

**MINUTES of a MEETING of WHITWICK PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2013 at the St John the Baptist C of E School, Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick.**

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

Cllrs A Barker, S Colledge, D Howe, L Spence, J Straw and L Weaver

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors E Easom, T Gillard and N Pearson

In Attendance: Mr D Burge, NWLDC (in respect of Minute No 247)  
Mr P Ellis, Clerk and Mrs L Ellis, Assistant Clerk

5 members of the public

**Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor D Howe declared non-pecuniary interests in Minute No 249 (Planning Matters) as a member of NWLDC's Planning Committee

Councillor R Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 249 (Planning Matters) as a district councillor

**245. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

A member of the public questioned the Council's willingness to listen as there was demand in the village for children's facilities but a business providing such facilities had been closed down which she attributed to lack of support from councils and councillors. The Chairman expressed disappointment at this view as in his role as district councillor he had tried very hard to secure agreement between different parties to enable the business to comply with planning conditions. No complaints against the operation of the business had been generated by, or reported to, the Parish Council.

**246. MINUTES**

**Resolved: That the minutes of the previous Meeting held on 14 March 2013 as previously circulated be approved as a correct record**

**247. COMMUNITY POLICING**

Neither PCSO Sorrell nor PC Broomfield had been available to attend the meeting. They had, however, submitted a report on crime figures for the previous month as follows – 2 public order offences which had resulted in one arrest; 2 thefts from motor vehicles which were subject to ongoing enquiries; 2 thefts subject to ongoing enquiries; 1 criminal damage related to a public order offence and one report of drug dealing which was subject to ongoing enquiries.

**Resolved:**

**(a) That the report be received**

.....Chairman's initials/signature

**(b) That a Police representative be requested to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 May.**

#### **248. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Dave Burge, the new Anti Social Behavior Coordinator at North West Leicestershire District Council was in attendance to introduce himself and explain his role and how his team could be of benefit to the Parish Council and the local community.

He had a direct route to raise issues with the Leicestershire Constabulary Local Policing Unit Commander which could be used to tackle locality issues and involve other agencies as required including referrals to the County Council's Impact team.

A joined-up approach was being achieved by daily reviews of the Police STORM system and use of the Sentinel system to identify recurring problems.

The Chairman thanked Mr Burge for attending the meeting

**Resolved: That two-way communication be agreed with the Parish Council and Mr Burge each advising the other of any ASB issues in the Parish.**

#### **249. PLANNING MATTERS**

##### **(a) Applications**

NWLDC had consulted the Parish Council on the following applications:

12/01094/FUL – Erection of 4 no. two storey (with habitable accommodation in roof space) dwellings and associated garaging (revised scheme) – 191 Loughborough Road, Whitwick

13/00246/FUL – Erection of single storey rear extension – 7 Cragdale, Whitwick

13/00294/FUL – Two storey rear extension – 143 Gracedieu Road, Whitwick

13/00316/FUL – Erection of single storey rear extension and single storey garage extension and conversion – 343 Hall Lane, Whitwick

**Resolved: That no objections be made to any of these applications**

##### **(b) Decisions**

The following applications had now been approved by NWLDC:

13/00034/FUL – Loft conversion/insertion of 3 dormer windows – 7 Martin Close, Whitwick

13/00128/FUL - Erection of first floor level side extension – 27 Ashford Road, Whitwick

**Resolved: That the report be received**

#### **250. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that Councillor Gillard had advised that he had been in contact with the kebab shop owner regarding parking on the adjoining grassed area and that officers at County Hall were also investigating alternatives for preventing vehicles from accessing this area.

.....Chairman's initials/signature

Members had noted a short term improvement in the situation but this had not been maintained. A concern was expressed that the matter might be lost sight of as the ground hardened over the summer months and the damage was not so visible. It was also noted that as it was highway land and the junction was subject to a prohibition of waiting at all times, this applied to the whole width of the highway and any vehicles parking on it could be issued with a parking ticket by the District Council's enforcement officers.

Reference was also made to other parking and traffic management issues in the parish which could be subject to a comprehensive review following the County Council elections.

**Resolved: That Cllr Gillard's report be noted**

## **251. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Councillor Spence reported that following the controversial issue of costs for licences affecting council land, a meeting would be held after the election period with an aspiration to levy no charge for these.

The Chairman reported that on a visit to George Street allotments, he had noted that some tree planting had taken place and that one of the boundaries needed securing. The Clerk agreed to check the extent of the land to be transferred to the parish and to obtain a cost for planting a hedge along the boundary.

The Chairman also reported that he had attended a meeting regarding HS2 held at County Hall earlier that day. Derby City Council were lobbying for line to run through Derby rather than go to the proposed station at Toton, though the business case for Toton was based on attracting passengers from Nottingham. It was now being proposed to extend a tunnel not just under the Airport but also the adjoining Roxhill proposed rail site so that this would not be sterilised. The proposal continued to offer pain with no gain as far as North West Leicestershire was concerned.

The Vice-Chairman expressed regret that planning refusals had lost over 1,000 potential homes in the previous week which could increase pressure for more building in Whitwick.

## **252. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE: WARDING**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England had announced that it was minded to accept a council size of 38 members for NWLDC (as supported by the Parish Council) for the purposes of the next stage of the review – consultation on warding arrangements.

The Commission now needed information from people and groups across North West Leicestershire to help it to produce a new pattern of wards to accommodate 38 councillors.

In drawing up new boundaries, the Commission would aim to deliver electoral equality for voters in council elections so that each councillor represented roughly the same number of voters. The review also aimed to ensure that the new council wards reflected, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities across the district.

NWLDC had also asked the Commission to conduct a 'single-member ward review'. The Commission would therefore seek to deliver electoral arrangements for North West Leicestershire where each ward was represented by one councillor. If the review divided a

.....Chairman's initials/signature

parish between District Council wards, it must also create parish wards. The consultation closed on 4 June 2013.

Councillors were opposed to single member warding. Whitwick had always been a multi-member ward and the proposal would be damaging to the Parish Council's efforts to build on the strong community identity evidenced by the efforts of Whitwick Action Group and the unified front presented by the whole village in opposition to building on the Green Wedge.

**Unanimously Resolved: That the Parish Council lodge the strongest possible objection to the creation of single-member wards in Whitwick**

### **253. COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Clerk reported that the response to date had been disappointing with only around 60 questionnaires returned to date. This would not provide the Council with a robust sample on which to base its spending decisions.

**Resolved:**

**(a) That a preliminary report based on responses received by 30 April be submitted to a future meeting and that the £50 prize be awarded to a respondent selected at random as previously publicised.**

**(b) That the questionnaire be left open on the Rural Community Council website until September**

**(c) That the Parish Council have stalls at the Woodstock in Whitwick and Party in the Park events to get additional questionnaires filled in on the day to boost the size of the sample**

**(d) That a final report be produced in the Autumn and that this be publicised in Close-Knit magazine as funded via the Big Society Grant, but that the preliminary results be mentioned in the Summer edition as a news item on the Parish Council's page.**

### **254. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The Clerk submitted the following requests for payment:

P J Ellis – Postages and misc expenses: October 2012 – March 2013 - £26.88

P J Ellis – Mileage (March) - £24.30

Society of Local Council Clerks – publications - £59.15

Leics. Playing Fields Association – membership 2013/4 - £20.00

NALC/LRALC – membership fees 2013/4 - £762.67

2Commune Ltd – website domain name registration (2 years) - £60.00

Parish Online – web mapping software (annual fee (£90) + initial set up charge (£20) + VAT) - £132.00

**Resolved: That the above payments be approved**

.....Chairman's initials/signature

**255. BANK RECONCILIATION AND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 31 MARCH 2013**

The Clerk submitted end of year accounts (copy previously circulated and attached to the official copy of the minutes). He also reported that the Receipts and Payments Summary for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter has been scrutinised and approved by the Chairman in accordance with the Council's internal financial control procedures.

**Resolved: That the report be received**

**256. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk reported that Grant Thornton had been appointed as the Council's external auditors. They had given notice of the annual audit for the year ending 31 March 2013 and had appointed 17 June as the date on or after which interested persons might exercise their rights. Notice of audit would be publicised from 3 May and the accounts made available for public inspection between 17 May and 14 June. Councillor Colledge had again kindly offered the use of her shop for this purpose.

**Resolved: That Colledge's Florist, 24 Silver Street, Whitwick be designated as the place where interested persons may inspect the Council's accounts**

*The meeting terminated at 8.02pm*

.....Chairman's initials/signature