

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone

21st August 2014

Present:– Mr. M.R.Bounds - Chairman
Mr. M.E.Jackson
Mr. J.Riley
Ms. S.Tomlinson
Mr. R.Simmons
PC Jodie Neal
Mrs. S.Coe – Deputy Clerk
2 Parishioners

Mrs. A.M.Tyler
Mr. L.M.Phillimore
Mrs. P.Kenney
Mr.A.Tanner
Mr. M.C.Burley
Mr. L.Breckon (Clerk)
LCC Cllr. Mr. D.Jennings

58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:– Mr. D.Smith – holiday, Mr. P.Cox – holiday, Mr. A.Greenwood – other meeting and LCC Cllr. Mr.K.Coles – holiday.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

59. TO REVIEW ANY VACANCIES ON COUNCIL BY WAY OF CO-OPTION

The Clerk had sent an invite to a parishioner to submit a letter for consideration as a co-opted Councillor, but this had not been received. Members were asked to consider anyone they feel may be interested. The Clerk reminded members that all Members were “up” for re-election in May 2015. If the vacancy remained unfilled, it may be acceptable to members to leave it so for such a short length of time remaining of the four year term.

60. CHAIRS REPORT AND REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and PC Jodie Neal.

61. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

None.

62. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL DATED 17TH JULY 2014

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings dated 17th July 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

63. TO RECEIVE MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staff working party meeting held on 24th July 2014 and the Planning Committee held on 7th August 2014 be received. That the verbal report on tonight’s planning meeting be received. Mrs. A.M.Tyler was thanked for her tireless work in getting decision notices onto the BDC planning website.

64. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Public Speaking Protocol - No requests had been received.

b) The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to make representation about any item not on the agenda (old parishioners time).

i) There was no update on the Wheatsheaf Public House or the damaged wall on the Electroform site. The Clerk was asked to invite a Planning Enforcement Officer from BDC to attend a future meeting of Council to explain what powers there were for the public to use to create a safer environment to live in.

ii) The brook was becoming overgrown by the Kaffir Inn down towards the Village Green. The Clerk would report this to the EA, who were the responsible body. Council had used its own groundstaff last year to clear the area.

iii) There were roots growing through the pavement by no 66 Springwell Lane. The Clerk would report this to LCC who were the responsible body.

iv) The tree heights on Sanderson Close POS had been raised as an issue. This had been brought to Council previously and had been deemed acceptable height. The Clerk

suggested that the resident write to the Clerk highlighting the problem that was being encountered.

65. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE ON MATTERS RELATING TO WHETSTONE

PC Jodie Neal gave an update. The village was experiencing a quiet summer to date. This was not the case throughout the beat area. A warning and destruction notice had been issued to a motorcycle owner. A parking issue had been raised on Enderby Road. It was intended to do a targeted leaflet drop to all local residents.

The following questions were asked: **Q.** Was PC Chauhan still the Beacon officer? Yes she was. **Q.** Was the officer wearing a Body Cam and were they working for officers? Yes it was a Body Cam but was not active. They were very useful and were now able to utilise facial recognition software linked to Head Quarters to instantly identify known people. **Q.** How can the speed data captured from the Councils Camera be used to slow traffic down in the village, particularly Enderby Road and Wychwood Road? Depending on the data format this could be used to plan targeted campaigns. The Clerk would contact PC Neal and show the types of data available. **Q.** How would the Police solve the speeding issue? By using a saturate / blitz campaign to target key areas. **Q.** As a Beat officer, was she aware of a report commissioned by the PCC which highlighted that Whetstone had a disproportionate rate of crime than the rest of the whole Blaby LPU? She was not aware of such a report.

She thanked members for inviting her to the meeting and was happy to attend future meetings with further updates. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance and she left the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

RESOLVED: The verbal report be received.

66. PLANNING MATTERS

This was deferred at the last meeting. The application was classed as a major application: **14/0577/1/PX** – Erection of two storey detached building comprising retail unit to ground floor and 1 & 2 bedroom flats to first floor and associated car parking including demolition of existing barn – Land at Warwick Road / Cambridge Road.

The Clerk showed the key documents to Members and gave an update on matters since the last meeting. The Clerk had replied to the letter from Mrs Barron. Mr.A.Greenwood had visited various sites in the village with a BDC planning officer and an update was given on his behalf by the Clerk. In relation to this application, no involvement could be made by himself or by a BDC planning Officer on a live and validated planning application. The Clerk reminded members that planning objections needed to be based on material considerations. This was now being stressed by training given to Parishes by BDC officers.

Previously Steve Collins from Londis and Mr Shah from the Service Station had spoken and the Chairman, with agreement from Members, asked if they had anything further to add. It was noted that the EA had objected on the grounds of the brook and the impact from the development. Also he had raised the issue of the need for the village for its own Doctors surgery. This was discussed.

RESOLVED: That Council OBJECT to this application based on the EA statutory body having raised an objection due to flood plain concerns. Highway concerns and danger to the public based on the access to this site being in such close proximity to Warwick Road, the Kaffir Public House opposite, the proposed Strata Homes development ingress and egress road and the Industrial site itself. Council agreed on the observation

regarding the need in Whetstone for a purpose built health Health Centre, especially with the number of new dwellings now approved.

67. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

LCC Cllr. Mr.D.Jennings reported the following: County Hall were looking at a loss of £200M worth of Government funding. The library consultation was part of this. In Countesthorpe the village had put together a package to continue its library service. It was disappointing that Cosby had not been able to do so to date. A road closure into Countesthorpe off Lutterworth Road was incorrectly dated. The Clerk gave the details and correct date to Members.

BDC Cllr. Mr.A.Tanner reported the following: There was a shortfall of £5 –10K in funding the library in Cosby. This could not be found from the Parish Council funds which was disappointing. He said that the housing numbers in BDC were being met with approvals being passed in the District. He had visited Mablethorpe Children's Home in his role as outgoing Chairman of BDC to present a cheque for £1000 which he had collected as one of his charities. It had been a great honour and privilege.

RESOLVED: That the verbal reports given be received.

68. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

69. FINANCE – TO RECEIVE ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET

RESOLVED: That the accounts paid up to the end of July 2014 are confirmed. The bank reconciliation statement dated 31st July 2014 was signed by the Chairman on behalf of Council.

70. CLERKS REPORT

General report and Ground Staff Work Schedule

The ground staff work schedule had been distributed.

The Clerk reported the following: The Cemetery railings repaint was shown to members. The budget of £2500 would not cover the project. The Clerk would put a request to Finance Working Party to complete the work.

A letter regarding LCC Grass cutting and additional cuts from LCC was read out. No contact had been received regarding this and it was now coming to the end of the cutting season.

Bloor Homes and the Shelduck Close POS and associated bund was nearing a sign off regarding works requested now having been completed

The Clerk gave an update on the POS request to purchase on Harrison Close. This was progressing with the Clerk checking the deeds to see if any covenants were restrictive. This would require making an enquiry to DWH.

The damage to the inner doorglass was explained and was in hand as was the porch and window painting. The Workshop doors needed replacing and also the rear garage fire door. These were all from approved cost centres.

The triple mower had failed and was in for repair. This had been extended from 10 years to 14 years as it was performing well. The Clerk had discussed with the Chairman who had asked that Finance working party look to see what implications this had on the machinery reserves.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his report.

71. CORRESPONDENCE

To receive correspondence report: RESOLVED: The list be received and noted. All correspondence had been copied to members.

a) BDC – Road naming for Springwell Lane Development – RESOLVED: That the names on the War memorial be used as had been the old way for naming road names. It was the developer who chose the names for their developments but statutory bodies were consulted. This had been the practice for the existing DWH development off Wright Close.

RESOLVED: The letters be received and actions noted.

With there being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m.