

WOODHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held on Monday the 19th April 2010 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present Cllr Alistair Marr - Chairman
Cllr Terry Huggins - Vice Chairman
Cllr John Nicoll
Cllr Bob Newell
Cllr Andy Notman
Cllr Peter Collins
Cllr Simon West

D.Cllr Mike Newman

Mrs Elizabeth Pendered – Clerk

Colin Saunderson - Speedwatch

Also present - 6 members of the Public

Item 1 **Welcome** - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 2 **Apologies for Absence** – CC Cllr Steve Criswell, attending meeting in Somersham

Item 3 **To Sign Minutes of the Meeting** – a few minor amendments are to be made to the minutes from April 20th 2009, mainly spelling mistakes.

Item 4 **Matters Arising**

(a) Swan Weir Pond

Cllr Huggins raised concerns voiced about the state of the pond and the action that could be taken. It was noted that the Natural Woodhurst committee are working alongside the owners of Swan Weir to help them restore it. A grant would be applied for but the response would not be known until September. It was pointed out that the village was lucky to have the natural beauty of the pond to enjoy and all the wildlife that comes with it and that the blanket weed had been worse in the past. It was also noted that the overflow drainage under the road could be blocked and the Chairman stated that he had tried to rod the drain but could only get as far as the opposite side of the road.

Item 5 **Chairmans Report** – see attached

Item 6 **Finance** -

The Parish Council started the year 2009/2010 with a balance of **£5,690.86**

Receipts	£
Precept	4000.00
Bank Interest	1.07
Parish Path Partnership (P3)	325.00
TOTAL	4326.07

Payments	£
Admin	1595.61
Legal Fees (auditors)	354.00
Subscriptions	275.05
Insurance	301.91
Maintenance	1039.95
Parish Path Partnership (P3)	325.00
TOTAL	3891.52

Leaving a balance to carry forward of **£6125.41**

It was pointed out by Shirley Firth that the Parish Council still hold £1,500 grant funds specifically for the Parish Plan.

Item 7 Village Organisations -

- **Village Hall** – see report attached given by Annabel Armstrong
- **PCC St John the Baptist Church** – see report attached given by Shirley Firth
- **Natural Woodhurst** – see report attached given by Phil Clark
- **Parish Plan** - see report attached given by Andy Notman
- **Countryside Watch** - see report attached given by Bob Newell

- **Guest Speaker - Colin Saunderson – Speedwatch**

Speedwatch started about a year ago, after getting little response from the Police about the speeding issues. St Ives Town Council felt that the Police should be doing more so Colin drummed up three volunteers and they had some training and began targeting the hotspots in the area. They started in June and did about 8/9 sessions a week over 3 months and they got good results such as reducing a 20% rate of speeding (35mph and over) down to around 10% in just a month in certain areas. Colin reported that the Ramsey Speedwatch team had recorded speeds of 60-70mph in a 30mph zone but the worst they recorded was 53 mph. It can be quite tough on the cold winter mornings but he believes it is really worth the effort. It is difficult to say whether it actually produces long term results but just a reduction of 10% is worthwhile. He says it takes a big commitment from the volunteers and he found that at times the clerical staff within the Police couldn't keep up with the numbers they were reporting. It requires two volunteers at a time to record the vehicles. They set up in Woodhurst last week but chose a bad spot as there was a parked car slowing vehicles down. They will be present again during the morning and afternoon of Tuesday 20th April 2010.

A couple of questions were raised; one being what the police were doing about the reports they received. Colin said that they send a letter and on the 3rd offence they get a hand delivered letter, sometimes backed up by the Police enforcement team which he feels is very effective.

Overall, the feeling is that Speedwatch has a positive effect on the levels of speeding but requires commitment from volunteers.

Item 8 Open Forum –

- Mrs Sally Barrett said she would like to thank the Parish Council and the clerks for all the work they do for the village. She then asked if each of the councillors could say one thing they would like to do/preserve for the village.
- Chairman responded that he couldn't see himself living anywhere else as he has lived here all his life and would like to remain part of the community.
- Cllr Andy Notman said he moved to Woodhurst because of the house, but now it's the village that he also enjoys as not much changes. He would like to see the village sign updated.
- The local bus service was discussed and how it would be linked to the Guided Bus service when it comes into operation. The response was given that the service was poor with a limited service to St Ives and no direct link to Huntingdon. New timetables were being scheduled but no improvement or priority link to Cambridge was known at this stage.
- Dist. Cllr Mike Newman commented that he was impressed with Woodhurst village reports comparing them favourably to other councils.
- Annabel Armstrong gave an update on the gate in Butt Lane. Neil Farbon was looking for another contractor after the first had been unable to proceed, but would be completed soon.
- D Cllr Mike Newman also reminded everyone that the Ramsey Neighbourhood Forum is being held on Tuesday 20th April and that it may be a good opportunity for people to attend.
- Cllr Peter Collins reported that we have lost about a quarter of the parish to St Ives as part of the new boundary alignments and Dist. Cllr Mike Newman said he had fought very hard on our behalf to resist the changes.

The Chairman closed the Parish meeting and thanked everybody for attending.

An extraordinary meeting was then held to discuss two planning applications:

Planning Ref 1000392

Cllr Alistair Marr proposed and Cllr Simon West second that the council recommended approval

Planning Ref 1000481

Cllr Terry Huggins proposed and Cllr Bob Newell second that the council recommended approval

**These minutes are un-adopted
Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth Pendered**

20th April 2010