



WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9 January 2017, 7.30PM

THE VILLAGE HALL, WORTON

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: R Wilshire (Chairman); Cllr S Bonfield; Cllr M Fisher; Cllr R Goss; Cllr D Johnson; Cllr B Devine; Cllr A Midgely; Cllr W Francis;

Also present: 4 public, including Malcolm Powell of the NP group; Cllr R Gamble; Mrs E Read (Clerk).

1 **Apologies for absence**

No apologies were received.

2 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Johnson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and did not speak in item 6 regarding the Nursery. Cllrs Bonfield, Johnson and Fisher all have a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

3 **The minutes of the last meeting of the Council**

Proposed by Cllr Bonfield and seconded by Cllr Goss, the minutes were passed as a true record

4 **Chairman's announcements**

The chairman said he only had one item which would be dealt with under item 8.

5 **Public participation on matters set out below – for up to fifteen minutes, three minutes per person.**

[Note: this item is only for questions or representations addressed to the Council on any matter set out below and is the only opportunity for such at this meeting. New business cannot be raised but should be requested for a future agenda to a councillor or Clerk to the Council outside this meeting].

Chris Nixon – Mill Road – trees tangled in to the telephone lines – has been reported to Mr Slack who owns the trees. BT said it was down to the owner of the trees. Clerk to contact BT regarding the lines. Opposite the first house in Mill Road, Willow House.

6 **Whatleys nursery/percolation test.**

Christine from the nursery stated that there needs to be a percolation test for the nursery soak away. This involves digging a hole and timing how long it takes for the water to drain out. This will take two weeks,

because they have to fill and empty three times. The holes will be fenced and the field will need to be closed – clerk to put notice in The Bridge. Council agreed to this.

Christine asked that if the Solicitors' fees go over £1000 for the Council's lease, could the Council pay the balance on this. Council to consider at their next meeting and let the applicant know.

7 Wiltshire Councillor's report

Clerk to update Cllr Gamble regarding letter to Frome buses and to refuse workers, as the buses have not improved, but the bin lorry reversing has.

Drainage – clerk to contact Malcolm Beaven again also regarding hedges by Prince Hill.

Area Board (location and date) in March likely to be changing the date, due to the election coming up and close to purdah. Also a PC election this year - nomination forms.

8 Neighbourhood Planning Update

After the Village NP meeting in early December, Cllr Wilshire wrote a letter to Malcolm Powell and had a response from the NP chair Mr Parsons. Cllr Wilshire had concerns over the adherence to the Code of Conduct of the group, as personal views were expressed at the meeting, without declaration of interests. It was agreed that this was unfortunate, and that a joint message would go into The Bridge stating that views expressed were personal views, and that it is not the objective of the PC or the NP group to support or oppose any proposals at this stage.

With regard to adhering to the Code of Conduct Mr Powell reminded the clerk to send him a Register of Interests form for members to declare their own and spouse's interests – this could then be published on the Worton website.

Clerk to send data from traffic calming to Mr Powell.

Rural housing needs survey – Wiltshire Council have agreed to administer this, and surveys will be distributed around the village, and sent back to Wiltshire Council.

Mr Powell needs bank details to pay Locality grant in to Parish Council, and then monies paid out through the Parish Council.

The Parish Council resolved to have Cllrs who are also members of the Neighbourhood Plan group to have a standing declaration of non-pecuniary interest in this item.

9 Flooding and maintenance update

There has been no progress in terms of the wider flooding influence of developments in Devizes and Potterne. Cllr Midgely to forward Environment Agency contacts to clerk.

The PC still has piles of sand and sandbags as well as gel bags stored at the Goss's farm, put details in to the Bridge and make gel bags available to those known to be affected by flooding.

10 Planning matters – to receive those decisions notified and to consider and decide any that are received before the meeting

None

11 Disbursements

Information Commissioner – Data protection registration £35

Clerk's pay and allowance £331.99 and 15

Worton and Marston Village Hall hire £45.50

12 Future agenda item planning

Solicitors top up

Flooding and maintenance

Gardening Club to fold – no chair or programme sec, has £300 for village upkeep. PC could hold this.

Brook at Raybridge is a mess with trees hanging over it – Mr and Mrs Catton – agenda for next time

13 Date of next meeting (proposed for Monday 7th February 2017)

14 Items of maintenance (for information or the next agenda)

Hedges by Prince Hill

15 Key messages.

PC and NP joint message – views expressed were individual views, and not of the PC or the NP, and it is not the aim of the PC or the NP to support or oppose any proposal at this stage. Please come forward to represent your views on the group.

Available – gel bags, sandbags if you need them.

Vacancy – election in May

Closing Whatleys due to percolation test