

## WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting Held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 - 7.30pm in Wickham Village Hall**

### Present

D. Hunt	Chairman	Sarah Youldon	Clerk
G. Frampton	Vice Chair	James Cole	Kintbury Ward Councillor
P. Stanley	Councillor	1 Parishioner	
L. Chamberlain	Councillor		

### Apologies

C. Halliwell	Councillor
A. Stansfeld	Kintbury Ward Councillor

### Not Present

L. Woodhead	Councillor
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Welcome	Action
<p><u>Minutes:</u> The minutes of the January meeting were agreed and signed</p> <p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Cllr Chamberlain declared an interest in planning application 18/00403/HOUSE and also questioned an interest in item 1. Council agreed that there was no conflicting interest in item 1 and agreed that Cllr Chamberlain could take place in the discussion and vote.</p>	Resolved
<b>Open Session</b>	
There were no matters raised in the open session.	
<b>Matters Arising</b>	
<p><u>Request for Contribution – Westongate/Grayling QC Bill:</u> Cllr Hunt had received 4 letters prior to the meeting from members of the Westongate campaign group that formed to prevent the developer at Elton Lane amending his planning application and disposing treated sewage into the River Lambourn. The letters were requesting a contribution towards the £4,254.84 QC bill that was acquired during the campaign, of which £3,000 had already been raised by the group. The Council discussed at length the history behind this matter and the invoice in question, it was made clear that this was not an invoice to the Parish Council and the PC had not been involved in any way in the instruction of a QC. It was agreed by all, that whilst the work of the Campaign group was commendable the approach taken was not one that the Parish Council agreed upon. Both WBC and the Environment Agency had already declined to contribute towards the invoice because they are adamant that there was no need for the campaign to be taken to a QC, they were handling the situation and the amendment to the developers planning would not have been granted. The PC had previously tried to help settle the invoice by using S106 funds that came directly from this development at Elton Lane; this was prevented by WBC as it was an unlawful use of the funds. A vote was held with 3 to 1 in favour of not contributing to the invoice. It was agreed that this would be an unpopular decision but the Councillors felt strongly that they could not write a cheque on a retrospective request and were disappointed that they hadn't been approached during the campaign and before the appointment of the QC. Cllr Hunt to write a considered letter of response to those who had written to the PC.</p>	DH
<p><u>Request for Contribution – Welford &amp; Wickham PCC:</u> Following a letter from the Church Wardens requesting funds towards the upkeep of the Welford Churchyard, the Councillors voted 3 to 1 for a donation of £600.00, in line with the 2017/18 budget and at the same level as previous years.</p>	Resolved
<p><u>Highways Update – Speeding Concerns:</u> Following letters sent to the residents of The Row at Welford, one resident responded with concerns of inappropriate speed in front of the houses. The PC had tried to obtain the Speed Indicator Device from WBC to assess an average speed of drivers but had been informed that it could not be used on a 60mph road. WBC had provided Community Awareness type Slow Signs and the Clerk had installed these in February. The resident had been updated and asked to monitor if these signs made any difference to drivers behaviour. The Councillors agreed that as there was no footpath here there really was a safety issue with inappropriate speed. Clerk requested to log a Speed Review Hearing request. S Youldon to draft case and contact WBC Highways team.</p> <p>The PC had been notified via WBC Highways team of a second residents concern to do with speeding vehicles through Wickham on the B4000. The police had been called and had been asked to carry out random speed checks, WBC asked the PC to monitor the situation. A request has already been made for partial replacement of the existing Vehicle Activated Sign and a new additional VAS near the Five Bells Pub. These requests will be investigated by WBC Highways in the new financial year (April) along with the white gates at Weston and the changing of the speed sign near Elton Lane, Weston. S Youldon to follow up with WBC in April to ensure these matters are prioritised.</p>	SY
<p><u>New Notice Board:</u> Thank you to Cllr Stanley for installing the new Parish Council notice board at Wickham Village Hall.</p>	Resolved

Welford Parish Council Clerk – Sarah Youldon

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<p><u>Bench at Easton Bus Stop:</u> S Youldon presented a new quote for the supply of recycled plastic replacement bench slats at a cost of £124.64. Several Handy Men had been contact but not shown any interest. Clerk's husband put forward a quote for installation at a cost of £70.00. Agreed to go ahead with the quotes, with bench slats in brown. Agreed that the project could be paid for using S106 funds. S Youldon confirmed that work would not go ahead until June due to other work commitments, Councillors agreed. Cllr Chamberlain put forward proposal to attach a plaque stating Welford Parish Council on the back of the bench. Cllr Stanley stated that there was a plaque on the removed Wickham notice board that could be reused. All agreed as a good idea.</p>	SY
<p><u>Updated Clerk Contract:</u> The Clerk contract had been updated with the minor amends identified at the January meeting, it was dated from the 1<sup>st</sup> April and was signed by the Chairman and Clerk. Copy to be kept by each.</p>	Resolved
<p><u>Parking Matters</u></p>	
<p><u>Mant Close:</u> Resident had raised concerns about the frequent parking of vehicles on the open areas of grass at Mant Close, the regular use was destroying the grass and creating wheel trenches. WBC had been identified as owning the land and the S Youldon had raised the matter with them. Before any remedial work is carried out WBC have request that the PC obtain views of the Mant Close residents as a whole. S Youldon presented a draft letter requesting residents input, with 3 options on how they would like the matter dealt with. These options were to ignore the issue, replace the no parking bollards and force excess vehicles to park on the Welford Road, or to look into ground reinforcement matting to allow the parking but prevent the destructive and unsightly trenches. Residents will be given a deadline in which to respond within. S Youldon to send out agreed letter.</p>	SY
<p><u>Junction of Church Hill, Wickham:</u> This matter was raised at the January meeting, as regular parking on the land at the junction of Church Hill was obstructing the sightlines. The local PCSO had been contacted and they had spoken to a repeat offender. A Parishioner also contacted the Clerk prior to the meeting to state there was still a problem, with a regular 2-3 cars parking here, mainly during the daytime, making it difficult to pull out on to or across the B4000. S Youldon to liaise with the PCSO.</p>	SY
<p><u>WBC Local Plan Consultation:</u> The Councillors had no input on this consultation.</p>	Resolved
<p><u>Annual General Meeting &amp; Annual Parish Meeting Arrangements:</u> It was agreed that the two meetings would be held on different evenings. The AGM will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 with the APM being held on the following Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm with drinks and nibbles for attending parishioners. It was agreed that a speaker should be found to help gain Parishioner interest to the meeting, S Youldon to approach the Wickham Head teacher initially. Cllr Hunt agreed to purchase wine for the APM, Cllr Frampton to provide accompanying nibbles and liaise with Cllr Woodhead. S Youldon to put together and print copies of a Parish door drop. Councillors to deliver these, S Youldon to circulate list of properties to Councillors.</p>	SY All
<p><b>Planning</b></p>	
<p><u>18/00403/HOUSE Yew Tree Cottage, Easton</u> – Extension to existing garage to create home office and provide greenhouse with workshop / garden machinery store. Cllr Chamberlain had declared an interest in the application and abstained from the vote. Councillors reviewed the plans and agreed a response of No Objections. S Youldon to respond to WBC planning officer.</p>	Resolved SY
<p><u>18/00187/FULD The Garage Block, Crossways, Hoe Benham</u> – Replacement dwelling and garage. Councillors reviewed the plans and agreed a response of No Objections. S Youldon to respond to WBC planning officer.</p>	Resolved SY
<p><u>Training in Viewing of Online Plans:</u> Following the WBC decision to no longer issue hard copy plans to Parish Councils, training had been offered to the Councillors on how to view plans online. No member was having issues with this - no further training required at this stage.</p>	Resolved
<p><u>Planning Decisions:</u> Clerk had reviewed previous minutes and found it had been agreed some time back that any planning applications received between meetings, where the deadline for response cannot be extended, then a quorum of 3 Councillors would meet to make a decision on the planning application on behalf of the Parish Council as an extraordinary meeting.</p>	Resolved
<p><b>Finance</b></p>	
<p><u>Appointment of Internal Auditor:</u> Councillors agreed to re-appoint David Weller as the internal auditor for the PC for the second year running. S Youldon to prepare accounts and contact D Weller.</p>	SY
<p><u>Preparation for End of Year – Completion of Internal Accounts Checklist:</u> As part of the accounts declaration the internal account checklist needs to be completed on behalf of the Council. Cllr Halliwell had completed this last year with S Youldon and had confirmed he was happy to complete again this year. S Youldon to arrange.</p>	CH SY

