

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT  
LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 09 APRIL 2009**

Present: P.Cllr. G Bull  
P.Cllr. Mrs D Swain  
P.Cllr. Ms J Oldfield  
P.Cllr. G Cooper  
P.Cllr. Mrs N Clarke  
P.Cllr. P Lickorish  
P.Cllr. Bevins  
C.Cllr. Mrs J Compton  
D.Cllr. L Caborn  
Five members of the public

**182 APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from P.Cllr. Wade and P. Cllr. Browett away on holiday

**183 Changes to Published Agenda**

Additions were made to the agenda due to time limits under Minute 188. Planning considered by WDC; Minute. 188 Planning to be considered by RPC; Minute 188 Other Planning and/or enforcement matters; Minute 189 Police / Community Forum; Minute 195 Meetings/Training Days; Minute 196 Circulation File; Minute 197 Finance to be paid

**184 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Bevins declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 188 planning application for Sunnyside, Old Warwick Road being a relative of the applicant.

**185 Minutes of Meeting held on 12 March 2009**

Resolved that Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 March 2009 previously circulated to Councillors be accepted as a true record (CB/PL)

**186 Questions / Observations from members of the public (limited to 15 minutes)**

There were five members of the public present. The Chairman asked if they wished to speak and all declined.

**187 Reports from District and County Councillors**

C.Cllr. Mrs Compton reported on the following matters:-

- County Council Elections would take place on June 4<sup>th</sup> a month later than normal and would coincide with the European Elections. Whilst work continued as usual at the County Council many committee decisions would not take place until after the election
- Information regarding changes to vehicle regulations at Recycling Centres had been circulated by WCC. Cllr. Wade had expressed concern at the new vehicle restrictions insofar as they appeared to restrict access to recycling facilities even further and could encourage an increase in fly tipping. Cllr. Mrs Compton confirmed that the officer dealing with this issue had responded to Cllr. Wade and hopefully allayed any concerns he might have regarding the new rules
- Cllr. Mrs Compton had been involved in scrutiny of the County Library Services and research had shown that the public like libraries as they currently exist and do not appreciate cuts in funding. However library facilities are not being used as they were with increased competition from supermarket book sales and internet use. No decisions would be made on library services until after the elections but it was confirmed that any cuts would not affect library services to rural areas.

D.Cllr. Caborn reported as follows:-

- Following a question raised at the last PC meeting Cllr. Caborn confirmed that the changes to the WDC Planning Website were nearly complete
- The results on a full year's recycling were now available and Warwick District had exceeded the target set twelve months ago. Recycled materials were still selling well and not being sent out of the UK which would help the WDC budget. Congratulations due to all the residents in Warwick District for their efforts.
- A special WDC Executive and Council Meeting would take place next week and it was hoped that as a result travel tokens would be reintroduced to the rural areas. The Racing Club scheme had been cancelled and details on the new scheme would hopefully be finalised next week. National bus passes were of no use to residents in rural areas as they were few bus services they could use.
- Good news on collection of Council Tax with a rate of 98.3% collected and 98.4% of Business Rates.
- Regional Spatial Strategy – Despite governments figures showing a requirement for 22,000 new houses Warwick District Council were sticking with their figure of 10,800 new houses and hoping to minimise the impact of any new housing by using windfall sites within the district.
- The Loft Theatre had been purchased by WDC through a joint scheme with Loft Theatre. Advantage West Midlands had provided a grant of £4.5m to provide business units and flats at the site.

- At the recent WDC Civic Awards Rowington Parish Records Group were presented with an award and a cheque for £250 – photographs of the Awards Ceremony were placed in the Circulation File

## **188 Planning Matters**

### **188.a Considered by WDC:**

None at issue of agenda

### **188.b Considered by RPC Planning Committee**

None at issue of agenda

### **188.c To be considered by RPC:**

**Durham Ox, 111 Shrewley Common** – Construction of decking and pergola and car park modifications (retrospective application) **No objections**

**Finwood Barn, Finwood Road** – Demolition of existing externally sited timber stable structures to accommodate the construction of new steel framed internal stable block facility to match existing adjacent building. **Comments.** The proposal, in addition to the existing stabling, would appear to provide stabling for a greater number of horses than could be reasonably grazed on the land associated with this unit. Concerns were also raised regarding increased traffic (including large horse vehicles) on this narrow rural lane

**1 Sunnyside, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth** – Addition of new ground floor kitchen, study and WC with entrance and lobby, with new bedrooms to first floor. **No objections**

### **188.d Other Planning and/or enforcement matters:**

**Sandall House Farm** – Planning Committee 01 April 2009 – **Report from Cllr. Cooper.**

Cllr. Cooper had attended the Planning Committee on 01 April to represent the PC. Cllr. Cooper gave a brief summary of the PC objections at that meeting and specifically asked for an explanation of the special circumstances mentioned by the WDC Planning Officer in support of this application. Mr Haslett WDC gave a very unclear response to this question. The Chairman of the Planning Committee also appeared dismissive of the questions raised by a resident regarding the Transco Mains gas pipeline. Despite questions raised by members of the Planning Committee relating to special circumstances, the Transco pipeline and the new access the application was approved. Overall a disappointing meeting leaving various questions unanswered.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the PC had raised very strong objections on particular points relating to this application and it was of concern that none of these questions had been answered satisfactorily. The Parish Council and residents were entitled to ask questions and to expect a response to those questions. A letter had been circulated to Councillors and sent to Mr John Archer and Mr John Edwards at WDC expressing the strong feelings elicited by the lack of response to the very valid points which had been raised. Councillors resolved unanimously that a copy of the letter sent to Mr John Archer should be forwarded to Mr Chris Elliott. Chief Executive WDC.

## **189 Localities Forum / Police Report**

189. a Next Meeting 23 April 2009 Norton Lindsey Village Hall (**Cllr. Lickorish / Cllr. Bevins**) Cllr. Caborn confirmed that he had brought the Speed Gun to the meeting for use by the PC. Cllr. Bevins and Lickorish volunteered to main the speed gun and Cllr. Caborn confirmed that they would need to make contact with Sgt Gary Holtby at Warwickshire Police for the necessary training before using the gun. Councillors agreed that it would be sensible for Councillors to operate the speed gun outside their immediate neighbourhood to avoid possible conflict with neighbours

## **190 Parish Plan**

190.a Skeleton Draft of Parish Plan document circulated to all Councillors – comments required (**Cllrs. Browett, Cooper and Ms Oldfield**) Cllr. Ms Oldfield confirmed that the draft document was still a work in progress and on behalf of the Parish Plan Committee requested that an informal meeting take place between the Committee and representatives from the PC to discuss the draft in its present form. Suggested dates 28<sup>th</sup> /30<sup>th</sup> April or 5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> May at Kingswood at 7.30 pm. Agreed that perhaps the Chairman and Clerk should attend on behalf of the PC at this informal meeting Date to be confirmed between parties.

## **191 Rowington and Lawsonford Village Halls**

191. a Report if any (**Cllr. Cooper**) Cllr Cooper provided a brief report together with the Annual Financial Report copies of which were placed in the Circulation File

191.b Key received for Lawsonford Village Hall. Clerk confirmed that following the recent request a key had been supplied for use by the PC

191. c Request for notice board for Lawsonford Village Hall – see Minute 192

## **192 Highways, Footpaths and Transport**

192.a Matters reported and arising

- Quotation received for 2 notice boards – Cllr. Cooper. Cllr. Cooper reported that he had obtained a quotation for a new notice board at Pinley and a notice board for the telephone kiosk

at Pinley Crossroads. As the quotation was very competitive it appeared that a third notice board for Lowsonford Village Hall might be obtained within the budget figure allocated for this work. Cllr. Cooper to confirm a price with the contractor for all three boards for consideration at the next meeting.

- Email received from resident regarding speed limits – Rookery Lane. Clerk reported that she had received an email regarding the possibility of 30mph speed restrictions on Rookery Lane. Clerk had responded to the email confirming that implementation of such a speed limit was very unlikely given the various unsuccessful requests for speed restrictions on other much busier roads such as the C25. Cllr. Mrs Compton confirmed that WCC would be carrying out a survey of C roads within the County in the near future. Councillors agreed that the response of WCC Traffic Group to similar requests for rural lanes was that the very nature of these roads meant that they were self enforcing with regard to speed
- Footpaths W30 and W31 – Email received from WCC 23 Mar 09. WCC confirmed that they would be carrying out a further inspection of the footpaths after the Easter break.
- Drainage Works to Old Warwick Road, Mill Lane and Narrow Lane. Cllr. Mrs Compton confirmed that work was due to start at Eastfield on the Old Warwick Road and it was understood that WCC had gone out to tender for the drainage improvement works to Mill Lane and Narrow Lane.
- Broken/damaged brickwork to culvert adjacent to Allotments entrance. Clerk confirmed this had been reported to Mr Peter Hallam WCC and had been added to the jobs list.
- Cllr. Mrs Swain asked if some progress could be made on the problem of constant running water on Preston Road outside the village hall. Clerk confirmed that she would look up the old Severn Trent job numbers obtained some years ago and Cllr. Mrs Compton confirmed that she would speak to Mr Gerald Brooks WCC to request further investigation.

### **193 Playing Field**

193. a. Playing Field Inspection Reports (**Mr R Morton / Cllr. Cooper / Cllr. Mrs Swain**) Reports received. Agreed that Clerk should speak to RAG regarding the possibility of new benches as the existing benches were in a dilapidated state.

193.b West of St Laurence Access – update on improvement works. Clerk confirmed that work on the new access surface and installation of the kissing gate was scheduled for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April and the replacement surface under the swings scheduled for Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

### **194 Clerks Gratuity Fund and Councillors Responsibilities**

194.a Parish Clerk's Retirement Gratuity Fund – Letter signed by Chairman and Clerk and attached to Contract of Employment. Chairman confirmed that the letter would be attached to the Clerk's Contract of Employment and set out the terms of the Gratuity Fund. The Gratuity Fund had been catered for within the accounts for 2008/2009.

194.b Councillors Responsibilities – details of responsibilities to be allocated to individual Councillors. Amendments to the allocation of responsibilities as previously discussed were agreed unanimously with the addition of Cllr. Browett to the Footpaths section. Clerk to provide new list.

### **195 Meetings/Training Days attended/forthcoming**

195.a 18 Apr 09 WALS Induction Day. Being a Good Councillor and Clerk." A must for recently elected and co-opted Parish Councillors" The Village Hall, Fillongley. 10.00am to 4.00pm to include lunch. Cllr. Bevins and Cllr. Lickorish to attend.

### **196 Correspondence**

196. a 17 Mar 09 Letter from Rowington Parish Records. Letter of thanks for donation received from Mr R Morton

196.b 26 Mar 09 WCC Warwickshire Minerals Core Strategy Revised Spatial options – extension of Consultation Period until 08 May 2009.

196. c May 09 WCC Vehicle Restriction Policy – new regulations. See Minute 187.

196.d 03 Apr 09 WCC Bus Service Improvements – Consultation 2009. Feedback required by 05 May 2009. Clerk confirmed that Mrs Johnson at St Laurence Close had agreed to speak to the users of the bus service and advise Clerk of their comments.

196.e Apr 09 WDC Finance. Review of Concurrent Services Scheme. Views of PC's sought on whether the current scheme was working satisfactorily in assisting PC's with

196.f Apr 09

expenditure incurred on open spaces such as playing fields. Clerk to calculate expenditure incurred in this respect and respond to WDC accordingly Parish Biodiversity Action Network. Notification of a meeting at Elizabeth House, Stratford upon Avon. Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7.00pm. Open to all. The Parish Biodiversity Action network aims to bring people together who are concerned about the natural environment in their local area.

196. e Circulation Envelope:

TWTWTS 10 – 18 March, 19-26 March 09,

Letter from James Plaskitt MP enclosing leaflets “10 ways to help older citizens”; One World Link Newsletter March 09; Dogs Trust Canine Care Card Scheme; CPRE Countryside Voice Spring 2009; WALC Newsletter ADH 81; WDC Leamington Art Gallery and Museum Exhibitions and Events Mar – Aug 09; WCC New Vehicle Regulations at Household Waste Centres; Heart of England Way – Footnotes Magazine Spring 2009; WDC Standards Committee 07 April 2009 Agenda; Heart of England Way Footnotes Spring 09; WDC Slim Your Bin Challenge; WCC Climate Change Newsletter; WDC Home News

**197 Finance**

197.a Paid during the month:

WALC Training Day 30.00

197.b To be paid:

Clerk – salary and allowance 604.86

Photocopying and Postage c/f

Rowington Village Hall – Hall Hire 50.00

WALC Annual Subscription 283.00

Eon Annual Electricity Charge for Kiosk 15.17

197.c Received:

Bank of Ireland Interest (Mar 09) 4.71

Resolved unanimously that the above items of finance be approved (JO/GC)

197.d End of Year Accounts 2008/2009

Draft end of year accounts for approval – copy attached to agenda. Councillors had all received a copy of the draft accounts prior to the meeting. Clerk reported that whilst the balance to be carried forward appeared substantial, £3285.37 belonged to the Parish Plan Lottery Grant, and £519 was to be allocated to the Gratuity Fund. This would leave a reserves balance to be carried forwarded of c. £5698.64. One item on the Payments Sheet had not been noted in the minutes – cheque number 213 RoSPA invoice £81.08 and under items received Allotments Rent (£190.96) J. Pryor (Allotments Rent) £13.64 and J. Lippitt (Allotments Rent) £15.00 shown on the bank statements but not recorded in the minutes. Proposed that these items be duly approved and allocated a minute number ((CB/DS)

Resolved unanimously that the draft accounts be approved for signature subject to insertion of the above minute numbers (GC/NC)

197.e Items for Consideration / Information

**Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 23 April 2009 at 8.00pm** Rowington Village Hall – WCC Climate Change Partnership Officer to attend. Refreshments to be organised by Chairman (wine and glasses), Cllrs Mrs Clarke and Ms Oldfield (nibbles)

**198 Items for Future Agendas/Information**

- Oaktree Wharf – Current Planning Permission due to expire June 2009. (For information)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

**Next Meeting:**

**Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 23 April 2009. 8.00pm at Rowington Village Hall.**

**Annual Council Meeting**

**Thursday 14 May 2009 at Rowington Village Hall**

Signed.....

**Chairman**

Date.....