

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council

Held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 11th January 2012 in Bishopswood Village Hall**Present:** Frank Myers – Chairman.

Dave Berry, Cheryl Carpenter, Simeon Cole, Heather Evans, Terry Snow, Marc Thomas. Ward Councillor John Jarvis.

In attendance: Clerk – Catherine Murray and several members of the Public.

1. **To accept apologies for absence:** John Daniels, Sandra Cole, Eric Drummond, Luke Freeman, Philip Heath.
Absent without apology: George Jones.
2. **To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial interest:** None received.
3. **Open Session – reports:**
 - 3.1 **To receive a verbal report from West Mercia Police:** The Police representative was not able to attend, the Clerk read out their report. A copy is available from the Clerk.
 - 3.2 **To receive a verbal report from Ward Councillor Jarvis:** Cllr Jarvis gave his report; a copy is available from the Clerk. To be noted: The Prime Minister has visited the enterprise zone at Hereford and the Budget has been signed off by Hereford Council. Village Agent Scheme: This will be a Ward initiative and each parish will be asked to make a contribution. Walford Parish contribution will be approximately £3,600.
 - 3.3 **To receive a presentation from David Powell, Chief Officer Finance & Commercial – Hereford Council:** Mr Powell gave a presentation on the budget decisions which have been made by Hereford Council. A copy of the presentation booklet is available from the Clerk. To note: The Lengthsman and Rights Of Way grants are protected for the next financial year.
Councillor Jarvis and David Powell left the meeting at 8.20pm.
4. **To adopt minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting – 14/12/11.** It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes as a true and accurate record.
5. **Planning:** See Planning Appendix B.
 - 5.1 **To consider and comment upon the following Planning Applications:**
 - 5.1.1 **Site:** The Sunday School, Howle Hill, Ross on Wye, HR9 5SP
Description: Porch Extension (Retrospective)
Application N0: DMS/ 113339/FH - There were no objections.
 - 5.2 **Planning consents noted:**
 - 5.2.2 **Site:** Waters Edge, Howle Hill, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5SP.
Description: Erection of polytunnel in connection with existing nursery business.
Application N0: DMS/11113081/F.
 - 5.3-5.5 **Planning refusals / Planning enforcements / Withdrawn applications:** It was noted that none had been received.
6. **Finance:** See Appendix A – Finance Statement.
 - 6.1 **To receive an update from the Finance Chairman:** The Finance Chairman gave his update, outlining the state of the accounts and the amount of reserved funds.
 - 6.2 **Consider the final precept figure proposed by the Finance Committee:** The underlying proposal of the Finance Committee was to hold the precept at the level of previous years i.e. £12,500. However, the Finance Chairman also explained that Walford Parish have agreed to be part of the Village Agent scheme as part of a Ward initiative, in conjunction with Whitchurch and Goodrich, to help vulnerable and elderly parishioners. This would mean that the precept request would need to be increased, by some £3,500 pa, making the total £16,000, in order to be able to meet this commitment. A vote was taken and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve to increase the precept request to £16,000 for the year 2012/13.
7. **Roads:**
 - 7.1 The number and placement of bollards up Howle Hill was raised again and the Clerk was asked to enquire from Amey what are the criteria for placement of the reflector posts. <<**Action Clerk**>>
8. **Lengthsman:**
 - 8.1 The Lengthsman Co-ordinator was not present, the Clerk gave an update.
 - 8.2 No issues were reported for the attention of the Lengthsman.
9. **Rights of Way:**
 - 9.1 The Rights of Way Officer gave her update, and spoke of the initiative by Ross Walkers are Welcome Group, who have a grant to replace stiles on the Wye Valley Walk, 13 of which are in Walford Parish. She has been liaising with the group to let them know who the landowners are. Ross Walkers are Welcome group will liaise with the landowners, over the replacement of the stiles.
 - 9.2 No issues were reported for the attention of the Rights Of Way contractors.

10. Recreational Field:

The Chair of the committee is liaising with the Clerk over dates for future committee meetings, which will be duly advertised throughout the Parish. <<**Action Councillor Carpenter and Clerk.**>>

11. Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch: The Chairman explained that there is no further progress, as Hereford Council are carrying out a review and no further action can be taken until this is completed.**12. Forest Green:**

12.1 Update: Councillor Carpenter has sent off the most recent evidence of use, to the appropriate authority for their consideration.

12.2 To discuss the inclusion of a public right of access between WA91 and Forest Green: Postponed until the next meeting at which Councillor Daniels is present.

13. Queen's Diamond Jubilee: There was a discussion about what WPC plan to do to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. The Clerk was asked to contact the Village Halls and School and enquire what their plans are and Councillor Terry Snow offered to raise the question at the next Walford Village Hall meeting and to report back to the Clerk. The Clerk is to register a beacon for the Parish. <<**Action Cllr Snow and Clerk.**>>**14. Community Technology grant:**

14.1 To discuss whether WPC wish to apply for the grant: It was **RESOLVED** that WPC did not need to apply for the grant, as the Village Halls will provide these facilities for the PC in the future.

14.2 The PC **RESOLVED** to send a letter of support to Walford Village Hall, for their grant application. <<**Action Clerk**>> Councillor Carpenter explained that the Community Access Point (CAP) facility would now be located at Fowbridge gardens, not at Walford Village Hall and the Clerk was asked to include a report from Councillor Carpenter on this in the next newsletter. <<**Action Councillor Carpenter and Clerk.**>> The Clerk was asked to contact the Church and other local organisations to encourage public use of these facilities and equipment. <<**Action Clerk**>>

15. Meet Your Councillors:

15.2 To discuss the frequency and timing of the Meet Your Councillors sessions: Postponed until the next meeting at which Councillor Daniels, our Community Officer is present.

15.3 To discuss attending the next proposed session at Walford School: Friday 10th February 16.45 – 18.00. Noted, most Councillors said that they will be able to attend. <<**Action Councillors**>>

16. Councillor's Reports on Local Matters: A Councillor reported that debris from hedge cutting on the corner by Coughton bus shelter is being thrown behind the hedge, rather than being disposed of. It was reported by our Village Agent Representative that the scheme is progressing. Our Broadband champion has written a piece for the next newsletter.**17. Correspondence Received:** See Appendix C. Correspondence was noted.**18. Clerk's Reports:** See Appendix D. The Neighbourhood Planning event on February 8th at HALC was noted and it was proposed and **RESOLVED** that the 8th February PC meeting should be cancelled, in order that interested Councillors could attend the event. Councillors Cole and Myers put their names forward. <<**Action Clerk**>>**19. Matters for the next Agenda:** Village Agent Scheme.**20. Open Session for Views & Queries from Local Residents:** A parishioner reported that the soil on the road, created by the Badgers below Thorny Orchard, was a contributory factor in the school bus having to brake hard when it met another oncoming vehicle on the road and asked if this earth could be cleared. Councillor Cole said that he would do this within the next 7-10 days. <<**Action Councillor Cole**>>**21. To note date of next meeting** – February 8th meeting is cancelled. Next meeting on Wednesday 14th March 2012: Finance committee meeting at 6.30pm, Full Council at 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall.

Signed: Frank Myers (Chairman)

Date: 14/03/12