

Whittington Parish Council



Clerk to the Council: Carol Chambers, 1 Crookbarrow Cottage, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RL
Email whittingtonpc@live.co.uk: Tele 01905 358470
Web Site Worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish Facebook.com/whittingtonpc

MINUTES of the meeting of Whittington Parish Council held on 9th September 2014 at 19.30 at Whittington Village Hall

Democratic Period/ Question Time:

The Chairman welcomed the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Mr. Barrie Sheldon, the Chairman also welcomed, Sean Woods, Safer Neighbourhood Constable and Sgt Kent, West Mercia Police to the meeting. The Chairman opened with a report which expressed the concerns of parishioners regarding, parking in the village, traffic issues on dual carriageways that impact on the safety of parishioners, and the lack of information on current cases and little feedback on historical cases from the police. Mr Sheldon responded to questions raised in respect of speeding on the B4084, Pershore Road, anti-social parking within the village and Spetchley Road, anti-social and dangerous behaviour of speeding cars and motor bikes on Swinesherd dual carriage way, parishioners expressed concern about the safety of the 'blind college' roundabout as vehicles at high speed were unable to stop at the traffic lights on the pedestrian crossing, Mr Sheldon said he would contact Rod Reynolds, the Director of the Safer Roads Partnership and the Chief Executive of Wychavon District Council to outline the issues raised at the meeting. In response to recent media coverage which reported to have encouraged 'self' policing and the de-criminalisation of some crimes, he reassured parishioners that he had visited Hindlip HQ and was satisfied that police operations and reported crime where an officer had been deployed was up to 70%. he added he would contact the local commander Superintendent Mark Travis who would continue to monitor the situation at Whittington in conjunction with Safer Neighbourhood team. Constable Woods and Sgt Kent explained that some crimes are not investigated unless evidence is readily available due to a reduction in the police budget and the increase in 'other' crimes such as cyber/computer crime; they also acknowledged parishioners concerns and that police presence in the village was needed and confirmed that regular police surgeries would be held at the Swan Inn. They also reiterated that PACT (Partners and Communities together) forums would be attended by the police. The Chairman thanked Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Mr. Barrie Sheldon, Sean Woods Safer Neighbourhood Constable and Sgt Kent West Mercia Police for their attendance. (Democratic period finished 8.55pm following a short recess the council meeting stated at 9.05pm)

Agenda 09/14

1) Attendance and Apologies - To record those present and to receive apologies for absence.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr S Brooker

Vice Chairman: Cllr S Macleod

Councillors: Cllr M Baker, Cllr A Guy, Cllr F Richards, Cllr Wood

Officers: Mrs C Chambers (Parish Clerk)

Barrie Sheldon - Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Sean Woods - Safer Neighbourhood Constable

Sgt Kent - West Mercia Police

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Chamberlain and Lisa Ventura - Whittington Roundabout Campaign.

2) Declarations of Interest and Ethical Matters.

- a To receive declarations of Personal (non prejudicial) Interests in items on this Agenda and their nature. **None.**
- b To receive declarations of Prejudicial Interests in items on this Agenda and their nature. **None.**
- c Ethical Matters. **None.**
- d Right to record Parish Meetings, The Clerk had attached to the agenda a report from Calc which advised Members that the openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 came into force on 6 August the report advised that anyone may film, photograph, audio record or broadcast a public meeting, following discussion it was decided that the Clerk would not record this meeting.

3) Police Report - To receive the reports from:-

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Safer Neighbourhood Team
West Mercia Police

See Democratic Period/ Question Time:

4) Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 July 2014 had been circulated to all Members with the agenda. It was moved by Councillor MB, seconded by Councillor FR and **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

(The Auditors report that was reviewed at the meeting held on 8 July recommended that WPC have an Health & Safety policy this has been deferred to the meeting to be held on 11 November 2014)

5) Finance.

- a. **Receipts:** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a list of receipts that had been received from 1st July to 31st August 2014 which totalled £469.50 of which included £0.44 interest received on WPC Deposit Account all receipts were **APPROVED.**

Payments: The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a list of payments that had been made on behalf of WPC from 1st July to 31st August 2014 which totalled £1,023.52, which included payments made to Grant Thornton and S Gwilliam which were made under delegated authority, all payments were **APPROVED.** A bank reconciliation up to 31st August was also circulated with the agenda. The Clerk had also taken bank statements, invoices the remittance advices to the meeting for Members to view, Cllr Richards took all documentation to be checked against the Clerks financial reports.

- b. **Proposals for expenditure:** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report for proposed expenditure:

b 1. **Service of DFS** The Clerk reported that the Driver Feedback Sign (DFS) was not working and the Clerk could not download the statistics. Standard Signs who had taken over the servicing of the DFS from the original supplier Morelock Signs, had been to look at the DFS and did an initial diagnostic, he concluded that the DFS would need to be taken back to Standard Signs to be serviced & repaired and had given an approx fee of £400.00. Following discussion the Council **RESOLVED TO** approve the initial cost of up to £400.00 to have the DFS repaired, and to arrange a maintenance agreement with Standard Signs.

b 2. **Administration Cost** - The Clerk had attached to the agenda a receipt of £7.60 for administration, she also tabled at the meeting a receipt for £3.00. It was **RESOLVED** that the total cost of £10.60 be refunded to the Clerk.

b 3. **Free NHS Health Check.** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report from NHS Health Check which detailed what the health check would cover and that it was free to anyone who lived in Worcestershire, following discussion the Council agreed that this would be of benefit to Whittington parishioners and therefore it was **RESOLVED** that payment of £30.00 be made for the hire of Whittington Village Hall.

b 4. **Purchase of a recording device for Parish Meetings** – The Clerk had circulated with the agenda the Calc update which advised of the new legislation which came into force on 6 August. The report explained that following the introduction of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 which would allow anyone to film, photograph and audio-record public meetings. Following discussion it was agreed that the Council would record its meetings, therefore it was **RESOLVED** that the Council purchase a recording device.

b 5. **Renewal of Council Insurance** –Renewal Cost for 2014/2015 is £278.95 **APPROVED**.

6) **Planning Applications & decisions - To consider new planning applications.**

App Ref 14/000034/REG3

Applicant Worcestershire County Council

Proposal A New bridleway footbridge to span the newly duelled Southern Link Road (Crookbarrow Way). Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no objection in principal although the position of the bridleway was questioned as it was noted that some walkers cross at St Peters roundabout. The Council would like to see the proposal linked in the Parkway Railway Project as a significant Worcester cycle way from the suburbs to the railway station in Norton.

7) **Highways & Byways.**

To receive reports of Highways (Roads & Pavements) & Byways (bridleways & footpaths).

a) Village Parking and Access Only Order - Cllr MB advised that a PACT meeting was to be held on 23rd September 2014 also WCC & WDC Cllr Adams would set up a meeting with Highways, to discuss Village access.

b) Update on Church Lane flooding and Severn Trent Water (Cllr FR) email received 21st August from WCC that Church Lane drains had been cleared. **NOTED**.

8) **Training, meetings and seminars to receive reports of relevant training, meetings and seminars attended or offered to the Council and to consider attendance by Members and or the Clerk.** Cllr FR had attended a seminar hosted by Came and Co insurance, he reported on the issues raised particularly the issue regarding the Councils liability to comments made on its Facebook page. **NOTED**. (see agenda item 14).

9) **WPAG - To Consider Degree of Support** (Wychavon Parishes Action Group Facebook Page)

The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of the original email that had been previously circulated from WPAG. Although WPC fully understood the strength of feeling on the issue contained in the email, the Council raised concerns with regards to the adopted name "Wychavon Parishes Action Group" as it suggested that all parishes in Wychavon were "as one" and were all members of

the WPAG group. Whittington PC expressed concern at being silently co-opted into this, without first seeking some sort of mandate from WPAG. It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman write to WPAG and copy to Wychavon District Council to explain Whittington PC position.

10) Neighbourhood Development Plan – New Homes Bonus – Section 106

No reports were made under this agenda item

11) District and County Councillors' Report.

No reports were made under this agenda item

12) Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.

To receive the reports of Committees and Working Groups and of Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies, to ask relevant questions, and to consider appropriate action.

WPC staffing Committee: **NONE**

Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison: Cllr MB reported that Envirosort were in the process of cleaning gutters and pavements of their rubbish, he also reported that envirosort were to seek a change of operating hours.

West Wychavon PACT: See agenda item 7a.

Worcestershire CALC: All information had been previously emailed

Whittington School: **NONE**

Whittington Village Hall: **NONE**

Neighbourhood Watch: **NONE**

13) Correspondence & Council Consultation

Scoping Opinion Request – Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station, Norton, Worcestershire

The Clerk at the request of the Council sought and gained an extension on the date for feedback on the Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station, Norton, it was confirmed that Whittington PC would forward comments after the Councillors briefing which would be held on Monday 29th September at 6pm at County Hall.

14) IT - Facebook & Communication

Following a report from Cllr FR it was **RESOLVED** that facebook be restricted from making comments

15) Enhancement NONE

16) Amendment to Standing Orders- Suspend Standing order 1 M page 3

The Clerk had circulated with the agenda the Calc update which advised of the new legislation which came into force on 6 August. The report explained that following the introduction of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 which would allow anyone to film, photograph and audio-record public meetings. The Clerk advised that WPC Standing Orders should reflect the new legislation. It was moved by Cllr AG, seconded by Cllr FR and **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 1 M page 3 and add in "Deleted following the implementation of the Openness of Local government Bodies Regulations 2014.

17) Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be Tuesday 11 November 2014 at Whittington Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Councillor S Brooker
Chairman