

# Woodhurst Parish Council

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014

### Present

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

CCllr Steve Criswell  
CCllr Graham Bull

Karen Holley, Ruth Clarke - Natural Woodhurst  
Amanda Augstein, Clerk

**69 Apologies and reasons for absence** – none

**70 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Notman reminded the council that he is a partner in BOLP Consulting.

**71 Public Forum** – Mr Peter Collins, a parishioner, was present.

Cllr Criswell updated all on the recent Parish Conference at St Ives in December 2013, which was very well attended but gave a strong message that major savings need to be made. This will affect all councils/communities, there being a shortfall in services during the next 4-years. Councils should consider what funds might be needed for servicing their own needs and precept for them. He advised that parishes can collaborate to make savings (such as time-banking) and help smaller communities, and recommended attending an open meeting in February to discuss further (details to be sent shortly).

**72 Clerk's report** – The Clerk reported that Q3 was completed, and also updated councillors on the Parish Conference in December.

**73 Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were read, approved and duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

**74 Public Footpaths** – all very wet, especially end of Butt Lane where drain is blocked. Anglia Water has been out to repair water leak. It was reported that the area in that vicinity is particularly boggy and may need further attention if the problem continues, to remain accessible for walkers.

**75 Countryside Watch** – Cllr Huggins supplied a current report, advising there has been hare-coursing in the area recently with tractor thefts and local burglaries, including fuel stolen in the Warboys area.

**76 Natural Woodhurst** – Karen Holley presented a short report; Natural Woodhurst members have planted many crocus bulbs around the village. The monies received from the calendar sales totalled £115.66. The theme for next year is 'Woodhurst through the seasons'. There will be an open meeting at Holdich Cottage on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm – all welcome. Work is continuing on the conservation area and reeds/dead foliage will be cut back at Swan Weir Pond and Ridges pond. Bird boxes will be repaired during National Nest Box week and it is hoped an event will be made of sowing poppy seeds (for the WWI commemoration) near Church Bungalows – to be confirmed.

**77 Planning** – ref 1301582FUL

- The planning application for Meadowcroft was considered. It was decided to submit a refusal for planning reasons; overdevelopment of site and aesthetically harmful impact on the church. Cllr Marr encouraged councillors to comment further online. Cllr Huggins proposed the motion and Cllr Notman seconded.

**Clerk** – Amanda Augstein, Silver Birches, South Street, Woodhurst  
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- CIL – it was decided to accept the legal responsibility for the infrastructure levy funds granted to the Parish.

**78 Highways** – roadside grips were installed on Wheatsheaf Road after the heavy rainfall during the end of 2013, which helped with drainage. The Speedwatch enquiry was raised by a parishioner. Cllr Marr advised the village struggles for volunteers to help execute this service. Cllr Farbon suggested adding as an agenda item at the Annual Parish meeting in April for discussion amongst residents. Cllr Mayall raised the safety of Wheatsheaf Crossroads (2 accidents in the past 10 days). Cllr Augstein added that the closure of Earith during wet periods increases the vehicle numbers on the B1040 and reiterated the danger of the junction, suggesting funding or further investigations into making it safer. CCllr Criswell explained funds come from the Road Safety budget, which is driven by deaths/serious injuries only. He suggested collaborating with local parishes (Somersham/Bluntisham) to gauge their interest in fundraising for traffic lights. There are ongoing discussions with ENVAR regarding future improvements of the junction. He agreed to look into this further and report findings.

**79 Bus Shelter** – The redecoration and poppy theme idea for the WWI centenary has been advertised in the village newsletter but no response from parishioners as yet – expect interest to build in near future. Cllr Marr and Cllr Farbon have some ideas re artists/colleagues they can contact regarding decoration/artwork.

## 80 Correspondence

- Huntingdonshire Health Walks leaflets – placed in Telephone Box for villagers
- Cambridgeshire Future Transport Questionnaire – to be uploaded to website
- Code of Conduct Training Certificates – circulated amongst councillors
- CCC letter re street light billing changes – for information
- The Clerk magazine
- Great War Commemoration letter – Archives service information
- Magpas Donation Request – councillors agreed to donate £25.00 (proposed AM/TH seconded)

## 81 Finance

- **Cheques to be issued**
- **100929:** BOLP Consulting: web domain 2013 - **£25.00**
- **100930:** Mrs A Augstein: working from home expenses - **£75.00**
- **100931:** Mrs A Augstein: black printer cartridges - **£34.66**
- **100932:** Woodhurst Village Hall: WPC hall hire fees (Jul-Jan inclusive) - **£80.00**
- **100933:** Magpas: Donation - **£25.00**
- **Street Lights:** Cllr West gave an update on costs/improvements and the implications of implementing these. WPC are responsible for approximately 70% of the lights. CCC 30%. Some poles may not need changing, which will reduce costs significantly. Balfour Beatty need to be contacted again for specification needs and quotes for complete lights or individual brackets/lamps. Cllr West agreed to investigate further and the clerk will contact Balfour Beatty for latest costs.

## 82 Items for next meeting on Tuesday March 19th at 7.30pm

- Telephone Box

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00

*These minutes are unadopted.*