

## WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 7pm in Wickham Village Hall

### Present

D. Hunt	Chairman	S. Youldon	Clerk
C. Halliwell	Councillor	Mrs K Dickens	Headteacher, Welford & Wickham School
G. Frampton	Councillor		
P. Stanley	Councillor		

### Apologies

L. Woodhead	Councillor	G. Chandler	Vice Chairman
A. Stansfeld	District Councillor		

<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Action</b>
The Chairman welcomed all those present, in particular Mrs Dickens from Welford & Wickham Primary School.	
<b>Minutes &amp; Declarations of Interest</b>	
The minutes of September's meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman. There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>Matters Arising</b>	
<p><u>Open Session:</u> In response to the query raised at the last meeting on the woodland clearance at Church Hill, Cllr Frampton reported that it was part of clearance and replanting programme.</p> <p><u>Welford &amp; Wickham Primary School:</u> Mrs Dickens expressed the schools appreciation to the Parish Council for all the work on completing the MUGA. It was reported that the children were making good use of the new facilities. The school is keen to be part of the community and Mrs Dickens was keen to hear from the PC whether there is anything they could do to improve on this. Discussions were held on what the school had been doing to address previous parking concerns. This had been improved greatly since the introduction of the 'kiss and drop' system and the school will continually monitor and remind parents of considerate parking. The PC raised the issue of the school hedge running along the lane obstructing the view onto the road. Mrs Dickens agreed to look into getting this cut back. The PC also raised the possibility of the school children assisting with the annual litter picking, further details will be sent to the school when the next event is scheduled. There was an interest from the PC to know the proportion of parish children attending the school, Mrs Dickens to feedback. The PC also expressed their wish to see the distribution of the Harvest Baskets beyond just Wickham, to achieve this the school would need to be provided with details of those it would be appropriate for, the Councillors were asked to supply these details. To improve school communication with the Parish, they will forward the weekly newsletter on to the PC for their information. S Youldon to send dates of the 2017 meetings.</p> <p><u>Signs for Play Area / MUGA:</u> The amended design was approved by all. Cllr Hunt to arrange production and installation of the signs. The quote of £800 for the signs was agreed and will be taken from the remaining MUGA funds.</p> <p><u>Weston Speed Limit Review:</u> Cllr Hunt attended the speed limit review on the 25<sup>th</sup> October and was disappointed to report that WBC Highways had ruled that the extension of the 30mph to the west of Weston was not necessary. The PC is concerned about the increase in traffic pulling out on the corner following the construction of 10 new homes at Weston Gate. There were two positive results from the meeting; firstly the two speed limit signs would be swapped over to make the yellow backed speed limit sign more prominent. Secondly, it was agreed that the land owner would be asked to keep the hedges cut back to assist visibility. Cllr Hunt produced a full report of the review, S Youldon to forward on.</p> <p><u>Report from the October District Parish Conference:</u> Cllr Hunt reported on the 44% reduction of the Revenue Support Grants that WBC receives and the effect that the loss of the £7.6million will have on the Parish and Town Councils. A public consultation will be running until the 11<sup>th</sup> December on where cuts should take place. The link has been forwarded to the Councillors for their views, and public posters have been put up on the notice boards to raise awareness to residents. Full details can be found on the WBC website. The presentation and full report produced by Cllr Hunt to be forwarded to the Councillors.</p>	<p>K. Dickens All SY</p> <p>DH</p> <p>SY</p> <p>SY</p>

<p><u>Outstanding Solicitors Bill:</u> Cllr Stansfeld has been in consultation with the Chief Executive of WBC and the Director overseeing the Planning Department. It has been agreed that as the Environment Agency incorrectly advised WBC to accept the proposed plans for the discharge into the River Lambourn, they should be held responsible. A letter has been sent from WBC to the EA today requesting that they settle the solicitors bill, the PC awaits a response.</p>	
<p><u>Vehicle Activated Speed Signs, Wickham:</u> A request has been made to relocate the current VAS further up the hill on the B4000 travelling westward to give earlier warning of the approaching crossroads. An additional request has also been made to install a new VAS in advance of the crossroads travelling eastward. S Youldon to write to WBC Highways outlining the case.</p>	SY
<p><u>Maintenance at 1-6 Easton Hill, Easton:</u> A complaint has been made about the lack of maintenance on the old site of the Swedish Houses at Easton Hill. S Youldon is in contact with WBC and Sovereign Housing requesting that the necessary maintenance is carried out promptly and continues.</p>	SY
<p><u>The Transparency Code &amp; Creation of a Parish Council Website:</u> Following the introduction of the Local Council Transparency Code last year, the PC has agreed to set up a new village website for the publication of PC minutes and information. S Youldon reported that grants were available to cover the set up costs; all agreed that this should be applied for. S Youldon to complete the application. Specifications for the new website to be agreed at the January meeting.</p>	SY
<p><u>Dates for 2017 Meetings / Review of Start Time:</u> The dates for the 2017 PC meeting were agreed as: 18/01, 15/03, 17/05, 19/07, 13/09 and 15/11. A new start time of 7.30pm was agreed, except for May which will be the Annual Parish Meeting and General Meeting, this will be held from 7pm. S Youldon to book the village hall.</p>	SY
<p><u>Risk Assessment &amp; Financial Regulations:</u> These were circulated for review at the September meeting and were adopted unanimously.</p>	
<p><b>Planning</b></p>	
<p>Application 16/02812/TELE56 to replace 3 antennas was received on the 24/10/16, the PC response of no objections was returned to WBC on the 08/11/16. WBC decision pending.</p>	
<p><b>Finance</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The account balance as of the 15/11 is £24,014.27. £10,842.26 of this is Section 106 money and £3,000.00 is remaining from the MUGA fund raising.</li> <li>- The balance includes the following cheques / receipts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receipt £4,000 – West Berkshire Council, second Precept payment</li> <li>Chq 600 19/10 J Ives – £9.60 refund on tax</li> <li>Chq 601 19/10 Advicedo – £40.00 payment to internal auditor</li> <li>Chq 602 25/10 S Youldon – £173.47 October clerk wages</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Query raised over the invoice from Scofell for extra strimming in the play area. S Youldon to look into the agreement in place and forward details to the Councillors.</li> <li>- Bank mandate forms were completed to remove the out of date signatories from the bank account.</li> <li>- As Section 106 money is designated for specific purposes it was suggested that a second account is opened for this, appropriate money can then be transfer to the current account when projects are agreed. All in agreement, S Youldon to complete forms.</li> </ul>	SY
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>	
<p>Vice Chairman, Cllr Chandler announced his retirement with immediate effect. A letter of his formal resignation is to follow. A new Vice Chairman will be elected at the January meeting. A representative from the WBC Village Agent Scheme has asked to attend the January meeting to inform the PC about this initiative. All in agreement, S Youldon to report back.</p>	SY

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

**The date for the next meeting is the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm – Wickham Village Hall**