

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOLVEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN WOLVEY BOWLING CLUB ON TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER, 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillor Warwick (Chairman); Councillors Hawkins and Hawcutt

In attendance: Borough Councillor Chris Pacey Day
6 Members of the public

70/17 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting.

71/17 Co-Option of Councillors

RESOLVED that Paul Delargey and Jas Guraya be co-opted onto Wolvey Parish Council.

72/17 Declarations of Interest and Grant of Dispensation

Councillor Warwick declared an interest in Wolvey Baptist Chapel and in any matter by reason of him being a Member of Warwickshire County Council and Councillor Hawkins declared an interest in Wolvey Playing Fields Trust.

73/17 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September, 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

74/17 Parishioners' Time

- (i) The Clerk would report streetlight no. 7 near the Axe & Compass which was not working to Warwickshire County Council.
- (ii) In respect of re-introducing new residents' welcome packs, the Chairman indicated that this would be considered once new councillors had settled into their role.

75/17 Rugby Borough Council – Update

Councillor Chris Pacey- Day reported on the reforms to the House of Lords, which would filter down to other tiers of local government.

Councillor Pacey-Day circulated copies of Mark Pawsey's recent speech in the House of Commons during a debate on Gypsies and Travellers and Local Communities, particularly relating to loopholes in the planning system and the concerns over previously developed land. During his speech, Mark Pawsey had specifically referred to these issues being experienced in Wolvey.

76/17 Warwickshire County Council - Update

County Councillor Adrian Warwick reported that following the lengthy list of works

reported by members of the public at the last meeting, 2 officers from Warwickshire County Council Highways Section had accompanied councillors on a tour of the parish to inspect the works required. Many of the outstanding issues dated back several years. Changes in legislative requirements affected some items raised – particularly in respect of signage.

Councillor Warwick was pleased to report that arising from the inspection tour, Warwickshire County Council officers had agreed to make good the kerbs if the parish council arranged for them to be cleared of weeds.

77/17 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that representatives from Wolvey Parish Council had been invited by the Mayor of Rugby to attend Armistice Day event on Saturday 11 November and Remembrance Sunday Service on 12 November.

The Clerk had received a request from a local resident for the parish council to purchase a mirror for installation on Leicester Road, Wolvey as the existing mirror had weathered. This mirror had been purchased by the parish council approximately 12 years ago. The Clerk had contacted Warwickshire County Council Highways and was informed that mirrors were no longer permitted on the public highway and, therefore, the parish council could not purchase the mirror.

RESOLVED that the resident be advised that the parish council was not able to purchase a replacement mirror as it would contravene Warwickshire County Council's highway policy.

78/17 Planning

The responses to planning application nos. R17/1594 and R15/1697, which were submitted by the Clerk under delegated powers, were noted.

Councillors considered planning issues, including a new application no. R17/1826 – Shelford Lodge Farm, Lutterworth Road, Wolvey – alterations to dwelling incorporating extensions and improvements to garage forming link to house, new entrance porch and replacement conservatory with Orangery.

RESOLVED that the parish council supports this planning application.

79/17 Financial Matters

The parish council considered the financial matters relating to the Parish Council. The Chairman reported that he had recently met with the Clerk to discuss the financial reports for Quarter 2.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the following payments made since the last meeting be noted and endorsed:
 - (i) Clerk's salary, allowances and expenses – cheque no. 300511 - £747.95

- (ii) WS Gardens – clear and clean road signs (invoice no. 6883) – cheque no. 300512 - £180.00
 - (iii) WS Gardens – village mowing (invoice no. 6869) – cheque no. 300513 - £432.00
 - (iv) Wolvey Baptist Chapel – Room Hire (WEC – 11 October) – cheque no. 300514 - £6.00
 - (v) HMRC – PAYE – cheque no. 300515 - £31.21
 - (vi) Parish Online – renewal fee – cheque no. 300510 - £33.60
- (b) the following payment be agreed:
WS Gardens Ltd - invoice no. 6934 - village mowing – October – cheque no. 300517 - £432.00
- (c) Payment for the clearing of all kerbs from weeds and debris by WS Gardens (invoice no. 6918) be deferred and authority be delegated to the Vice-Chairman and Clerk to authorise the payment when they are satisfied with the standard of works.
- (d) The following monthly direct debits to Opus Energy be noted:
Street Lighting – 20 August – 18 September - £409.56
Street Lighting – 19 September – 19 October - £463.22
- (e) The Cash Book, Bank Reconciliation Statement and Budget Monitoring report for Quarter 2 were considered.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the totals of the Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation Statement for the period 1 April 2017 – 30 September 2017 amounting to £86,520.57 be noted; and
 - (ii) following consideration of forecasted underspends and overspends, the following virements to the 2017/18 budget be agreed:
£2,500 be vired from Salaries to Street lights upgrade
£400 be vired from Miscellaneous to Christmas
£150 be vired from Environment to Lengthsman
- (f) Any future underspends be vired to the Street Lights Upgrade budget to enable as many street lights as possible to be upgraded.
- (g) The Clerk investigates the cost of a replacement salt bin along Temple Hill.

80/17

Acts of Vandalism in Wolvey

The Chairman referred to the recent incidents of low level vandalism in Wolvey. These incidents had been reported to Warwickshire Police.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Warwickshire Police to register the parish council's concerns over these acts of vandalism and request that such incidents be swiftly dealt with before they escalated into more serious offences.

81/17 Christmas Tree

The Chairman reported that he and Councillor Hawcutt had recently inspected the Christmas tree lights and confirmed that they were in good working order, despite concerns that they had been damaged by the contractor when they had been taken down in January. Arrangements would be made for the lights to be PAT tested.

Councillor Hawcutt would be listed as the main contact in the Christmas Tree Event Plan. Councillor Guraya confirmed that she was a qualified First Aider.

The Chairman had obtained prices for the hire of a bouncy castle: 16 x 18ft would cost £120 and a 20 x 20ft would cost £150.

Ted Buswell and his band were no longer available to play inside the Village Hall.

Councillor Guraya and the Clerk would purchase 60 children's toys.

RESOLVED that

- (a) delegated authority be given to the Chairman and Councillor Delargey to measure the area in front of the Village Hall to determine the size of the bouncy castle to be hired for the event;
- (b) a charity box be placed next to the bouncy castle for voluntary donations to the parish council's chosen charity – the Salvation Army; and
- (c) a further meeting be arranged to discuss arrangements for the Christmas Event.

82/17 Sale of Second Hand Books

A request had been received from a local resident regarding the future arrangements for the sale of second hand books in aid of Air Ambulance as Wolvey Post Office was unable to continue operating this facility.

The Chairman had been informed that very little money was actually raised by the sale of second hand books – the majority of money was raised through the collecting tin on the shop counter. Councillors were of the opinion that there was very little the parish council could realistically assist with in regard to any future arrangements for the sale of second-hand books.

RESOLVED that the resident be advised that the parish council was unable to provide assistance with the sale of second hand books.

83/17 Grant Applications

The parish council considered four applications for a parish council grant for 2017/18. The sum of £6,000 had been allocated in the 2017/18 budget for grant applications and the amounts requested totalled £5,900.

It was suggested that consideration should be given to allocating the Wolvey Playing Field its own budget in 2018/19, instead of the Trust having to apply for a grant. Wolvey Wetland received an annual budget allocation and this would ensure a more consistent approach in the funding of the parish council's two main assets. The Parish Council Grant Budget for 2018/19 would be reduced to take account of any change.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the following grant applications be approved for the amounts listed below:
- St John the Baptist Church, Wolvey - £2,600
 - Wolvey Baptist Chapel - £650
 - Wolvey Baby & Toddler Group - £150
 - Wolvey Playing Field Trust - £2,500
- (b) with regard to the grant awarded to Wolvey Playing Field Trust, the parish council investigate the recovery of VAT;
- (c) it be considered at the next meeting whether Wolvey Playing Field should be allocated a devolved budget for 2018/19; and
- (d) the remaining sum of £100 from the £6,000 allocated to grant applications be vired to Street Light Upgrade.

Councillor Adrian Warwick declared an interest in Wolvey Baptist Chapel and took no part in the discussion or voting on this application.

Councillor John Hawkins declared an interest in Wolvey Playing Field Trust and took no part in the discussion or voting on this application.

84/17 Banners in The Square

Councillors considered a request from a resident to allow local voluntary organisations to put up banners in The Square to advertise village events.

RESOLVED that the Chairman investigates the feasibility of allowing local groups and organisations to put up banners in The Square to advertise village events.

85/17 Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) – Update

Councillor Warwick would provide an update at the next meeting

86/17 Streetlight Renewal Programme 2017/18 – Update

Councillors Hawcutt and Warwick would provide an update at the next meeting.

87/17 Wolvey Environment Committee – Update

The Vice-Chairman of Wolvey Environment Committee updated parish councillors on the work carried out by WEG Members. Debra Wright had given a very informative talk on hedgehogs at a recent WEG meeting.

Dog fouling continued to be an on-going problem at the Wetland.

The tree branch along the Woodland Walk had not yet been removed. A quote for its removal had been received from WS Gardens but the work had not yet been done. Councillor Hawcutt would contact Colledge Tree Surgeons for a quote.

WEG volunteers would be clearing the pond on Sunday 5 November. Due to the nature of the task, councillors discussed whether there was a requirement for a trained first aider to be present. WEG was also considering the possibility of the grazing of sheep at the Wetland.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) the Clerk contact the parish council's insurance company for advice on whether a trained first aider needed to be present at the pond clearing and the implications of allowing the grazing of sheep on parish council land.

88/17 Any Other Items

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had approached parish councils for their experience with the gypsy and traveller community. The government was looking into the issue of unauthorised encampments and a number of MPs were pressing for an inquiry. NALC would welcome any feedback from parish councils.

RESOLVED that NALC be advised of the parish council's concerns over the issues around previously developed land in the Green Belt.

89/17 Items for the next meeting

- (a) Wolvey Playing Field budget heading

90/17 Date of next Meeting – 20 November at 7.30pm in Wolvey Bowling Club.

The meeting closed at 8.57 p.m.