

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY  
MEETING  
OF WATCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD AT  
WATCHFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

**ON  
TUESDAY February 5<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**AT 7.30pm**

Present:

- Cllr R Holman
- Cllr Skeffington
- Cllr Nodder
- Cllr Bush

Clerk – Dr C Matthews  
2 members of the public

**Item 206**    **Resignation of Cllr Gale**

The Clerk notified the Council that she had received the resignation of Cllr Gale. Cllr Holman **proposed** sending a letter of Thanks to Mr Gale and was **seconded by Cllr Skeffington**. The Clerk will notify VWHDC and OALC of the resignation.

Clerk

**Item 207**    **Election of a Chairman of the Council**

Cllr Nodder **proposed** Cllr Holman as Chairman and was **seconded by Cllr Skeffington**. Cllr Holman agreed to undertake the role until the AGM. Cllr Holman **proposed** Cllr Nodder was elected as Vice-Chair and was **seconded by Cllr Skeffington**.

Clerk

**Item 208**    **To receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bailey & Rawle.

**Item 209**    **To receive declarations of personal, or personal and prejudicial interest, in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting. To note any changes in Councillors' interests**

There were no declarations.

**Item 210**    **To approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013**

The minutes were **approved** after a minor change in wording of Item 126 to: "actioning". **Proposed Cllr Nodder, Seconded Cllr Holman.**

Cllr Holman decided to go through the matters arising from the last meeting.

Cllr Nodder noted the letter in Item 193 had been circulated and agreed and was ready to be sent by the Clerk after the footer had been changed.

Clerk

Item 71 – WPC website link to VWHDC -To be added to the next agenda.

Item 73 – Cllr Bush has obtained a free filing cabinet and delivered it to the village Hall. Cllr Nodder will dispose of the old one and documents will be transferred by Cllr Holman.

Cllrs Holman &  
Nodder

Item 126 – It is still too wet for the rabbit cull. This matter is **pending**.

Item 146 – The balance beam has now been replaced.

Item 147 – Cllr Holman will contact Shrivenham Fencing again to replace the newell post in Oxford Square as they have not done the work.

Cllr Holman

Item 189 – The Clerk received a response from Anthony Williams about the BT pole in Star Lane stating that it was a replacement.

Item 205 – Cllr Bush will contact the Football Foundation to deal with the request for information about the pavilion.

Cllr Bush

Item 196 – This item will be added to the next agenda. Cllr Holman reported that she had spoken to Mr Jones and was informed that OCC is supposed to sweep the roads once every eight weeks and clear leaves. Cllr Holman has contacted OCC to ensure that this is done as Watchfield was not on their list.

Item 198 – Adoption of a Freedom of Information policy and agreement of policy wording. Cllr Holman will obtain the document from Mr Gale and this will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Holman

Cllr Nodder noted that comments were due to the WVV consortium about the eastern expansion of Swindon by 21<sup>st</sup> February. Cllr Nodder will circulate the response to be agreed at the next meeting.

Cllr Nodder

**Item 211 Notice to advertise the Casual Vacancy caused by Cllr Gale's resignation**

The Clerk has displayed the notice and it will remain on the notice board until 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**Item 212 To address planning matters -**

**To make a decision on planning application P12/V2021/FUL (P12/V2049/LB) – 41 High Street** – Cllr Holman reported that she had spoken to Mark Doodes about the application and that WPC were unhappy that previous planning conditions had not been enforced such as blocking off the access to the site and erection of the fence. Cllr Nodder suggested objecting due to over development of the site. Cllr Nodder reported that she had drafted a letter of objection to the application and discussed the content.

**Cllr Holman proposed** suspension of standing orders at 7.55 pm and was **seconded by Cllr Skeffington**. She asked the members of the public whether they had any views on the application and both declined to comment. At 7.57 Cllr **Skeffington proposed** reinstatement of standing orders and was **seconded by Cllr Nodder**.

**Cllr Holman proposed** objecting to the application on the grounds in the letter and was **seconded by Cllr Nodder. All agreed**. Cllr Nodder will send the letter to the Clerk for her to respond to VWHDC.

Cllr Nodder/  
Clerk

**Cowan's Camp planning application update** – Cllr Holman informed WPC that she was going to meet with Mark Doodes this week to discuss the application. She noted that it is going before the planning committee on 18<sup>th</sup> February and that Mark Doodes is going to recommend approval. Cllr Holman will inform Mr Doodes about the village green application and will discuss if WPC can obtain land in lieu of Section 106 money without prejudice. Cllr Nodder asked why VWHDC had not been negotiating with WPC from the outset as Hook's local Council have done this and have signed over a piece of land to the village. Cllr Bush outlined his ideas for the village and the need for recreational facilities including floodlit Astro turf and a MUG. Cllr Holman reminded WPC that at the village meeting, the village asked for the Cowan's Camp field to be kept as a village field. Cllr Skeffington commented that she would like a piece of green area on Cowan's Camp with benches so people could have picnics etc. Cllr Holman called for questions from Councillors to ask Mark Doodes and also suggested meeting with the developers at this late date. **Cllr Holman proposed** writing to David Cameron regarding the application and was **seconded by Cllr Skeffington. All Agreed**.

All

**Cowan's Camp letter from Mark Doodes** – Cllr Holman read out the letter from

Cllr Holman

Mark Doodes asking if WPC would take maintenance responsibilities on Cowan's Camp in return for £400,000. Cllr Holman will seek clarification of the terms of this offer and discuss it further at the meeting with Mark Doodes.

**Travellers site update including planning committee decision - Cllr Holman** reported that the Travellers site had been approved by the planning committee despite the road safety concerns raised by WPC.

**Item 213** **To agree a response to the VWHDC Strategic Housing Land Assessment**  
**Cllr Holman proposed** that Cllr Nodder drafts and circulates a response. This was **seconded by Cllr Skeffington**. The Clerk will send the response and Cllr Nodder will fill out the web proforma.

Cllr Nodder/Clerk

**Item 214** **Notification of the award of a Council Tax grant and impact on the precept**  
 The Clerk notified WPC that it will be awarded £837 in the form of a grant this year due to changes in the Council tax Base. This will be in addition to the precept request of £22,000.

**Item 215** **Discussion to agree the amount of a Section 133 grant to the Village Hall**  
 The Clerk reported the advice from the Internal auditor that it was lawful of WPC to make a grant to the village hall under Section 133. **Cllr Bush proposed** making a grant of £600 and was **seconded by Cllr Holman**.

Clerk

**Item 216** **Agreement for new banking signatories**  
 Due to the resignation of Cllr Gale new signatories were needed on WPC bank accounts. **Cllr Skeffington proposed** that Cllrs Nodder and Holman became signatories and that the Clerk's address was changed on the accounts. She was **seconded by Cllr Bush**.

Clerk

**Item 217** **Agreement to form sub-committees for planning, pavilion and recreation**  
**Cllr Holman proposed** that the above subcommittees were established. She was **seconded by Cllr Nodder**.

All

**Item 218** **To take questions and comments from members of the public**  
 There were none.

At 9.12 pm Cllr Holman and closed the meeting.

Dr C Matthews  
 Clerk  
 15.2.13

Approved:

Cllr Holman  
 Chairman  
 Watchfield Parish Council

Date: