

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING held on 18 MARCH 2009
at WALFORD VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT Chairman F Myers in the Chair, Cllrs. SW Cole, L Freeman, H Evans, G Symonds, M Thomas, A Whitlock, the Clerk, 6 members of the public, CSO P Leighton and Ward Cllr J Jarvis
APOLOGIES Cllrs. P Heath, E Drummond, M Downey, SM Cole, B Vine

Community Support Officer Paul Leighton said that the number of distraction burglaries, often purporting to be on behalf of the water-board, was increasing. It is better to follow the rule that if you have had no letter from a utility announcing a visit, do not let any stranger, particularly one wearing a suit and showing official-looking laminated name tag enter your house. Take note of vehicle numbers and REPORT them to the police. They would prefer this to be a hundred instances of false alarm rather than no information at all. Fuel-oil supplies should be checked. In response to a suggestion from Councillors he agreed that it would be a good idea for WPC to consider the installation of CCTV cameras in the parish. These have to be of good quality so that faces and number-plates can be identified. Advice can be given.

The Chairman thanked him for his attendance, information and the work he does for the Community.

Ward Councillor Jarvis - Report

1. He said that he, Mr Middlecote (HC Highways) and Cllr Symonds had looked at the footway from the church to the school. Mr Middlecote was going to send in a report for solutions to the problems. The fast corner near the canoe centre – Wye Pursuits- at Bishopswood had also been visited to see what else could be done to reduce the number of accidents there.
2. Two other matters within the parish were also being pursued with the knowledge of the Chairman and clerk.
3. He had been asked by the planning department if he would consider supporting the re-submission of the application for affordable housing at Coughton. It was decided that the Annual Parish Meeting (public meeting for any subject raised by an elector) could be used where this could be discussed together with other possible sites for houses in the parish depending on the interpretation of "adjacent to" in planning terms. Two experienced planning officers, chosen for their ability to consider new ideas with an open mind, were reviewing the situation. Cllr Jarvis said he was using Walford and Whitchurch as pilot areas in the County. It was agreed that the next meeting should be on April 15th, that the clerk would find a venue and that Cllr Jarvis and the Chairman should arrange the agenda. The next scheduled WPC meeting would be in May.
4. S106 Agreements. Due to the current economic situation, these had been suspended for a period of 12 months for business premises and from 1 to 5 houses, but not for retail, in order to increase work places. The matter of Parish Councils receiving monies for their own Parish projects was under consideration
5. The Audit Commission had accused Councils of turning down planning applications on non-planning grounds. Further directions would be made and training would be given.
6. Cllr Jarvis agreed to investigate the status of the Parish Plan in order to advise whether the fact that it had not been adopted would have adverse influence on some of the WPC aims. He would also advise what needed to be done to get it adopted as that was a desirable outcome in any case.
7. Cllr Evans raised the point that an email message to both of Cllr Jarvis's addresses had not been acknowledged. He said that he used the Herefordshire Council address and that replying was his first job. He apologised if he had inadvertently overlooked messages.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jarvis for his attendance and work on our behalf.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

MINUTES of February meeting were agreed and signed

Matters Arising

1. The Local Development Framework papers had been returned to WPC.
2. Cllr Thomas and Mr J Daniels were pursuing the matter of the requested new RoW on the Definitive Map.
3. The Forward Planning Services Questionnaire had been completed and returned
4. Standing Orders – the Chairman said that they should be reviewed soon.
5. A request had been made for a salt-bin on U70409.
6. The matters for the lengthsman's attention were in hand.

FINANCE – see Appendix A March.

1. The matter of signing of notified cheques outside a meeting on this occasion when the new cheque-book had not yet been received was agreed. Cllr Cole objected.
2. The clerk had pursued the matter of reclamation of VAT if an invoice had been paid by personal card for an online purchase i.e. where the purchaser identity on the resulting invoice was not WPC but was the private person whose card had been used to pay. She had contacted the VAT Advice section and was told to go ahead with the claim with a covering letter of explanation. If it were not agreed, it would not be paid. She had contacted HALC again to be told that a copy of the agreed minute (Finance note App A March)

not acceptable and he requested that his view be minuted

3. The matter of the public disclosure of the Clerk's salary was discussed. Salary review was to be held in private with the Finance Group but the Clerk felt that the resulting figure should be in the public provenance since the public were paying for it. To be pursued.

CORRESPONDENCE – Appendix B

1. HC 4. In view of the lack of time for proper debate, (the submission was required within one day) it was decided that WPC would not submit a proposal to influence govt policy under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. *Further new correspondence –*

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1. Ward Cllr Jarvis asked for a copy of Mr Corbett's letter/map requesting a new path between Whittings Lane and Green Colley Grove to improve road safety. The feasibility would be assessed and if positive he would open the application.

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2. Update of electoral roll.

3. "No wrong Door" Workshop March 26th at Three Counties Hotel Hereford on planning a multi-agency team for children across the county. No councillor was able to attend.

4. Forest Green: map for boundaries: to be corroborated by Cllr Jones (Cllr Whitlock to take to him)

5. HC Quarterly Economic Report

6. Information on Digital TV changeover in August/September 2009

PLANNING - Appendix C

Three new applications were considered:

1. Crofts Cottage, Hom Green. New garage/ workshop with studio extension. Approved if used with matching materials to those of dwelling and condition that no future re-sale as a separate dwelling be allowed

2. Rose Cottage, Hom Green. Extension. Approved if matching materials were used.

3. 1 The Oxlet, Bishopswood. Small housing for micro HE generator and control gear.

Approved but only if clad with local stone to blend with attractive stone bridges nearby the ROW

REPORTS - Appendix D

1. Parish Plan. (see above).

2. Extension to Cycle Links Report from Cllr Heath:- he had received from HC an explanation for the delay in naming a RoW officer to forward the scheme in that the Highway Dept was undergoing structural re-organisation

PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1. Mrs Walshaw said that she was having difficulty in hearing the speakers. Re VAT invoices: During the recent works at WVH they had had to have each invoice counter-signed with two signatures as being for the Hall.

2. a) Mr Holland said there was a bad pot-hole on Bishopswood Church road. Clerk to report. b) he had reported that overgrowth on WA 75 (Shop Farm Barn) and on bridle way WA 82 and replacing signs at Dunderhole Farm, Stoneyway c) that the Parish Map was still available live using Google. The Chairman said that he was in correspondence with the CEO of Ordnance Survey. d) That perhaps chairs for the public could be brought closer to the Chairman's table to improve audibility

3. Mrs Exton asked that the details concerning the change-over to digital TV be made widely available. It was decided that further copies of documents should be obtained to leave in both village halls and place details in the Walford Flier.

4. Mrs Wilce said that she was contributing photographs to an exhibition at Bishopswood Church at the May Bank Holiday and perhaps some would surface depicting Forest Green.

STATE OF ROADS

1. The road-sweeper was still needed on Bulls Hill. Cllr Freeman to organise

2. The landslip of soil from land at Wythall on to the Bulls Hill road opposite South View was still a problem. The Chairman to look into this.

ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING- The Annual Parish Meeting- New sites for Housing within the Parish to be held, Wednesday 15 April 2009 at Bishopswood Village Hall at 7.30 pm
Wednesday 13 May Walford Village Hall. Parish Council Annual and ordinary meetings**

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The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Chairman

Date