

Minutes of the Wendlebury Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 16 January 2008.

Present: Anna McDonagh (Chairperson), Cllrs. Kathy Sharp, Justine Brown and Caroline Abbott, County Cllr. Charles Shouler, District Cllr. Andrew Fulljames, Shirley Parker (Parish clerk). There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Frank Shouler, Jackie Hucker and Chris Burton.
2. There were no declarations of interest at this time.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2007 were approved and signed.
4. Statutory business:
 - a. Approval of payments - £20 churchyard lighting, ½ year clerk's annual salary, £40 hire of hall for 5 meetings, £100 newsletter, £121.62 for 2 flood signs, £30 petty cash, £50.16 for repairs and maintenance of churchyard lights were approved.
 - b. Annual review of clerk's salary –(the clerk took no part in this discussion but was asked to minute) – it was agreed that in line with inflation the clerk's salary would rise from £620 to £640 per annum for the year 2008/2009.
 - c. Precept for the year 2008/2009 – this item was deferred to the end of the meeting.
5. Matters arising:
 - a. Flooding – the report from David van Beeston of the Environment Agency (EA) on the July floods of 2007 is due soon. Indications are that 'quick fixes' have been identified but no assurance will be given that work will be carried out e.g. bridges at Old Rectory Court and College Farm and that the hydrology survey carried out in 2002 will need to be re-visited. The Parish Council understand that some residents felt that there had been once again a delay in the receipt of flood warnings via the automatic system. The clerk will write to the EA to ask at what level Wendlebury Brook needs to be at before the alarm is triggered.
 - b. Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council – Caroline attended the Parish Liaison meeting at Cherwell District Council which consisted of a variety of presentations and talks on various subjects. Anna and the clerk had attended a meeting at Weston on the Green on the subject of plans put forward for a new village/town which will cover an area from the M40 to Weston on the Green and including the airfield and to the east of the A34 (Wendlebury side) up to the railway line. An action group led by concerned villagers has been formed and representatives from Wendlebury Parish council will attend and update the Parish council. Local Development Framework – notice of 3 meetings to be held, Caroline is hoping to attend the January meeting and Anna is hoping to attend the other two. Councillors to let the clerk know of their availability to attend these meetings. It was decided not to send a representative to the Recreation Strategy meeting.

- c. Traffic monitoring – the clerk has been informed by Mr Woods that this will take place soon as his new computer for analysing data recorded was due to be installed shortly.
 - d. Notice board – George Dumbleton has intimated to the clerk that these repairs will be carried out at no cost to the Council.
 - e. Weight restriction – the clerk has chased the County Council on this matter but has received no reply.
 - f. Newsletter – the new editors have asked for permission to issue 4 times per year with perhaps a smaller content. The Parish Council were concerned that there would not be enough content for 4 but were happy to leave this to the discretion of the editors. Parish Councillors and the clerk would forward any items to them for inclusion in the newsletter.
 - g. Request for funds for updating the Village Hall – The Parish Council agree in principle to support this application for funds – the amount to be made available will depend upon fixed costings and the possibility of disabled facilities being installed. The clerk will forward details of other funding available to the Village Hall committee.
6. Report
- a. County Council – The County and District Councils had met with the government minister in respect of junction 9/M40. Approval has been given for Bicester Business Park with the condition that only 50% of the floor space can be occupied until improvements to this junction are carried out. It is likely to be spring 2008 before the minister comments on the SE Plan. Rectory Close footway will be replaced in the next financial year. The County is to extend funding of post 16 SEN into special schools. Agreement in principle to Peers School entering the Academy programme has been given (£27m grant from government). A budget increase of 3.875%, about £40 for a band D property, is expected. Numbers of adults needing social care is increasing and costs associated are rising. Landfill tax will progressively increase to 2010 and if there is no decrease in landfill the County will be fined. No site has been determined as yet for the waste incineration plant but there will only be one in the County. There is a change in the process the County Council invest for capital works – they now borrow through a prudential scheme. There has been a review of primary schools to identify those that are satisfactory, those in need of investment to become satisfactory and those that will close – there is no possibility of Chesterton School closing.
 - b. District Council – no exact figure for council tax as yet although the increase is likely to be 1.5%. There is a possibility of some scaling down on Bicester Town Centre development but there will be no cuts to the library and cinema. Restructuring at the District Council are being carried out to create a one-stop shop for customer service.
 - c. Planning – The Parish Council endorsed the following responses to planning applications:- 17 St Giles close – new roofing for garage and porch – no objections /comments, Ploughmans Cottage – extension – no comments/objections (Caroline declared interest), 20 Rectory Close – garage – no objections/comments (Frank declared interest). Bicester Business Park – objections – this is set to be approved at the next

planning meeting – there is to be provision for traffic calming for surrounding areas and the clerk will follow this up. It was also decided to write to the Richard Dudding, Head of Environment and Economy requesting that the road from the garden centre to the Chesterton overbridge be upgraded.

7. Other matters:
 - a. Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 14 May 2008 – this will take the same format as last year – an invitation to all residents to come and meet the Parish Council with a formal presentation of the Chairperson’s report.
 - b. Request for funds for Community Mini-bus – no formal request has been received and it is understood that a grant has been obtained from the County Council.
 - 4.c. Precept for the year 2008/2009 – taking into account all expected expenditure for the year this was set at £3960.
8. Dates for next meetings – all to be held in the Village Hall commencing at 8.00pm
 - April 30 – Annual Parish Council meeting
 - May 14 – Annual Parish meeting
 - July 9 – Parish Council meeting
 - October 8 – Parish Council meeting.
9. Updates from the Parish Clerk
 - a. Stile in churchyard – this had been reported as broken and dangerous – the Countryside Service will be replacing the stile with a gate and at the same time be replacing the stile at the Oxford Road end of the field with a ‘kissing’ style gate. Both gates are on order.
 - b. St Giles Close footway – as reported previously a section had been excavated by BT – the Highways office are chasing them for permanent re-instatement as a matter of urgency due to the poor condition of the footway.
 - c. The area south of Weston Park Farm marked for repairs will be carried out during January.
 - d. Churchyard lighting – repairs have been carried out on behalf of the Parish Council. They are regulated by a timer switch – times are at present from approximately 5.00pm to the early hours of the following morning.

Chairman..... date.....