

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LAPLEY, STRETTON AND WHEATON ASTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN WHEATON ASTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 10 JANUARY 2008 AT 7.30 PM.**

**Present:** Mr R Wright in the chair Mrs E Morgan-Williams  
Mrs B Cox Mr T E Noblett  
Mr M Fox Mr H Stiles  
Mrs S Gould Mr P Timson  
Dr M Kennedy Mrs D Wildman  
Mr A Monckton

**In attendance** PC M Smith Cllr R Roberts

**166. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

All five representatives to the Village Hall Management Committee – Mr Wright, Dr Kennedy, Mr Stiles, Mr Noblett and Mrs Morgan Williams declared an interest in agenda item 12 – Request from Lapley & Wheaton Aston Village Hall to fund woodworm treatment.

**167. HOUSING NEED SURVEY.**

Mrs Bennion and Mr Lancaster of South Staffordshire Housing Association gave a presentation on the process of undertaking a Housing Need Survey of the parish. A sample questionnaire was distributed which could be posted to all households with a freepost reply envelope. The survey could be used to justify development of a site outside the village envelope as a housing exception site. The questionnaire could be customised as desired. It was agreed to look at this further at the next meeting and a draft questionnaire would be sent to the Clerk to circulate.

**168. POLICING MATTERS.**

The Police report of incidents in the preceding month was tabled. The drop-in meeting planned for later in the month would have to be rescheduled due to PC Smith being required for other duties. PCSO Price was currently off work due to an injury sustained whilst on duty. Traffic speed checks had been undertaken in Stretton and would be repeated in the coming months. Motorists stopped were driving an average of 10 to 15 miles over the speed limit. The vehicle speed signs at A5 Stretton were part of a county wide initiative and were temporary. Over a three week period data was collected which could be used to assess problems and plan future action. It was suggested that the sign placed close to Ivy Cottage should be repositioned if the test was repeated as traffic was already slowing down to turn right and therefore a true indication of traffic speed was not obtained.

The Clerk reported that following an approach from CPSO Price to Cllr Roberts a successful application had been made for LMI funds for bicycle lights. PC Smith reported that he intended to start using the bicycle in the near future.

**169. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Roberts tabled a report which gave an update on the revision of the WM Region Spatial Strategy and housing provision. He had raised several issues with County Highways and

reported that no improvements to the A5 Stretton junctions of School Lane and The Avenue were planned at the moment but would be considered at the next Western area programme review. All the footways in Wheaton Aston were to be resurfaced by the end of August by slurry sealing, apart from Broadholes Lane and Fentonhouse Lane which were to have much more substantial work undertaken, hopefully in the new financial year. He had also raised the issue of HGVs accessing unsuitable roads due to the use of satellite navigation but, apart from installing additional signs prohibiting access, little could be done unless the system was modified to show whether roads were suitable for HGVs.

#### **170. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6 DECEMBER 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of 6 December, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

#### **171. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.**

**Christmas Lights.** Reported that following receipt of the electrical inspection certificate from the contractors, County Highways had issued a licence. When the lights were taken down the contractors reported that the transformer which supplies the lights on the tree was going rusty and would need replacing next time. The type of fencing around the tree was also discussed and it was suggested that more attractive fencing should be considered.

**Flicks in the Sticks Initiative.** The first film showing organised by Wheaton Aston Arts would take place on 22 January in the Village Hall with Atonement.

#### **172. PRIMROSE BANK PLAY AREA, WHEATON ASTON.**

No matters were raised under this item.

#### **173. MATTERS OF PARISH MAINTENANCE.**

- a) **Stretton War Memorial and surrounds.** There were no developments with this project.
- b) **Repairs to gate post, Lapley cemetery.** A second quotation had been received for a soft wood replacement post. The two quotations were discussed and it was agreed to order the oak post.
- c) **Vandalism at Marston Road field to gate and fencing.** Reported that the gate and some fencing around the Spring Area had been vandalised. A quotation for the repair work would be obtained for the next meeting, also a quotation to repaint the goal posts. The comments made in public participation about broken glass at the field were noted. It was agreed to get the paths weed treated. It was suggested that an annual condition survey of the field should be undertaken for parish records.

In addition the following points were discussed:

**Removal of tree at car park, Wheaton Aston.** The tree had been removed and some other minor work undertaken at the same time. A letter of thanks had been received from the householders adjoining the car park.

**Sunnybank fingerpost.** The new post had been installed.

**Lapley Green.** Reported that several posts around the Green were broken and needed replacing. This would be arranged. Mr Hodgkins had cleared leaves from the grass.

**Grounds Maintenance 2008.** Quotations would be obtained for the next meeting.

**174. DEVELOPMENT OF BROADHOLES LANE PLAY AREA AS A COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

It was agreed to defer this item until the review of play areas had been completed.

**175. FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31 DECEMBER**

The monthly financial statement, which had been previously circulated, was approved. It was reported that the problem in withdrawing money from the Nationwide Building Society had been resolved. A letter was signed in accordance with the bank mandate to increase the standing order to Staffordshire County Pension Fund in line with the clerk's salary increase agreed at the previous meeting, with effect from February 2008.

**176. REQUEST FROM WHEATON ASTON VILLAGE HALL TO FUND WOODWORM TREATMENT**

A letter requesting that the Council fund the cost of £1450 to treat the Village Hall floor, which was suffering from woodworm, was circulated along with the Hall's accounts. This was agreed and the work would be put in hand as soon as practical.

**177. REQUEST FOR GRANT AID 2008/09 – SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION**

A letter requesting grant aid for the year 2008/09 had been circulated. The Annual Report was circulating. It was agreed to award a grant of £50 to be paid in April 2008. The Clerk would notify SSCVA accordingly.

**178. REQUEST FOR GRANT AID 2008/09 – BREWOOD & DISTRICT VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME**

A letter and accounts had been circulated. It was agreed to award a grant of £1,000 for the financial year 2008/09 to be paid in April from 2008/09 expenditure and adjust the budget accordingly.

**179. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.**

Cllr Wright reported that the District Council's element of the Council tax was expected to increase by 3.5%. National bus passes would be available to those over 60 years of age as of 1 April 2008 but bus tokens could still be requested. There was a proposal to install traffic lights on the A449 at Gailey island. The Inter Parish Games competition would be starting in the near future.

**180. PLANNING MATTERS.**

**a) Planning applications.**

It was agreed to return the following applications to the Planning Department with the following comments:

07/01361/CAC – no objection provided that the development was in keeping with the

Wheaton Aston Conservation Area. Detailed plans were awaited.

07/01401/ADV –no objection to the retention of signs but there was no need for the signs to be illuminated.

07/01337/COU – no objection

07/01287/FUL – no objection

**b) Planning decisions.** A list of decisions received since the last meeting was tabled. Notification had been received that application 07/00400/FUL for the construction of two new dwellings at Bickford Road Lapley was to go to appeal. The Clerk had sent an objection based on the comments submitted when the application had been considered in May 2007.

**c) Wheaton Aston Surgery.** A reply had been circulated from the Doctors' that it was their intention to continue to practice from the Pinfold Lane site and that they would keep the Council informed of any significant change.

#### **181. STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAY MATTERS.**

A reply had been circulated concerning **A5 Stretton** stating that double white lines were not appropriate as they were used when overtaking was restricted due to poor visibility and this was not the case in Stretton as the road was straight. This was discussed, however the view was that the section of road may be straight but did not have good forward visibility due to the undulating nature of the road. The discussion under the Police report earlier in the meeting about the speed signs was noted and it was agreed to request a site meeting.

The following other matters were discussed:

The problem of standing water turning to black ice on the Penkrige Road close to Rowley Hill had been reported to County Highways during the month.

The problem of parked cars at Leeke Way, Wheaton Aston damaging the verge would be raised with PC Smith.

#### **182. ADDITIONAL BUS SHELTER, WHEATON ASTON**

It was agreed to seek comments from County Highways on three possible locations for another bus shelter; in the vicinity of Greenhill Lane jct with Long Street, opposite the Paper Shop, and in Ivetsey Road. Also to enquire whether any funding would be available towards the cost.

#### **183. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER MEETINGS.**

No reports were given.

#### **184. MEETING DATES 2008**

A list of dates was tabled and agreed. It was suggested that the April meeting be held at Stretton and Mrs Gould offered to book the room.

#### **185. CORRESPONDENCE.**

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated. The principal items were:

**Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association.** Copies of the December 2007 Newsletter had been circulated. The other items received included the WM Regional Assembly Newsletter Speaking Out Winter 07, the Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Safety Plan 2008/11 Consultation document, a booking form for a Risk Assessment Training event on 31 January, recent Clerk vacancies, and a CPRE questionnaire on issues of concern. These would all be circulated in the next envelope.

**Community Council of Staffordshire.** Best Kept Village competition entry forms had been received to be returned by 18 February.

**WM Regional Assembly.** Notice of formal consultation on the WM Spatial Strategy - Phase two revision Draft submission from 7 January to 28 March had been received and would be circulated.

#### **186. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.**

Resolved to make the following payments.

T Hodgkins	Christmas tree & fencing £616.87 plus Planting at Leeke Way & weed treatment and clearing of allies £599.25	1216.12
Mrs M Kennedy	Salary December plus arrears	624.12
Post Office	PAYE & NI December plus arrears Note: total due £99.95*	80.55
Staffordshire County Pension Fund	Pension contributions December by BACS	106.33
Staffordshire County Pension Fund	Pension contributions arrears	23.66
Cash	Petty cash account £140.80 + £25 to increase petty cash float	165.80

\*Note: The Inland Revenue payment for PAYE & NI for December will be offset against £150 grant for filing the PAYE 2006/07 annual return online.

#### **187. ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT.**

**Parish Newsletter.** Items were requested as soon as possible for the next Parish News due to be distributed in early March

**Bus Services.** A question was asked as to whether pay and ride services could be available locally. As local bus services were due to be reviewed this point could be considered.

**Retirement of local GPs.** It was reported that Dr Turner was retiring at Easter and Dr Taylor at the end of the year. It was agreed to write and thank them on behalf of the parish.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55 pm.

Signed.....

Date 07 February 2008

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

Several members of the public attended. The following matters were raised:

- a) **Construction traffic access, Phase two Old School Court, Wheaton Aston.** It was reported that Mill Lane had been fairly quiet over the Christmas holidays
- b) **BMX Bike facilities.** PC Smith reported that a meeting was being arranged by the Youth Service with PC representatives to discuss this. Another member of the public suggested that the surface of the track should be more than bare earth.
- c) **Ivory Cottage.** It was reported that the premises had been boarded up due to vandalism.
- d) **Marston Road field.** The problem of broken glass at the field, in particular around seats and the youth shelter, was raised. It was also suggested that the path around the field needed weed treating.
- e) **Future of Wheaton Aston Surgery.** The Chairman informed the public present that a reply had been received from the Doctors which would be dealt with during the meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited them to remain and listen to the meeting.