure - Came and Co annual insurance £265 for three year deal - proposed by Cllr Stone, seconded by Cllr Barnes
- f. Proposed payment to Mr Tunbridge for arrears in respect of website_ £30.54 - proposed by Cllr Stone, seconded by Cllr Payne.
- g. Proposed reimbursement to clerk quarterly of monthly website cost of £5.99 - proposed by Cllr Stone, seconded by Cllr Rowley

11. Annual accounts 2013-14

- a Clerk confirmed that completed but initial feedback indicated that, like many other councils, we could expect a qualification as we now need to account separately the grant and precept.

12. Consultations

- a. Core Strategy – no objections regarding the process
- b. Rural Housing Questionnaire – Cllr Stone returned
- c. Planning training - Clerk to arrange

13. Date of next meetings

- 15th September
- 3rd November

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