

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 10th November 2010
in Bishopswood Village Hall

Present: Frank Myers – Chairman. Ward Councillor John Jarvis.
Derek Allen, Sandra Cole, Simeon Cole, Heather Evans, Marc Thomas, Geoffrey Symonds, Bridget Vine.

In attendance: Clerk – Catherine Murray. 4 local residents.

The Chairman added an item before moving on to the Agenda as tabled, speaking of the sad recent death of Bill Chinn and extending the Council's sympathies to his family. Bill's outstanding contributions to the community and in particular to the Parish Council, of which he was once Chairman, were acknowledged. The Chairman highlighted the increased prosperity of the community by way of Bill's innovative farming success which is visible around us and represented substantial achievement. He added that he would be writing to the family to express these sentiments. A short period of silence then took place in his memory, to show the Council's respects.

1. **To accept apologies for absence.** Eric Drummond, Philip Heath, Michael Downey, Alan Whitlock, Luke Freeman.
2. **To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial interest.** The Clerk and Cllrs Sandra and Simeon Cole declared an interest in a planning application for Rose Cottage as did Cllrs Myers and Sandra and Simeon Cole for Lamorran.
3. **Open Session - reports**
 - 3.1 **To receive a verbal report from West Mercia Police and to consider any issues raised which relate to crime, disorder and community safety.** The Police representative was due to attend, but did not make it to the meeting.
 - 3.2 **To receive a verbal report from Ward Councillor John Jarvis. And to discuss any issues raised therein.**
 - 1) Cllr Jarvis drew the council's attention to an issue which had arisen in Whitchurch, concerning blocked drains underneath adopted roads. Welsh Water claimed not to be responsible for such drains, but it has been confirmed that from October 2011 they will be, after this date the responsibility for such drains can be handed over to them.
 - 2) He is asking Parish Councils to start thinking about where they want houses and pointed out that once planning permission for the Delicatessen at the local Pub was exercised, the status of Walford would move up and they would have the opportunity to say if they wanted a significant number of homes. Even before this, if there is a need for affordable housing, they will be able to build, provided the Parish can demonstrate the need, which comes from the surveys. Cllr Jarvis has asked for the results of the last survey. WPC have to decide whether they want the 'envelope' for development to be changed or kept the same, stating whether they want houses in the village, in certain areas or not - there is plenty of time for this, as the process is in development, but WPC should start thinking about it. Discussion should be put on the Agenda within the next 6 months.
 - 3) Recycling – both BVH and WVH have been approved for their own recycling facilities, to be collected the same day – provided it is put out. It is a test scheme for 12 months and there is already a dialogue with the Village Halls concerned. Contact Richard Wood to get name lists with location and pick up points and safe storage.
 - 4) Precept – Some resources will be passed back to local

councils to fund, so they need to consider raising money through precept in order to maintain some non-statutory tasks. Council tax will be set at zero growth in the New Year. The Ward may look at a scheme to run a local bus service, as rural bus services will be cut by 50%. This is also why the Village warden scheme is being encouraged, to be funded locally.

5) Broadband – The BT Infinity scheme was mentioned, Cllr Jarvis explained the disadvantages of this scheme and reported on the status of the current survey, which had established that the proposed scheme would work. Jesse Norman has canvassed on behalf of South Herefordshire and as a result, grant monies are now in place. Can someone on the council identify as many local businesses as possible who would like to take up this provision, as enough people need to express an interest. Please contact Cllr Jarvis on his mobile with any questions.<<**Action WPC**>>

4. To adopt minutes of previous Parish Council meeting – 13.10.10. Two small corrections were made and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes as a true record.

5. Finance See Appendix A – Finance statement.

5.1 To receive an update from the Chairman of the Finance committee.

The Chairman of Finance reported on the Finance committee meeting, pointing out that the main topic of discussion was the calculation of the precept. Cllr Thomas explained that the precept would remain the same but might be affected by the availability of funding. If the Lengthsman and ROW funds available changed, then the precept request will alter. Cllr Jarvis said that if the Council Tax is set at zero, the government will give us 2.5% extra, also the building of new housing will bring in funding. Cllr Thomas explained all other items which had been authorised for payment.

6. Roads

6.1 To discuss any items to be brought to the attention of Amey.

Cllr Evans mentioned that on Bishopswood Hill, if there is heavy rain, the tarmac could be undermined, especially a hole which was not repaired correctly. Cllr Symonds said that he had received positive reports on the new footway. Cllr Allen reported that he had heard that 3 pot holes near Suff Lodge have not been repaired. Also a pot hole on Starbeech road on a dangerous bend, near Mr & Mrs Greystone's had not been done.

7. Planning

See Planning document: Appendix B.

To consider the following Planning Applications:

7.1 DMS/102585/F - Old Hill Farm House, Hom Green.

'Proposed extension to existing grain storage facilities and new site access.'

A supporting e mail from Cllr Drummond was read out by the Chairman.

Approved – with no objections.

7.2 DMS/102158/FH – Rose Cottage, Coughton.

'Proposed erection of earth shelter garage submerged into hillside to rear of cottage.'

The Clerk and Cllrs Cole left the room. **Approved** - with no objections.

7.3 DMS/102533/FH – Lamorran, Coughton.

'Proposed two storey side extension and garage.'

Cllr Myers and Cllrs Cole left the room. **Approved** – with no objections.

7.4 To note any Planning consents given. None received.

7.5 To note any Planning enforcement notices. None received.

8. To receive a presentation from Brian Charlton highlighting his concerns about the speed limit at Kerne Bridge. And to discuss any action to be taken by WPC.

Brian and Sally Charlton made a detailed presentation to the Council, outlining the dangers of the junction at Kerne Bridge and the conflict between tourist and business use, pointing out that the speed limit and poor quality of pedestrian walkways contribute to danger of serious injury and mortality. Safety is an issue, they have witnessed around 8 accidents a year. Suggested solutions: Reduce 40mph speed limit to 30mph, going through to the far side of the bridge, and possible extension of the 40mph speed limit up to Goodrich, alteration of the filter lane, to force people to slow down and the introduction of double white lines to prevent overtaking. They hoped that WPC would offer their support by putting pressure on the Highways Authority. Cllr Myers thanked the Charltons and asked what the Council thought, Cllr Thomas suggested this would be a good site for a SID device, as the spot is recognised as a danger point, he agreed with the suggestions for lowering the speed limit and explained that the application of red paint to the road by Walford Court has almost eliminated accidents. Restriction of overtaking down the hill from Goodrich was also suggested. The Clerk was asked to communicate with Herefordshire council and to request proper analysis. <<Action Clerk>> Cllr Jarvis suggested that the Clerk write to Richard Ball at the Plough Lane office to enquire about current status and state that Cllr Jarvis is keen to set up a meeting, in conjunction with Goodrich. <<Action Clerk & Cllr Jarvis>> Cllr Myers asked the Charltons if they were happy with the response, they said that they were.

Cllrs Sandra Cole and Jarvis left the meeting at approximately 20.55.

9. To discuss Parish Council Standing orders and procedures.

The Chairman read out the proposed appendix to standing orders. It was **RESOLVED** to unanimously adopt this document as an appendix to the existing standing orders as adopted by WPC on 11th November 2009.

10. To discuss reports of barking dogs disturbing residents at the top of Howle Hill.

The Clerk explained that residents near to Great Howle Farm were being disturbed by barking dogs at night time. It was decided that WPC had no powers to deal with this matter, but that it could be directed to the appropriate authority – Environmental health - as it was a noise issue.

11. To receive Councillors reports on Local matters.

There were no reports on local matters from Councillors.

12. To note correspondence received: See Appendix C.

Correspondence was noted and the Clerk was asked to contact Rob Hemblade to remind him that WPC were expecting his department to come up with a business plan for the Kerne Bridge canoe launch site, not WPC. Cllr Cole suggested that someone in the Parish should be encouraged to look at the business opportunity presented by the site.

13. To receive the Clerk's reports. See Appendix D.

The Clerk read out the report and added that she had spoken to Paul Baker about the Village Warden scheme, he said he was waiting for some information back from Herefordshire Council following his enquiry. To go on the next Agenda. <<Action Clerk>>

14. To discuss the schedule of meetings for 2011.

It was **RESOLVED** that the schedule of meetings for 2011 should be the same as in 2010.

15. To raise matters for next agenda.

Precept, Kerne Bridge canoe launch, Recreation ground report.

16. Open Session for views & queries from local residents.

A Mrs Wilce reported that she had visited the PACT meeting where someone had asked why WPC had speed restriction signs when they didn't, she replied that it was because WPC had been pro-active in order to achieve this and wanted to praise WPC for doing so.

17. To note date of next meeting – 08.12.10 – Full Council Christmas meeting @ 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall. **The date was noted.**

Signed:----- Date: -----