

Whittington Parish Council



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MINUTES of the meeting of Whittington Parish Council held at 19.30 on 14 January at Whittington Village Hall

Democratic Period/ Question Time:

A Parishioner commented on the flooding at the 'blind college' roundabout and country side roundabout, and expressed concern that the problem of the flooded roundabouts would be exacerbate when the new Bloor homes development was completed, he also commented on Spetchley Road parking, (although not WP or WDC the Council acknowledged that this problem does effect the Parish) due to WCC overspill parking at country side car park. A meeting with Spetchley Road residents and WCC had been arranged to discuss the issues. The Council acknowledged that this problem does affect the Parish.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr S Brooker
Vice Chairman: Cllr S Macleod

Councillors: Cllr P Wood, Cllr A Guy, Cllr J Chamberlain, Cllr C Smith

Officers: Mrs C Chambers (Parish Clerk)

Democratic Period/ Question Time:

1) Attendance and Apologies

Attendance Cllr Paul Middlebrough leader of WDC, PC Sean Woods and Sgt Sarah Kent

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Baker

2) Declarations of Interest and Ethical Matters.

To receive declarations of Personal (non prejudicial) Interests in items on this Agenda and their nature. **None Received.**

a To receive declarations of Prejudicial Interests in items on this Agenda and their nature.

None received.

b Ethical Matters. **None received.**

3) Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th November 2013 had been circulated to all Members with the agenda. It was moved by Councillor SB, seconded by Councillor CS and **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

4) District and County Councillors' Rob Adams & Councillor Middlebrough Leader of Wychavon District Council Reports

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mr. Paul Middlebrough, Leader of the Wychavon District Council, Councillor Mr. Rob Adams, County and Wychavon District Council. Councillor Middlebrough updated the meeting on recent matters relating to New Homes Bonus, South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) and the need for the Council to re-assess figures for new houses/developments following Inspector's scrutiny of the SWDP and proposals by the Council not to increase charges for on Wychavon Car Parks. The Chairman expressed the dismay of the Council in respect of the perceived unfairness of the Section 106 agreement and allocation of funding following the planning permission granted to Miller Homes and Bloor Homes developments within Whittington Parish. Of the almost £3.3million secured through the Section 106 agreement Whittington Parish is to receive £50k the remainder being used to fund projects within Worcester City and Norton Parish. The Chairman explained the desperate need for a new village hall or community centre within the Parish particularly as the Whittington Parish population was to double with the new homes developments yet we have been denied this opportunity. This has given rise to concerns expressed that with the significant contribution of funds to projects within Worcester City, the fact that the number of homes despite being within Wychavon District are to be counted as Worcester City figures for required new homes and the geographic location of the Swinesherd Way dual carriageway and the M5 motorway, there may be in time be a movement of boundaries resulting in Whittington becoming a Parish within Worcester City. Mr. Middlebrough assured the meeting that there were no plans whatsoever to give up Whittington Parish to Worcester City and that as far as he was concerned this would not happen. The Chairman thanked Mr. Middlebrough for his contribution and attendance and also thanked Mr. Middlebrough and Mr. Adams for the Wychavon grant of £383 which means that Whittington Parish Council will not be seeking to increase the Parish precept for the year 2014/15.

(a) Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Sarah Kent and Constable Sean Woods, West Mercia Police. Constable Sean Woods said that his attendance followed the issues raised previously by the Parish Council with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr. Barrie Sheldon (8th October 2013) Cst Woods outlined proposals and suggestions as to how best to take Partners and Communities Together meeting (PACT) forward and asked the Parish Council to let him know of their views. Cst Woods agreed to research further options in response to speeding complaints on the B4084 Whittington to Pershore Road. The matter of speeding/racing of motor cycles on Swinesherd Way (particularly Sunday mornings) seemed to be temporarily resolved probably because of the weather and late sunrise. On the matter of Policing the parking within Whittington Village, which is subject of an Access only order, was met with reluctance from Sergeant Kent and Cst Wood due to the Police considering it not to be a Policing priority combined with the difficulty they experienced in investigating and prosecuting offenders. The Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council appealed to the Police to support the Parish Council and residents in policing this contravention of the access order sometimes involving threatening and offensive behaviour towards residents, the obstruction of driveways and other incidents of anti-social behaviour. The Chairman thanked Sergeant Sarah Kent and Constable Sean Woods, West Mercia Police.

5) Finance.

a. **Receipts:** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a list of receipts from 1 November to 31 December 2013, it was moved by Councillor SB, seconded by Councillor SM and **RESOLVED** that the receipts for the 2 month period which totalled £185.47 (excluding refund of S/O) be approved.

b. **Payments:** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a list of payments from 1st November to 31 December 2013, it was moved by Councillor CS, seconded by Councillor SM and **RESOLVED** that the that the payments for the 2 month period which totalled £1,180 be approved.

c. **Budget 2014/2015** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of the draft budget for the financial year 2014/2015 which had been generally approved at the meeting held on 12 November 2013. Following discussion it was moved by Councillor SB, seconded by Councillor CS and **RESOLVED** that the budget for the financial year 2014/2015 be set at £6,828 an increase of 1.91% on last year, with the grant from WDC this equated to a slight decrease on Band D Council Tax compared to last year's budget. The Council thanked the Clerk for her detailed report.

d. **Auditors report follow up** – At the meeting held on 12 November the internal auditor recommended that a review of WPC Financial Regulations and Health & Safety Policy be made, it was agreed that Cllrs CS and SB and the Clerk set a meeting to review these polices. **Action Clerk.**

6) Planning Applications & decisions

a. To consider new planning application. **None**

b. Previous consultations - W/13/02405/PP - CROFTERS – WPC Comments submitted 'Whittington Parish Council have no objection to the domestic extensions - subject to the proposal not adversely affecting neighbouring properties'.

c. Planning Decisions - Wychavon District Council - W/13/02405/PP – CROFTERS - Approved

d. Other planning matters. **None**

7) Highways & Byways.

No reports were received under this agenda item.

a. **Street sign for Grove Cottages, Narrow Walk sign.** The Clerk reported that the Narrow Walk Street Sign for Groves Cottage had been installed. Members asked The Clerk to establish who owns Narrow Walk foot path. **Action Clerk.**

8) Training, meetings and seminars

No reports were received under this agenda item.

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

a. WNDP – it was agreed that a separate meeting of the Council be set to discuss the future of WNDP. **Action Clerk.**

10) **Police Report** – this item was moved to agenda item number 4 (b).

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

a) 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:

West Wychavon PACT: **None**

Worcestershire CALC: Council had been updated by email and by Cllr JC.

Whittington School: **None**

Whittington Village Hall: The Council was advised that a Village Hall meeting was to be held on 29 January 2014.

Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr JC updated the Council.

12) Items for the Parish Magazine.

Precept, Face book page, Resident's family memories of WW1.

13) Correspondence & Council Consultation

Private Hire Policy Consultation Document –Councillor PW explained to Members the details of the Private Hire Policy Consultation. The Chairman thanked Cllr PW for his informative report.

The Council asked the Clerk to write to Cllr Paul Middlebrough leader of WDC to thank him for his attendance at WPC meeting. The Council also asked to Clerk to write on behalf of the Council to congratulate Sir Peter Luff MP for Mid Worcestershire on his Knighthood. **Action Clerk.**

14) IT

a **Facebook** – Various items were disused, it was agreed that the agenda and minutes once they have been ratified by the Council be put onto face book.

15) Communication – Signage for the village was discussed, practically in reference to the parking issues in the village, following discussion it was agreed that signage be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

16) Date of Next Meeting.

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Councillor S Brooker
CHAIRMAN

Signed