

Woodhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 10th September 2014

Present

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

PCSO Vicki Docking

Amanda Augstein, Clerk

- 32. Apologies and reasons for absence** – received from Cllr Alvin Augstein, Cllr James Mayall and CCllr Steve Criswell, CCllr Graham Bull, Karen Holley (Natural Woodhurst)
- 33. Declarations of Interest** – none received
- 34. Public Forum** –. No members of the public present
- 35. Clerk's report** – the clerk reminded councillors of the ENVAR liaison meeting on 26 September 2014 for anyone interested in attending. The Annual Report has been returned and approved by the auditors FK Littlejohn and has been posted on the village notice board for public inspection, in line with regulations.
- 36. Minutes** –the minutes of the meeting held on the 7 July 2014 were read, approved and duly signed as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Huggins requested a copy of Q1 reconciliation to 30 June 2014, as per item 22 of minutes. The clerk will email these accordingly.
- 37. Standing Orders Review & Adoption** – Cllr Notman has reviewed the current standing orders and proposes these are acceptable in their current form. The clerk will formally sign and adopt.
- 38. Public Footpaths** – Cllr Farbon reported the public footpaths that run across harvested fields have been reinstated in accordance with the 14-day Cross Compliance regulations.
- 39. Countryside Watch** – Cllr Huggins gave an updated report advising that hare coursing is on the increase currently and thefts from outbuildings and barns have increased, with high value electrical equipment, quad bikes and commercial building vehicles being targeted, as well as tractor satellite systems and LandRover/4 x 4 vehicles. There have been suspicious people in the village, one approached a villager on Butt Lane. The clerk will speak with the livery owner nearby, requesting she reports anyone who seems to be acting suspiciously.
- 40. Natural Woodhurst** – Karen Holley (Chairman) was unable to attend. Cllr Notman gave a short report in her absence, advising that a small working party is planning to cut back the growth in Swan Weir in the next few weeks.
- 41. Village Pump** – Cllr Marr reported that Roger Gowler has finished repairing the main woodwork, which has been tanalised and is now ready to be sanded and painted, (which will be carried out by Cllr Notman). The sign and beading can then be replaced. Cllr Marr proposed a letter of thanks be sent once the work is complete.
- 42. HGVs Grange Farm** – there have been complaints about lorries coming through the village looking for the Grange Farm entrance and subsequently exiting through Woodhurst towards the B1040. There are 2 issues arising: the weight limit restrictions prohibiting access to larger lorries through the village,

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which is currently being contravened and the signage issue at Grange Farm. Councillors proposed a letter be sent to Mr Reynolds stating the situation and advising that the signage be improved on the Oldhurst – Woodhurst road. Also to advise Mr Reynolds that lorries should not continue to use Woodhurst village as a short-cut to the A14 (prohibit the lorries turning right out of Grange Farm access drive) as this was a strict provision of the planning application approval for the farm commercial units.

43. Swan Weir Visibility – Cllr Huggins raised the issue of visibility for road users/vehicles at the corner of Church Street by Swan Weir, since the reeds and foliage have grown very high and obscure vision. Cllr Notman advised Natural Woodhurst would be cutting back and tidying this area in the next few weeks, and it was agreed that, since the pond is privately owned, this is not the responsibility of the council.

44. Woodhurst Village Hall – the clerk received correspondence from the Woodhurst Village Hall secretary, advising the committee has reviewed their charging basis. Due to rates now being levied on the Hall the meeting hire charges have increased with effect from 1.9.14 to £30 per meeting, and the charge to HDC for the Hall's use as a Polling Station, to £200 per day. Also, due to vegetation overgrowth on the boundary alongside the track leading to the Hall, partly caused by the neighbouring chestnut tree, it was asked if WPC would request a green bin from HDC and/or contact Mr & Mrs Nicol to request they manage their boundary vegetation. The councillors agreed to the hire charge increase and the clerk will make contact with HDC to request a green and blue bin. It was also agreed that Woodhurst Village Hall committee should contact the neighbours in the first instance requesting they manage their vegetation.

45. Correspondence:

- The Clerk Magazine
- HDC Adult Sports courses leaflets – Cllr Notman to put in phone box
- Planning Decision update – Meadowcroft, Church Street. Appeal dismissed.
- Balfour Beatty – PFI County Council owned streetlight replacement update/information
- Balfour Beatty – maintenance contract renewal letter, offering 3-year contract. It was agreed to respond requesting BB put this on hold until the council have made a decision on the renovation of the owned streetlights.
- Woodhurst Village Hall – Annual Return
- Community Defibrillator information
- Cambridgeshire Future Transport – Working Group meeting 16 September 6-8.30pm Ramsey Community Centre

46. Finance

- **Streetlights** – still awaiting quotation from Balfour Beatty for comparative lighting costs. A meeting was held in August on site with BB to investigate the upgrade of the 15 owned streetlights. Once a quote has been received, the council will move forward with a decision. The clerk will contact K & M Lighting Services to request a maintenance cost (to compare with BB maintenance).
- **Cheques to be issued:**
 - Cheque 100945 – N Farbon £97.09 for bus shelter WW1 commemoration renovation
 - Cheque 100946 – A Augstein £49.56 for printer cartridges
 - Cheque 100947 – Business Services at CAS (Suffolk Acre) for annual insurance
- **Q2** – awaiting bank statement for reconciliation

47. Items for next meeting on November 12th 2014 at 7.30pm –

- Harassment of Village Hall users, councillor and election officer

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

These minutes are unadopted