

**Minutes of a meeting of Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton
Aston Parish Council held in Wheaton Aston Village Hall on
Thursday 5th June 2008 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:	Mrs. B. Cox in the chair	Mr. T Noblett
	Mr M Fox	Mr H Stiles
	Mrs S Gould	Mr P Timson
	Mrs E Morgan-Williams	Mrs D Wildman
	Cllr. Rex Roberts	PC M Smith

Apologies	Dr M Kennedy	Mr A Monckton
	Cllr. R. Wright	

1. Appointment of Trustee to Parish Charities

The council were informed that Mr. Wes Weate wishes to stand down. Mr. Noblett was appointed.

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest

Mr. Noblett declared an interest in planning application 08/00535/FUL gave details of the planning application but took no part in the discussion or vote.

3. To approve and Sign the Minutes of the Meeting of 1 May 2008

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. To Discuss Matters Arising From The Minutes

(a) Flicks in the Sticks

Mrs. Wildman suggested that the Parish Council had made a decision without being in possession of the full facts. She reported that the Arts Group felt that they were delivering Flicks in the Sticks on behalf of the Parish Council. The Chair confirmed that the decision of the council had been to not underwrite any possible future losses, bank any future monies nor pay future invoices (other than the initial one that had already been agreed would be paid). Mr. Timson suggested that there was a lack of clarity and that the Forward Planning & Finance Committee should discuss it at their next meeting.

(b) Footpath no. 7

The Clerk reported that a letter withdrawing the council's objection to the gating order had been sent and the council were shown a proposed design of the gate to be used. Councillors had no objection to the proposed gate.

(c) Locality report

The Clerk informed councillors that the locality report for Wheaton Aston was now available and that she would keep copies for community use and place a copy at the Post Office for members of the community to access.

5. To Receive Police Report and Consider Policing Matters

PC Matt Smith gave a report on incidents occurring between 1/05/08 and 31/05/08.
PC Meeting 05.06.08

Burglary Dwellings	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	1
Drugs	0
Violence	0
Anti Social Behaviour	17
- Primrose Bank	8
- Nuisance Vehicles	5
Road Safety	0

The police felt that the Wheaton Aston Festival was a great success from their perspective. Thanks have been given to the Great Wyrley PCSO, Karen Willis for being present at the festival.

PC Smith also informed councillors that Operation Cody will be in force in Wheaton Aston over the month of June, tackling anti social behaviour with a zero tolerance approach to under-age drinking, litter dropping, swearing etc... PC Smith reported that a similar operation had recently taken place in Penkridge and had had a very positive effect.

PC Smith informed councillors that a zero tolerance approach would also be taken to nuisance vehicles. The owners of any reported vehicles will be written to with a warning and if necessary their vehicles will be removed and possibly crushed.

PC Smith told councillors of a solar powered camera that could be made available for between £100-£300 but would involve a wait until one became free or one could be purchased for c. £5,000. An 18ft pole would also be required.

PC Smith urged residents to remove any satellite navigation equipment from their cars even if they were only leaving their cars for a short while. He also asked residents report every crime and incident of antisocial behaviour.

The council gave their full backing to the police's zero tolerance stance.

6. To Consider Parish Council Office

A report was given to the council by the Clerk (attached) and all requested permissions were granted with the following comments:

- a) Dave Wright (a local supplier) should be contacted for a quote for a reconditioned filing cabinet.
- b) It may be possible to borrow a PAC Test tester from the village hall. The Clerk is to investigate.

7. To Discuss The Future Of Wheaton Aston Doctors' Survey

The council fully supported the doctors in their attempts to expand their services in new premises and the Clerk was asked to liaise with the practise manager and draft a letter of support giving the parish council's opinion that the area remains rural.

8. To Discuss Issue of Dog Excrement In Parish

This issue had been raised by members of the public and council. After a discussion it was agreed that PC Smith would check what powers PCSO Price has to tackle

offenders. Various methods of tackling the problem were discussed and the following agreed upon:

- Use PCSO Price to approach dog walkers and ask them if they have bags
- Residents are to be urged to be vigilant and report any offenders
- The district is to be asked to keep grass cut on verges so that any excrement can be easily seen
- A request to dog walkers to be responsible is to go in the newsletter
- Locations for dog poo boxes to be suggested
- Possible poster competition (with guidelines) in the schools.

9. To Receive Report from County Councillor

A report from Cllr. Rex Roberts was given (attached). He stressed that the Parish Council needs to be aware of the issues surrounding the effects of the recent job evaluations and alterations to make pay equal in the council. He also indicated that the district were likely to support the county council with regard to the proposed waste facility at Featherstone.

10. To Consider Staffordshire County Highways Matters

The following concerns were raised:

- The existing speed sign on the A5 at Stretton would be better placed the other side of the Ivy House.
- The "Stretton" sign on the A5 as you approach from Telford is missing.
- A tree has fallen between Wood Lane and Garden Lane. This is a public right of way and the tree should be removed. (Cllr. Roberts offered to help on this matter if requested)
- The pavements at Stretton could be improved
- The verge near the canal bridge in Wheaton Aston had degraded and people were parking on the verge leaving their cars dangerously hanging over onto the road.
- The council were pleased with the newly resurfaced footpaths and thought that Highways had done a good job.
- More dropped kerbs would be appreciated around the village to help parents of children in pushchairs and those in wheelchairs.
- The grassed verges in Wheaton Aston are over a foot tall in places and desperately need cutting.
- Progress re: the gating order of footpath 7 was raised.
- Hedges have been cut in Stretton but many signs are still covered by growth.
- The school sign as you enter Stretton from Wheaton Aston is slightly twisted.

The Clerk is to contact highways about all of the issues raised.

11. To Consider Matters of Parish Maintenance

Summer Planting in Wheaton Aston A quote had been received from Mr. A. Cadman for planting and watering of baskets and tubs. The quote was approved and the clerk asked to authorise the work to begin.

12. To Receive Progress Report on Play Strategy Working Group and Appoint Representatives.

The Clerk reported that the first meeting had been set for 10th June at 7.30pm at Wheaton Aston Village Hall. The hall was booked and invites sent out. There had been a good response and so far only on e apology. The Clerk had requested agenda items and put together a draft agenda. She had also sought template documents such as code of conduct and a constitution.

It was agreed that the group needs handling carefully if it is to run effectively. It was felt that the group should appoint its own Chairperson & Secretary so as to remain independent. 3 parish councillors agreed to meet prior to the meeting to agree a way forward.

13. To Receive Financial Statement to 30 April 2008

Approved.

The Clerk felt that she needed to set up her own financial systems in order to fully get to grips with the accounts. The council agreed that she should.

14. To Consider the Results of the Housing Needs Survey

The Chair invited comments from councillors. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the answer isn't as straightforward as the Housing Association have made out and many councillors felt that the report's recommendations were biased towards the housing association's wishes.

PC Smith knew of at least 5 vacant properties on Sowdley Green and that 1 property had been vacant for 3 months.

The council expressed doubt that all tenants in the affordable housing were from the village. There is concern that there is already excess affordable housing in the parish and that outsiders are taking up this unused accommodation.

The council do not accept the findings of the report and feel that they need more information before moving forward. The Clerk is to write to David Moss at Beth Johnson to ask for the following detail.

How many units of affordable housing are there in the parish?

What type of units are they

What is the shortest and longest tenancy?

How many local people are in the accommodation?

What current vacancies do they have?

What are the terms of their tenancy re: behaviour?

How is preference given to local people?

The Clerk is to find out who owns all of the affordable accommodation in the parish

The council were clear that they are not acting with prejudice but that the survey is a 1st step and that a fact finding mission is needed to establish the full picture. The Clerk is to check previous minutes to see if the council need to formally accept or reject the survey.

15. To Consider the Christmas Lights Switch On Event

The council agreed to move the date forward to Saturday 22nd December to accommodate the church's fundraising opportunity. The clerk is to approach Oakengates Salvation Army Band. A local choir is also to be sought. Work needs to be done to establish the following:

what bulbs need replacing?

What the cost of replacing the bulbs would be

Is it possible to hire lights?

Is it possible to use energy saving bulbs?

16. To Consider South Staffordshire Council's Walking Festival Leaflet

Local organisers were disappointed with the turnout and the level of publicity by the District. The Motley Meadows walks were publicised and residents urged to take advantage of the walks. It was mentioned that dogs could go on the walks but must be kept under control and cleared up after.

17. To Receive Report from District Councillor

The District Councillor was unable to attend and sent his apologies.

18. To Consider Planning Matters

Planning Applications Received to Date

a) 08/00465/FUL – No objection

b) 08/00530/OUT – No objection but the council want to highlight that they suspect that the land encroaches onto green belt land and that they feel that this is the thin edge of the wedge. They also want it brought to the planners' attention that the land used to be agricultural land and was then changed over to garden use.

c) 08/00535/FUL – This application had been submitted several times. Councillors couldn't see what was particularly different from the last application. They expressed concern over the elevation and felt that it would overshadow neighbouring properties. They said it was a significant increase in size and wouldn't blend in with existing properties in that street.

The Clerk is asked to seek previous objections and see what the difference is from the last application.

Planning application decisions received were:

08/00313/FUL Conservatory at 3 Coach Gardens, Wheaton Aston, ST19 9NZ

08/00234/COU Conversion of redundant farm building to offices at Rookery farm, Lapley Lane, Stretton, ST19 9QF

The clerk reported that a newspaper article had stated that the Longnor Gorse application by the Albrighton Hunt had been refused.

The Clerk was requested to put planning matters earlier on the agenda for future meetings.

19. To Receive Reports from Representatives to Other Meetings

Old People's Welfare Mrs. Morgan reported that whilst the Leisure Club (Tuesday Group) are in good financial shape the Old People's Welfare group were short of funds. The usual £5 would be given to pensioners this Christmas as usual but that future donations would have to be debated. They were still awaiting money taken at

the Harvest Auction at the Vaughan Arms and she reported that action was now being taken to retrieve the money. Fundraising events are planned for the next few months.

Lapley & Wheaton Aston Recreation Ground Mr. Noblett reported that they had received their Health & Safety report and had met to discuss it. Work is needed and there are cost implications but they need to comply with the health and safety recommendations to avoid possible fines. The old oak tree had been cut, trimmed, shaped and balanced. The big leylandi will be removed and replaced with Hawthorne hedging. Mr. Noblett reported that the tree was being felled free of charge by Rodbaston College.

The Wednesday folk nights are not well attended and that Saturday night attendances fluctuate. On a positive note, he did say that the centre was being used for more private functions.

Arts Group Mrs. Wildman reported that they had received their £500 from the Vaughan Arms following police intervention. Mrs. Wildman enquired as to whether the Arts Group's leaflet could be delivered with the next issue of "News & Views" The Clerk was asked to identify a delivery agent and ascertain whether there would be any extra costs involved.

Parish District Liaison Panel Mr. Stiles reported that he, Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Bate had attended a very informative meeting which focused on the Community & Learning Partnerships (C&LPs), Housing market Assessment and the Open Space Audit. The Clerk informed councillors that they could now see the Open Space Audit at the District council offices in Codsall.

Locality 2 Forum Mrs. Cox reported that she and Mrs. Bate had attended the meeting run to promote the South Staffordshire Local Strategic Partnership, give information on the locality and encourage a multi agency approach to local issues. The C&LP was also mentioned. Mrs. Cox expressed concern that a youth forum meeting and a youth champion event had been cancelled.

Mrs. Cox also reported that the local paper shop had worked hard to integrate into the community and that they should be congratulated for their efforts. Events such as the tea promotion, guitar music and wine tasting had proved very popular with locals and had injected some life into the village.

20. To Receive Correspondence

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

Letters of thanks

- Andrew Mole for donation to Wheaton Aston Carnival
- Chris Welche for donation to Community Council of Staffordshire
- John Roberts for donation to Campaign to Protect Rural England

South Staffordshire Council

- Regulatory Committee Meeting papers (including Longnor Gorse planning application)
- Advice of consultation period on Air Quality Action Plan
- Advice of Conservation Area Appraisal public meeting

- Summer concerts at Baggeridge Country Park

Staffordshire County Council

- Details of Countryside Events June 2008

St. Mary's First School

- Letter stating that the Governing Body would welcome PC Smith sharing the parish office.

South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership

Invite to Annual Meeting on 9th July 2008-06-25

Joyce Pegg

- Independent Audit Review – Summary Report

21. To Receive Report from Clerk

a) Circulation Envelopes

The Clerk asked councillors to move the circulation envelopes more quickly to stop items becoming out of date.

b) CRB checks

The Clerk advised that council that it is good practise to take out CRB checks on all play scheme staff and her as she is based within the school. The council agreed that the checks should be done on play scheme staff but that the clerk should seek the school's advice on whether she should be checked.

c) Lapley Phone Box

The Clerk reported that BT planned to remove the phone box from Lapley Green. She had written a letter of objection to the District Council and would keep the council informed of progress. The clerk was asked to report the broken phone in Wheaton Aston and request that it be repaired.

d) Newsletter

The Clerk requested items for the summer newsletter.

22. Payment Of Accounts

Resolved to make the following payments.

Put in table here

23. ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

Overhanging hedges the hedge on the entry to the village from the Bradford Arms before you get to Frog Lane is overhanging. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners and ask them to cut it back as it is forcing pedestrians onto the road and causing a danger.

The wall adjacent to the dairy is in need of repair. It is unclear as to who owns the wall. The neighbouring house owner has offered to tidy it up. Mrs Cox is to follow it up.

Noise from delivery vehicles to the dairy is causing distress to neighbouring residents.

Two Properties needing work Mr. Stiles reported that

1 - The house has been refurbished (replaced?) but the house behind is an eyesore. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner regarding the appearance of the building and ask for an estimated date for completion.

2 - It was planned to have planting in front of the fencing. The Clerk is to find out what the deadline is for planting in front of the fence.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.50 pm.

Signed.....
Date 03 July 2008

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

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

Cost of Insurance for community groups

Points raised: Groups such as scouts, boys' brigade, girls' brigade and the sea scouts need insurance and the costs are high. The council were asked if they can help the groups.

The Chairman informed those present that local groups can apply for a grant from the parish council at any time.

Inter-parish Games

Points raised: Mr. Thompson informed the council that he was retiring as Coordinator after 29 years and asked the parish council to appoint a replacement.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Thomson for his hard work over the past three decades and said that a replacement was being sought.

Concern over impact of housing association accommodation

Points raised: Is there any control over residents' behaviour in housing association accommodation? Deep concern was expressed regarding the impact of people from outside the village coming in and causing anti-social behaviour.

The Chairman confirmed that they would look at this in the meeting when the council discussed the housing needs survey.

Wheaton Aston Doctors Surgery

Points raised: Dr. Husselbee informed the council that the surgery planned to take over the vacant restaurant property and develop it into a bigger and better surgery with additional healthcare professionals also operating there. He said that the costs would be partly met by an increased dispensing service. The PCT however in the meantime have received an application from a pharmacy to open an outlet in the village of Wheaton Aston. This would stop the doctors from being able to proceed with their plans.

When considering the pharmacy's application, the PCT need to first establish whether Wheaton Aston remains a controlled rural area. If the PCT agree that Wheaton Aston is a rural area, the pharmacy can withdraw their application or appeal on the basis that it can provide better services than the doctors.

At the moment the doctors would like to ask the council to write to the PCT and explain why the parish council feels that the village is a rural area.

The Chairman thanked the team of doctors for attending the meeting and assured them that the council would discuss the matter in the meeting.

Footpath 7

Points raised: Progress on the gating of footpath 7 was requested. The Chairman informed those present that a letter had been sent to the county withdrawing their objection to the gate and that a design of the proposed gate had been received and would be discussed.

Housing Needs Survey

Points raised: Mr. Lancaster and Mrs. Bennion attended the session and gave an outline of the key points identified in the survey and revealed some of the recommendations.

The Chair thanked them to attending, stated that the council would discuss the findings of the survey and come back to them in due course.

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