

**Minutes of a meeting of Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston
Parish Council held in Wheaton Aston Village Hall on
Thursday 1st September 2011 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:	Mrs. B. Cox	Wheaton Aston (Vice-Chairman)
	Mr. P. Elson	Wheaton Aston
	Mr. T. Noblett	Wheaton Aston (Chairman)
	Mrs. J. Squire	Wheaton Aston
	Mr. B. Wells	Stretton
	Mr. T. Whittingham	Wheaton Aston
	Mrs. D. Wildman	Wheaton Aston
	Ms. S. Whittingham	Wheaton Aston
	PC A. Smith	Staffordshire Police
	Mr. Jeremy Lefroy MP	

Parish Council Manager: Mrs. D. Bate

Apologies:	PCSO A. Price	Staffordshire Police
	Cllr. R. Wright	Lapley
	Mr. M. Fox	Lapley
	Mrs. S. Gould	Stretton
	Mrs. J. Wright	Village Agent

189 Public Participation

30 members of the public attended.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. A number of questions were asked relating to potential housing development in Wheaton Aston.

The Chairman mentioned that the council is developing a parish plan and that will inform a policy for physical development. An article will appear in News & Views asking for residents to join a working group.

The Chairman read out the following report summarising the situation regarding land off Primrose Close:

"There are no plans at the moment for a housing development. Myself and the Parish Council Manager along with the Headteacher of the First School and representatives from Staffordshire Youth Service, met Richborough Estates(a development agency) on 16th June who are investigating the possibility of developing housing on a field behind Primrose Bank Play Area. They wished to discuss the idea as well as four options that they've considered for access. There is no planning application and no proposed development as yet. It is possible that the idea may go no further than that initial meeting.

However before a planning application can go ahead there would have to be a public consultation and the Parish Council will also be formally consulted and would hold its own public meeting so that it can gauge the views of local residents before responding to the application.

The development agency consider that the field would be of sufficient area to build houses of around 60 in number

Comments made at the meeting were about the

- *impact on residents*
- *previous feedback from consultations indicating a desire for no more social housing,*
- *lack of infrastructure such as sewerage, services ,medical and transport etc to cope with the additional houses*
- *increase in traffic*

as against

- *need for more younger families in the village to support the school and to maintain a balanced population*
- *homes for local young people*
- *homes for elderly residents wanting to downsize.*

It was just an informal discussion and nothing more. No further meetings have taken place.”

Mr. Wells arrived at 7:40pm.

The Chairman stressed that every parish council meeting is open to the public and people can come and listen and that all minutes are published on-line.

The Chairman imposed standing orders.

190 An opportunity for Parish Councillors to raise and discuss local issues with Mr. Jeremy Lefroy MP.

Jeremy Lefroy MP thanked the Chairman for inviting him to the meeting and for the hospitality shown to him at his surgeries, which are well attended.

Mr. Lefroy stated that he would support the Parish Council to develop a Parish Plan. The government is keen that any development is wanted locally and is appropriate to the area.

With regard to anti-social behaviour, Mr. Lefroy thanked the police for their work in the area, saying that they have been very responsive and effective.

Mr. Lefroy reported that he has had meetings with social housing providers in the area and raised residents' concerns with them. The new area manager has shown an interest in recent issues and when Jeremy has received answers to his questions he will pass them onto the Parish Council.

Questions from councillors:

Mr. Wells raised the issue of reduced bus services in the area.

Mr. Lefroy said that he had received positive response about new services but also commented that it's a difficult time for bus services. It is likely that there will be more route closures if they are not used.

Mr. Jeremy Lefroy MP mentioned the £1 card for young people and the need to fight to keep buses that we have and make the case for new routes.

Mr. Lefroy also mentioned that Staffordshire County Council has a scheme to help people in rural areas get to work.

Mrs. Cox raised the issue that the police are far too stretched in this area. The PC and PCSO recognise their different roles and do a good job but they cover a far too wide area.

Mr. Lefroy said that he has highlighted the importance of community policing and has been assured that it will remain untouched to 2013. He has written to the Home Secretary and expressed concern about what happens after 2013. He feels that the Government needs to look at 2013-2015 because he thinks that there will be a problem in some areas. It is unlikely that more personnel will be available but he's determined to try and ensure that there will be no fewer personnel.

Mrs. Wildman asked when the next surgery would take place. The Parish Council Manager offered to check Mr. Lefroy's website and send out details to councillors.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Lefroy for attending.

Mr. Lefroy left the meeting to attend an engagement that had been arranged prior to his invitation to the Parish Council meeting.

191 Apologies

The apologies were accepted.

192 Declarations of interest

Mr. Elson declared a Personal Interest in the village car park.

193 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of 7th July 2011, 27th July 2011 & 16th August 2011

The minutes were approved and the Chairman given permission to sign them after the meeting: Ms. Whittingham commented that she was referred to as Mrs. in the minutes instead of Ms. The Parish Council Manager apologised and promised to ensure that she was referred to as Ms. in all future documents.

194 To receive report from Parish Council Manager

The Parish Council Manager gave the following report:

Parish Plan

The advice from SLCC is that community plans, formerly called "Parish Plans" are now known as "Community Led Plans". Our Parish plan project should now, therefore be called our Community Led Plan (CLP).

Jan Wright and the Parish Council Manager attempted to organise a walkabout of Wheaton Aston with residents of Old School Court and members of the youth club to allow them to visually identify areas they're not happy with and provide them with an opportunity for different generations to discuss ideas for improvements to the village. Unfortunately Youth Services have been unable to organise their end in time so it has now been agreed to carry it out in the autumn.

Outstanding Work

1. Draft & publish minutes
2. Pay invoices
3. Complete correspondence from April, May, June & July meetings
4. Organise H&S training for Village Orderly, Litter Pickers & Mr. Darrant
5. Domain name & email addresses
6. Write up project brief for a Parish Plan and apply for funding
7. Prepare a Freedom of Information Policy

8. Birchenshaw Lane
9. Destroy old files
10. Complete Queen Elizabeth Fields Application
11. Christmas Lights Planning
12. Complete Big Society awards Application
13. Prepare papers for October meeting
14. Prepare papers for working group meetings
15. Prepare draft 2012/13 budget
16. Prepare draft calendar of meetings for 2012
17. Purchase and organise spring bulb planting
18. Purchase office & Village Orderly supplies

Meetings

8 th September	Broadband Stakeholder Event
12 th September	Fire Safety Training
12 th September	BKVWG (Parish Council Manager (PCM) not attending)
15 th September	Diamond Jubilee Working Group (DJWG) meeting (PCM not attending)
26 th September	Full CLWG meeting
29 th September	V-Festival De-Brief
3 rd October	FP&FWG meeting
4 th October	SHPSWG meeting
6 th October	PC Meeting
10 th October	PC-CLWG meeting
14 th – 16 th October	SLCC National Conference
17 th October	PMWG meeting
24 th October	FP&FWG meeting
TBA	Housing Needs Meeting

Parish Council Manager Hours

Now that the Parish Council Manager has used up a considerable amount of time off in lieu of additional hours worked she will revert back to normal working hours from 12th September and will be in the office Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am to 2.45pm apart from when she is attending meetings at other locations.

Mr. Whittingham said that Birchenshaw Lane needs to be looked at. He agreed to look into the file with Mrs. Cox to see if the council could do any more to resolve the issue.

It was agreed that any enquiries made at the Post Office about Parish Council matters should be referred to the Parish Council office.

195 To receive Police report and consider policing matters

PC Smith presented the following report:

CRIMES IN THE AREA'S OF WHEATON ASTON, LAPLEY & STRETTON
FROM 7TH JULY 2011 TO 30TH AUGUST 2011

1. BURGLARY DWELLINGS.	1 Reported. (Stretton)
2. BURGLARY OTHER.	None Reported.
3. ATTEMPT BURGLARY.	2 Reported. (Wheaton Aston)
4. THEFT FROM VEHICLE.	None Reported.

5. THEFT OF VEHICLE.	2 Reported. (Wheaton Aston)
6. DRUGS.	None Reported
7. THEFT OTHER.	None Reported
8. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.	2 Reported. (Wheaton Aston)
9. CRIMINAL DAMAGE.	5 Reported (Wheaton Aston & Stretton)
10. ARSON.	1 Reported (Wheaton Aston)

OTHER ITEMS OF ATTENTION.

1. The Burglary dwelling was reported on 31st July at Stretton House, Stretton where entry was gained and copper piping was stolen. Someone has now purchased the address so most more than likely further building materials will be left on site so will pay passing attention.
2. The 1st Attempt burglary was reported on 26th July where a property in School Road, Wheaton Aston found that there patio door had been forced, but no entry was gained. No forensic evidence left at the scene. The 2nd Attempt Burglary was reported on 4th August where a garage in Long Street, Wheaton Aston had a circle cut out of a pane of glass. Nothing was stolen, but does seem odd with the fact the glass was cut.
3. On 3rd August two motor vehicles that had been reported stolen from the areas of Cheshire and Shropshire were found in the garages on Badgers End, Wheaton Aston. Enquiries still being made as to who owns the garages and why stolen vehicles were in them.
4. The 1st Anti-Social behaviour (ASB) was reported on 13th August regarding a red Toyota Celica speeding around the village. The owner has been identified and will be spoken to accordingly. The 2nd ASB was reported on 22nd August regarding youths aged 10-12yrs jumping off the trees in Primrose Close and pulling branches off the trees. The youths were seen again several days later and spoken to accordingly.

Stone throwing at Primrose Bank Play Area.

5. The 1st Criminal Damage was reported on 3rd August where youths have taken a bench from the nursery, took it onto the playing fields and broke it. No CCTV and no witnesses. The 2nd Criminal Damage was reported on 23rd August where youths have sprayed graffiti on the skate park ramps. No CCTV and no witnesses. The 3rd Criminal Damage was reported on 23rd August where a ball bearing had been put through a window of an address in School Lane, Stretton. No CCTV and no witnesses. The 4th Criminal Damage was reported on 25th August where a window was smashed in Ivetsey Road, Wheaton Aston. No CCTV and no witnesses. The 5th Criminal Damage was reported on 30th August where youths have ripped up a bench including the concrete from the playing fields on Marston Road, Wheaton Aston. No CCTV and no witnesses.
6. The Arson was reported on 27th August were several youths were seen to set fire to a wardrobe in the fields behind Sowdley Green, Wheaton Aston. The youths have been identified and will be dealt with accordingly. Will liaise with Brewood Fire service re: fire awareness courses.

An eviction notice on one resident at Sowdley Green will be served. It will involve a 12 month contract. If there is a breach of the contract within 12months the resident will be evicted.

7. No incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour have occurred in Lapley.

8. PC Smith and PCSO Price will be holding a Police Surgery on Sunday 11th September 2011 at the Village Hall, Wheaton Aston between 2pm and 3pm for residents to come and visit us and discuss any issues or concerns that they may have.

It was suggested that if the Parish Council are looking to put power to Marston Rd field then ducting could be put in for CCTV.

The validity of privately taken photos was questioned. PC Smith will find out if private photos can be used as evidence.

196 To receive report from the County & District Councillors

County Councillor Roberts was unable to attend and there was no report.

District Councillor Wright was unable to attend and there was no report.

197 To consider planning matters

- a) 11/00611/FUL Mileford Cottage, Wenlock Bank
Bedroom & Sun lounge extension

There was no objection.

- b) The Parish Council Manager reported the following decisions:

11/00449/CAC – Withdrawn

11/00425/REM – Refused

The anemometer appeal has been successful and will soon be erected.

- c) Bridge Farm, Long Street

A very positive meeting had taken place and a public meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th September 2011.

The developers had agreed to look at the location of the access road. Other ideas suggested were bungalows for older residents and 4 x 2-bed terraced homes and then semi-detached and detached homes.

If this development goes ahead it would cover the percentage of affordable housing needed for Wheaton Aston and would probably meet the village's allocation for new housing.

In order for the Parish Council to make informed comments on planning applications, especially for large developments, the Parish Council Manager suggested that the Parish Council consider commissioning a new Housing Needs Survey in order to ascertain the need of local people and their close families.

It was agreed to hold an extra-ordinary meeting from 6-7pm on Monday 19th September 2011.

It was resolved that Mr. Elson and Mr. Wells would attend the planning training at South Staffordshire Council. The Parish Council Manager agreed to investigate planning training for other interested councillors.

198 To consider financial matters

It was resolved to accept the financial statement to 23rd August 2011 as follows:

INCOME		Revised	Actual Net	Balance
Parish Council				
10	Precept	£61,494.00	£30,747.00	-£30,747.00
20	Grants	£850.00	£0.00	-£850.00
30	Interest Lloyds TSB 30 Day	£10.00	£0.23	-£9.77
31	Interest Nationwide Treasurers	£250.00	£0.00	-£250.00
40	Miscellaneous	£0.00	£93.99	£93.99
50	Flicks in the Sticks	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
60	Summer Play Scheme	£250.00	£0.00	-£250.00
70	Playing Pitch Hire	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
80	Compensation	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
90	Prizes and Awards	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Parish Council		£62,854.00	£30,841.22	-£32,012.78
Total Income		£62,854.00	£30,841.22	-£32,012.78
EXPENDITURE		Revised	Actual Net	Balance
Parish Council				
100	General Administration	£11,947.72	£6,566.60	£5,381.12
110	Salaries	£21,150.00	£6,988.82	£14,161.18
120	Repairs & Grounds Maintenance	£20,550.00	£12,277.53	£8,272.47
130	Villages' Improvements	£130.00	£58.95	£71.05
140	Play Areas	£750.00	£65.00	£685.00
150	Summer Play Scheme	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,200.00
160	Christmas Celebrations	£8,000.00	£1,530.42	£6,469.58
170	Youth Facilities	£2,845.00	£0.00	£2,845.00
180	Donations	£1,800.00	£1,400.00	£400.00
190	Petty Cash	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
200	Capital Expenditure	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Parish Council		£68,372.72	£28,887.32	£39,485.40
Total Expenditure		£68,372.72	£28,887.32	£39,485.40
Total Income		£62,854.00	£30,841.22	-£32,012.78
Total Expenditure		£68,372.72	£28,887.32	£39,485.40
Total Net Balance		-£5,518.72	£1,953.90	

It was resolved to accept the summary of bank balances.

It was resolved to approve the payments as follows:

Tn no	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net Invoice Date	Details	Cheque Total
1110	PC	£17.99	£0.00	£17.99 26/07/11	Codsall Glass Limited -	£17.99
1111		£1,954.68	£0.00	£1,954.68 22/07/11	St. Mary's First School -	
1112		£1,696.66	£0.00	£1,696.66 29/07/11	South Staffordshire	
1113		£43.91	£7.32	£36.59 11/08/11	Ricoh U K Limited - Copier	
1114/15/16/17/181/9/20		£1757.35	£0.00	£1757.35 31/08/11	Salaries August 2011	
Total		£5,469.87	£7.32	£5,462.55		

It was resolved to renew the Parish Council's membership of the Staffordshire Playing Fields Association at a cost of £15.

It was resolved that the Parish Council Manager should attend the SLCC National Conference at a cost of £365.00.

It was resolved to vire £1700 from election reserves to Administration.

It was resolved to refer the Auditor's report to FP&FWG for consideration.

199 To consider a report from the Village Agent

As Mrs. Wright was unable to attend the meeting the Chairman read out her report as follows:

Report of Main Activities WA of Jan Wright, Community Village Agent August 2011 (10 hrs per week/one week's holiday)

I continue to work with South Staffs Council, the County Council and WA Parish Council to ensure a coordinated approach in raising the profile and requests of the residents.

The focus has been in locating a way of providing IT lessons requested during the Silver Surfers event that the Village Agent organised in May. I applied for a grant was successfully achieved for new PC's at Old School Court along with associated equipment such as large key boards for the partially sighted and those with physical problems along with web cams.

I am pleased to report that following on from this event I have located a regular volunteer and a temporary volunteer. Lessons are being delivered both at St Mary's Drop in Centre and at Old School Court. The lessons have proved so popular that they are over subscribed. Six lap tops are being used to deliver the training and learners are being encouraged to bring their own lap tops along.

Kathy Doyle and I have completed an application for a grant to enable further purchase of PC's for the Drop in Centre, a land line and internet access. We await the results!

Other items of work include assistance with progressing the second stage application for the Broadholes Lane application. I am still promoting the two new transport services. Could Councillors please pass on the news that the Telford bus on a Saturday needs to be used as numbers are dropping and unless it is used it will be lost. I am pushing to get timetables put up in the main bus stops i.e. Penkridge and Brewood for both buses but to date I have been unsuccessful despite extensive requests. With regard to the taxi bus – please note that if asked by residents who are worried the bus may be full that there is a back up service available so nobody should be left stranded.

Re the Village Hall Health a safety audit is progressing. Information on health and safety legislation, PAT testing, and gas safety leaflets provided to Village Hall representatives along with information on solar panels. Committee members reminded of duty of care regarding health and safety issues highlighted during H&S audit. List of ACRE publications provided from Community Council of which 10 can be requested free of charge. Information and details about the Emergency Capital Grants Scheme provided along with offers of assistance from Village Halls Advisor from the Community Council of Staffordshire.

It was commented that it is a pity that the village hall doesn't have internet access.

200 To consider Staffordshire County Council highways matters

a) Water leaks

The Parish Council Manager reported that she had reported two water leaks (Caspian Way & Yew Tree Drive) to Severn Trent and Highways.

Members commented that the leak at Yew Tree Drive is flooding the road as the drain can't cope with the level of water flow and that the leak at Caspian Way now has green algae.

201 To consider matters of Parish Maintenance including:

a) Primrose Bank Play Area

The Parish Council Manager reported that stones were being thrown at the signs.

b) Marston Road Field

The Parish Council Manager reported that benches from the First School have been found damaged at Marston Rd Field.

The Parish Council Manager reported that graffiti and stickers have been found and removed from the skatepark.

The flaking of metal on the skatepark has been reported to Rampental and remedied.

The replacement seats for the pendulum swing have been received, bolt caps are on order and a safety inspection by CPL is due to take place on 5th September.

The Parish Council Manager reported that the police have been formally informed about all of the problems and a crime number requested of the graffiti.

c) BKV

The Parish Council Manager confirmed that Wheaton Aston won 1st place in the large village category, Stretton was Highly Commended.

The Parish Council Manager also reported that Lapley won 1st place in the small village category and receive £200 in prize money. The council delegated power to the Parish Council Manager to decide how to spend the £200 and what arrangements should be made for the presentation of the trophy, following consultation with the BKVWG.

d) Black & White Fingerposts

It was resolved to place a written order with Mr. R. Cox to repaint the fingerposts.

e) Village Car Park

Following a discussion, it was resolved to get a quote for re-pointing. The Parish Council Manager was instructed to write to Mr. & Mrs. Bullock to say thank you for their letter and to let them know that the council is taking advice.

202 To consider the SSC Allotment Strategy

It was resolved that there was no response.

203 To consider SSC Poling District, Places & Stations Review 2011

It was resolved that the status quo should remain and that the current stations work well.

204 To consider the SPCA AGM and nominations for the Executive Committee

Members consider the annual report and resolved to neither submit a motion for debate nor make a nomination to the Executive Committee.

205 To consider nominating representatives to:

It was resolved to appoint Mrs. B. J. Cox as the Parish Council representative to the Watling Police Authority Consultation Committee.

It was resolved that no one could attend the Staffordshire Playing Fields Association AGM.

206 To receive reports from Parish Council Representatives

Village Hall

Mr. Noblett reported that the committee have put in a report from Health & Safety and are working through it.

Finances are reasonably stable

New councillors were informed that the Parish Council are custodian trustees of the village hall But that the management committee run the charity.

It was resolved that the Village Hall should go on the FP&FWG agenda as a regular item as if finances continue to deteriorate, the council would be aware immediately. It was commented that competition is increasing with the church and sports and social club offering meeting venues. A lot of money is available and the management committee need to put a lot of work in to achieve it.

It was resolved that the Parish Council Manager should ask the Village Hall Treasurer to make a report each 3 months on H&S and finance.

The village hall charging system was queried.

Sports and Social club

Ms. Whittingham reported that work on the toilets and showers is now completed and looks very good. Their next project is the hallway and flooring. The committee is trying to use local workers and contractors.

A sensor light (mercury) will be given for every stanchion and it is hoped that lights on the sports field will allow night matches.

The perimeter hedge has been cut back and the weeds at the front gate will be cleared soon.

The back of the building has been tidied up and repainted. A new boiler is needed but will cost c. £4k.

Bookings are up and new ideas for events are being discussed. Accounts are now done and an auditor is being sought.

Old Peoples Welfare

Mrs. Wildman reported that no meeting had taken place.

Community First Responders

Mr. Whittingham reported that they had had 17 call outs and still need volunteers. On 15th October a fundraising event. Will take place. Talks have taken place to try and get new volunteers.

SPCA

Mrs. Gould was away and there was no report.

Charities

It was reported that no meeting has taken place. It was resolved that a regular report should be given.

WAPSWG

Mr. Noblett reported that on 23rd July, a meeting took place.

BMX track – no progress as farmers are busy harvesting. Rachel Taylor will start to coordinate farmers who haven't offered assistance.

Broadholes Lane – Community Spaces stage 2 funding applications is ready to go.

Youth Champion

Mrs. B. J. Cox reported that she had received no communication from the Youth Service.

207 To receive correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence:

Mr. & Mrs. Weate	Community Evening & Marston Rd Field
Mrs. Doyle	Thank you
Mr. Palmer	Clarification
Local Works	Empowerment of local councils
Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Planning applications
South Staffordshire Council	Locality Forums
Staffordshire County Council	Engaging Communities
Brewood & District Voluntary Car Scheme	Report 2010/11 & 2011/12 grant
A519 Campaign	Campaign letter
St. Mary's First School	Recycling
Whitegate Farm	Email thanking the Parish Council for supporting their recent planning application

It was reported that there had been an issue at the V-Festival as certain taxis weren't allowed in.

It was resolved to write to support the empowerment of local councils in principle.

It was resolved to write to the A519 campaigners to say that the Parish Council will not offer support at this time as it is a matter for the local council concerned.

It was resolved to write to Mr. Palmer and state again, that Parish Council does not intend to explain its decisions and to reiterate that he should attend meetings if he wishes to hear the debate that leads to their decision making.

It was further resolved that the Parish Council Manager should write to Mr. Palmer explaining that the Parish Council has not increased its salaries by 4% and that the 4% increase mentioned in the minutes related to the Youth Club workers 12 months previously.

208 Any other brief matters of report

Mr. Wells reported that there had been a problem with the V-Festival's passes for local residents. One resident didn't get one and couldn't get home as Gailey island was closed and said that the security people were very rude. Mrs. Cox agreed to raise it at the de-brief.

The Parish Council Manager gave Mr. Wells the name of the person to speak to at South Staffordshire Council (David Pattison).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10pm

Signed..... Date: 6th October 2011