

Woodhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 10th March 2015

Present

Cllr Alistair Marr
Cllr Terry Huggins
Cllr Neil Farbon
Cllr Andy Notman
Cllr Alvin Augstein
CCllr Steve Criswell

Mrs Karen Holley – Natural Woodhurst

Amanda Augstein, Clerk

- 78. Apologies and reasons for absence** – received from, DCllr Graham Bull, Cllr James Mayall, Cllr Simon West
- 79. Declarations of Interest** – none received
- 80. Public Forum** – one member of public was present; Mrs Annabel Farbon, who voiced her concerns regarding the volume of litter in and around the footpaths in the village, in particular glass bottles and cans, which appear to be coming from one source. These are dangerous and cause a hazard to dogs and children. Mrs Farbon requested a litter picking session and a sign be erected to advise and warn walkers. Also it was suggested a notice be put in the next newsletter and CCllr Criswell proposed the local PCSO is contacted to request a DNA check, which may identify the culprit. Regarding a litter picking session, Cllr Marr advised he has seen a HDC contact who will speak with District to request HDC assistance along the main footpaths and road area.
CCllr Criswell updated the council on the recent developments at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, after attending a scrutiny meeting at HDC, And advised the NHS Trust Development Authority have taken the hospital in hand, responding the CQC issues raised and fulfilling most of the actions required to date.
- 81. Clerk's report** – the clerk informed councillors that the Q4 accounts have not been finalised (awaiting bank statement). The reconciliation shows there will be a healthy combined balance in both accounts of approximately £18,000 at the end of 2014-15 (Year-end), explaining that auditors will question why a council has more than twice its annual precept. Cllr Marr clarified the need for savings to pay for the streetlight upgrade and a potential donation towards the new village hall.
- 82. Minutes** –the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th January 2015 were read, approved and duly signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 83. Public Footpaths** – Cllr Farbon discussed the boundary changes close to some of the footpaths but these did not affect the northern boundaries. Tree management in Church Passage has been in progress. Work will need time to settle before further works can take place.
- 84. Countryside Watch** – Cllr Huggins reported that hare coursing incidents have increased over the past few weeks, although will hopefully subside as the crops grow. There have been workshop thefts with tools, generators and large implements stolen. Horse trailers have been targeted in the area and caravans across the county. Cllr Huggins reiterated the importance of being vigilant and obtaining as much information as possible if suspicious vehicles are spotted.

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85. Natural Woodhurst – Karen Holley advised there was not much to report due to lack of volunteers and minimal funds. The committee are planning to coordinate a number of family activities for the spring/summer, and will re-evaluate the situation at the end of the year. Cllr Notman mentioned the possibility of a working group to cut back overgrown vegetation in Butt Lane, which over the years has started to cause obstruction for walkers and certainly for vehicular access to maintain the hedges/trees. Because it is unlikely volunteers will come forward and CCC have cut budgets helping with footpath maintenance, Cllr Augstein suggested some WPC funds be used to pay a contractor to clear the area during the senescence period (September). Cllr Marr would be willing to use his machine to maintain the hedging in future, once the heavy work is completed.

86. Planning –

- **Ref 15/00172/FUL:** 7 Abbots Close, Upper Floor Side Extension (reference only) – approved on grounds it will enhance the street view
- **Ref 1400328FUL:** Church View, Church Street – Planning Appeal notice. Councillors agreed a back-land development precedent would be set if this application was approved. Since Woodhurst is not considered to be an infill village, and the site is in a conservation area, councillors commented this would be detrimental to the village scene. Vehicular access for 4 dwellings is also a concern. The clerk recommended councillors make their views and comments on the given website link.
- **Wyton Development** – In response to the Houghton & Wyton PC and surrounding villages statement, HDC have responded, advising and urging councils to respond directly to the HDC current targeted consultation by 20 March with their views on the Local Plan documents, in terms of infrastructure, strategy and in particular, local communities' aspirations. CCllr Criswell advised that HDC have an obligation to demonstrate a deliverable 5-year housing strategy in line with the Planning Policy Framework, which could be under threat if not decided in the time frame allowed. However, lack of a decision regarding a new road infrastructure is causing consternation amongst the surrounding villages, with regards to new road links and how they might affect individual communities. HDC are assessing changes in housing needs since the announcement of closure at Molesworth and Alconbury air bases. It was suggested that WPC engage parishioners in an open meeting with county and district councillors present to take questions and explain the future planning and infrastructure consequences. The targeted consultation is the final opportunity for any changes to be made. The open consultation in the summer will only be open to comments. Consequently it was agreed that Woodhurst PC should make their views very clear and precise with regards to potential infrastructure, especially potential link-road routes that will affect the area surrounding the village. Cllr Notman agreed to coordinate a meeting as soon as is convenient. He will also draft comments, on behalf of WPC, to put forward to the targeted consultation and circulate to councillors, before sending by the deadline of 20 March.

87. Correspondence:

- The Clerk Magazine/Clerks & Councils Direct
- SLCC Training Information
- NALC – Quality Council application procedure – the clerk advised registration had been completed. However, there is an accreditation fee and the councillors did not think the award scheme was relevant to WPC at this time.
- MAGPAS donation request. It was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £50.00 (Cllr Marr proposed, Cllr Huggins seconded)

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88. Finance

- **Streetlights** – James McDaid at BB has corresponded with the Clerk and sent the final costs for upgrading 10-15 of the village streetlights. The final figure (for lantern changes only) comes to £4,173.10 including VAT. Cllr Notman proposed WPC agree to the upgrade, stipulating the date of commencement, completion and any extra costs incurred must be advised before work done. Cllr Augstein seconded the motion.
- **Cheques to be issued:**
 - Cheque 100955 – A Notman, website costs: £10.80
 - Cheque 100956 – MAGPAS, donation: £50.00

89. Items for next meeting on Wednesday 13th May 2015 at 7.30pm – First Responder in Woodhurst. A villager, Mr G Davis, has now completed training as a first responder and attended two incidents. It was suggested that he talk at the village Open Meeting on 15th April to engage villagers and explain his role and the funding required.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

These minutes are unadopted