

Woodhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 14th January 2015

Present

Cllr Alistair Marr
Cllr James Mayall
Cllr Terry Huggins
Cllr Neil Farbon
Cllr Andy Notman
Cllr Alvin Augstein
Cllr Simon West
DCllr Graham Bull

Mrs Karen Holley – Natural Woodhurst

Amanda Augstein, Clerk

64. Apologies and reasons for absence – received from, CCllr Steve Criswell

65. Declarations of Interest – none received

66. Public Forum – Cllr Bull updated the council on the recent developments at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and the contractor's (Circle) announcement to pull out. Cllr Criswell has been in discussions with Circle, who will be working to find new partners (including Addenbrookes or Peterborough Trusts). Because of the recent national exposure of the situation it is unlikely that Hinchingsbrooke will close.

67. Clerk's report – the clerk advised that the Q3 accounts are awaiting reconciliation once the Barclays current account statement arrives. These will be sent to councillors once completed. NALC has issued new criteria for the Local Council Award Scheme, which will replace the Quality Council Status. The existing scheme will expire at the end of January and it was agreed to apply for an automatic transition to the Foundation level of the new Local Council Award Scheme online.

68. Minutes – the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 November 2014 were read, approved and duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

69. Public Footpaths – Cllr Farbon reported he had obtained the survey forms regarding footpath clearance within the village. The tree root works have been completed in Church Lane with the resurfacing yet to be done. There may be an access issue for vehicles because of the metal barriers at either end.

70. Countryside Watch – Cllr Huggins reported that hare coursing continues to be a problem in the area, as well as deer and pheasant poaching. Thefts of farm vehicles, quad bikes and diesel continue. Domestic properties have also been targeted in the past few weeks; a property in Woodhurst and two in Warboys were broken into and items stolen. Cllr Huggins and other councillors reiterated the importance of reporting any sightings of suspicious vehicles and to remain vigilant with regards to security.

71. Natural Woodhurst – Karen Holley reported that all the Natural Woodhurst calendars sold this year, raising over £120 which will be donated to the church. The AGM took place recently which raised some issues that will be catalogued and conveyed at the next Parish Council meeting, with a view to raising awareness of the support and commitment needed for the organisation to move forward.

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72. Planning –

- **Ref 1401940FUL** - Rebuilding of Epworth Lodge, Church Street. The councillors questioned whether the property is to be completely rebuilt. However they are in agreement with any improvement/rebuilding of the existing building, which will improve the street scene in a Conservation Area. Cllr Farbon raised the subject of the ‘annex clause’, which was imposed on a previous barn at the site, and suggested the same condition should apply. Also that the drainage should be connected to the mains sewerage. The application was approved.
- **Wyton Development** - Cllr Notman attended the Wyton & Houghton village meeting recently. There was little objective information to gain from the meeting. Cllr Marr and Cllr Notman will be attending the briefing session for councillors on Wednesday 21st January, where they hope to glean further information, particularly regarding the infrastructure and transport/road allocation in the area. It was unanimously agreed that the A141 is already at full traffic capacity and would struggle to take a further 4,500 properties’ vehicles. Cllr Bull commented that it was hoped many of the issues brought up at the initial consultation would be addressed at the briefing session.

73. Parking on Verge, adjacent to Harradine Close – Cllr Huggins reported that a 4 x 4 vehicle parked on the verge close to Harradine Close had caused major ruts. If the damage continued then the County Council would be informed. However, the vehicle had not parked there recently. Cllr Farbon commented that there is also an issue at the corner of Abbots Close and Church St. where large vehicles appear to be driving over the verge where a manhole is situated. Cllr Bull advised that, if the properties are owned by Luminus Housing, they can be contacted to address the situation. Cllr Notman offered to discuss with the County Council Highways Officer in the first instance, who will contact Luminus if necessary.

74. Village Pump – Final Paint/Letter of Thanks – Cllr Notman has received the paint and will complete when the weather permits. An invoice was requested. However Mr Gowler has not sent one to date. If there are any costs, he will be reimbursed accordingly. A letter of thanks will be sent from the Parish Council.

75. Correspondence:

- The Clerk Magazine
- SLCC Training Information
- HDC Document Centre
- NALC – Quality Council application procedure

76. Finance

- **Streetlights** – the clerk has contacted BB on numerous occasions to ask for a more comprehensive quotation for the upgrading of the village streetlights, but has received no response to date. It was agreed to continue to request the information and report back to the council at the next meeting.
- **Cheques to be issued:**
 - Cheque 100953 – Countryside Watch:£40.00
 - Cheque 100954 – Mrs A Augstein, Working from home allowance: £75.00

77. Items for next meeting on Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 7.30pm – contact CCllr Steve Criswell to confirm he can attend this meeting, or organise a different meeting to include Cllr Criswell.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

These minutes are unadopted