

Woodhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th March 2014

Present

Cllr Alistair Marr – Chairman
Cllr Terry Huggins – Vice Chairman
Cllr Alvin Augstein
Cllr Neil Farbon
Cllr James Mayall
Cllr Andy Notman
Amanda Augstein, Clerk

CCllr Steve Criswell

Also present - 1 member of the Public

83 Apologies and reasons for absence – CCllr Simon West, CCllr Graham Bull, PCSO V Docking

84 Declarations of Interest – none.

85 Public Forum –

Cllr Criswell updated all on the recent district discussions regarding savings and cutbacks throughout the county. The local plan consultation to 2036 has been delayed to late summer, due to RAF Wyton development and infrastructure discussions (see item 91). Extra government funding will be provided for schools in the county, as well as a development grant for transport and housing in the Cambridge area. Cllr Huggins requested more information regarding the revenue from Red Tile Wind Farm, Heath Road and Cllr Augstein enquired about the re-instatement of the East-West rail-link. CCllr Criswell advised he will investigate further and report findings.

86 Clerk's report – The Clerk advised that Q4 was unreconciled to-date, awaiting the statements to complete the process and year end accounts

87 Minutes – The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd January 2014 were read, approved and duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

88 Public Footpaths – pathways have now dried out across the fields and lanes.

89 Countryside Watch – Cllr Huggins supplied a current report, advising hare-coursing is expected to subside in the area due to crop and grass growth, and theft of fuel has decreased in the immediate area, although still continuing around Ramsey. Police have advised vigilance regarding vehicles with foreign number plates.

90 Natural Woodhurst – Cllr Mayall provided a report in Karen Holley's absence: Work has continued clearing the revetments around Swan Weir Pond and the surrounds of Ridge Pond. In cutting back along the new planting in Butt Lane there has been a loss of 9% of the trees planted, which is in line with expectations. Natural Woodhurst are appealing for new members and volunteers, but if none are forthcoming, will be forced to scale back on their activities.

91 Planning – ref No: H/5000/14/CW Erection of 4-metre litter-net fencing at Hensby Composts (ENVAR). Application for information only. The fencing has been erected. There were no comments.

- RAF Wyton – Strategic Plan Information: villages in the immediate surrounding area of Wyton have been sent an update regarding the potential development of Wyton Airfield to encompass up to 4,500 new dwellings. Due to infrastructure concerns HDC are in discussions with the County Council and the MOD will be instructing a development partner to support the planning process. More details will be available regarding this later in the year.

92 Bus Shelter – Cllr Notman has liaised with the church cleaners who are willing to take on the cleaning role of the bus shelter for £60 pa. This was agreed by the council. The redecoration and poppy theme idea for the WWI centenary was discussed and Cllr Marr and Cllr Farbon have some ideas re

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artists/colleagues they can contact regarding decoration/artwork. It was decided to establish a separate working group to investigate further.

- 93 The Excellence of Woodhurst Website** – Cllr Huggins congratulated Cllr Notman on the quality and calibre of Woodhurst website, commenting on its up to date awareness of village life. It was noted the Woodhurst Facebook group is particularly active.
- 94 Telephone Box** – Cllr Farbon discussed the idea of using the telephone box to house a village defibrillator, which is provided by the Community Heartbeat Trust at a cost of £2000. Councillors decided this was a large sum for the village to fund-raise for and discussed the alternative of voluntary trained first responders. The clerk will contact MAGPAS in the first instance to request a visit to the parish to discuss further. It was decided that installing leaflet racks would be useful to store public information leaflets for parishioners.
- 95 Allotments** – This was a discussion point on the Woodhurst Facebook page although no official requests have been made. WPC has no land it can offer for allotments. The Townlands Trust land to the north west of the village is not owned by WPC and therefore unavailable and in any case considered unsuitable. The only other alternative would be for a benefactor to gift a small area of land to the village or potentially land at Wyton Airfield, if this becomes available in the future (under S106), although this is a distance from the village and would require vehicular access.
- 96 Dog Fouling** – This has been a problem in the past few months around the village, although since some signs have been placed in the offending areas and a notice added to the newsletter, the fouling has decreased. Councillors agreed that any sighting of fouling should be reported to HDC immediately.
- 97 Time-banking** – Three members of WPC attended the Somersham Time-banking Information Session on 6 March, which has a very active Time-bank community of 96 members, and a paid coordinator to manage the scheme. The group relies on a good network of parishioners and includes social events, which may not be applicable to a smaller community such as Woodhurst. Councillors also agreed that funds were not available to pay a coordinator. However, Cllr Notman proposed to investigate the running of a Time-banking group on a smaller scale with a voluntary co-ordinator.
- 98 Cluster Localism Get-together** – Somersham Parish Council will be hosting an informal get-together to share information and discuss how collaborating smaller parishes would help communities, in the light of the recent significant budget cuts. This will be held at the Millennium Sports Pavilion on Monday 24th March at 7pm. Cllr Augstein and Cllr Marr hope to attend.
- 99 Correspondence**
- The Clerk magazine
 - The Woodlands Cancer Treatment Centre – donation request: £20 donation agreed, Cllr Notman proposed, Cllr Augstein seconded
 - Council Tax – Precept 2014-15
- 100 Finance**
- Street Lights: Balfour Beatty have been contacted for a quotation; still awaiting costs.
 - Cheque 100934 Woodhurst Village Hall **£20.00** Hall hire fees
 - Cheque 100935 A Notman **£55.00** Village Newsletter Printing
- 101 Items for next meeting on Wednesday May 14th at 7.30pm**
- Energy Saving Conference Update (SW)
 - Street Lights

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00

These minutes are unadopted.