

Woodhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2012

Present

Cllr Alistair Marr – Chairman
Cllr Terry Huggins
Cllr Simon West
Cllr Alvin Augstein
Cllr Neil Farbon
Cllr James Mayall
Cllr Andy Notman

CCllr Steve Criswell
Karen Holley and Alastair McKellar, Natural Woodhurst

- 50. Apologies and reasons for absence** – received from Cllr Graham Bull
- 51. Declarations of Interest** – none received
- 52. Public Forum** –
- CCllr Steve Criswell reported that Balfour Beatty are scheduled to make repairs to our streets lights early 2016.
- 53. Clerk's report** –
- The Clerk has submitted the section 7 GPC.
 - Waiting for quote from Balfour Beatty for repairs to be made o PC lights at the same time as they do theirs
- 54. Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th September 2012 were read, approved and duly signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 55. Public Footpaths** – Cllr Farbon reported, apart from being wet, all were in good order.
- 56. Countryside Watch** – Cllr Huggins reported that it remains important to be vigilant as seems to be quite a lot of activity in surrounding villages. Good news that 13 people were arrested for Hare coarsing.
- 57. Village Plan** –Cllr Notman reported that the plan is still scheduled to be ready at the end of 2012.
- 58. Natural Woodhurst** – see attached report.
- 59. Quality Council** – waiting for Parish Plan to be ready and community engagement statement to be adopted.
- 60. Village Sign** – Now ready so Cllr Huggins and Cllr Marr will re-fix post base.
- 61. Community Engagement Statement** – it was agreed by all and the statement was adopted.
- 62. Code of Conduct** - Cllr Marr reported that he attended a training session and it was felt that as there were likely to be some changes made that we should not rush into adopting the HDC Code and wait to see what changes are implemented. The clerk will review.

Woodhurst Parish Council

63. **Local Highways Improvement scheme** – it was agreed by all that we should make an application for funding to improve the surface in Church Passage. The clerk will complete the application.
64. **Townlands** – two new applications were received and accepted, making the total recipients 23. The cheque was received from Johnsons and the clerk will pay into the account. Cllr Huggins and Cllr Marr will issue the payments within the next couple of weeks.
65. **Village Hall car park** – Cllr Huggins reported that on the day of the Police elections a dead mouse and a dead rat were found. The management committee will take comments on board and deal with any issues.
66. **Correspondence:**
- Clerks & Councils Direct
 - The Clerk Magazine
 - Street lighting letter – amendment to previous letter re dates
 - Magpas request for donation – a £25 donation from Woodhurst Parish Council was agreed by all
 - HDC re renaming of the business units at Grange Farm
 - Minutes from Envar meeting
- All correspondence was received.
67. **Finance**
- Q2 report received and accepted
 - Cheques were all approved and raised for:
 - 100903 Mrs P Newell £60 bus shelter cleaning
 - 100904 Mr A Notman £96 parish plan software
 - 100905 Village Hall £40 two meetings 19th Sept and 21st November
 - 100906 Magpas £25 donation
 - Dispensation forms were signed by all councillors for all matters relating to finance and it was agreed that the budget and precept would be set at the next meeting
68. **Items for next meeting** – none noted

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

These minutes are unadopted by the council.

Woodhurst Parish Council

Natural Woodhurst update

Overview July - Nov 2 012

These last couple of months have seen a lot of activity around the village. The Environment Agency has spent a day working in the Conservation Area. The fallen trees beyond the bridge have been removed and the circular path widened to stop the hazel collapsing over the path. The Hazel has been coppiced behind the front hedge to allow access for the hedge restoration work. Phil Clark is to arrange a site meeting with Alastair Marr and Terry Huggins. In preparation for this, the neighbours, Mr and Mrs Gamble, have been contacted and are fully supportive of our work in the Conservation Area. They have confirmed that their boundary 'roughly' follows the line of the fence. Natural Woodhurst will conduct a site visit to confirm exactly where it lies, when necessary.

We have cleared the back of the churchyard and cut back the hedge/brambles on the eastern boundary. However, the trees sit within the Conservation Area and most were too big for us to remove without the relevant permission. As I understand it, The Church has now sort permission and is engaging a professional to remove them.

The revetments at Swan Weir pond have been weeded again. In the smaller of the two, the marginal plants are colonising well. We will add more marginal plants to the large revetment in the coming months. The reduction in the amount of blanket weed removed this year, is an indication that the plan is working. This is a long term project and as the planting matures over the next 4 – 5 years we expect the pond to become clearer.

Our volunteer who had taken on the job of restoring the bench at West End has not been able to do so. We now have another volunteer taking a look at it.

The summer planting around the village has been removed and we are in the process of putting and pansies into the planters and Tree Seat for the winter.

All three of the Church Bungalow flowerbeds have been cleared and the spring bulbs have replaced. The post hole for the village sign was right under the Curry plant, so we were not able to save the plant as hoped. I have just launched a new project to try to draw in some of the gardening expertise we have in the village. I am recruiting a small team of keen gardeners, to come up with a really good garden design, for Church Bungalows and for the Tree Seat. The aim is to create designs that look good all year round, are reasonably sustainable and are easy to maintain. The project will create planting and maintenance plans, so that we know how to keep things looking good! The Kick-off meeting for this project is on Monday 26th. I would really appreciate your input.

Our last Open Meeting welcomed a visit from Cambridge & Peterborough Environmental Records centre. They need people to contact them with sightings of any flora or fauna. We will be organising some events and sending them our findings. There is also an opportunity to involve the wider community with a piece in the newsletter/on the website.

Woodhurst Parish Council

Funding/Sponsorship for Nov 2012 – Feb 2013

Funding from Feast Week has covered the cost of the winter planting for the tubs and village signs. The replanting of the Church Bungalow front gardens and the Tree Seat, will be partly funded by Feast Week funds and the remainder of the large donation given to Woodhurst in Bloom. Any extra funds that may be required will be sought in the form of grants.

Summary of Activities and events, August 2012 – Oct 2012

- August – October
 - Butt Lane: Maintenance: 1m cut either side of new hedging
 - Conservation Area: Meadow cut (Reed Mace Control not required)
 - Conservation Area: Hazel coppicing and fallen tree clearance (Environ. Agency)
 - Church Bungalows: ongoing weeding.
 - Churchyard – Clearance of an area of burial ground.
 - Photo Competition Calendars printed

Activities and events for Nov 2012 – Feb 2013

- Nov – Feb
 - Planters: continue re-stocking for winter
 - Advent Fair: Sale of Calendars for Church Funds
 - Pre-Christmas Social: The Crown, Braughton
 - Butt Lane: Tree check
 - Conservation Area: Hedge Restoration
 - Conservation Area: Restore picnic table
 - Church Bungalows: Design project
 - Moot Way Tree Seat: Design project
 - Swan Weir Pond – Re-stock large revetment