

WOODHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL

Trustee for the King George's Field, Woodhouse Eaves [Charity No. 1087237]

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Woodhouse Eaves on Monday 7 January 2013

Present:

Mr M Woodland, Chair
Mr L Pole, Vice-Chair
Mr A Siddons
Mr S Tyler
Ms R J May
Mrs J Martin
Mrs J Taylor
Mr A Gardiner
Mr R Thomas

In attendance:

Ms A Irving, Clerk to the Council
Mrs E Rowley, Responsible Finance Officer
Three members of the public
Mrs D Kirby [new editor of *Roundabout*]

Before the meeting started the Chair welcomed Mrs Kirby as a new editor for *Roundabout* magazine. Ms Kirby introduced herself. She came to live in Woodhouse Eaves in October 2012 and had relevant experience including her recent post as news editor for the *Peterborough Telegraph*.

12/126 Apologies for absence

None - all Members were present

12/127 Co-option

Council resolved to approve the co-option of Mr Rad Thomas, who had signed his Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk. Mr Thomas expressed his wish to contribute to the community as a local resident and farmer whose farm land extends from Quorn into Woodhouse Parish.

12/128 Declarations of pecuniary and personal interests

Mr Tyler declared a personal interest in planning application 12/2496 as he was the owner of the property.

Mrs Martin declared a personal interest in planning application 12/2489 as she was a neighbour.

12/129 Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations relating to items on this agenda.

Council resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to grant a dispensation when required or relevant, subject to a written submission in advance of a meeting from a Member who might need to request a dispensation after receiving the Agenda.

12/130 Police and Neighbourhood Watch matters

Council resolved to receive the Beat Manager's report, which had been tabled.

There had been two dwelling burglaries, one on Rawlins Close and the other on Forest Road. A decorative item had been stolen from a garden on Main Street and items had been stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Bird Hill Road.

Police advised residents to keep back doors and vehicles locked and not to leave house keys outside their property as thieves might find them. Police also advised residents to try to control access to the rear of their home because, once at the rear of the property, thieves can break in and enter without being seen.

Council also resolved to note changes to local policing.

- From 7 January PC Orton was deployed elsewhere in the Borough although some of his duties might include this area. The council sent their thanks to him for his work in the parish for the past four years.
- PC 2139 Richard Carruthers would cover the parish as its Beacon Officer – the nominated contact in a newly-formed Charnwood West Safer Neighbourhoods Team, one of 6 teams in the Charnwood Local Policing Unit. Leicestershire Constabulary had not yet provided details of the changes but the website showed that the beat area would cover the parishes of Cropston, Newtown Linford, Quorn, Rothley, Swithland, Thurcaston, Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves. Anstey, Birstall and Mountsorrel have their own teams and the other two teams would each cover a cluster of villages to the north and east of Charnwood. The police websites are linked from the Parish Council site [*Woodhouse Community* page].

Action: Clerk

12/131 Report from Borough/County Councillor

Mr Snartt had sent his apologies owing to attendance at a meeting to be addressed by the new Police Crime Commissioner. He had informed the Clerk that Highways officers

would improve road signage and marking at the Roecliffe crossroads, where there had been another traffic accident just before Christmas.

12/132 Questions from members of the public

A resident asked if *Roundabout* magazine received any financial support from the council. *Each year the magazine group's treasurer applies for a grant. In 2012 the amount requested and granted was £400.*

A resident asked if there were still problems at the old nursing home site. *There are continuing problems with unauthorised access to the site but people have stopped reporting them to police as unless the site owners wish to proceed with prosecution for trespass, police cannot take action. Often police are unavailable to attend, or to attend in time to catch intruders. Charnwood's Plans Committee approved the application for 8 homes on the site on 6 December but the decision letter had not yet been issued.*

12/133 Minutes of the previous council meeting - previously circulated

Council resolved to confirm and sign as a true record the Minutes of the meeting on 3 December

12/134 Report on Resolved Matters

The Clerk reported on matters resolved from previous meetings:

Minute 12/122 [c] Planning : Charnwood's *Open Spaces Strategy* - a response had been sent [available from the clerk]

Minute 12/108 [c] Correspondence: Flag flying – a new list of flag flying dates had been provided to the parish flag flying volunteers, based on the list published by Charnwood BC, which itself is based on the list published by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Minute 12/112: Pothole by graveyard gates, Brand Hill – this had been reported to LCC

12/135 Financial Matters

[a] Council resolved to approve payment of the following accounts:

Charnwood BC Mayor's Charity - donation	100.00
ESPO – Stationery	60.55
International Tree Foundation - subscription	25.00
LRALC – RFO Training 8 Nov	30.00
Lustrum – Public Toilet Cleaning	345.83
Remembrance Day radios return postage (Clerk reimbursed)	16.60
Society of Local Council Clerks - subscription	127.00
Salaries	1031.97

[b] Council resolved to receive Financial reports:

- The monthly bank reconciliation at 22 December
- The monthly reconciliation of accounts at 22 December agreed with Mr Pole

[c] Council resolved to approve the budget for 2013/14 [Ref Minute 12/121 [b]]. The RFO informed Members that contractor costs would continue to rise whilst precept [council tax] income from Charnwood Borough Council could fall or remain at the current level for future years, owing to the changes made by Government. Income from letting council premises remained fairly static. The carry forward projection was around £30,000, within the recommendations of the Governance guidelines for parish councils.

[d] After consideration of advice and guidance from NALC, LRALC and Charnwood Borough Council the parish council resolved to approve and sign a Precept demand for 2013/14 of £64,069.96, an increase of £3,500 [= 5% - the parish council would normally request a rise of 2%]. The difference to a Band D property would be £3.16 and would help the council to meet the additional costs of services absorbed from the Borough council such as the public toilets and possible future handovers.

[e] Council resolved to note receipt of bank paying in books for lettings income deposits at Woodhouse Eaves Post Office

12/136 Planning

[a] Council resolved to approve responses to the following new applications:

12/2489 - Roecliffe Manor - Alterations: lowered parapet & clock tower [Listed consent] – *No objection*

12/2497 - 5 Tuckett Road - Convert bungalow to 2 dwellings with dormers and raised roof - *Council objects to the application on similar grounds to those*

submitted previously re P/12/1705/2 with the following additional comments:

- 1. The problems of entry and exit still remain on this busy corner.*
- 2. The car parking area for the smaller, low side of the bungalow is to be raised by 400mm (almost 16 inches) which may not meet the Highways requirement for a 1 in 12 maximum incline.*
- 3. The design of this unit also looks odd and not in keeping with its neighbours.*
- 4. The internal height of the bedroom is minimal.*

12/2541 - 77 Maplewell Road Felling 3 conifer trees – council resolved to delegate the response to Mrs Taylor and the Chair for submission by 11-Jan

Action: Chair & Mrs Taylor

12/2620 - 87 Maplewell Road - Loft conversion & dormers to front and rear – *No objection*

2011/2748/02 - Beaumanor Hall - Colour and tiling on new steps – *No objection*

[b] Council resolved to note approval of the following applications:

12/2336 - 4 Paterson Drive - Cutting back 2 Ash trees

12/2307 - 8 Perry Close - Felling 1 Cherry tree

12/0396 - Former Forest Rock garage - variation of condition 2 to allow drawings to be amended

12/2496 - Coach House, 48 Brand Hill - felling 1 Horse Chestnut tree

[c] Council resolved to note and consider the following planning-related correspondence:

Charnwood BC – Report of habitat surveys up to the parish border [part of Local Development Framework preparation] – *Available on Charnwood website or from the Clerk*

Charnwood BC - Development Control Newsletter - displayed

Charnwood BC - LDF Annual Monitoring Report 2011/12 [90 pp] - *Available on Charnwood website or from the Clerk*

DCLG - *Planning practice guidance review* for DIY house building & consultation – Council resolved to delegate the response to the Chair for submission by 15 Feb

Action: Chair

12/2640 & 12/2512-Woodthorpe roundabout housing proposal for 330 homes – *Council resolved to request a contribution to traffic calming in the parish as a result of the expected increased traffic movements and to request an extension to the response deadline if it preceded the next council meeting.*

Action: Clerk

The details will appear at

<http://portal.charnwood.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorerAA/ApplicationSearch.aspx>

12/137 Correspondence and publications received

[a] Council resolved to note and consider the following items:

Came & Co - Increased public liability claims [advice regarding tree management] – *The council conforms to best practice i.e. annual visual checks, regular professional surveys at intervals, and all recommended works undertaken.*

Charnwood BC - Action for a Better Charnwood - Global warming: where are we heading - talk [11 Dec]; Budget Consultation – *No action*; Clerks liaison meeting report – *Filed*; Crime & Safety Forum Agenda & Minutes for 7 Jan [speaker: new Police Crime Commissioner] – *Traffic Committee members Mr Whitmore & Mrs Randall would attend and report back*; Housing Needs Survey report; Play areas: offer of regular inspections – *the council checks the area every 2 weeks, commissions Charnwood BC to undertake quarterly inspections, and approves an annual inspection commissioned by Charnwood BC from an independent inspector. In 2012 this was undertaken by RoSPA and the recommended work was considered and approved as appropriate by the parish council. Records of inspections are filed.*

Action: Mr Whitmore

CPRE - Fieldwork Winter

Information Commissioner's Office – Newsletter – *The Clerk informed Members that she reads ICO e-newsletters and ensures that the parish council takes any necessary actions to protect any sensitive information. The Clerk is the registered Data Controller.*

Friends of Charnwood Forest - Talks for January and March - *display & roundabout*

Leics CC - *Leicestershire Matters* Winter; Christmas recycling poster – *displayed*;

Leics CC - Highways Forum 2 Jan 2013 agenda and papers; Survey of village halls - *respond by 31-Jan [Clerk & Caretaker]*

Local Councils Update December

LRALC - Newsletter December

LRALC/DCLG - Further financial guidance from DCLG - *downloaded*

LRALC/LCC - Highways Newsletter December - displayed

Oak FM – Asked for an update on V Hall extension [*supplied*] & invited the council to send any other news as appropriate - *Noted*

[b] Council resolved to note and consider the following items from residents:

Advertising sign at Brand Hill/Lane junction - should it be there? – *Planning enforcement officers had been in contact with the owner*

Bus service changes from 7 Jan - *sent to PC, other clerks, shops etc & Roundabout. Council asked the Clerk to thank Ms Humphreys for acquiring this information and displaying it at parish bus stops.*

Action: Clerk

Copy of report of HGVs on Beacon Road sent to police and Barrow PC – *response received from police about the procedure for reporting HGV infringements on restricted [weight limited] roads*

Dog race on Beacon Hill on New Year's Day - why no warning? Regular horses and riders were disturbed – *Council resolved to write to the Ranger to ask to be informed of future races so that local horse riders can be alerted*

Action: Clerk

Lights out on Curzon to Bird Hill Road path [K90] including council garage blocks – *reported to CBC*

Overhanging trees on Maplewell Road from Mill Road downwards - *checked but none found*

Overhanging trees on School Lane - farm vehicles collide and are damaged – *reported to LCC and work had been completed*

Query re erecting a seat on Broombriggs – *LCC contacted*

Report of a possibly abandoned car in Rawlins Close – *Police could not take any action*

12/138 Parish property matters to consider or note

- Council resolved to approve action that had been taken by the Clerk: another parish-owned street lamp column on Brook Road had to be replaced urgently in December as it had been dislodged through 'heave' after recent prolonged rainfall and had been leaning over the road. A resident had summoned the electricity company who had disconnected it and reported this to Highways who in turn contacted the parish council for permission to replace it. The council resolved to approve this action.
- The Highways Authority had also informed the Clerk of its programme to replace old concrete street lighting columns. Highways officers offered to replace all 12 columns at half price [£500 each] whilst they were replacing columns in a neighbouring parish. The council budgets for one replacement a year at an estimated cost of £1,000 each. Members of the Finance Committee had been consulted and had recommended that 6 replacements should be approved in the current financial year and the remaining 6 in 2013/14. The council resolved to approve this action.
- Council resolved to reconsider the status of the Grade II Listed telephone kiosk in Woodhouse [Ref: Minute 12/96]. Rather than wait for BT to disconnect the telephone, the council resolved to ask BT for its current status and would study the detail of the BT offer again to discern how much its adoption and maintenance would cost. The details would be circulated with the agenda for the next council meeting.
- LRALC had sent details of a service that could help councils work out if it would be worth changing street lamp energy supplier, asking if there would be any interest if this was made available. The council felt that, as the parish owns only 29 lamps, it would not be worth participating.

Action: Clerk

12/138 Reports on any meetings attended

A Highways Forum meeting had been held on 2 January but the Traffic Committee member who had planned to attend was unable to do so. The Clerk summarised some of the items covered at the meeting e.g. criteria for 20 mph speed limits, road resurfacing and the criteria to be used for quieter material, and the policy to be adopted for marking the centre of the roads. There had also been a table of schools that had updated their travel plans. Papers for the meeting are at

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=699&MIId=3702&Ver=4>

12/139 Any items of interest to be noted or considered for future agendas

Members asked for the following item to be placed on the next agenda: Fly posting and roadside advertising – to develop a policy.

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 20.45

CHAIR