

MINUTES OF THE WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 8 JULY 2015 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7 PM.

PRESENT: D Hunt (Chairman), G Chandler (Vice Chairman), C Halliwell, L Woodhead
P Stanley and J Ives (Clerk).

Public: Two

APOLOGIES: G Frampton, A Stansfeld (District Councillor) and James Mole (District Councillor).

Welcome from Chairman.

1. Police Report from PCSO J King. The Chairman read a memo from her, saying that several burglaries have taken place in Wickham area – machinery and tools and a bike, from sheds. Please be vigilant. The Chairman suggested residents with property in sheds should buy an inexpensive alarm. Lambourn Woodlands has also been affected.
2. **Declarations:** D Hunt (Chairman) has a non-pecuniary interest in the MUGA.
3. **MINUTES** of 13th May – AGM were passed and signed. A parishioner, Mr D Bird , said that the Minutes of the Parish Annual Meeting needed to be amended to record a mistake made by the council. The narrative was altered to say that D Hunt had a non-pecuniary interest in the MUGA and should not have voted on the proposal for the Parish Council to accept ownership of the MUGA. Although this amendment was agreed by the Parish Council there is a continuing discussion on the interpretation of the Code of Conduct.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:**
5. a) Mant Close has been resurfaced but the dropped kerb outside the Vice Chairman's house has not yet been repaired. The Clerk was asked to chase this again.
b) Puddles are still appearing after rain on the MUGA surface even after another layer of tarmac was laid. Mrs Rostron (headteacher), Haley Brown and the Chairman of the PC. have held several meetings with the contractor, Playdale Ltd to try to resolve the problem. We are still withholding £12k. Information was provided on various options that have been considered, including the drilling of holes and filling them with a porous material. The consensus was that no outstanding money should be paid to Playdale until a satisfactory solution was found. It was suggested that holding the £12k over the winter would allow any improvement in the drainage as the result of the tarmac curing might become evident.
6. **TEE KAY FARM**, update. The Chairman and Cllr C Halliwell reported on the correspondence that has been circulated concerning the proposal by the developer, Cleanslate. to put treated sewage into the river Lambourn. A campaign to stop this

happening was supported by a petition of 2690 signatures. The belief was that the original planning application, in which sewage was piped into the main village sewer, should be adhered to. This would retain the purity of one of the county's finest rivers. The Environment Agency, Natural England and Newbury District Council are working together to resolve the issues.

7. THE GOOD COUNCILLORS GUIDE AND THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chairman reported that he and the clerk had attended a seminar in which West Berkshire District Council described in detail the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in 2013. There was an option for the Parish Council to adopt this code. The Clerk gave each Councillor a copy of "The Good Councillor's Guide" that contained a section on "Rules for Councillors" which included a summary of the requirements of a Code of Conduct. The booklet was designed for each councillor to read and keep.

"Rules for Councillors" included attending meetings when summoned to do so. Considering the agenda before the meetings, so that there can be informed participation. Taking part in voting and respecting decisions made by the majority. Councillors should always act in the public interest, should act with integrity not seeking benefit for family or friends. Councillors should act objectively, fairly and on merit. Councillors should be prepared to submit to public scrutiny necessary to ensure accountability. Councillors should act with honesty and leadership, promote and support high standards of conduct and be prepared to challenge poor behaviour.

The Chairman read out key aspects of the District Council's Code of Conduct. The seven principles of Public Life were Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership. A significant part of the Code of Conduct concerned the disclosure and registration of pecuniary interests and other interests. If a councillor has a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) in a topic he/she must not take part in any discussion of the matter and not take part in any vote taken on the matter. This does not apply to non-pecuniary interests. It is possible to be granted a dispensation by written application to the Monitoring Officer, in WBC's case, David Holling.

The Chairman read out a section of the document relevant to Parish Councils. "Under the Localism Act 2011 Parish Councils are given the ability to deal with their own dispensations but it is not clear at this time whether or not they will be required to consult either the Monitoring Officer or the Independent Person. Further it is not clear if any regulations relating to Parish Councils will be issued."

The Chairman said that he would try to get clarification of this paragraph which seemed to suggest that a dispensation could be given by the Parish Clerk. In the meantime it was decided the Clerk and Chairman should draw up a Welford Parish Council Code of Conduct based on the District Council version but omitting irrelevant information. This would need to be agreed by the Monitoring Officer and Parish Councillors. This would be discussed at the next meeting on 16th September.

8. **PLANNING** There were no new planning applications.

9. **FINANCE:** The Clerk advised that the balance in the bank was: £7357.73

CHEQUES PAID WELFORD

511	Expenses AGM	31.50
512	Berks County Training	96.00
513	Internal auditor	40.00
514	Clerks use of home	41.66
515	elections exp	100.00
516	stny and post	42.38
517	C Brown brushes	40.94
518	Clerks use of home	41.66
519	PAYE Webb Teasdale	30.00
520	BALC books	19.20
		483.34

The Meeting closed at 8.05 p.m. The next Meeting is scheduled for 16 September 2015.