

The Widford Parish Council met in the Village Hall on Tuesday 7th January 2014, commencing at 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Mrs Jill Buck, Councillors Mrs Frances Luck, Mrs Wendy Camp ,Mrs Jenny Miller ad Frank Parker.

County Councillor Dr Roger Beeching, District, Councillor Mr Mike Newman, and five members of the public.

MINUTES of the meeting held on 5th November 2013 had been circulated and were now signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

JB **District Plan** – At the meeting on 18th December at Wallfields, it was discovered that Widford Village had been changed from a Category 2 Village which restricted building of new homes to infilling only, had been changed to Group 1 which allows 10% new homes and will require 18 new residences to be built. The number does not take into account the the six houses currently being built at Priory Farm or the two new houses adjacent to the Green Man , also the two house adjoining the Green Man or the additional home in Benningfield Road.

The Chairman who had attended the meeting felt the Parish Council should enquire from the Planning Authority how it is that the proposed increase was being considered as the village did not have the necessary facilities required and concerns regarding whether the existing Sewerage and Water arrangements would be adequate to accommodate the additional dwellings.

To the date of this meeting there had been no response from the Planning Office.

The County Councillor remarked that being in the Group 1 Village is not necessarily an upgrade but Widford is considered one of the most sustainable villages. It is hoped that a Neighbourhood Plan will soon be put in place and suggested that Chapter 10 of the District Plan was a good guideline for Parishes.

The development is not scheduled to begin until April 2016 but is planned before 2031.

The Consultation period is expected to commence on 16 January 2014.

JB **The Highway Liaison Meeting** had not been attended .

30 Benningfield Road – surface of driveway being kept under surveillance.

Trees within the Highway – (opposite “Rose Cottage”) had been inspected by the Highway Department and were not found to be a hazard. Will be monitored.

Grass Cutting – Contracts ready for signatures . Benningfield Green and Closed Churchyard.

A suggestion from a resident that the Closed Churchyard contract should be extended to cover the year in order to keep leaves cleared and area tidy in general may be considered.

CONSIDERATION OF VENUE FOR THE VILLAGE ARCHIVES.

Although the Parish Council has made a small contribution to the building of the Resources Room at the School with the intention of housing the Archives of the Village in due course, there was some reservation as to the sensibility of the proposed arrangement. Little was known about the project although the School had been enthusiastic at the proposal from the Parish Council.

Concern was expressed as to the safety of the documents collected by Mrs Buntly Smith, and when it would be possible for viewing with regard to School holidays or closed periods or how access would be gained by the public when school was in.

It is understood that a key will be available to the Parish Council to gain access to the Archives without passing through the classroom to which the building is adjoined. There will be no need to come into contact with the children and therefore no CRB clearance will be required.

FL It was agreed that the cost of a suitable steel cabinet and a table should be investigated also, how much accommodation will be available in the room.

The Friends of Widford Church may be willing to help with a small contribution towards the cost

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS.

March 4th

- a) Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council.....Village Hall7.15pm
- b) ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH.....8.00pm

CORRESPONDENCE

Temporary Closure of B.1004 – Widford Village Centre for road maintenance. 20th January for three days, Access only.

Groundwork-Hertfordshire – offering services to Parish/Town Councils . Could perhaps help the Playing Field.

Herts Travel Plan Guidance for Business and Residential Development – (not applicable but may help with Neighbourhood Plan)

PLANNING

Decisions

Wanns Cottage – Side extension – Conditional Permission given on 26th November

Wilmoor – Five residential units – A telephone call to the East Herts Council on 13 January 2014 confirmed that this application had been withdrawn on 19 November 2013– no details given.

Toad Abode – “The Animal shelters on the land are not considered to be development as defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. There is no breach of planning control and no further action will be taken – the file is now closed”.

REPORTS

Cc Dr Roger Beeching – reported on the District Plan, Chapter 12 relating to Harlow North, 10,000 ish houses to be built, 3,000 to be built between 2021 -26, for which the Infrastructure has yet to be satisfied.

Nothing within the next ten years but needs to be flagged up in the District Plan.

Admission Rules for County Schools have changed but no effect on Widford.

Of 1.2million people in Hertfordshire 50% were for and 50% against a 20mph Speed limit – a waste of time ! If in any area a restriction would be considered beneficial, application could be made.

Expansion of Stansted Airport ,by Government decision, will not go ahead ,although there could be a second runway by 2024. At present there are 25million passengers a year and there is not much concern on Stansted Airport.

Network Rail, not from Liverpool Street, needs to expand to get out of London – Crossrail, East/West route is good news.

Wareside is a Category 3 Village – no development is included but development at Woodson Park could encroach on Wareside but will not actually affect the village.

The report concluded with apologies for the forthcoming meeting in March.

DC Mike Newman s’ report was brief – the County Councillors’ report having said all necessary on the District Plan.!

The introduction of the Blue Lidded Dustbins appears to be working well.

Footpaths – nothing to report.

JB **Playing Field** – The Boxing Day Hockey Match had been held although the weather was extremely wet !! 12 Players were cheered on by 25 spectators.

It was noted that the Green Man Football Team has been disbanded leaving only one visiting team – not good for the funds.

It was hoped the Spring would encourage new blood !

The New Gate and posts will be installed at the Bell Lane entrance. Mr Julian Pawle declined to contribute towards the cost although the gate is on his land.

New signs costing £94.00 have been put in. The boundary of the Playing Field is still in dispute!

FL **Village Hall** – Mrs Luck had not been able to attend the last meeting but happily we were able to call on a member of the Public to report that the refurbishments were complete, new sound system is in place, together with new lighting decorating and new curtains. The Elvis Night had been a sell out, events to come include a production by the Rain or Shine Company, Wine tasting, School events. In the Parish Magazine, the Village Hall Chairman invites all to see the newly decorated Hall.

JM **Allotments** – Much clearing up has already been done in the Orchard area, and north end – there is still much to do but the ground is too wet at present. The work has been done by Lewis Hosier for which he was paid £100.00 for 10 hours work.
Concern expressed at the non/allotment rubbish being brought for disposal to the allotment gardens. And a notice to be displayed reminding all that “No outside rubbish is to be taken to the allotment land.”
Councillor Frank Parker was thanked for introducing and supervising Lewis Hosier.
Tree on adjoining land still awaiting removal .

FINANCE

The Precept for £5,500.00 was signed by two Councillors, the Chairman and the Clerk.

Between meetings cheques were signed as follows :-

Lewis Hosier – for Groundwork clearance on Allotment Gardens...10 hours at £10.00ph.....£100.00
Mrs J Buck – reimbursement for flowers for two sick Councilors.....£ 20.00

Litter Picker four weeks from 04.01.14 to 25.01.14.....£103.20

Litter Picker four weeks from 01.02.14 to 22.02.14.....£103.20

MANDATE .. updated to remove Dr Ian Brett, retired in September .

The following Resolution was passed that: *“The authorised signatories in the current mandate for the accounts detailed in Section 2, be changed in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 and the current mandate will continue as amended”.*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A damaged Salt Bin in Lousy Lane(Nether Street) had been replaced on 28 November and is filled.

The Village Sign adjacent to the entrance of Widbury Farm entrance reported damaged to Highway Authority

Fence in the Twitchel Fp 18

Ownership of the fence to be established – Green Man PH or Highways.

No **13 Benningfield Road** – car parking damaging the grass verge.

Additional Salt Bin required for Benningfield Road at sharp bend.

Dog Fouling – signs – 4 to be asked for from EHC.

Steps from Nether Street to Main Road - considered for safety gate. No action.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....4March2014.....

Addendum.

After the meeting had closed, Councillor Mrs Frances Luck tendered a letter of resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect. However, she expressed a willingness to continue in following up the proposals for the housing and care of the Archives as discussed at this meeting.
Her name will also be removed from the mandate above mentioned .

