

WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3 MARCH 2014, 7.30PM

FIVE LANES SCHOOL, HIGH STREET, WORTON

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: R Wilshire (Chairman); Mrs S Bonfield; Mr W Francis; Mr R Goss; Mr D Johnson; Mr A Midgley; Mr Rose; Mrs C. Simpson.

Apologies: Mr K Bellamy; Mr R Gamble [WC].

Also present: Mr R Parsons [for part]; Mr P Baxter (Clerk).

ACTI

13/14/192 Declarations of interest.

Mr Goss declared a pecuniary interest in the Planning item, as he is the applicant. He undertook to leave the meeting when raised.

13/14/193 Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

13/14/194 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman thanked those that attended the recent meeting with the Village Hall Trustees and Management Committee.

13/14/195 Public participation

Mr Parsons drew the Council's attention to the progress being made by West Lavington Parish Council in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, and commended example literature to the Council.

13/14/196 Wiltshire Councillor's report

In Cllr Gamble's absence there was none.

13/14/197 Village Hall collaboration agreement

The Chairman reviewed the outcomes from the Trustee's February 25th meeting, and commended them for the quality of their presentation and financial solution proposed. It was **noted** that the Hall committee could benefit from exploring other forms of grant aid, but that the Parish Council remained well placed to assist. It was **agreed** that the Council would underwrite the 'third party' contribution from its reserves to support the Hall Trustees' grant aid application to Viridor, with the precise amount to be specified once Marston Parish Council had clarified its position. This Council's offer would be conditional on it becoming a Corporate Trustee of the Hall charity, and an undertaking received that there would more transparency to the Hall's own decision-making. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Chairman of Marston Parish Council, and to give a preliminary report to the Trustees of the Hall pending formal exchanges of intent.

13/14/198 Budget 2014/15

The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) presented a proposed final budget draft, revised to include the agreed collaboration with the Village Hall. The budget also makes an amendment to the salary cost to include provision for paid leave. It was proposed by Mr Johnson, seconded by Mrs Simpson and with all **agreed** that the budget be accepted. The Clerk to publish the figures on the website.

The RFO set out a proposed Reserves allocation scheme, spread over a number of years, with the 2014/15 year prioritised to include road safety improvements, the Village Hall contribution, the community notice boards, and the public benches (funded by Aster Communities). The provision of a prudential General Reserve at 35% of gross revenue was **noted**, with earmarked funds for

replacement of play equipment and rights of way improvements, as well as support for a Neighbourhood Plan process. It was **agreed** that the Defibrillator project be escalated if grant aid funding could be secured. The Clerk was asked to make an application to Aster Communities. Remaining capital projects to be eventually funded from the product of an invested Bond, which is not yet accessible. It was proposed by Mr Johnson, seconded by Mrs Bonfield and **agreed** by all that the scheme be adopted, notwithstanding that individual project proposals would require debate.

PB

13/14/199 Playgrounds management

The Clerk introduced a draft Policy for the management of playgrounds. It was **agreed** that volunteers would be sought from the community to become 'competent persons' in support of a rota for the weekly inspections required by the Policy. The Policy was **agreed**, coming into operation once weekly inspections can be supported. The Clerk was asked to include in the monthly The Bridge article.

13/14/200 Ditches and watercourses

The Clerk reported one response to the request to downstream parishes for comment on this Council's proposal to unblock certain watercourses. It was **agreed** that a more strategic approach should be taken to water management before undertaking work, with the concept of Flood Wardens being investigated. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries about setting up a Flood Warden scheme, and to seek a copy of Bulkington Parish Council's water management plan.

CS

Concern was expressed for the content of a new byelaw made by Wiltshire Council. It was **agreed** to monitor its application in practice.

13/14/201 Rights of Way – Back Lane banksides and footpath surface

Mrs Simpson reported on the impact of recent clearance work and weather upon the banksides, resulting in a very muddy walking surface. The Clerk confirmed receipt of a resident's email advising of the same difficulty. It was **agreed** that the Council would fund the reasonable costs of consultancy advice on the controlled use of vegetation to bind the bank surface, before considering how the path surface may be refurbished. Mrs Simpson undertook to make enquiries.

13/14/202 Cedar Close public bench consultation

The Clerk reported the full contents of three responses to the consultation letter delivered to each household in the Close, including comments that: the siting was too near the main road; that alternative uses could be found for the funding; and that anti-social behaviour might be encouraged. The Chairman confirmed that the funding from Aster Communities is only available for the bench project. It was **agreed** to proceed with the provision of the bench, in a location set back from that illustrated in the letter, and that it would be established by plaque as a memorial to the late Cllr Hale. It was also **agreed** to proceed with the second bench opposite the Cuckold's Green turn. The Clerk was asked to seek Licence permission for siting both from the Highways Authority and publicise these decisions in The Bridge article.

PB

13/14/203 Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk explained the processes and resources required to establish a Neighbourhood Plan, and Mrs Simpson reported on her attendance at a public meeting in Potterne to publicise their own work. The Clerk was asked to invite representatives of the Potterne Steering Group to the next meeting of this Council.

PB

13/14/204 Disbursements

The following disbursements were authorised:

Chq No	£
639 P Baxter (postage)	6.50
640 CANCELLED	
641 P Baxter (leave pay and 2013/14 1% pay rise)	355.48

13/14/205 Correspondence received

The Clerk reported an email from the Police, noting one burglary, and potential for thefts of diesel fuel. Also reported was an invitation to participate in the Best Kept Village Competition for 2014 and to attend a seminar by the organisers on both the competition itself and Neighbourhood Planning, to be held in the Village Hall on 31 March. It was **agreed** to decline the competition, but that members would attend the seminar on Planning.

13/14/206 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was set for 7 April 2014 at 7.30pm in the Five Lanes School. The May meeting of the Council was set for Tuesday 6 May, to avoid the bank holiday that week. The Clerk undertook to make enquiries of the Village Hall for a date suitable for the Annual Parish Meeting, which was **agreed** should take place in May. It was **agreed** to plan for a theme associated with the Hall's development, with a link to wider community development and the potential for a Neighbourhood Plan consultative approach.

13/14/207 Items of Maintenance

A number of blocked and poorly positioned drains in the High Street were noted. The street sign for Cedar Close was reported as damaged. The Clerk undertook to make reports to Wiltshire Council. *[Cllr Goss left the meeting]*

13/14/208 Planning matters:

There were no decisions to report. The following application was considered:

14/00942/OUT Home Farm Worton, erection of farm workers' dwelling.

No objections were made.

13/14/209 Key Messages

It was **agreed** that an article be prepared for The Bridge inviting volunteers to come forward to take part in playground inspections, to advise on intended collaboration with the Village Hall, and on the locations of new public benches, together with thanks to those residents who have improved their placing of wheelie bins near pavements.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed Chairman, 7 April 2014