

Whittington Parish Council



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MINUTES of the meeting of Whittington Parish Council held on 8th July 2014 at 19.30 at Whittington Village Hall

Democratic Period/ Question Time:

Councillor Kevin Fincher of Norton-Juxta-Kempsey Parish Council (NJKPC) was invited to give a presentation on the allocation of Whittington Parish, Section 106 funding to Worcester Norton Sports Club (WNSC), in the parish of Norton-Juxta-Kempsey. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Kevin Fincher to the meeting, Cllr Fincher gave apologies for Mike Goode Chairman of Worcester Norton Sports Club. Cllr Fincher explained that the questionnaire (which had been previously emailed to WPC Members) was an important part of the public consultation that was required for the 106 funding, he hoped that Whittington Parishioners would benefit from the new sports facility. He briefly outlined the main issues that NJKPC had insofar as WNSC is currently operated on a private membership and it is privately owned, he added that these and other issues had been to some degree been addressed in WNSC pre-planning document which he gave the Council a hard copy. Parishioners expressed their opinions which were of the view that the 106 funding money came from development within Whittington Parish, then the 106 funding should be spent in within the Parish on a new village hall. The Chairman and Cllr Rob Adams reminded parishioners that strong representation was made to Wychavon District Council who had advised that the 106 funding had been earmarked for sports facilities and could not be used for a new village hall and advised that the 106 monies should stay in Wychavon rather than being spent on sports facilities in Worcester. Parishioners who were present at the meeting said that they were not aware of any parishioner who use the current WNSC and wondered if the new facilities would be of benefit to Whittington parishioners, they also expressed in the strongest of terms concern that public money would be spent on a privately owned company. Following further discussion Cllr Fincher reminded Parishioners to fill in questionnaire which he had brought several copies to the meeting, the Chairman thanked Cllr Fincher for his presentation.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr S Brooker

Vice Chairman: Cllr S Macleod

Councillors: Cllr J Chamberlain, Cllr M Baker, Cllr F Richards

Officers: Mrs C Chambers (Parish Clerk)

1) Attendance and Apologies

Those present PCSO Lucy Morris and PCSO Steve Tinkler

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Guy and Wood.

2) Declarations of Interest and Ethical Matters.

- a To receive declarations of Personal (non prejudicial) Interests in items on this Agenda and their nature. **None received.**
- b To receive declarations of Prejudicial Interests in items on this Agenda and their nature. Ethical Matters. **None received.**
- c Cllr Fraser Richards signed a dispensation form under the provisions of S33 of the Localism Act 2011.

3) Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 May 2014 had been circulated to all Members with the agenda. It was moved by Councillor SM, seconded by Councillor MB and **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

4) Finance.

- a. **Receipts:** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a list of receipts that had been received from 1st April to 30th June 2014 which totalled £3,838.50 of which included £3,415 of WPC precept (including part of support grant) all receipts were **APPROVED**.
Payments: The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a list of payments that had been made on behalf of WPC from 1st April to 30th June 2014 which totalled £1,421.56, all payments were **APPROVED**. A bank reconciliation up to 30th June 2014 was also circulated with the agenda.
- b. **Proposals for expenditure:** The Clerk had tabled at the meeting payments that she had made under delegated authority, the payments were made to LCR £17 and ICO data protection £35 both payments were **APPROVED** and the cost £59.68 which included £7.68 administration cost be refunded to the Clerk. The Clerk had also tabled at the meeting invoices from S Gwilliam for Lengthsman works completed in June for £227.50 and Calc for £10 both invoices were **APPROVED** for payment.
- c. **Review of Internal Auditors Report:** The Clerk reminded Members that the review of the Internal Auditors report had been deferred at the meeting held on 13 May. The Internal Auditors report was circulated with the agenda, page 1 was an overview of the report, page 2 referred to a 'partial compliance' with regard to WPC Financial Regulations these were reviewed and adopted at the meeting held on 13 May 2014. page 3 of the report referred to financial year 2012/2013 of which the VAT had not been claimed, it was agreed that the Clerk apply for a VAT refund, and the payments that were noted on page 4 had been resolved. The report also recommended a Health & Safety policy be put in place. The Clerk advised Members that she had brought bank statements, invoices the remittance advices to the meeting for Members to view, she also advised that it was good practice for Members to regularly check and sign all paperwork, Cllr Richards checked and signed all paperwork up to 30th June 2014 at the meeting, it was agreed that this procedure be **Adopted** by the Council.

5) Planning Applications & decisions - To consider new planning applications

- a. Planning Decisions – **None.**
- b. Other planning matters – The Clerk had informed Members that the Planning application from Worcestershire CC for the proposed alteration and extension to the existing car park at Worcestershire County Council offices would be considered at the meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Committee on Tuesday 15th July at County Hall at 10am.

6) Highways & Byways.

To receive reports of Highways (Roads & Pavements) & Byways (bridleways & footpaths).

Cllr Richards reported that Severn Trent had inspected the treatment works in Church Lane and that the flooding in Church Lane by the Village Hall was due to the drainage being blocked. The Clerk would report the blockage.

7) Training, meetings and seminars - To receive reports of relevant training, meetings and seminars attended or offered to the Council and to consider attendance by Members and or the Clerk.

Cllr Richards reported on the meeting he and Cllr Guy had attended which was held at Badsey village on the 6th June, Sir Peter Luff was also present. Cllr Richards reported that a number of Councils had expressed concern about the delays in the SWDP and that Councils in the surrounding areas felt the developers were getting in before the SWDP was signed off and that development could increase up to 35% as the current planning law favours the developers. Cllrs Richards and Guy spoke to Sir Peter after the meeting and expressed Whittington Parish Council's concerns about speculative development plans within the parish.

8) Neighbourhood Development Plan – New Homes Bonus – Section 106

No reports were made under this agenda item.

9) Police Report

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lucy Morris and PCSO Steve Tinkler to the meeting. PCSO Lucy Morris introduced herself and new PCSO Steve Tinkler who had just finished his training. Lucy answered questions from the public and WCC & DC Cllr Rob Adams in respect of the latest update regarding the Brothel in Whittington Parish (St Peters area) and a question from another member of the public in respect of a crime she believed had occurred in the area she lived, although her answers were vague she did reassure parishioners that Whittington was a low crime area and explained how incidents and crimes were recorded on the Data base. A Councillor did raise with Lucy the 'national' concern and debate relating to crime recording and in this respect public confidence following Sir Andrew Dilnot – head of UK Statistics Agency, and his uncomplimentary comments relating to the way in which crime was being recorded and then offered to the public and the withdrawal of the Gold Standard 'National Statistics' from the Police, a parishioner also requested an update on an accident that had occurred on the traffic island by the Swan, Lucy was unable to give an informed update and therefore recommended that the Council contact her superior for an informed update on the incidents listed above. Another parishioner expressed concern about public safety at the pedestrian crossing traffic lights as cars do not stop at the red light, in response Lucy said she would inform the Safer Road Partnership.

10) District and County Councillors' Report

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Rob Adams to the meeting. Cllr Adams reported that the homes for heroes had been completed by Rooftop Housing, he explained that the houses would be for people who had a HM Forces Connection and whose family were ordinarily resident in the Parish of Norton Juxta Kempsey; or who had a HM Forces Connection and is employed

in the Parish of Norton Juxta Kempsey; or a person who is on the Council's Home Choice Plus register and is in need of affordable housing and in housing need. Further information was available on WWW.Rooftopgroup.org. Cllr Adam in response to the Council's request for assistance in WPC enhancement project recommended that the Council contact David Hunter the Lengthsman Manager at Worcestershire County Hall for advice, he continued to update the Council on general County and District Council issues. The Chairman thanked Cllr Adams for his time.

11) Reports by Councillors

a To receive the reports of Committees and Working Groups and of Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies, to ask relevant questions, and to consider appropriate action.

WPC staffing Committee: **None.**

Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison: Cllr MB will be meeting with EnviroSort in July.

West Wychavon PACT: Cllr MB had emailed PC Sean Woods to arrange a PACT meeting.

Worcestershire CALC: All information had been previously emailed

Whittington School: Circus would be at the School on Saturday 12 July.

Whittington Village Hall: **None.**

Neighbourhood Watch: **None.**

b **Items for future agendas** Cllr MB requested Whittington Village Parking be placed on the next agenda.

12) Correspondence & Council Consultation

Worcestershire County Council – Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement

Worcestershire County Council had advised that they are consulting on their statement of community involvement. 'The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) would set out how the County Council would seek community involvement in the planning of minerals and waste and County Council developments such as new libraries, schools, roads and railway stations'. Members were also advised that a copy of the SCI could be downloaded from www.worcestershire.gov.uk/planningconsultation. It was agreed to put this information on WPC facebook.

13) IT - Facebook & Communication - No reports were made under this agenda item.

14) Enhancement

See agenda item number 10

15) Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be Tuesday 9th September 2014 at Whittington Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Councillor S Brooker
Chairman