

# Woodhurst Parish Council

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014

### Present

Cllr Alistair Marr  
Cllr James Mayall  
Cllr Terry Huggins  
Cllr Neil Farbon  
Cllr Andy Notman

Amanda Augstein, Clerk

- 48. Apologies and reasons for absence** – received from Cllr Alvin Augstein, CCllr Steve Criswell, CCllr Graham Bull, Cllr Simon West, Karen Holley (Natural Woodhurst)
- 49. Declarations of Interest** – none received
- 50. Public Forum** –. There was one member of the public present
- 51. Clerk's report** – the clerk advised that the Q2 accounts had been reconciled and provided balance sheets for councillors.
- 52. Minutes** –the minutes of the meeting held on the 10 September 2014 were read, approved and duly signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 53. Public Footpaths** – Cllr Farbon reported a complaint had been received regarding the 70-acre field behind the village. Walkers had complained that markers hadn't been reinstated, despite this not being a requirement of the landowner. Cllr Farbon advised it was a temporary situation, due to late drilling this year, and had been dealt with. At a recent footpaths meeting, CCC informed members that the County Council will mow footpaths twice annually due to budget cuts, and are keen for footpath officers to carry out surveys within their villages to gauge interest in keeping footpaths clear. Cllr Notman suggested this may be of interest to Natural Woodhurst as a community project. The leaves in Church Lane have been cleared – after a request to HDC.
- 54. Countryside Watch** – Cllr Huggins gave an updated report advising that hare coursing continues to be a county problem. Premises have been broken into in the area (Pidley, Upwood and Bury) and diesel and heating oil continues to be targeted. A known vehicle to the police has been seen acting suspiciously in the Abbots Ripton area. Cllr Huggins reiterated the importance of reporting any sightings of suspicious vehicles.
- 55. Natural Woodhurst** – Karen Holley (Chairman) was unable to attend. Cllr Mayall advised that he will be cutting back the reeds in Swan Weir in the near future.
- 56. Planning** –
- Ref 1401574LBC Burleigh Lodge, South St – change of sash and Norfolk slider windows. Application approved.
  - Wyton Development – road linkage. The recent article in a local paper, suggesting routes for a road linkage from the development to A14, has caused concern amongst parishioners and councillors, particularly as one of the proposed alternative routes runs very close to Woodhurst which would have a large impact on the village. The other proposed road links include The Hemingfords, who are currently applying for the area to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which would exclude this route. Cllr Notman pointed out that this wasn't mentioned at the workshop attended by councillors in May 2013. Since there are no formal guidelines to follow or official information released, and in the absence of CCllr Criswell, it was proposed an EOM be

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proposed to discuss the implications and gain further information before the next meeting, at a mutually convenient time with CClr Criswell.

- 57. ENVAR meeting update** – Cllr Marr attended the meeting which included a site visit. Netting has been added to stop litter affecting the adjoining road. The product rating has been changed to non-hazardous products which have been heat treated. Efficiency has been increased with staff reductions and deodorisers in tunnels to reduce odours.
- 58. Village Pump** – Cllr Notman will contact Mr Gowler for paint or an anti-fungal treatment product to paint the pump, and to request he invoices the council for his repair costs. A letter of thanks will be sent thereafter.
- 59. HGVs Grange Farm** – Cllr Marr had a meeting with Mr Reynolds regarding the signage issue. Mr Reynolds was very helpful and advised he will cut the hedges back and move the signs closer to the road for better visibility. He has also contacted the HGVs he has information for to advise the weight restriction through Woodhurst.
- 60. Harassment of Village Hall Users**– this was mentioned at a previous meeting. A neighbour living close the Village Hall had harassed villagers using the hall on two occasions. This hasn't been repeated and Cllr Notman suggested the situation be monitored in future.
- 61. Correspondence:**
- The Clerk Magazine
  - Mick George Community Fund Information
  - NALC Update to S150 (two signature rule)
  - HDC Parish Planting Scheme Information
  - Local Government Boundary Commission – electoral review
- 62. Finance**
- **Streetlights** – BB have now sent their estimate for the upgrade of 15 streetlights. Now that two quotations have been received a decision can be made. It was decided to contact BB requesting a more detailed quotation and timescale for upgrading the lights, before making a final decision.
  - **Cheques to be issued:**
    - Cheque 100948 – Cambridgeshire ACRE membership renewal: £48.00
    - Cheque 100949 – CCC Streetlight energy charges Oct 2013-14: £462.64
    - Cheque 100950 – Hire of Woodhurst Village Hall; July, Sep, Nov: £80.00
    - Cheque 100951 - Bus Shelter Clean; Mrs L Alsop: £15.00
    - Cheque 100952 - Bus Shelter Clean; Mrs B Bryan-Harris: £15.00
  - Funds transfer request from Barclays Savings to current account
  - **Budget/Precept** – the clerk presented the budget forecast for 2015-16, advising, with one or two cuts the same Precept can be applied for this year (£5000). This still leaves funds in the savings account to pay for the large capital cost of the streetlight upgrade/replacement.
- 63. Items for next meeting on January 2014 at 7.30pm** – EOM meeting suggested prior to main meeting, at CClr Criswell's convenience, in December to discuss Wyton Development & road links and Church Passage path repair (route damage)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

*These minutes are unadopted*