

# WELLESBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Council meeting of Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 7.30 pm at the Methodist Hall, Bridge Street, Wellesbourne*



**Present:** Chairman: Cllr Johnston, Cllrs Mrs Bartlett, Mrs Bolton, Mrs Rose, Close, Copeland, Grantham, Parton, Rutherford and Wright

Acting Clerk: Mrs Lipman, Members of the Press: 1, Members of the public: 10

## 1. Approval of Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Blundall.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest (personal or prejudicial) under the provisions of the LGA 2000, Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001.

Cllr Mrs Bolton personal interest in the Village Hall as Buildings Trustee for the Village Hall

Cllr Grantham prejudicial interest in connection with Wellesbourne Conservative Club Ltd and all matters appertaining to Walton Estates.

Cllr Close personal interest as a District Councillor and in connection with St Peters Church as a member of the church and a prejudicial interest in Chedham's Yard as a prospective Trustee.

Cllr Wright personal interest as a District Councillor and in connection with the CAB and the Methodist Hall

Cllr Mrs Rose prejudicial interest in connection with the Conservative Club Ltd.

Cllr Rutherford personal interest in parking matters in relation to Chedham's Yard and a prejudicial interest in letters to the External Auditor in relation to complaints submitted.

Cllr Johnston personal interest as a County Councillor in all matters regarding WCC

Cllr Copeland prejudicial interest in Chedham's Yard as a prospective Trustee

## 3. Confirmation of Order of the Agenda

It was agreed to move item 17 to item precede item 7 on the agenda and to move item 14.2 to item 7.1.

Prop Cllr RR 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr DC all in favour. Motion carried.

## 4. Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meetings of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010

These were confirmed as a true record and signed by Cllr DJ

## 5. Matters arising

5.1 Confidential items in Parish Council meetings – recommendation from WALC

The Council considered the training briefing provided by WALC. Cllr IR stated that the Council had behaved in an unlawful matter by the manner in which the Clerk had prepared agendas with confidential session items included. He also alleged that none of the Cllrs read the standing orders.

Cllr JG said he resented the allegation that Cllrs did not read standing orders. Other Cllrs thought that the recommendation that each item requiring discussion in confidential session needed a separate motion was procedurally unwieldy. It was agreed to seek the opinion of Alison Hodge (WALC) and to report to the January Council meeting.

## 6. Open session for members of the public to raise any matters of relevance to the Parish and for any Cllr with a prejudicial interest in an item on the agenda to speak on that item.

Mr Woodward, Hastings Road, asked if all the landowners involved in the flood defence works for Newbold Road had signed the agreement yet. He also asked for clarification on the routing of a ditch at the back of Mordaunt Road which drained into the brook and a drain running from the culvert to the river. He also asked if the Council was aware that the land at the back of Whitehead Drive had been sold to individual residents.

Cllr RW said the landowner involved in the flood prevention works had now signed the agreement and agreed to the adoption of the new bridge. Works could therefore now proceed. The Council had opposed the planning application for change of use of the land at the back of Whitehead Drive as an extension to residents' gardens but the application was approved with conditions. He said that access was also being improved on the other side of the brook by tree works to remove some of the obstructing willow trees. Cllr RW said the pipe from the brook ran to the river and emerged by the Post Office.

Miss McDonough, Mountford Close complained that the traffic situation around the school had not been improved by the erection of a banner. She said the wording on the banner was unclear and could not be read from a distance. She also opposed the possible move of the polling station from the village hall to the school.

**7. Finance and Administration Committee – minutes of the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010**

7.1 Approval of monthly accounts including staff salaries as per attached sheet

**Cllrs Copeland and Close left the meeting**

**Resolution to pay the monthly accounts including staff salaries and the Chedham's Yard accounts as per the attached cheques lists. Prop Cllr JG 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr DJ – Cllr IR against motion carried**

14.2 Correspondence to the Chairman of the Council.

Request to WPC for office accommodation	Chairman, Chedham's Yard Trust
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**Resolution to grant free accommodation at the Parish Council office for the Chedham's Yard Trust for a period of one year. Prop Cllr RW 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr JG against Cllrs DJ, IR, motion carried.**

**Cllrs Copeland and Close returned to the meeting**

7.2 Approval of revised budget for 2010/11 – appended

Cllr JG asked that a note be made aside the churchyard maintenance heading that it was included in the general grounds maintenance.

**Resolution to adopt the revised Parish Council budget dated November 2010**

**Prop Cllr DJ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr JG all in favour. Motion carried.**

7.3 Review of the Internal Audit for 2009/10

7.3.1 **Recommendation from the Finance and Administration Committee to approve a letter of engagement to the internal auditor together with attached schedule of internal controls.**

Letter appended.

**Prop Cllr JG 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr RP all in favour. Motion carried.**

7.4 Risk Assessment

7.4.1 **Recommendation from the Finance and Administration Committee to adopt the Wellesbourne Parish Council Risk Assessment Policy dated Nov 2010, to be reviewed by the Finance and Administration Committee in May 2011 and then annually.**

**Prop Cllr JG 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr DJ all in favour. Motion carried**

7.5 Date of next meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011- noted

**8. Police**

8.1 Crime figures - noted

8.2 Correspondence - appended

Warwickshire Police 150 plus Programme	Briefing note from Warwickshire Police
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Cllrs noted that although the police reorganisation was expected to result in significant savings, relationships with local authorities and Community Safety Partnerships were to be retained and enhanced. It was also the intention to retain Safer Neighbourhood Teams, but release them from operational response and investigation to focus on crime prevention. This may lead to an improved service for Wellesbourne. Cllrs agreed however to send a letter asking for the status quo at Wellesbourne Police Station to be retained.

ACTION: Letter to police authority	BY: Clerk
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Cllrs were pleased to hear of the return to work of Inspector Devereux and the excellent policing that resulted in a burglar being captured within an hour of the crime being reported.

**9. Planning**

9.1 Decisions

9.1.1 Permission with conditions

10/01847/FUL	Single story side extension and proposed front lounge extension with bow window under existing canopy roof		
At	25 Pembroke Gardens	For	Mr Abbott

Noted

10/02131/TREE	- T1 oak : prune off 1st large lower limb over hanging parking area. Reduce spread of 2no. further limbs by 2-3m. Prune out major deadwood. - T2 oak : reduce crown spread over parking area by 1-2m. Prune out major deadwood. - T3 sycamore : prune out deadwood and hung-up limbs in the crown. - T4 yew : prune off 4 lowest limbs over path to raise lower crown to 2.8-3m for clearance.		
At	St Peters Church, Church Street	For	Mr Nightingale
Officer Dealing	David Wyatt	By	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2010

Noted

#### 9.2 Core Strategy consideration of letter from Parish Council to District Council

Cllrs noted that in an article in the Stratford Herald dated 04/11/2010 Bidford Parish Council had sent a letter to Paul Harris of SDC planning department asking for the village to be reclassified from a "main rural centre" to something smaller. The reason being that Bidford did not consider existing infrastructure could support any further development. Cllrs agreed to send a similar letter listing Wellesbourne's concerns regarding lack of infrastructure. Cllr RW said that as development in Wellesbourne was not under current consideration by the Cabinet development would not take place before 2017/18. Wellesbourne would not be able to be reclassified if the criteria for a main rural centre was based on population.

ACTION: To send letter of protest to SDC regarding current lack of infrastructure	BY: Chairman/Clerk
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#### 9.3 Date of next Area Planning meeting 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010 - Noted

### 10. Amenities Committee – Last meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010

#### 10.1 Chairman's update – report appended

Cllr RP reported that Cllr RR would deputise as Chairman of Amenities in his absence

#### 10.2 Sports Association – nothing to report

#### 10.3 Youth Club

Cllrs expressed their dismay at the proposed withdrawal of youth services in Warwickshire. Concerns were raised that once premises were sold they could not be reinstated. Also that the youth service reach children not known to other services, such as young carers, and can offer support. Cllrs said that withdrawal of funding for youth services would have profound social consequences. Costs for combating problems of vandalism and anti social behaviour would increase. The Parish Plan surveys had shown that one of the main concerns of residents was lack of youth provision. The success of the youth bus in the summer had shown that if the services were provided they would be used.

ACTION: Write to WCC expressing WPC concerns	BY: Letter to be drafted by Chair/Vice Chair
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ACTION: To contact other Councils through WALC	BY: Clerk
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#### 10.4 Dene Valley letter to SDC - noted

#### 10.5 Wellesbourne Sports and Community building update – Cllr Parton

#### 10.5.1 Correspondence

Purchase of surplus equipment	Mr Rose
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### Cllrs RR and JG left the meeting

**Resolution to accept the offer of £100 for the equipment listed on the attached schedule.**

**Prop Cllr DC 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr TC all in favour. Motion carried.**

### Cllrs RR and JG returned to the meeting

#### 10.6 Date of next meeting – 23 February 2011

### 11. Highways Committee – Last meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010

#### 11.1 Chairman's update – appended

Cllr TC reported that the Environment Agency were attempting to trace the source of pollution of the river at Bridge Street. Cllr IR stated that Chestnut Square was not being cleaned by Verdant.

#### 11.2 Wellesbourne in Bloom

Cllr TC reported that WIB had reduced their submission for a grant to £1000

#### 11.3 Correspondence

Responsibilities for clearing snow and ice on highways	NALC
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Noted. It was suggested that guidance on using the grit bins should be published in the W&WN.

#### 11.4 Date of next meeting - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011 - noted

**12. Office and Staffing Committee** – Last meeting 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010

12.1 Chairman's update

The Clerk was expected to return to work on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011

12.2 Office assistance during the Clerk's absence – Cllr Johnston

**Resolution to engage Bill Robinson, Clerk to Stockton Parish Council, for an estimated 4 hours per week at a cost of £15 per hour plus expenses, for a period of 12 weeks. Prop Cllr DJ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr JG all in favour motion carried**

Cllr DJ said Mr Robinson would be asked to help with specific tasks such as the review of Council Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and a Council Code of Conduct.

12.2 Date of next meeting to be agreed

**13. Emergency Committee** – Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 - noted

13.1 Date of next meeting to be agreed

**14. Chedham's Yard**

14.1 Chairman's report – Cllr Close - appended

14.2 Correspondence to the Chairman of the Council.

**This item was discussed at 7.1**

Request to WPC for office accommodation	Chairman, Chedham's Yard Trust
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**15. Burial Grounds** – report from meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010 – Cllr RW

Cllr RW reported that work was 30% complete but because of the bad weather seeding and planting would be delayed until the spring. The next phase of the project was due to start with the preparation of detailed drawings and specifications by the architect for the new access. The cost for this stage of the work would be £500 plus VAT. WPC would manage the tender process. The work was within budget and the new burial ground would be consecrated by the Bishop of Coventry on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

**Resolution to pay architect fee of £500 plus VAT from burial grounds budget. Prop Cllr RW 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr RB – Cllr IR abstained. Motion carried.**

**16. Xmas Lights**

Thanks were given to Cllr RP and the Lions who organised the switch on of the Xmas lights

**17. Parish Plan** – Cllr Copeland

A presentation was made by Cllr TC at item 6 above. Report attached.

**18. Village Hall**

18.1 Correspondence

Wellesbourne Village Hall	Marcus Faulkner (Walton Estate)
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Cllr DJ reported that a copy of the letter had been sent to Godfrey Peyton Valuers for their comments

**19. Wellesbourne and Kineton Community Forum** – Report from Cllr Close

Noted

**20. WALC/NALC**

Developing role of local Councils in Govt's localism and big Society agendas	E bulletin NALC
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Noted

**21. General Correspondence**

Launch of mobile website	Warwickshire against domestic abuse
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Noted

**22. Councillors Exchange of Information**

Cllr VB thanked Cllr JG for the weather updates

Cllr DJ made a statement regarding the recent meeting between Cllrs DJ, JG, RW and IR and representatives of WALC:

Members have asked about the outcome of the Meeting between representatives of WALC, Ian Prosser, President, Cllr Bill Lowe, Chair, and Secretary, Alison Hodge, Cllr Rutherford, and Cllrs. Johnston, Grantham and Wright which took place on November.

The purpose of the meeting was to see how WALC could assist Wellesbourne Parish Council to deal with the current situation it found itself.

I have circulated my notes

- 1 An agreement for all members of the Council not to use inflammatory language in comments about the Council or the work of members.
- 2 The Council would review its' Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in the light of new models introduced by NALC this year.
- 3 Agree a training package with Bill Robinson.

I have been urged to include the encouragement of WALC to engage Bill Robinson to assist the Council in the sickness absence of the Clerk. Bill Robinson was contacted in October, and has provided the draft Risk Assessment dated 1<sup>st</sup> November on the Agenda of this meeting.

Cllr Rutherford's criticisms precede his membership of the Council, and the sick leave of the Clerk. Whilst the assistance of Bill is very welcome to assist the Acting Clerk, it is of no relevance to the criticism of the Council by Ian Rutherford.

I am sorry to say that since that meeting, I have been accused by Ian Rutherford of:

- 1 Acting 'behind the back of Council' by asking the Acting Clerk to see if Mr Robinson was available to act as a mentor for the Acting Clerk.
- 2 Along with Cllr David Close of 'deceiving the Council'
- 3 Of being 'in denial'

When I attempted to respond to Cllr Rutherford's e mails on 6<sup>th</sup> December, in what I hoped was a reasonable tone, I was accused by Cllr Lowe, Chairman of WALC of engaging in a slanging match.

As a result, I am not going to respond to Ian Rutherford's e mails. The absence of a response by me must not be interpreted as concurring with his remarks.

And I say to Ian – you are welcome to make any criticism of me you wish and bring what ever resolutions, subject to the Standing Orders, you wish to the public meetings of the Parish Council. I am happy to let the Council decide.

Cllr JG asked Cllr IR to apologise. He did not. Cllr DJ said that it was important to introduce a Code of Conduct for members of the Council which members should sign up to and abide by. Cllr RW said that at the meeting Cllr Bill Lowe (WALC Chairman) and Ian Prosser (WALC President) had said they would be in touch in six months to "see how things were going". Cllr IR said Cllr BL had been introduced to him through a mutual acquaintance and knew all about what was going on in Wellesbourne. He was a WALC trouble shooter and had a large file on WPC. Cllr TC said the large amount of time spent on procedure meant that important issues were being neglected. Cllrs were volunteers and worked to the best of their ability for the benefit of the community. The effect of Cllr IR's continual objections was to spent huge amounts of time arguing over an item of procedure instead of addressing the views expressed by residents in the Parish Plan surveys.

**23. Date of next meeting:** 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011 – noted

**Meeting ended at 10.20 pm**

Chairman: Cllr David Johnston

Signed .....

Date .....