

Minutes of the Meeting of Woodwalton Parish Council held on Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs P Peck (Chair), B Gilbert and L Lee

In Attendance: L Ellis (Clerk), County Cllr T Rogers (from 7:38pm) and five residents

Key:

CCC = Cambridgeshire County Council

HDC = Huntingdon District Council

PC = Parish Council

1	Chairman's Welcome	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2	To receive apologies and reason for absence	None.
3	Member's declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	None.
4	Public and press participation session with respect to items on the agenda	<p>A resident presented the Council with a written copy of a series of questions relating to the Woodwalton Village Hall. He also referred to local government legislation on the hiring of premises to hold their meetings, these could be obtained free of charge in school premises.</p> <p>A resident indicated that she had been approached by three residents wishing to be involved in the Speed Watch scheme, one of the volunteers would be willing to undertake the role of co-ordinator.</p>
5	To sign and approve minutes of the meetings held on 16 th May 2018	To take the minutes as read and approve them as a true and accurate record. The minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman.
6	Matters arising from the minutes (information only)	None.
7	Reports from District & County Cllrs	<p>C.Cllr Rogers reported that the Parish Forum meeting on 24th July was very interesting with a presentation from Cllr Steve Criswell. He indicated that £1m had been earmarked for community ventures/projects e.g time-banked grants to villages. A number of villages are already involved in the scheme and Cllr Rogers will forward the details.</p> <p>The Combined Authority are undertaking a review of bus services which will be published in mid November. Whatever the outcome of the review they have agreed to honour what is currently in place for this financial year whereupon the Combined Authority will take over the subsidies.</p> <p>Savings of £4.5m are still being sought. Adult care is 'holding it's own' but financially child care provision is a problem.</p> <p>CCC are now in a quiet period for the duration of the summer.</p>

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8	Reports from Parish Cllrs	Cllr Peck reported that the grass is suffering and other matters due to the dry weather conditions.
9	Correspondence	Correspondence duly noted.
10	Health & Safety	Nothing to report at this time.
11	Planning	None.
12	Finance inc:- <u>a. Payment of accounts and receipts:</u> <u>June:</u> £155.22 - Salaries (SO) £33.94 e-on (DD) <u>July:</u> £155.22 - Salaries (SO) £32.83- e-on (DD) £75.00 - HDC (000411) £42.66. - L Ellis hall hire/stationery/postage (000412) £78.00 - K&M Lighting (000413)	All payments were unanimously approved and all associated documentation was initialled by two signatories.
13	Village Hall overview and reporting	<p>It is understood that on 8th June 2018 the WWVHCWG met to agree that they were standing down but this decision was not relayed to the PC at that time.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that on 9th July 2018 she received a visit from two WWVHCWG members who handed over papers, documents and 3 sets of vh keys with a note stating that it has been made impossible by the PC for them to carry-on and a statement regarding the PC meetings dating back to 2015. The VHWG representatives told the Chairman that the electricity and water suppliers had been informed that the PC was now responsible for the VH and that the insurance had been cancelled.</p> <p>On 12th July the Chairman met with Cllr Gilbert as there was concern about being the only key holder for an uninsured building, even though at that point there was no evidence of the insurance having been cancelled. During the meeting a text message was received advising that e-on wanted someone from the PC to contact them. It then transpired that on 11th July a VHWG representative had informed e-on that the VHWG was not responsible for the VH as of 21st June. E-on advised that the VH electricity account had been closed and a new account set up in the name of the PC with a higher tariff with effect from 21st June. The Chairman negotiated a reduced tariff and a complaint was raised in order to back-date this to 21st June, the grounds of the complaint being that the PC did not know until 9th July that the VHWG was disbanding. It was noted that e-on would reduce the tariff for electricity by a further 7% if the PC set up a direct debit. They had issued a final bill for immediate payment. If the PC</p>

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decided not to have an electricity supply whilst the VH was 'closed' it would cost £82.30 for the removal of the fuse, the same amount would be charged upon re-instatement of the fuse.

The Chairman and Cllr Gilbert visited the VH building. Cllr Gilbert reported that during this visit she and the Chairman had turned off the electricity and water. Following this they then continued their review of the remainder of the paperwork received from the VHWG and a set of VH keys were given to Cllr Gilbert.

On 13th July 2018 the Chairman acknowledged receipt of unchecked papers/files, along with other items as initialled on the paper, such as keys and the final bank statement and balancing cheque, the latter two items having been posted through her letterbox during the week of 9th July.

The bank account had been closed with a balance of £1,200.80 and a cheque for this amount made payable to the PC was handed to the Clerk.

On 12th July the Chairman received a text message from a VHWG member stating that she had received an automated message from e-on asking for a PC representative to contact them. The Chairman contacted e-on and was informed that on 11th July they had been advised that the VHWG had ceased all activity relating to the VH with effect from 20th June, with effect from 21st June the account holder would be the PC. The account had been treated as a new account with effect from 21st June and with a new account comes a higher tariff. A reduced tariff was negotiated going forward and, in order to request a reduction of the tariff backdated to 21st June a complaint had to be raised (the PC having had no knowledge of the change prior to 9th July). E-on then agreed to backdate the reduced tariff to 21st June and they advised that, if the PC set up a direct debit there would be a further reduction of 7%. The PC agreed to set up a direct debit.

On 13th July Cllr Gilbert contacted the utility provider for water who confirmed that the direct debit had been cancelled but that the bills were still being sent to the address of the named contact for the VHWG and not the PC. At that point the water company would no longer continue to discuss the account with Cllr Gilbert.

A request for details of the insurers for the VH had not been successful and an enquiry to Zurich Municipal had not gleaned any information. In the absence of any insurance documents, on 13th July, Cllr Gilbert enquired at NatWest, who advised her that they were no longer the insurers for the VH and hadn't been for some time. From advice received from Cllr Gilbert's own insurers it is noted that if the PC did arrange insurance for the VH and the original insurance had not been cancelled then the PC would be acting illegally if a second insurance policy was arranged. At this time the PC had no official paperwork to confirm whether there was a live or a cancelled policy.

It was recalled that previously a request had been received from the

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		<p>VHWG for solar farm money to pay for VH insurance, this had been refused by the PC as it fell outside of the terms of the grant. An incomplete electronic receipt was located and it subsequently transpired Community Action Suffolk (CAS) was the insurance provider for the VH. On 23rd July the Chairman contacted CAS but they refused to discuss the policy without the named contact's authorisation. This was granted later that day. Further calls were attempted but these were going to answerphone.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had contacted HDC regarding the business rates for the VH. Due to the building being vacant the account has been closed and this has resulted in an overpayment of £41.42 which will be refunded. A new account has been set up with the PC as account holders.</p> <p>Cllrs Gilbert and Peck signed the following cheques for payment:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ e-on - £51.28 (000414) ▪ Anglian Water - £2.56 (000415) <p>It was agreed that an extraordinary meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd August 2018 dedicated solely to VH matters and to discuss the best way forward. The venue of meeting to be advised. C.Cllr Rogers and Ward Cllr's Bywater and Tuplin to be invited to attend.</p> <p>C.Cllr Rogers left the meeting at this juncture (8:19pm)</p>
14	Network Rail Four Tracking project update	<p>It was agreed that the Clerk should approach D.Cllrs Bywater and Tuplin to ascertain whether or not they would work with the PC and liaise with NR on the installation of noise attenuation barriers. For background information, the Clerk is to forward ex D.Cllr Robin Howe's letter and the NR response to them.</p>
15	Update on the Local Highways Improvement Initiative	<p>The Chairman reported that she was dismayed at the poor standard of the LHI signage installed in the village. The Clerk to locate the original grant application paperwork to ascertain exactly what had been agreed, also the farm vehicle warning signs have not been supplied. As there is only one sign approaching the village from Ramsey this does not constitute a gateway.</p> <p>It was also disappointing to note that CCC Highways had installed a piece of speed monitoring equipment on a resident's private property. It is understood that this matter has now been resolved between both parties.</p>
16	Update on the Speed Watch scheme	<p>It was noted that until a co-ordinator could be found the scheme could not operate.</p> <p>A resident had indicated earlier that three volunteers were willing to join the scheme and that one of them would be willing to take on the role of co-ordinator. The Clerk to liaise with the resident.</p>
17	To discuss a grounds maintenance contract - tender process	<p>The Clerk reported that she had written to CGM and Moore Brighter Garden Services to ascertain if they had any interest in being involved in the tender process for the grounds maintenance contract.</p> <p>It was noted that Adam Rowell has transformed the approach to the village with his excellent voluntary grass cutting. The PC wish to thank</p>

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		him for undertaking this work, the Clerk to write a letter of thanks. He will be asked to quote for the annual grounds maintenance contract in January.
18	Update on the street lighting issue	It was reported that UK Power Networks had installed a new power pole and the light on the column is now operational.
19	Update on the parking on the memorial green	<p>The Clerk reported that she had received a response from Police Sergeant Andrew Street who states that the Police have limited powers with regards to the problem. Enforcement action is only possible if there are parking restrictions around the green e.g yellow lines, or if the vehicles are causing an obstruction of the highway.</p> <p>He also stated that if the vehicles are causing damage to the green by being parked on there the owners of the green could make a complaint and pursue a private prosecution for criminal damage and the Police would deal with the offenders accordingly.</p>
20	Waste bin update	It was reported that the installation of the waste bin was still outstanding. It was noted that the Officer dealing with the matter has left HDC. The Clerk to continue to liaise with HDC for a resolution to the situation.
21	To discuss the location for the new map case	Cllrs considered the options available for locating the map case and agreed that it should be sited on the middle green.
22	Flooding issues	<p>It was noted that a resident had contacted the PC regarding the ditches alongside The Cross and that which continues behind the gardens of The Beville which are still very much choked by vegetation and need clearance.</p> <p>The PC were unclear as to who would be responsible for undertaking this work.</p> <p>The Clerk to contact C.Cllr Rogers to ask if there was any funding available for this type of issue.</p>
23	Date and items to be raised at the extraordinary meeting	<p>Thursday 23rd August 2018 - venue to confirmed</p> <p>❖ VH overview and reporting</p>
	Meeting closed	The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, the meeting then closed at 8:43pm

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