

MINUTES of a MEETING of WHITWICK PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2012 at the St John the Baptist C of E School, Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick.

Present: Councillor R Woodward (Chairman) (In the Chair)

Cllrs A Barker, D Everitt, D Howe, N Pearson, L Spence, J Straw and L Weaver

Apologies: Councillors S Colledge, E Easom and T Gillard

In Attendance: Mr P Ellis, Clerk and Mrs L Ellis, Assistant Clerk

Declarations of Interest:

Councillors D Everitt and D Howe declared personal and prejudicial interests in Minute No 158 (Planning Matters) as members of NWLDC's Planning Committee

154. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

No members of the public were present.

155. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17 May 2012 as previously circulated be approved as a correct record

156. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 17 MAY 2012

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (copy previously circulated and attached to the official copy of the minutes). These would be formally approved by the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting be noted

157. COMMUNITY POLICING

Apologies had been received from PC Broomfield and PCSO Sorrell who were unable to attend the meeting.

A successful FATAL4 policing operation on Loughborough Road, Whitwick had taken place on the morning of Wednesday 20th June 2012 in response to concerns raised by local residents.

The results were that 22 drivers had been advised for not wearing seat belts; 8 passengers advised for not wearing seat belts and 24 drivers advised for speeding.

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One driver had been issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice having been found to be speeding at 44 mph in the 30 mph limit. Other Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued for no MoT and carrying a passenger into danger.

The next beat surgery would be held at the Coffee Shop on Saturday 7th July 2012 between 10 and 11am.

Resolved:

(a) That the report be received

(b) That the licensee of the Man Within Compass be thanked for his assistance with the FATAL4 operation

158. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications

NWLDC had consulted the Parish Council on the following applications:

12/00291/FUL – addition of external insulation render – 78 Silver Street, Whitwick

12/00464/TPO – pruning back of overhanging Oak branches – 49 Brooks Lane, Whitwick

12/00480/FUL – erection of single storey side extension with height increase to existing boundary wall – 10 Barr Crescent, Whitwick

12/00292/FUL – erection of 4 No 3 storey dwellings with associated garaging – 191 Loughborough Road, Whitwick

12/00381/FUL – erection of one 2 storey dwelling with detached double garage and alterations to vehicular access arrangement – 203-205 Leicester Road, Whitwick

12/00516/FUL – erection of single storey rear extension – 122 Church Lane, Whitwick

The Chairman reported that application 12/00292/FUL had been called in by district councillors for consideration by NWLDC's Planning Committee in the light of local concerns.

Resolved: That no objections be made to any of the above objections

(b) Decisions

The following applications had now been approved by NWLDC:

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12/00136/OUT – erection of one 2 storey dwelling – land adj 63 Church Lane, Whitwick

12/00211/FUL – erection of part single storey, part two storey rear extension – 52 Brooks Lane, Whitwick

12/00222/FUL – erection of a single-storey front extension - 30 Carterdale, Whitwick

12/00228/FUL – Erection of 2 storey side extension and front porch – 35 Gracedieu Road, Whitwick

12/00261/FUL – conversion of integral garage into habitable room – 5 Robinson Road, Whitwick

12/00281/FUL – proposed demolition of existing signal/control box and erection of a replacement brick built signal/control box - Hermitage Recreation Ground, Whitwick

12/00284/FUL – demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension - 329 Hall Lane, Whitwick

12/00308/FUL – Demolition of commercial buildings, erection of 4 x two storey dwellings, part demolition of No 9 to be rebuilt to form one residential unit together with revised site access and off-street parking for whole development – land adj 9 Cademan Street, Whitwick

12/00334/FUL – Erection of single storey clubhouse building – land to rear of 95-107 Leicester Road, Whitwick

12/0377/FUL – alterations and extensions – 65 Cademan Street, Whitwick

Resolved: That the report be received

(c) NWLDC Core Strategy

The Clerk reported that North West Leicestershire District Council had previously consulted in respect of the Council's emerging Core Strategy, which would set out the planning framework for the District up to 2031.

On 24th April 2012, the District Council had agreed the content of the Core Strategy. Before it was submitted to the Secretary of State, the Council was required to publish the document and to invite representations on it. The District Council had therefore published the Core Strategy for consultation from 28 May 2012 until 5pm on 9 July 2012.

The Core Strategy document had been available for viewing on-line and the Parish Council had also been supplied with hard copies

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As she had been unable to attend the meeting, Councillor Colledge had asked that her views, as previously circulated with the agenda, be taken into account.

Members warmly welcomed the retention of the Green Wedge areas which had been redesignated as an 'area of separation' and 'countryside'. There was concern at the recent introduction of the words 'at least' before the target housing provision of 9,700 new homes which converted it to minimum rather than maximum figure.

Resolved:

(a) That the Council express its strong support for Policy CS35(G) to redesignate an 'Area of Separation' between Coalville and Whitwick and 'Countryside' between Coalville, Whitwick, Thringstone and Swannington which represents the clearly expressed wishes of local people as evidenced in the submissions of Whitwick Action Group and previously supported by this Council.

(b) That concern be expressed with regard to Policy CS1 and CS15 that the introduction of the words 'at least' before the target District Housing Provision of 9,700 new homes which converts it to minimum rather than maximum figure and should therefore be deleted.

(d) Appeal Decisions

Notification had been received of the following decisions on planning appeals:

11/00661/FUL – erection of single-storey timber building for use as a cattery – 35 Tressall Road, Whitwick – appeal dismissed

11/00833/T56 – provision of 12.5m slimline telecommunications street works column and antenna plus equipment cabinet and metre pillar – Quiet Storm Telecommunications, Talbot Street, Whitwick – appeal allowed and approval granted

11/01035/T56 – provision of 12.5m replica telegraph pole telecommunications installation with antennas located behind shroud, small scale equipment and minor ancillary works – grass verge on west side of Market Place at junction with Hall Lane, Whitwick – appeal allowed and approval granted

Resolved: That the report be received

(Councillors D Everitt and D Howe took no part in the discussion or voting on this item)

158. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR A NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUPPORT POLICY

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Details of this consultation had previously been circulated to members. Service W3 - Whitwick to Coalville was shown as 'to be reviewed'. County Council officers have indicated that more specific proposals for Service W3 would be included during the consultation period and these would be forwarded to the Parish Council once they had been finalised.

An update had been requested and County officers had replied that "due to the wider consultation we have been unable to complete the review of W3 service to the timescale we have planned. We will do so but obviously the response date will be delayed accordingly and there will be no changes to the service until this process has been completed."

Resolved: That the report be received

159. LRALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a message from Jake Atkinson, Chief Officer, LRALC (copy previously circulated and attached to the official copy of the minutes).

Resolved:

(a) That Councillor Spence be nominated to serve as a representative to the Executive Committee

(b) That the Council indicate that it would wish to participate in an active branch in this area

160. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members were requested to authorise payment of the following:

HMRC – First quarter tax and NI payment - £636.00

SLCC – CiLCA Topic 7 (General Power of Competence) fee - £20.00

Information Commissioner – Data protection registration renewal fee - £35.00

NWLDC - Printing charges - £41.59

Resolved: That the above payments be approved

161. INSURANCE

The Clerk reported that the Council's current policy with Zurich Municipal expired on 30 June. Quotations had been received as follows: Zurich Municipal - £439.20; Came & Co/Aviva - £352.19; Aon - £710.56

Resolved: That the quotation of Came & Co/Aviva in the sum of £352.19 be accepted

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162. TOWARDS QUALITY STATUS

Consideration was given to the report of the Parish Clerk (copy previously circulated and attached to the official copy of the minutes).

Resolved:

(a) That the report be received

(b) That a further Visioning Exercise be held in the Autumn to review the Council's future direction

163. PARTY IN THE PARK – 1 SEPTEMBER 2012

(a) Application for Grant

An application for a community grant of £250 had been received from Whitwick Community Coffee Shop towards the costs of staging this event.

Two previous events had been held successfully. The first year saw 2000 local residents attending/taking part and in 2011 there were 3500 attendees. A feature was a band competition for young people which had been an extremely successful event. The Party in the Park comprised local community project stalls as well as other attractions for people of all ages.

They were now planning the programme of the day and needed to raise funds to pay for printing. The whole event was self-financing and in order to reach as many households as possible, the programme needed to be printed in time for their volunteers to post a copy through as many letterboxes as possible.

Resolved: That a community grant of £250 towards the costs of the programme be approved

(b) Stall

Consideration was given to whether the Parish Council should have a stall at the event. The fee was £15.

Resolved: That the Council agree to have a stall and that all councillors be invited to participate in a rota on the day.

164. "CLOSEKNIT" WHITWICK VILLAGE MAGAZINE - APPLICATION FOR GRANT

An application for a community grant of £250 had been received from Closeknit Magazine Production Committee towards the cost of printing the first edition of their new community magazine for Whitwick. This was an unincorporated group

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supported by Whitwick Community Enterprises. That group was a charity. The following information has been supplied in support of the application:

“The aim is to produce a high quality magazine, with lots of readable articles, not just adverts, for free distribution around the village and surrounding area. The magazine would encourage community coherence by giving local groups a vehicle to raise awareness of their work, and perhaps recruit members. It would also provide a directory of local groups, local businesses and other facilities. Local news e.g. particular successes of individuals could also be reported on. Community events can be advertised in the publication. The first edition is hoped to be out in August, and initially it will be quarterly with an aspiration of becoming bi-monthly. The group want the magazine to be a bit different from other such projects in its quality. It is taking its template from e.g. County Life, and will have lots of articles and a high quality design.”

The Clerk reported that the proposals were at an advanced stage for the launch of this new community magazine with the first edition scheduled to be delivered to all homes in the parish from 18 August. The initial print run would be 4000. The magazine would be published quarterly and distributed free of charge. It was intended to become self-financing with revenue achieved from sale of advertising.

Given the Communications and Consultation tests which the Council would need to meet if it was to realise its ambition of achieving Quality Council status, this new magazine represented a convenient and cost-effective way of meeting a number of these requirements. Editorial space could be purchased within the magazine and if the Council wished to distribute anything larger such as its own community questionnaire, arrangements could be made for this to be delivered alongside the magazine.

As the first edition was to be used to promote Party in the Park, there was some concern that this duplicated the grant already approved. Members also wished to have the opportunity of reviewing the quality and content of the first edition and the effectiveness of distribution before making any further commitments

Resolved: That a community grant of £250 be offered towards the launch of the new magazine on condition that the Parish Council be allowed a minimum of one page of editorial space within it

165. LOCALISM ACT 2011 – NEW STANDARDS REGIME: CODE OF CONDUCT AND ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to NWLDC’s Code of Conduct which had been adopted by their Full Council on 26 June. Members were reminded that this Council had agreed in principle to adopt a County-wide Code of Conduct.

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NWLDC's arrangements setting out how complaints and allegations of breaches would work had previously been circulated and are attached to the official copy of the minutes. While the Parish Council was not required to adopt the same Code as NWLDC, arrangements for dealing with complaints would be those set by NWLDC who would be offering training to Parish Councils which adopted their model.

Members had new mandatory obligations in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests. Failure to declare pecuniary interests (relating to a member and including his/her spouse) would be a criminal offence under section 34 of the Localism Act with a potential fine of £5,000 and/or disqualification.

The Clerk also pointed out that while the Localism Act had removed the concept of predetermination, the concept of bias remained. In accordance with section 25 of the Act, Members should be sure to show that in any meeting they have, or appear to have, an 'open mind' that was open to persuasion.

Resolved: That the new Whitwick Parish Council Code of Conduct based on the NWLDC model and as attached to the official copy of the minutes be adopted with effect from 1 July 2012.

166. STAFFING – QUALIFICATION SUCCESS

Members were advised that the Assistant Clerk had been successful in gaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification.

Resolved:

- (a) That the Assistant Clerk be congratulated on her success**
- (b) That in accordance with the contract of employment, her salary be advanced by one increment with effect from 1 July**

167. PROVISION OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Consideration was given to the report of the Parish Clerk (copy previously circulated and attached to the official copy of the minutes).

Resolved:

- (a) That Bridge Interiors be thanked for their assistance**
- (b) That consideration of this matter be deferred pending the outcome of the Stephenson Green planning appeal**

The meeting terminated at 8.05pm

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