

## WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting Held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 7.30pm in Wickham Village Hall**

### Present

D. Hunt	Chairman	L. Chamberlain	Councillor
C. Halliwell	Councillor	J. Cole	Kintbury Ward Councillor
G. Frampton	Councillor	S. Youldon	Clerk
P. Stanley	Councillor	Parishioners:	1

### Apologies

L. Woodhead	Councillor
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Welcome	Action
<p><u>Minutes:</u> The minutes of November's meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Cllr Chamberlain declared an interest in The Five Bells, Wickham planning application and left the hall whilst this was discussed. Cllr Chamberlain also declared an interest as a neighbour in item 12 – maintenance at Easton Hill, Easton.</p> <p><u>Co-Option of New Councillor:</u> All agreed the co-option of L Chamberlain on to the PC. Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interests forms were completed and signed, S Youldon to copy to WBC.</p> <p><u>Election of New Vice Chairperson:</u> Cllr Frampton was nominated as the new Vice Chairperson by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Stanley. The Acceptance of Office form was signed, S Youldon to copy to WBC.</p>	<p>SY</p> <p>SY</p>
Open Session	
<p><u>Burglaries at Weston:</u> A Parishioner raised concerns over the 4 daylight burglaries that have occurred in Weston in only the last 5 weeks. S Youldon to contact the local PCSO for further information on the investigations and feedback. Cllr Cole agreed to also report to the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner and Kintbury Ward Councillor - Cllr Stansfield.</p> <p><u>Easton Notice Board:</u> S Youldon reported difficulties with the lock on the Easton PC notice board, agreed that the lock could be replaced with a drop bolt. S Youldon to fit.</p> <p><u>School Playing Field:</u> A Parishioner raised concerns over the number of mole hills on the playing fields and offered his assistance. The school is responsible for the field, S Youldon has reported this to the School Secretary along with the offer of assistance.</p>	<p>SY JC</p> <p>SY</p>
Ward Councillor Report	
<p><u>Library &amp; Services Contributions:</u> The matter of the Parish Councils being asked to contribute to the £150,000 shortfall of funds for the libraries was discussed at length. Contributions were based on the number of households per Parish; £534 was requested from Welford PC. NALC have since informed the Parish Councils that this is not necessarily legal and WBC is re-visiting this. We are awaiting further feedback at the end of the month. Cllr Cole advised the PC to specifically ask about the future of the mobile library within the Parish. S Youldon to contact WBC. Cllr Cole informed the PC that WBC does have a statutory duty to provide libraries and options on volunteer groups running them along with better use of the buildings are being discussed. The PC enquired as to what other services it will be asked to contribute to in the next few years, Cllr Cole confirmed that with the planned devolution of services there will be others but at this point of the discussions is unable to provide details.</p> <p><u>Precept Caps:</u> Cllr Cole reported that the proposed 2% increase cap of Parish Councils precepts has not yet been introduced but is likely in the next few years.</p> <p><u>WBC Changes:</u> Cllr Cole also reported that discussions are taking place within WBC about the 6 Berkshire unitaries, sharing certain services in the future. The PC awaits further details on this.</p>	<p>SY</p>
Matters Arising	
<p><u>MUGA Update:</u> Cllr Hunt and A Spindlow kindly installed the two new MUGA signs. The grant providers require confirmation that the project is complete, S Youldon to complete the necessary documents. <i>Following the meeting S Youldon to provide Councillors with updated spending summary. On preparing the VAT refund, an invoice for the Line Marking has now been correctly allocated to the MUGA money and this means that all of the £38,788 raised has been spent.</i></p> <p><u>Telephone Box, Weston:</u> The PC has expressed its interest in adopting the telephone kiosk at Weston for the fee of £1.00. Confirmation on the success of our application will follow at the end of January once the consultation period has ended. It was agreed that the kiosk is a good location for a public access defibrillator within a secure cabinet. S Youldon reported the purchase cost of £1,639.50, with an electrical installation cost to follow. Complete costs to be forwarded to the Councillors for consideration once adoption is confirmed. Cllr Hunt is attending a defibrillator training session on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March.</p>	<p>SY</p> <p>SY</p>

<p><u>Website:</u> The Transparency Code grant request of £545.00 has been submitted and a decision is pending. Quote of £539 build cost with either a £80 or £120 hosting cost (dependant on support required) was presented to the Councillors. Suggestion that a local services / traders page should be added to the brief, allowing paid for trade adverts to be posted. S Youldon to update brief and obtain comparison quote, also to investigate the previous advertising costs for the Parish Magazine. S Youldon has been in contact with Bob Chandler who previously wrote historical articles for the Parish Magazine, he has agreed that he would prepare further articles for the new website.</p> <p><u>Highways – Current VAS, Wickham:</u> WBC Highways has agreed the repair of the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) at Wickham, engineers will attend shortly. The PC request that this be re-located further up the hill to give traffic an earlier warning of the approaching crossroads, has been refused by WBC Highways. They argued that the sign does activate where it should and in line with the guidelines.</p> <p><u>New VAS, Wickham:</u> The PC request for a second VAS for vehicles travelling towards Newbury was considered as potential appropriate but as WBC no longer have funds for these type of projects it would only be possible if the PC paid the £6,000 purchase and installation cost. The PC agreed this was expensive and is to be considered further.</p> <p><u>Weston Speed Limit Review:</u> At the review on the 25<sup>th</sup> October WBC Highways agreed that they would swap the two speed signs over, moving the more prominent sign to the correct side of the road. The PC reiterated its concerns about the increase in traffic pulling out from Elton Lane, from the new development, on to the Newbury Road and they have now agreed to find budget to paint a ‘Slow’ marking. The works for both are scheduled for the start of the new financial year.</p> <p><u>Outstanding Solicitors Bill:</u> Following the letter from WBC to the Environment Agency, the EA has responded stating that the matter would have been resolved without the legal intervention. The PC confirmed that it cannot settle the bill from its own funds. The Campaign team have now taken the case to the Parliamentary Ombudsman with the support of MP Richard Benyon.</p> <p><u>Maintenance at 1-6 Easton Hill, Easton:</u> S Youldon chasing WBC for regular updates on the maintenance of this site. WBC has agreed that they are responsible for the smaller area of land to the front but are trying to obtain site access.</p> <p><u>Welford &amp; Wickham Primary School:</u> Mrs Dickens passed on her thanks to Cllr Hunt and Cllr Frampton for attending the supper with the Erasmus visitors. Mrs Dickens also reported on email that the grounds maintenance team had been asked to cut back the hedge that was limiting the view of drivers pulling out of the lane next to the school. S Youldon to follow up on the school newsletter which Mrs Dickens agreed would be sent on to the PC at the November meeting.</p>	<p>SY</p> <p>SY</p> <p>SY</p>
<b>Planning</b>	
<p><u>16/02812/TELE56</u> – application to replace 3 antennas was granted by WBC.</p> <p><u>16/03554/FUL</u> – The Five Bells, Wickham, application to extend the Micro-Brewery was reviewed. Cllr Chamberlain left the meeting and Cllr Halliwell abstained from the vote. The PC returned a verdict of No Objections. S Youldon to submit the response.</p>	<p>SY</p>
<b>Finance</b>	
<p>The account balance as of the 18/01 is £12,625.61, plus the £10,842.26 of Section 106 money held in a separate deposit account. The balance includes the following cheques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chq 603 Scofell Landscapes – October MUGA strimming £40.00 (including VAT)</li> <li>Chq 604 S Youldon – November Clerk Wages £173.27</li> <li>Chq 605 S Youldon – Reimbursement for purchase of Salt Bin Scoops £49.46 (including VAT)</li> <li>Chq 606 Autella Payroll Services – Oct to Dec Payroll Admin £30.00</li> <li>Chq 607 HMRC – Oct to Dec PAYE £120.40</li> <li>Chq 608 S Youldon – December Clerk Wages £173.27</li> </ul> <p>The following previously agreed cheques were signed at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chq 609 Crescent Signs – MUGA Signage £816.00 (including VAT)</li> <li>Chq 610 S Youldon – January Clerk Wages £173.47 (dated 25/01/17)</li> <li>Chq 611 H Brown – Reimbursement for MUGA sign installation materials £28.02 (including VAT)</li> </ul> <p><u>Precept 2017/18:</u> S Youldon presented the budget for 2017/18 and a summary of spending for 2016/17. Regular expenditure is expected at c. £6,200, this is not taking into account any projects that the PC decide to take on. Cllr Cole advised against reducing the Precept as the 2% increase cap will potentially come into force next year, also the PC needs to consider the un-certainty over the devolution of services from WBC to Parish Councils. All agreed to hold the Precept at £8,000, S Youldon to submit the request.</p>	<p>SY</p>

<p><b>Section 106 Money:</b> WBC has provided a list of approved projects that other Parish Councils have completed with S106 Clause 4.1 money, these included: sports pavilion upgrades, sports pitch upgrades, soft landscaping, planting, outdoor furniture, play kit, outdoor gyms, car parking improvements (for recreational areas), fencing, hedging, wildlife habitats, paths, tree planting, drainage improvements, and ponds. Councillors were asked to bring suggestions to the March and future meetings for discussion.</p>	All Councillors
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>	
<p><b>Dog Fouling:</b> Parishioner raised concerns over the amount of dog fouling on the right of way leading from Elton Farm to the B4000 in Weston. Location of the right of way is not suitable for a dog bin, as it cannot be accessed for emptying, but reminder to pick up signs suggested. The PC previously had some reminder stickers, Cllr Hunt to check if any remain, S Youldon to look into signage / sticker costs if not.</p> <p><b>Speeding:</b> A parishioner raised concerns over speeding through Easton and Weston. Cllr Hunt, Cllr Halliwell and Cllr Stanley have signed up for a Speed Indicator Device training session that will be held by WBC on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. This will enable them to be able to borrow the indicator equipment and carry out periodic speed checks throughout the Parish and report back to the Highways team.</p> <p><b>Thank You:</b> Following Gerald Chandler's resignation the PC agreed that he should be formally thanked for his many years of service to the PC. Suggested that this be part of the May AGM and PC drinks.</p>	DH SY

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

**The date for the next meeting is the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm – Wickham Village Hall**