

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 13th July in Walford Village Hall

Present: Philip Heath – Acting Chairman.

Dave Berry, Cheryl Carpenter, Simeon Cole, John Daniels, Heather Evans, George Jones, Terry Snow.

In attendance: Clerk – Catherine Murray. Several members of the public and Steve Bonser from West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

1. **To accept apologies for absence:** Cllr Sandra Cole, Cllr Eric Drummond, Cllr Luke Freeman, Cllr John Jarvis, Cllr Frank Myers, Cllr Marc Thomas.
2. **To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial interest:** George Jones – Planning 5.1.2 & 5.1.3.
3. **Open Session – reports:**
 - 3.1 **To receive a verbal report from West Mercia Police:** The Police were not represented. The report was read out; a copy is available from the Clerk. The Police appealed to the Public to report anything suspicious on the following number: 0300 333 3000.
 - 3.2 **To receive a verbal report from Ward Councillor Jarvis:** Cllr Jarvis was not able to attend. His report was read out; a copy is available from the Clerk. **Matters were raised, to be brought to the attention of Cllr Jarvis:** It was commented that despite reporting concerns to Cllr Jarvis, a barrel which had contained suspected chemicals has still not been removed from Bishopswood bus shelter. The amount of resources spent on monitoring the Kerne Bridge junction seems inappropriate when the B roads are in such a state. It was pointed out that refuse Lorries refuse to go down between the houses by Bishopswood Village stores. Could the smaller vehicle used elsewhere in the Parish be used? Clarification was asked for on Cllr Jarvis's report on complaints about the way Footpath concerns are being dealt with. The Clerk is to convey these concerns to Cllr Jarvis for a response.
<<Action Clerk and Cllr Jarvis>>
 - 3.3 **To receive a presentation from Steve Bonser from West Midlands Ambulance service NHS Trust:** Mr Bonser gave a verbal presentation on the Make Ready Scheme. Mr Bonser was not in a position to answer the written questions presented at the meeting, so the Clerk is to send the questions to the relevant person for comment. **<<Action Clerk>>**
4. **To adopt minutes of the previous Parish Council meetings – 08/06/11.** An action point was highlighted and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes as a true record.
5. **Planning:** See Planning Appendix B.
 - 5.1 **To consider and comment upon the following Planning Applications:**
 - 5.1.1 Application No: DMS/111199/FH. Site: The Oxlet, Bishopswood. There were no objections.
 - 5.1.2 Application No: DMS/111351/F. Site: The Vineyard, Howle Hill. Provided that the dwelling remains as ancillary accommodation to the Vineyard, the PC had no objections to the application.
 - 5.1.3 Application No: DMS/110885/F. Great Howle Farm, Star Beech Hill. There were no objections.
 - 5.2 **To note any Planning consents given.**
 - 5.2.1 DMS/111083/F. Lower Cleeve Farm, Hom Green.
 - 5.2.2 DMS/111001/F. Chequers Lodge, Leys Hill.
 - 5.3 To note any Planning refusals. None received.
 - 5.4 To note any Planning enforcement notices. None received.
 - 5.5 To note any withdrawn Planning applications. DMS/110887/F. The Mill Race Pub.
 - 5.6 Proposed Diversion of Footpath: HM11 (Hope Mansell) High Stones, Starve Beech, Drybrook. There were no objections.
6. **Finance: See Appendix A – Finance Statement.**

To approve the following payments:

6.1.1– 6.1.8 – It was **RESOLVED** to approve all of the payments as listed on the Agenda.
7. **Roads:**
 - 7.1 **To discuss any items relating to roads, including those to be brought to the attention of Amey:** The Clerk is to organise a Parish Walk with Amey, date TBC. The Clerk is to add any items raised to the Parish Walk list. A hole in the road near Suff Lodge was mentioned. **<<Action Clerk>>**
 - 7.2 **To discuss the outcome of the meeting at Kerne Bridge regarding the red road junction and the possible introduction of double white lines on the B4234:** There was a lengthy discussion about the road junction at Kerne Bridge, the outcome of which was that the Clerk should ask HC to give WPC a

Full breakdown of the costs and specification for the works carried out at the site – for cost comparison purposes and to discover the name of the chief operations officer who makes decisions. For example the cost of the site meeting on 23/06 and the subsequent survey that took place that the surveyors did not know the reason for. Why did it need four people? Why is this taking priority over repairs? Having made the B4234 more dangerous by removing the ‘cats eyes’, when they will be put back? The clerk should also ask Cllr Jarvis what the criteria are for Amey’s charging structure. <<**Action Clerk**>> The matter of the double white lines to be introduced on the B4234 outside the Mill Race Pub will be dealt with along with the development of the Mill Race Pub.

- 7.3 **To discuss the volume of traffic outside Drummonds at Hom Green:** To be put on the list to be looked at with Amey on the Parish Walk. <<**Action Clerk**>>

8. Lengthsman.

- 8.1 **To receive an update from the Lengthsman co-ordinator:** The Lengthsman co-ordinator was not present so there was no report.

- 8.2 **To discuss any issues for the attention of the Lengthsman:** The rubbish at Coughton Bus shelter was mentioned again. The overhanging vegetation on the footway along to the Mill House at Walford was raised, Cllr Cole is to find out who is responsible and let the Clerk know, so that a letter can be sent – if necessary. << **Action Cllr Freeman & Lengthsman, Action Cllr Cole, Action Clerk** >>

9 Rights of Way.

- 9.1 **To receive an update from the Rights of Way officer:** The Rights of Way officer said that the Can Do Crew had carried out work for WPC, which she was going to check. She mentioned that she has to do training to be approved by HC as the RsOW officer.

- 9.2 **To approve the appointment of a RsOW Contractor.** Not discussed, due to the work carried out needing to be checked by the RsOW officer, prior to approval.

- 9.3 **To discuss any issues for the attention of the Rights of way contractors:**

- WA50 was mentioned and there was a lengthy discussion about the footpath, which remains closed. The Clerk mentioned that a land registry check was being done to discover the identity of the owner. It was proposed and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to H.C. to ask for the footpath re-opening to be expedited, especially as Council were led to believe by Councillor Cole that there is a new owner who has been made fully aware of the responsibility to re-instate the path. The Parish have been illegally denied this amenity for some considerable time now and the Chairman made the point that remedial action should not be held up by linking the re-instatement of the path to further planning permission for other aspects of the site which will take more time purely as an economic convenience to the new owner. This aspect will be included in the letter. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- There had been a complaint about WA25 being overgrown.
- The bridleway at Whitings lane was mentioned and the Clerk reported that she understood this matter was being dealt with locally.
- The RsOW officer asked the public to ask homeowners they know to keep their hedges trimmed. <<**Action RsOW Officer & public**>>

- 10 **To receive an update on the Recreation ground:** The Chair of the Recreational Ground working group explained the status of the project that drawings had been done to send off to Worcester for consideration. The drawings were available to view. It was asked what the budget would be; Cllr Carpenter explained that this phase will come after Worcester has commented.

- 11 **To receive an update on the application to register the land at Forest Green as a Village Green.** Cllr Carpenter said that evidence of current use needed to be submitted, and asked people to come forward with this evidence. <<**Action Forest Green Working group and members of the public**>>

- 12 **To receive an update on the Walford Links project:** Cllr Heath explained that progress is being made, HC are looking at sums for compensation for affected landowners. He asked the council for approval to spend up to £25 on a copy of the Trails Trust Guide, a book which documents a case which is pertinent. It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should order a copy of the guide to help progress the project, with a maximum spend of £25. <<**Action Clerk**>>

- 13 **To receive an update from the Community Officer:** Cllr Daniels explained his proposals for the ‘Meet your Councillors’ sessions, asking if they could be planned more frequently, the acting Chairman asked him to bring a concrete proposal to the next meeting. Cllr Daniels reminded the Cllrs of the meeting at BVH on 23rd July between 10am and 12 noon and asked for volunteers to attend the school production of Bugsy. <<**Action Cllr Daniels**>>

- 14 **To receive Councillors reports on Local matters.** All reports from Cllrs had already been covered.

15 To note correspondence received: See Appendix C. Noted.

- Illegal road-side signs were mentioned, it was commented that the Chairman had raised this issue at the red road junction meeting. The Old Pine sign was mentioned, it was proposed and seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to take this sign down. Councillor Cole agreed to do this. <<**Action Cllr Cole**>>

16 To receive the Clerk's reports. See Appendix D. Noted. The Clerk was asked for an update on the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Site Working Group, the Clerk reminded the Cllrs about the Broadband meeting at Much Marcle Memorial Hall. It was suggested that Cllr Freeman should attend the meeting. <<**Action Cllr Freeman**>>**17 To raise matters for the next Agenda.** The Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Site Working Group business plan should be discussed. **Expenses for the Recreational Field project should have been included.****18 Open Session for views & queries from local residents.**

- A member of the public explained that a decision had been made about the gate across WA22, that it could remain, based on the land having no proven ownership and confirmed that the gate would remain unlocked at all times.
- HGVs are getting stuck on Church Road, going past the old chapel on Howle Hill, can signs be installed to tell them not to use SAT NAV? To be added to the list for Amey on the Parish Walk. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- A member of the Public spoke about the terrible effects of the closure of The Chestnuts and asked if an extension period could be put in. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to Cllr Jarvis to register the community's concern and ask for some answers. **Suggested questions for Cllr Jarvis:** Could an intermediate plan be put in place, or other trustees be found? <<**Action Clerk**>>

19 To note date of next meeting – This was noted as scheduled for 14/09/11 Finance committee at 6.30pm and Full Council at 7.30pm at Walford Village Hall.

Signed - Frank Myers – Chairman

Date - 14/09/11

Catherine Murray – Clerk to the council