



WELLESBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Council meeting on Tuesday 5th July 2011 at 7.30 pm at the Methodist Hall, Bridge Street, Wellesbourne

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Grantham **Councillors:** Mrs Bartlett, Blundall, Mrs Bolton, Close, Kendall, Parton, Wright **Clerk:** Mrs Scriven **Members of the public:** 15 **Members of the press:** 0

District Cllr: Mrs Main

1. Approval of Apologies for Absence – Apologies accepted for Cllrs Copeland and Johnston

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

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

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

Cllr Johnston personal interest as a County Councillor, in all matters regarding WCC, Hampton Lucy Grammar School Foundation as a member of the Board and Chedham's Yard as the husband of a Trustee.

Cllr Kendall personal interest as a District Councillor & matters appertaining to Parish Plan

Cllr Mrs Rose prejudicial interest in connection with the Conservative Club Ltd and the Heart of England Co-operative Society as an employee

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

3. Confirmation of the Order of the Agenda and identification of any items that might be resolved for confidential session – Cllr Grantham asked Cllrs to move item 22 to item 7 for administrative reasons – agenda as amended agreed.

4 Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meetings of 7th and 21st June 2011

Min of 7th June:

Cllr RB said confusion had arisen with the two NALC consultation documents and asked that item 19 The Council felt that the "planning for travellers sites"(remove) be changed to say "Government proposals to make change of commercial sites to housing easier"(insert). Minutes accepted as amended and signed as true record.

Mins of 21st June:

Cllr RW, item 6 Approval of Year End Accounts, said he had raised queries regarding the accounts that had not been responded to by the Accountant and therefore could not support the Year End item. The Chairman informed Cllr RW that the Accountant had verbally dealt with the queries raised at the meeting of Full Council where the accounts were formally approved. Minutes approved and signed as a true record.

4.1 Publishing of draft minutes on website (Clerk) – The Chairman asked Cllrs to consider a recommendation by the Clerk as best practice, to publish watermarked draft minutes on the website in order that members of the public were not kept waiting for the minutes for a month. He said he was satisfied that this was an appropriate action having received clarification from WALC.

Recommendation: Publish watermarked DRAFT minutes on website	Prop: JG, 2 nd DC	Carried
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5. Matters arising – Further reductions of the bus services (Flexibus) were noted.

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 Podbury, Kineton Road, commented that the publication of photographs of the Football Club was a blatant attempt to blacken the name of the previous occupants. He said as the building had been boarded up for over a year there would be evidence of mould and vermin and the damage had all occurred since the Parish Council took ownership of the building. He raised three queries regarding the the three items of correspondence on the previous months Council agenda and minutes to which the Council would make response in writing. The Chairman asked he supply the Clerk with a copy of the

queries raised so that proper and full response could be made. He presented the Chairman with a document signed by 10 residents of the parish requesting a Parish Poll regarding the proposed future use of the Community Centre (ex. Football club), the 10 signatories were not all at the meeting and the questions were heavily weighted the Chairman remarked.

ACTION: Check on validity of request for Poll	By: Office
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Miss McDonaugh, Mountford Close, Asked if the application by the Police for change of use to C3(dwelling house) meant for the existing property or for the site. Cllr RW clarified it was change of use on the existing property at this time. She said the school travel plan had failed due to inconsistency as visitors could not enter the car park as the gates were always closed and the staff car park was not used on Saturdays when football took place but was available at other times. The leaflet from CEG (Commercial Estates Group) regarding public consultation meetings should say the word “more” in front of adequate community infrastructure. (Copy of leaflet appended)

Mr Rutherford, Chestnut Square, said the Council announced each month the cost to the tax payer caused by his objections yet did not announce the money wasted by the Council. He read a list of figures of alleged expenditure by the Council and asked if the Council felt they were being prudent with the money. The Chairman asked Mr Rutherford to send the document to the Clerk and said that as his complaints had been raised in so many forums it would not be right to comment.

Mrs Thomas, Hammerton Way, said she had been distressed by the photographs on the Council website of the Football Club interior and that she had since been accosted in the Co-oP by people about the state of the Club. She said that the photos were of the building now and when it was left there was not mould, vermin and wiring problems, stating that the electricity company would not have connected the electricity if it had not been safe.

The Chairman explained that it was not the intention of the Council to cause distress to Mrs Thomas but to show members of the public why the building cannot be used at this time.

ACTION: Write to Mrs Thomas	BY: Office
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7. Objections to the External Auditor by Mr Rutherford

7.1 Correspondence from Clement Keyes regarding decisions on the following objections:

1. Noted

Objection regarding possible purchase of Village Hall	cost to Council £390(net)
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2. Noted

Objection regarding Office and Staffing matter	cost to Council £420 (net)
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3. Noted

Objection regarding WSCC property arrangements	cost to Council £515 (net)
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Cllr RB informed members of the public that regarding the large number of complaints being raised at considerable cost by Mr Rutherford, the auditors findings have been in the Council’s favour. The only points raised by the auditors included the advice given to the Council by NALC, and minor items including the overspend by the Clerk of £47 caused by a quote that was of higher cost when the invoice arrived and a late submission of accounts due to the long term sick leave of the Clerk, all without action.

Item moved from 22 in accordance with the approval of the agenda

1.

Copy of letter sent to the External Auditor	Ian Rutherford
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2.

Copy of letter sent to the Audit Commission, Simon Atkins (Clement Keyes), Nick Clegg, MP, Eric Pickles MP, Jeremy Wright MP, Nadhim Zahawi MP, Chris Saint (SDC), Paul Lankaster (SDC), Liam Nevin (SDC), Frank Johnston (Chief verifier CiLCA), Clive Lewis QC, Meera Tharmarajah (NALC), Alison Hodge (WALC) and Bill Robinson	Ian Rutherford
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3.

Copy of complaint made to Standards Board	Ian Rutherford
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Councillors agreed unanimously that it was difficult to work in the atmosphere created by Mr Rutherford’s continual sniping and his attempts to discredit the Council. They had joined the Parish Council because they wanted to work for the good of the community, not to have their reputations besmirched by his attempts to destroy the Council. They all had better things to do than listen to his continual vexatious complaints, particularly the Clerk whose workload had been completely overtaken by responding to the malicious correspondence sent by Mr Rutherford to a wide range of people outside the Council. The Chairman recalled that the Parish Council had been hailed as a proactive, forward looking Council and said that having been a Councillor for 39 years it grieved him to see this

waste of time and money which could have been put to much better use. This should not be seen as an attempt to discredit the Parish Council, but an attempt to discredit the whole village which was being made to look silly in the media. The Clerk said it was time the Council sought legal advice as to how to stop such a waste of public funding which could be better used providing youth services for the young people in the village.

Recommendation: Press release to be issued regarding Mr Rutherford's claims and continued barrage of accusations	Prop: GB, 2 nd JG Carried ACTION: Clerk
Recommendation: Seek legal advice regarding cessation of vexatious campaign by Mr Rutherford	Prop: RW, 2 nd RB Carried ACTION: Office

8. Finance and Administration Committee

8.1 Approval of monthly accounts as per attached cheque list

These were approved for payment – prop DC, 2 nd Cllr RB	Motion carried
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8.2 Approval of staff salaries

These were approved for payment – prop DC 2 nd RP	Motion carried
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8.3 Date of next meeting – 20th September 2011 - Noted

9. Police

9.1 SNT Newsletter – Circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting

9.2 Correspondence – No response to the Clerk's letter had been received to date.

10. Planning

10.1 Decisions

10.1.1 Approvals

1. Noted

11/00973/FUL	Proposed single storey front and side extensions		
At	40 Gloster Gardens	For	Mr Ball

2. Noted

11/00977/FUL	Proposed pitched roof over existing flat roof garage to side and erection of porch to side		
At	4 Mountford Close	For	Ms Evered

3. Noted

11/00399/FUL	Change of use from domestic garage to hairdressing salon (1 of the 2 garages)		
At	16 Kinton Road	For	Mr Smedley

10.1.2 Applications

1.

11/01373/FUL	Change of use from sui generic (police station) to C3 (dwellinghouse) use		
At	Wellesbourne Police Station	For	Warks Police
Officer dealing	Dan Charles	Due date	20 th July 2011

The Parish Council stated that the Police Station is an important part of the infrastructure of Wellesbourne and it could not support the loss of such an amenity for housing which was not within the allocated development site selected for Wellesbourne. If the planning application is to be granted by SDC then the Parish Council would want to be assured that permitted development rights were not granted with the application. It was also noted that there had been no provision made for the Safer Neighbour Team thus the loss of a visible police presence.

10.2 Correspondence - None

10.2.1 Public consultation on 11th and 12th July at Methodist Hall, for proposed housing development off Ettington Road in Wellesbourne - noted

10.3 Date of next Area Planning meeting 13th July 2011 - noted

Noted - Commercial Estates Group had sent out an invitation to members of the public to attend a meeting with regards to the potential development of the Red Hill Nursery site. It was noted that Cllrs may wish to attend as individual interested residents who may ask the facts, but would not comment on the proposals.

11. Amenities and Highways Committee – Minutes of the meeting of 28th June 2011

11.1 Chairman's update – Cllr Parton

Councillors recalled the autumn clearance of the land (spinney) on Ettington Road and noted the undergrowth between the trees that was now obscuring the view through to the footway behind, previously a concern raised by the local SNT and County/District Councillors.

ACTION: Request that WCC grub-out the undergrowth in line with the	BY: Office
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Police recommendation it be cleared for safety reasons	
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11.2 Wellesbourne Sports and Community building – no comments

11.2.1 Appointment of a consultant to assist the Council in the identification of a suitable operating partner for the WSCC project as recommended by the Amenities and Highways Committee (appended)

A report giving details of a number of interested Consultants had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, it was noted that as considerable information relating to the Dene Valley Project was available, WPC did not require a full consultancy but instead, a professional working at an agreed hourly rate who could steer the Council through the project and give assistance with the production of an information pack and co-ordinate an open day for the potential operators to express their thoughts on what could be achieved within the building so that a shortlist could be drawn up from which to appoint a suitable operator to work in partnership with the council to provide facilities identified in the Parish Plan and to run the centre. It was noted that one of the Consultants identified as company E who had 11 years of experience of projects in the public sector, including a project for Warwick District Council, had submitted the lowest tender.

Recommendation: That Company E be appointed	Prop: RP, 2 nd RW Carried
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Cllr RP said the Working Party had held its meeting at the Parish Council office and minutes were available. The CCTV had now been fitted and clearance of the building had begun. The next step was to strip the building back to the bare structure and attend to the structural damage such as the partition walls, suspended ceilings, roof tiling and entrance doors. A construction list would then follow. In response to Mr Podbury's comments during open session Cllr RB said he had misunderstood her correspondence regarding the subject matter being dealt with as part of Amenities & Highways Committee; it appeared he felt it could only be dealt with during these meetings which had not been the case. It was again reiterated that the publication of the photographs showing the inside of the WSCC had been purely to show to residents, the reason why the Club could not just be opened for use and had not been to humiliate the previous occupants of the Club.

Cllr RP said 3 youths had been caught on CCTV attempting to remove lead from the roof of the building but stopped after being challenged by the fairground staff. It was noted that the Clerk had already reported this incident to the SNT, who had requested a copy of the recording.

Action: supply Police with copy of the recording	BY: RP Clerk to forward to SNT
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11.3 Sports Association - Cricket event 17th July in aid of Motor Neurones disease. Noted

11.4 Youth Club – Continuing to explore ways to continue with the Club including local people setting up a group to run the committee and oversee the employment of the youth workers. Difficulties getting a response regarding the future use of the existing building continued.

11.5 Wellesbourne in Bloom – Judging day 12th July at St Peter's Church Cllrs were invited to attend

11.6 Date of next meeting 9th August 2011 - noted

12. Diamond Jubilee - Cllr DJ (report appended) – It was suggested that a Community Working Party was advertised and set up.

Action: Agenda Item for Full Council mtg August	By: Office
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13. Office and Staffing Committee – Last meeting 18th January 2011

13.1 Date of next meeting proposed 19th July 2011 - noted

14. Index of Shops and Amenities

13.1 Update from Cllr Mrs Bolton – The hard work on collating the Index data was now underway.

15. Emergency Committee – Last meeting 9th November 2010

15.1 Rubbish in River Dene at White Bridge reported by Dr Gledhill – The Clerk had notified the Environment Agency who attended and cleared the site the same day.

15.2 Date of next meeting to be agreed - noted

16. Update on changes to Household Waste Sites – Concerns were raised by Cllrs regarding the potential changes to the household waste site management but noted this referred only to the “recycling shop” and not the management of the whole facility. Cllr RW said he had raised 10 concerns with the Chairman and suggested these were forwarded to the County Council Officer dealing with this matter.

Action: Forward the questions to WCC dept requesting response to the issues raised.	BY: Office
Action: Ask WCC Officer dealing with the waste mgmt to attend WPC mgt Aug/Sept	By: DC

Effluent in the river Dene – Cllr RP said the update he had received from Cllr DJ was that WCC had agreed to check for incorrect drainage connections into the system starting with the road drains in front of Hinson's Yard. It was noted the cost of this was to be met by WCC.

Cllr Close left the meeting

17. Chedham's Yard

17.1 Arrangement for closure of Chedham's Yard account (Clerk) - Process of transfer of the funds enabling account closure had begun.

Cllr Close returned to the meeting

18. Parish Plan/Village Design Statement- update Cllr Kendall – The Plan was formally adopted by SDC on 20/6/11. Cllrs RW, DK and Mrs Main all spoke at the Cabinet meeting and thanks were passed to all involved in the production of this document. Printing would take place shortly and the next stage would be the Village Design Statement completion and a meeting had been arranged for 14/7/11 with SDC to discuss the arrangement of the document.

19. Burial Grounds - Cllr RW said proposals to go out to tender for the 2nd phase of works associated with the burial ground extension. Would be going out to tender to accord with SDC approval of the application to approve the works currently pending.

20. Wellesbourne and Kineton Community Forum

20.1 Report from the meeting of 30th June – Cllr Close.

Wellesbourne Distribution Park - WCC had indicated that a budget to re-sign the A429 would not be considered before 2012/13. After a meeting with a WCC Officer and the manager of the Distribution Park it was noted that the agents to the sites had offered to contribute towards the funding but it appeared that WCC were using staffing cuts as an excuse not to carry out the work. Discussions included proposals to place a large arrow on top of the current sign to help identify the correct entrance, and carry out improvements to the road markings directing traffic to the correct entrance. WCC view had been that the businesses on the industrial site should pay for such changes.

It was suggested that Parish Councils write directly to businesses asking them to reset their Sat-Nav systems to the correct HGV routes.

Cut backs in the Fire Service have been helped by members of the local community training in fire prevention duties to enable them to visit homes giving advice on fire prevention/safety. The Council were asked if they would like somebody to come and give a presentation on this matter.

Action: Arrange presentation to WPC by Fire Prevention Team	BY: DC
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Police priority for action matters were discussed and speed checks carried out on Bridge St. had resulted in some fixed penalty notices being issued.

20.2.1 **Date of next meeting of the Forum – 8th September 2011 at Kineton Village Hall.**
(Speaker from A&M - Flexibus Facilitator)

21. WALC/NALC

21.1 Correspondence - none

22. General Correspondence

4. Letters of thanks for grant funding: Samaritans, Air Ambulance, Neighbourhood Watch - noted

23. Cllr Exchange of Information

Cllr DC said that the distribution of Charlecote passes had been very successful again with 711 issued. District Cllr SM said a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be taking place on 15th July to discuss potential funding opportunities for community transport. She asked that one or two Parish Councillors who were not SDC/WCC Cllrs to attend and said invitations would be forwarded. Cllr VB said the hedges on Walton Road were again obscuring the “Z” bend, and problems with coaches and lorries going to the Hall continued to be a problem.

Cllr RW said the footpath from Ettington Road to Lowes Lane was a mess and the road was breaking up badly on Dovehouse Drive between the Council yard and Valletta Way.

Cllr DC said vehicles were parking on the tight bend by the flats on the first turning into Willow Drive.

Action: Report to County Highways issues raised above	BY: Office
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24. Date of next meeting 2nd August 2011 – Noted

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.32pm

Chairman....Cllr Grantham.....

Signed.....

