

WARNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held Monday 4th April 2016
at Lyppard Hub commencing at 7.30pm

Present:

D. Long (Chairman), R. Morris (V/Chairman), N. Fielden, L. Morris, D. Merriman, A. Taylor
V. Barrall.

Also present: County Cllr Andy Roberts, Ward Councillor Stephen Hodgson, Parish Warden
Alex Booth, PC A. Todd., Press.

Apologies:

Ward Councillors Lucy Hodgson & Alan Feeney, Police Sergeant Simon Hallam.

Declarations of Interest & applications for Councillor dispensations:

R. Morris – Gtech planning application.

Item:	Minute Recorded:	Action by:
125	<p>The Minutes of a meeting held 7th March 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed V. Barrall, seconded L. Morris. All agreed. No matters arising.</p>	
126	<p>Reports: Police – PC Todd reported on recent minor incidents. L. Morris informed the meeting that recent quad bikes on the old golf course had been reported to 101.</p> <p>Ward Councillors – as circulated.</p> <p>County Councillor – a meeting had been held re divisional funding. Lots of applications received. PACT – discussed motorcyclists and speeding traffic / access over motorway. Highways – work to be progressed in Great Meadow re road resurfacing. Local pathways also being repaired in liaison with D. Merriman of PC. Cycleway also to be looked at.</p>	
	<p>The meeting was suspended at this point to allow members of the public to address the Council. X8 members of the public questioned the PC regarding the recent decision on the GTech planning application. The serious concerns raised and over 900 objections lodged were noted by the PC and the Chairman read out a prepared statement for the meeting which summarised the decision made and actions taken to date which</p>	<p>Chairman to write via the Clerk to Worcester City Chief Exec re GTech decision and questions raised,</p>

	<p>also included a quoted statement from GTech themselves.</p> <p>The PC pledged to ask questions on behalf of local residents about the decision making process and the precedent that this now sets re future development under the SWDP. Recent decisions re Middle Battenhall Farm were also noted.</p> <p>A. Taylor reported on the actual planning committee meeting attended and County Cllr A. Roberts clarified planning processes undertaken and the differences between green belt land and green network land. The Villages has no green belt land, only green network. He was confident that there had been no political bias within planning as it is illegal to do so. A judicial review can be undertaken if malpractice occurs.</p> <p>It was also noted that the second GTech site should have been taken in to account as a material consideration and that this needs to be questioned.</p> <p>The Chairman reiterated that the PC will be requesting answers on behalf of residents. Residents are also able to send in questions via the PC once the initial letter has been answered – the Chairman will progress this shortly.</p>	
127	<p>Environmental Matters</p> <p>D. Merriman had circulated monthly reports and reports had also been received from Worcester City for the Lengthsman and Parish Warden tasks.</p> <p>Fly-tipping - ongoing problem. Reports received from resident re the dumping of Vacuum cleaner. A toaster in a carrier bag was also found in a shrub bed and removed and disposed of by a Councillor. General household waste/ recycling rubbish at Trotshill Copse is still in situ and has been reported to the Hub. Black bin bags have been thrown into the bushes which are inaccessible. Warden is trying to arrange for Tractor and flail on site to enable access to the bags.</p> <p>Dog Fouling – appears to be a major issue throughout the villages. This is based on my own observations and as referred to in the separate report, where Warden recently collected some 68 bags of dog waste in one small area and resident comments.</p> <p>Newspaper article - A person using a mobility scooter has complained about the difficulty they are experiencing travelling around Warndon Villages. They have to make regular visits to the hospital and negotiating the staggered barriers along the foot/cycleways on the Villages is impossible forcing them in some cases onto the</p>	

road. Access to Tesco is also very difficult. In response Cabinet member for highways said "Worcestershire County Council is now actively seeking to remove these gates and either replace with bollards or remove them to enhance access for all".

March Walkabout Report circulated separately
Next meeting arranged for 20th April

VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Trotshill Orchard Maintenance Day

Last meeting March 19th – small number of volunteers attended. General tidying of site
Bramble and Blackthorn management. Next Session April 16th

Friends of Warndon Villages

Group meeting took place 26 March, this month's event the Group were back at the old Garden Society plot. Weeding, planting donated plants and a fruit tree. Group members have created a 'Friends' information board in the Hub to promote the Group and encourage others to join. Also events being advertised on the Evangelical Church noticeboard. Next session on 26th April – Trevithick Park. Two members of the Friends group attended an evening presentation held at the Guildhall by Worcester Lions. Members were presented with 20 Hi-Vis vests printed with the 'Friends' logo, by the Mayor. Following a number of presentations from other volunteer groups throughout Worcestershire, it was enlightening and humbling to hear of so many projects and volunteers who are prepared to give so much of their time and make such a difference to people's lives.

D. Merriman then raised a matter which has been proposed by our Parish Warden, for consideration at the PC meeting.

The proposal is for Councillors to consider continued work to improve the footway through New Plantation, following on from the successful improvement works started last year.

Duckworth Trust volunteer manpower would be utilised, with the possibility of members of 'Friends of Warndon Villages' also supporting this project.

There are two options available:

Option 1 - Parish Warden to carry out some drainage improvements under Lengthsman's duties. Manually scrape the surface of the footway. No Cost

	<p>Option 2 - Parish Warden to carry out some drainage improvements under Lengthsman's duties. Complete refurbishment of the footway, including new edging boards and top dressing. The use of a digger and other equipment provided by DWT. Cost £1226.90 + £245.38 VAT Total £1472.28</p> <p>The footway suffered through the winter months, being waterlogged due to poor drainage and the surface remained sodden and inaccessible in places. This footpath is considered a 'woodland footway' and therefore currently no funding available from the City Council to carry out any improvements to keep the footway in its 'original' condition. The first option will require a lot of manual effort by volunteers and yield minor cosmetic improvement. The latter option, there is obviously a 'cost', but would achieve a longer term solution and due to the level of work, will certainly be noticed and much appreciated by local residents who use the footway.</p> <p>Funding for the improvements would be allocated against Estate Management (2) budget. DWT volunteer's days are scheduled for 18th and 25th April, so an agreement on financing the project is needed should Councillors wish to support Option 2.</p> <p>Following discussion about options and PC budgets, D. Merriman proposed to go ahead with the full scheme of works at £1472.28. Seconded V. Barrall. Voted – x3 for / x4 against. Not agreed. R. Morris further proposed that the PC look at the whole Villages area and cost up future spend by required by the PC to include other path works which also need to be done. We also need to find out more info on the DWT SLA agreement with Worcester City re the woodland and pathway. Agreed by all present.</p>	
128	<p>Planning & Rights of Way Matters:</p> <p>No current applications – x2 consultations being dealt with and a report circulated..</p> <p>GTech – see previous public suspended session of the meeting.</p> <p>A. Taylor reported re neighbourhood Planning and the report circulated recently to Cllrs. Comments awaited.</p> <p>D. Long & A. Taylor to go through points of NP and bring comments to a future meeting including how the SWDP impacts and info re Community Infrastructure Levy.</p> <p>Noted there is an SWDP briefing on 11th April which A. Taylor will attend.</p>	
129	Leisure & Community Affairs:	Newsletter to be agreed

	<p>Fete planning currently underway – Sun 10th July. Website future development options are being progressed by A. Taylor.</p> <p>Newsletter has been drafted by the Clerk. D. Merriman has added some extra content / amends and a second draft is to be circulated shortly.</p> <p>Play areas – no update.</p> <p>Allotments – annual fees being paid currently by tenants. Extension may be delayed due to legal aspects re required change of use of land / Worcester City 3rd Party contract / initial developer – R. Morris progressing.</p>	<p>by Clerk & DM and printed in time to circ as planned.</p>
130	<p>Financial & Governance Matters: CALC/NALC - £1279.47 fees for 2016/17 noted.</p> <p>Statement of accounts circulated by the Clerk and end of year accounts to be agreed during April.</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting – 18th May at 7.30pm at Lyppard Hub.</p> <p>Vacancy advertised – applications by 30th April to be considered at the May meeting.</p> <p>New PC Chair & Vice Chair to be agreed at next meeting. Normally Vice Chair steps up and a new V/C appointed for 2 years.</p>	<p>RM & Clerk to agree and circ the APM agenda.</p>
131	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies: Lyppard Hub Management Board – new Manager and Deputy in place together with a full quota of staff and new financial assistance. End of year accounts look healthy despite recent losses. Redecoration of the Hub underway. A. Taylor thanked R. Morris for all his work in keeping the Hub operational in recent months.</p> <p>Worcester City Standards Board – meeting held in March but nothing relevant to report for us . Two other complaints closed.</p> <p>CALC – reports/updates as circulated.</p>	
132	<p>Councillor reports & items for future agendas: R. Morris – VAS in Millwood Drive (South) last month and results consistent with last time. Encouraging that Police have asked for the data and a meeting to be held with Sgt Hallam. The VAS has been in 11 positions in the last 10 months with over 700,000 vehicles recorded.</p> <p>R. Morris asked the PC to note that there will be</p>	

	more in balances at the end of year than the previous year due to some unpaid invoices and funds allocated.	
133	<p>Report of the Clerk: Accounts approved for payment – £406.07 Clerk salary £270.71 HMRC payment £7000.00 + vat (£1400) Worcester City (Bodiam Play Area) retrospective</p> <p>£2000 received from County Div Fund for allotments extension – to be placed in earmarked reserves.</p> <p>Funds held for elections also to be moved to ear marked reserves in new financial year.</p>	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm	