

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council

Held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14th September in Bishopswood Village Hall

(The meeting commenced at 7.38pm due to the late finish of the Finance committee meeting)

Present: Frank Myers - Chairman.

Dave Berry, Cheryl Carpenter, Sandra Cole, Simeon Cole, Heather Evans, Luke Freeman, Philip Heath, George Jones, Terry Snow.

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

1. **To accept apologies for absence:** Cllr Eric Drummond, Cllr John Daniels, Cllr Marc Thomas.
2. **To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial interest:** George Jones – Clerk's report item ref: Barking Dogs.
3. **Open Session – reports:**
 - 3.1 **To receive a verbal report from West Mercia Police:** Lisa Austin was present to represent the Police. She gave her report - a copy is available from the Clerk. **The main topics were:** Scrap metal theft, fuel theft, from Lorries and domestic tanks and an increase in domestic burglary. The installation of CCTV in Walford was discussed, Cllr Jarvis said he would speak to the Council officer who deals with CCTV, as Walford could join the existing Countywide system. The Clerk was asked to look further into it. **<<Action Clerk & Cllr Jarvis>>** Lisa Austin left the meeting at 7.50pm.
 - 3.2 **To receive a verbal report from Ward Councillor Jarvis:** Cllr Jarvis gave his report - a copy is available from the Clerk. The main topics were: **Local Development Framework (LDF):** A meeting will be held at 7pm on 19th October at Bishopswood Village Hall, for all PC's in the Ward and Llangarron Ward. People are asked to attend and contribute. **<<Action Councillors, Clerk and Public>>** **Localities:** A meeting will be held in October to discuss how local services are to be run. Cllr Jarvis will advise when the meeting is to be held. **<<Action Cllr Jarvis>>** **Participatory Budgeting (PB):** A definitive list of items to be funded by PCs will be issued soon and budgets need to be submitted by 31/01/12. **Broadband:** Our Ward is in the first tranche to get super-fast broadband. A ward broadband champion needs to be appointed to help collect names and addresses of residents. **<<Collective Action Ward PCs>>** **Village Warden scheme:** Will be on the November Agenda at H.C. It has been accepted by HC that the VW scheme will be county wide and our Ward will be a pilot. It has been put forward to 2012. In the meantime, WPC should identify someone who is willing to work with HC. To be included on the next Agenda. **<<Action Clerk and WPC>>** Cllr Carpenter offered to help Paul Baker and Cllr John Jarvis with this work. **<<Action Cllr Carpenter>>** Cllr Jarvis left the meeting.
4. **To adopt minutes of the previous Parish Council meetings – 13/07/11.** An omission was highlighted, the inclusion of the topic of expenses on the Recreational Field project and with this correction 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/112000/FH. Site: The Sheiling, Leys Hill. HR9 5QU. **No objections.**
 - 5.2 **To note any Planning consents given.**
 - 5.2.1 Variation of Planning permission DCSE2000/2953/F. The Vineyard, Howle Hill, HR9 5SP.
 - 5.2.2 Certificate of Lawful Use or Development: Application N0: DMS/111245/V. Paddocks Farm.
 - 5.3 To note any planning refusals: DMS/111199/FH. The Oxlet, Bishopswood, HR9 5QX. (Under appeal)
 - 5.4 To note any Planning enforcement notices. None received.
 - 5.5 To note any withdrawn Planning applications. None received.
6. **Finance: See Appendix A – Finance Statement.**

To receive an update from the Finance Chairman: The Finance Chairman was not present, so the Chairman gave a Finance update. He spoke particularly of Councillor Training and the need to address this in council. To go on the next Agenda. **<<Action Clerk>>**
7. **Roads:**
 - 7.1 **To discuss any items relating to roads, including those to be brought to the attention of Amey:** The Fowbridge gardens – pot holes need to be filled. To be reported to Amey. **<<Action Clerk>>** The top dressing on the road into Ross, towards the Prince of Wales Pub, the new section up past Chasedale, appears to be sub-standard. Payment has clearly been authorised against a specification, the work is relatively recent but appears to be of poor quality. The Clerk is to write to Amey. **<<Action Clerk>>** The Clerk was asked to send the recent Amey road defects report to Cllr Cole. **<<Action Clerk>>**

7.2 **To consider a response to the Wye Valley AONB Highways Design Guide Public Consultation:** The Chairman read out extracts from the guide and highlighted item 3.27 regarding surfaces. He said that a letter had been sent to HC including a specific reference to this item, on the subject of the red road junction at Kerne Bridge – as resolved at the July meeting. The Clerk is to report that WPC thoroughly endorse the AONB guide and mention that the guide did not include Cats Eyes and WPC think that it should. <<**Action Clerk**>>

7.3 **To discuss the Safety Report and e mail received from Andrew Lee Jones concerning the Red Road Junction at Kerne Bridge and to consider WPC's response:** A Cllr asked what was happening about the Junction and the Chairman reported that a letter had been sent to HC – to which WPC was awaiting a response and that he would continue to pursue it with the support of the AONB Design Guide. It was concluded that WPC are uneasy about what Amey are delivering. Clarity is required on how Amey decide on work to be done and their brief regarding budgetary control and rights. Cllr Freeman was asked if he could get a standard Quantity Surveyor rate for the cost of the red road surfacing. <<**Action Cllr Freeman**>> The Clerk was asked to e mail the Safety report to Cllr Freeman. <<**Action Clerk**>>

7.4 **To note receipt of the Walford Parish Defects Report, received from Amey, following the Parish Walk:** This was noted and the Clerk was asked to request a timetable for the defects to be completed. <<**Action Clerk**>>

8. Lengthsman.

8.1 **To receive an update from the Lengthsman co-ordinator:** The Lengthsman co-ordinator reported that work by the Lengthsman was up to date and that the Ivy, which had been reported growing into the roof on the bus shelter at Coughton was being attended to.

8.2 **To discuss any issues for the attention of the Lengthsman:** A Cllr asked if the rubbish and leaves in the Coughton bus shelter were being cleared and taken away, the Lengthsman co-ordinator confirmed that they were.

9 Rights of Way.

9.1 **To receive an update from the Rights of Way officer:** The Rights of Way officer reported that she had completed her training. She is working on developing a rapport with the Can Do Crew and has spoken to a couple of landowners, who have now cut their overhanging hedges. The Clerk was asked to promote the issue of landowners being responsible for cutting their overhanging hedges - in the Autumn Newsletter. <<**Action Clerk**>>

9.2 **To approve the appointment of a RsOW Contractor.** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the Can Do Crew, as the Rights of Way Contractors for the time being.

9.3 **To discuss any issues for the attention of the Rights of way contractors:** No issues were raised.

9.4 **Bramley Cottage Footpath diversion, procedures and outcome:** The Chairman explained the removal of a stile across the diverted footpath and mentioned that Amey might be replacing it with a gate. The Clerk was asked to write to HC, asking for an explanation of the policy on such matters. <<**Action Clerk**>> It was **RESOLVED** that when future Footpath diversions come in, WPC should seek to verify that due process has been followed. <<**Action WPC**>>

10 Recreational Field project:

10.1 **To consider and discuss the Terms of Reference of the Working Group and to revise as necessary:** It was **RESOLVED** not to revise the current terms of reference.

10.2 **To consider and discuss the proposals for the Recreational Field project and take a vote on Parish Council support:** There was a lengthy discussion about the status of the project, at the end of which, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously, that the working group should meet to discuss all the points raised and report back to Council at the next meeting. Other potential sites, which have become available should also now be considered, by the working group. <<**Action Recreational Ground working group**>> Details of the issues raised and discussed, are available if the working group require them, from the Clerk's notes. After expressing his disagreement with the views of other councillors, in strong terms and using language that is considered unbecoming of a Councillor, Councillor George Jones left the meeting at 8.55pm.

11 **To receive an update on the Kerne Bridge Canoe launch business plan:** The Chairman explained the outline management proposals for the Kerne Bridge canoe launch site and said that BVH were keen to join with WPC to achieve a solution, HC are being consulted for information so that the site can be managed by WPC or by a Community management team.

12 **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 had still not been submitted and asked the public to come forward with this

evidence; a Cllr said that his wife used the land regularly to walk their dog and would send written details of this use to Cllr Carpenter. <<**Action Forest Green Working group and members of the public**>>

13 To receive an update on the Walford Links project: Cllr Heath explained that negotiations will start this year, more detail will be published in the Autumn Parish Newsletter. <<**Action Clerk**>>

14 To receive an update on the Parish Plan: In the absence of Cllr Thomas, the Chairman read out the results of the Parish Plan survey which was contained in the Spring Newsletter. The most notable feature was the lack of response to the survey. Only twenty five people replied.

15 To receive Councillors reports on Local Matters: The Parish Resilience Co-ordinator told the Council that an arranged meeting had been cancelled by the organisers, without informing those attending, resulting in a number of people arriving at the venue to find the meeting was not taking place. The Clerk was asked to write to Anthony Bush to complain and to discover why this happened. <<**Action Clerk**>>

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

17 To receive the Clerk's reports. See Appendix D. Noted.

18 To raise matters for the next Agenda. Cllrs expenses for the Recreational Field project. Project expenses in general. Cllr training. The possibility of putting mains sewage into Walford. <<**Action Clerk**>>

19 Open Session for views & queries from local residents.

- The owner of the dogs at Great Howle Farm, attended the meeting and opened a dialogue with WPC and the public, to help find a solution to the matter of the barking dogs disturbing people locally. The Chairman offered to maintain a dialogue with him regarding the matter. <<**Action Chairman**>>
- Another member of the public asked the PC for approval to put dog fouling signs at each end of the footpath WA22, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that WPC would support the installation of the signs and the Clerk was asked to convey this information to the Dog Warden at HC. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- A member of the Public said that there was a rumour circulating that there were plans to build houses on the land next to the School and asked whether the PC knew anything about this? The Chairman of WVH committee said that the field belongs to the Pashley Trust and that they could not offer it up for sale. The PC Chairman added that there was no truth in the rumour.
- A member of the public asked about the recent publicity by the Environment Agency on the need to register septic tanks. The Clerk was asked to forward up to date information to the person concerned. <<**Action Clerk**>>

20 To note date of next meeting – This was noted as scheduled for 12/10/11 at 7.30pm at Walford Village Hall.

21 CONFIDENTIAL CLOSED SESSION - SUBJECT TO COUNCIL RESOLUTION: It was **RESOLVED** to go into closed session, to discuss commercially sensitive aspects of the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Management proposals. Confidential minutes will be taken by the Clerk. <<**Action Clerk**>>

Signed: Frank Myers

Date: 12/10/11