

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING held on 9th September 2009
at WALFORD VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT Cllr F Myers in the Chair, Cllrs SW Cole, E Drummond, H Evans, P Heath, M Thomas
G Symonds, B Vine, A Whitlock, the Clerk, 1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES Cllr D Allen

INTERESTS None declared

MINUTES of the July and August meetings were agreed and signed with one alteration to the names on the group who were to interview applicants for the clerk's vacancy: they should have read Chairman, previous Chairman E Drummond and Cllr SW Cole.

FINANCE see Appendix A

The Clerk presented the Finance report for September. Her normal expenses had been increased by the cost of advertisements in two newspapers. The Chairman said that he would pay with his own card in the future. He did not think it worthwhile for the Parish Council to obtain its own card and those present agreed.

The Clerk asked that a cheque for £176.00 be raised for R Peates (RoW) at the request of Cllr Downey. Agreed.

She asked that the Agreement between the Parish Council and Ms C Whyton of Walford Barns for the rent of the Parish Pound be renewed for the year. Agreed.

She also said that she had been saddened by the request for an election instigated by a retiring councillor. He must have known the cost of his action which was quite legal but scarcely responsible to his community. The Electoral Office had telephoned that afternoon to say that the cost would be £2,023.45 unless further reductions could be found. The cost of a co-option with the same number of nominations (5) would have been c. £30.00.

CORRESPONDENCE see Appendix B

Refer to:

HALC no. 6. It was decided that a new copy of C Arnold-Baker's 'Local Council Administration' should be purchased at the special offer price (WPC's current edition was printed in 1981)

HALC no. 7. Some councillors wished to attend the Open Day at the new premises on 1st October.

LOCAL no 1. It was decided that the Parish Council was not interested in purchasing either of the BT Red Telephone Kiosks. The Clerk would try to find out if members of the public could purchase them and then move them to their own property

Further correspondence:

Wye Valley AONB: Annual Report/Calendar and their magazine 'Picturesque'

PLANNING see Appendix C

1229 DCSE0009/1676/F CATS Leys Hill, GR 58663,18813 Proposed dormitory accommodation with dining and recreational unit. A separate meeting had been held on 2nd September.

WPC's observation was as follows:

After a long debate with representatives from the public, the Parish Council decided, by a majority vote, to ask that planning consent should not be given to the application.

The chief concerns of both the council and the public were :

1. The use to which the proposed building would be put.
2. Planning creep that may lead to activities that would not fit in with the stated use
3. The increase of unwary traffic on a very difficult access road
4. It was noted that concerns had been expressed over the status of licensing in relation to site activities. It was asked that these are evaluated and reported back on to Walford Parish Council

As requested at the August meeting, Cllr Evans had drafted a letter to the Enforcement Officer concerning matters at Bryn Heulog, Howle Hill and this had now been sent.

New Planning Applications

1230 Hazeldean, Deep Dean: conversion, extensions and alterations and garage/store. WPC: 'There were no objections to this scheme provided that the materials used are in sympathy with the existing dwelling and the surroundings. It was considered that the alterations would improve the appearance of the house.'

1232 Starry Way, Cherry Tree Lane, Walford: Alterations and extensions to form residential accommodation.

WPC: 'There were no objections to this scheme provided that the materials used are sympathetic to the existing dwelling and its surroundings.'

1233 No. 6 Coughton Place. Site for construction of a detached dwelling and double garage. (Outline consent sought). WPC: 'There were no objections to this scheme for a new house.'

Rural Hierarchy

Cllrs. Thomas and SW Cole had examined the papers from Hfd Council in connection with the Local Development Framework and Cllr Thomas would send in their responses.

PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Mr M Holland had sent a letter which was read out by the Chairman.

He was concerned about ragwort in the parish and asked that the Parish Council take a lead in its minimisation. He asked that a letter be sent at the beginning of the growing season to the Forestry Commission (April) to ask for action to spray or pull plants from the margins of Bishopswood next to the road from The Dam down to Bishopswood Stores and for them to give regular reports to WPC when work had been done.

Mr Holland also reported on work that had been done by Cllr S Cole (and also by himself) at Thorny Orchard and that the land was now virtually clear. The Forestry Commission had sent a man to pull plants near Suff Lodge, around the lake and on the wood margins.

Mr Holland pointed out that all these pieces of land would need attention in 2010.

REPORTS see Appendix D

1. Forest Green It was suggested that the grass be strimmed in order to be able to claim that the land was being maintained.

2. SAM meeting July 2009. It was asked that the Info Line for members of the public to report incidents of concern (such as fly-tipping and dog-fouling) should be further made known in the Walford Flier **01432 261761**

4. Rights of Way. Cllr Downey's report had been received too late for inclusion:

The following paths have been cleared in August/Sept.: WA32, 92a, 75, 82, 74, 89. The contracted paths will be strimmed once more before the end of the growing season. If anyone is aware of any other paths that require attention, please contact me. Cllr M Downey.

5. New path between Whitings lane and Green Colley Grove. There had still been no reply to the letter. No councillor knew a resident of the estate who could bring the matter up personally to a residents' meeting

STATE OF ROADS

Arbour Hill. There had been no signs erected warning of horse-riders. Clerk to re-apply.

Bulls Hill. Re-surfacing necessary outside Red Hall. (Cllr Evans reported that by the time she had gone back up the hill after the WPC meeting, the repairs had been carried out so matter not reported)

Walford School Cllr Symonds said that the school was now lit up like a fairground at night which was quite unnecessary and was disturbing to residents in a rural area. It was asked that the Clerk should write to the Chairman of Governors requesting a darker night-time presence perhaps by shielding the lights for the school and perhaps reduce the number in order to save electricity at the same time.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman

Date