

WOOLAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Woolavington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Higher Road, Woolavington on Tuesday, 3rd March 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- A. Sharp (Chairman), A.J. Chidgey, Mrs S. Chidgey, R. Darch, J. Dobson, B.J. Galloway, Mrs C. Galloway, M.P. Herbert, R.J. Raymond, R. Young (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

Apology for absence received from Mrs J. Reade and District Councillor Mrs A. Hamlin.

90. Disclosures of Interest

Mr and Mrs Chidgey disclosed interests in matters relating to the B3141 as residents of Causeway, Mr Sharp disclosed an interest in matters relating to BAE Systems due to a pension and Mr and Mrs Galloway disclosed interests in matters relating to the village hall as members of the Village Hall Committee.

91. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20th January 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

92. Reports of the County and District Councillors

Neither Member was present.

93. Presentation from Young People of Flare

Matthew and Keiran, members of the Flare Youth Club made a presentation on their activities and aspirations for the future of the Club. There was a strong need for additional space for the Club where young people could meet in a safe, comfortable environment with soft furnishings such as bean bags and where notice boards displaying their work could be fixed to the walls. There was also a wish for additional equipment such as a snooker table. It was felt that the Belcher Room might be suitable for adapting into a more informal community space in the Village Hall and that Big Local money would assist in improving facilities for the young people. Matthew and Keiran were thanked for their excellent presentation and it was agreed to form a working party to explore options to assist the development of the Flare Youth Club.

94. Woolavington Awareness Day

Mrs Galloway reported upon that a Woolavington Awareness Day at which village organisations and businesses could explain to residents what they do would be held in the Village Hall on Saturday, 6th June 2015. It was agreed that the Parish Council take part at the event.

95. Big Local Funding

It was noted that the Parish Council had received a sum of £11,500 to date to make payments as Interim LTO for the Scheme. An update on the current position regarding the scheme was discussed. It was noted that public consultation events on the plan for the first three years were currently being held. Concern was expressed at the level of expenditure proposed for "Partnership Support".

96. Play Area, Higher Road

It was noted that the RLT3 grant application in respect of the proposed goal/basket ball facility had been approved by the District Council and an order had been placed. The scheme for the complete renewal the play equipment would now be progressed and it was agreed to apply to Viridor Credits for a grant of £13,000 to meet the shortfall in available funds. Gary Bickers had fitted sheep wire to the fence following treatment of wood with preservative. Other winter maintenance work had also been undertaken by Mr Bickers.

97. Highways Issues

It was noted that County Highways had not made any progress with the outstanding maintenance issues including work at Reeds Drive, a need to refurbish the pedestrian crossing markings, signs at Church Street, provision of a bus stop flag at Higher Road and damaged verges at Woolavington Estate. Reference was again made to the decline in the standard of service provided by County Highways. It was noted that no further information had been received from the County Council regarding the possible grant of an exemption to the weight restriction for a local business which had been strongly opposed by the Parish Council. It was agreed to again request the County Council to provide a dropped kerb at the Crancombe Lane/Higher Road junction together with “keep clear” markings at the Crockers Hill/Higher Road junction.

98. Financial Matters

The following payments had been made since the last Meeting:-

000908 P.J. Wallace	Big Local Plan Project	£4,317.80
000909 S. Banham	gardening	£443.25
000910 G. Bickers	maintenance work	£392.60

The following payments were authorised:-

000911 Purnells	Villages Together printing	£848.20
000912 W. Stone	hedge cutting	£420.00
000913 Greenslades	grass cutting	£313.99
000914 Parish Clerk	expenses & sundry payments	£646.85

99. Statement of Internal Control

The Council considered and approved a Statement of Internal Control for 2014/15.

100. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:-

020 Erection of 45 dwellings, formation of estate roads, open space, LAP, community orchard and allotments, Crockers Hill – Newland Homes (revised plans) – recommend permission.

001 Demolition of single storey extension and erection of detached bungalow, detached double garage and improvements to access, 23 Lower Road – P. Brandon – recommendation delegated to the Clerk in consultation with Members following a site visit.

002 & 003LB Demolition of garden store and erection of new garage/store, 12 Lower Road – Mr. and Mrs. S. Tucker – recommend permission.

With regard to application 016 (Retail convenience store, Prince of Wales) it was noted that the District Council’s legal officers had yet to obtain written evidence from solicitors that the date in the contract between Punch Tavern and Box Properties had not expired in connection with the Community Right to Buy legislation. It was agreed to request that this be pursued urgently as it was understood that work might be commencing on the building in the near future and also to seek an assurance that the Post Office will be involved in any relocation of the Co-op store.

101. Reports from Voluntary Organisations

Mr Galloway reported upon the Village Hall Management Committee and the development of the book exchange scheme.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Chairman

