

Woodhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 8th July 2014

Present

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

CCllr Graham Bull

Amanda Augstein, Clerk

- 19. Apologies and reasons for absence** – received from Cllr Alvin Augstein and CCllr Steve Criswell, Karen Holley (Natural Woodhurst)
- 20. Declarations of Interest** – none received
- 21. Public Forum** –. CCllr Bull updated all on the Wyton and surrounding area future development with 21,000 homes being suggested. The impact on infrastructure and community facilities was raised with particular concerns about increased traffic on the surrounding area's roads. There will be a summary document sent out to all councillors who attended the recent public event, providing more information.
- 22. Clerk's report** – the Annual Return is still with the external auditors and Q1 report will be emailed to councillors once a bank statement is received to finalise the reconciliation.
- 23. Minutes** – The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 14th May 2014 were read, approved and duly signed as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Farbon queried the insurance increase cost and requested the public liability amount for clarification. The clerk will action this.
- 24. Confirm Adoption of Standing Orders** – it was agreed to adopt the present Standing Orders and review again at the next meeting. Cllr Notman will read through in the meantime and raise any anomalies that may need to be discussed at the meeting in September.
- 25. Public Footpaths** – nothing to report. Cllr Marr mentioned that the County Council are reviewing their contracts to determine which pathways they will continue to cut/upkeep.
- 26. Countryside Watch** – Cllr Huggins reported that it has been quieter in the past few weeks with less crime than in the past year. However, items of increased value are being targeted in the area and it is still wise for home owners and farmers to be vigilant and report any unusual activity or vehicles near their properties.
- 27. Natural Woodhurst** – Karen Holley (Chairman) was unable to attend. Cllr Mayall commented on her behalf: due to a significant number of members leaving in the past few months, Natural Woodhurst are not taking on any new projects presently. A recruitment drive was deemed necessary with a view to advertising on the Natural Woodhurst Facebook page. Previous strategies have been very beneficial to the village, in particular the planting and new pump installation at Swan Weir. Cllr Mayall will contact committee members to discuss.

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28. Village Pump – Cllr Marr has been in contact with Roger Gowler – carpenter living in the village, who has offered to repair the pump without payment, charging only for materials. He has provided new timber with a pressure treatment that should last 20+ years, and will renovate as necessary.

29. Correspondence:

- The Clerk Magazine
- Villager Complaint email – a villager raised an issue about bins being left at the end of Fullards Close and causing obstruction, especially in poor weather/dark nights. Cllr Notman offered to add a note in the forthcoming newsletter and Cllr Farbon will speak with the owners of the properties concerned regarding the bins. Also raised was the issue of overgrown trees on the corner of South Street and West End causing sight restrictions, especially for cyclists. This was reported to CCC and has been addressed.

30. Finance

- No cheques
- Streetlights – a quotation has been received from K & M Lighting with various costs for replacement, renovation and LED prices, including a maintenance contract. Two other quotes need to be sourced before a decision can be made. The clerk will contact Balfour Beatty and research other organisations. Regarding the Conservation Area of the village, it was agreed that the Planning Department at HDC should be contacted to ask advice on lighting type for this area.
- Bush Shelter Cleaning Payment – this is to be made to Lois Alsop and Brenda Bryan-Harris bi-annually with 2 cheques each @ £15 each.
- Q1 – awaiting bank statement for reconciliation

31. Items for next meeting on September 10th 2014 at 7.30pm –

- Street lighting update

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.36pm

Signed by the Chairman **Date.....**