

WOOLAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Woolavington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Higher Road, Woolavington on Tuesday, 5th August 2014 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, Mrs J. Reade, County/District Councillor M. Healey R. Young (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

Apology for absence received from District Councillor Mrs A. Hamlin

29. Declarations 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 Galloway disclosed an interest in matters relating to the village hall as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

30. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th June 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31. Newland Homes

Simon Richardson, Land Manager and Jeremy Drew, Design Director, Newland Homes gave a presentation on his companies' plans for development of the land adjacent to the new surgery off Crockers Hill. It was generally felt that materials should major on stone and render and adequate parking spaces should be provided. It was agreed that a meeting be held with Newland Homes and Duncan Harvey, Sedgemoor District Council to discuss the mix of affordable housing on the site.

32. Reports of the County and District Councillors

District/County Councillor Healey reported upon a meeting with the Environment Agency regarding flooding, the Health and Well Being grant scheme, police issues, wind turbine planning applications and Middlemoor Water Park. Councillor Healey was asked for updates on Hinkley C and the Energy Park and also to seek benefits for the village from companies submitting applications for Solar Farms.

33. Proposed Neighbourhood Agreement, Woolavington Estate

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Agreement had been finalised at a meeting with residents and interested parties held on 22nd July 2014 and a copy was available to view on the Parish Web-site.

34. Big Local Funding

Helen Baker reported that a new Steering Group had been formed with six representatives from each village. It was felt that the two Parish Councils should each have a Member representative on the new Steering Group. Details were submitted of a community event, a radio project, which was supported by Villages Together and designed to help engage with residents. The event was due to take place in the Sportsfield on 20th/21st September. It was agreed to support the event and to assist with insurance and holding finance.

35. Maintenance Issues

It was noted that meetings had been held with play and sports equipment providers to enable plans to be drawn up to replace the play equipment in the Lower Playing Field. A goal/basket ball facility was the top priority and an RLT3 grant application was being worked up. A quotation had been received from GB Sport and Leisure for repairs to the skateboard facility. It was agreed to accept the quotation for the work but to question the cost of the security fencing. The dog waste bin had been installed at Ham Lane. The Village Clean-up Day on 26th July was discussed. Only 12 volunteers took part but 15 bags of rubbish were collected. Repairs had been carried out to the wooden fence in the

Lower Playing Field and it was agreed to fit sheep wire to help to prevent balls from going on to the road. A damaged street lamp at Windmill Crescent had been reported.

36. Highways Issues

Reference was made to the poor quality of reinstatement of a number of highway defects. No action had been taken by the Highways Authority since the last Meeting regarding the outstanding items which would be discussed at the next Polden Hills Cluster Meeting together with the standard of reinstatements:- signs at Church Street, bus stop flag and yellow hatching at Higher Road and damaged verges at Woolavington Estate. No progress had been made with the enhancement of the bus shelter at Lockswell. Continuous breaches of the weight restriction by HGVs were still occurring and it was agreed to log details of offenders for forwarding to the police whenever possible. Reference was made to a problem of Lower Road/Crockers Hill being used as a rat run during road works in Higher Road and it was agreed to contact County Highways urgently to seek a solution. It was also agreed to seek reinstatement of white edge of carriageway markings between Woolavington and Puriton and to request that the willow trees on highway land at Reeds Drive be pollarded and vegetation obscuring road signs be cleared.

37. Financial Matters

The following payments were authorised:-

000883 Greenslades	grass cutting	£313.99
000884 G. Bickers	grass cutting	£1,088.50
000885 A1 Gardening	grass cutting	£169.99
000886 S. Banham	gardening	£138.00
000887 SDC	lease payment	£140.00
000888 Grant Thornton	audit fee	£240.00
000889 J. Wall	honarium	£125.00

A Bank Reconciliation for the period 1st April to 30th June 2014 was checked with the original bank statements and signed by the Members who did not sign cheques as part of the Council's financial controls.

It was noted that the External Auditors had completed the audit for 2013/14 and had concluded on the basis of their review, in their opinion the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters has come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

38. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:-

011 Erection of garage, 10 Mortimer Close – A. Stamps – recommend conditional permission.

012 Work to Field Maple tree, 5A Lower Road – R. Ingram – recommend permission.

It was noted that planning application 007 - Change of use, conversion and extension of former public house to village convenience store, Prince of Wales, 42 Woolavington Hill – Box Property Group – had been withdrawn by the applicant.

It was also agreed to seek an update on the planning enforcement issue at Reeds Drive.

39. Reports from Voluntary Organisations

Mr Mundell reported upon the Village Show to be held on 30th August 2014 and plans to install solar panels on the Village Hall roof.

Helen Baker reported upon the work of Flare and the Job Club.

The Meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Chairman

Matters discussed during public question time included public footpath and highway issues.