WOOLAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Woolavington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Higher Road, Woolavington on Tuesday, 20th January 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- A. Sharp (Chairman), A.J. Chidgey, Mrs S. Chidgey, R. Darch, B.J. Galloway, Mrs C. Galloway, R.J. Raymond, Mrs J. Reade, District Councillor Mrs A. Hamlin, R. Young (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

Apology for absence received from J. Dobson and M.P. Herbert.

78. 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.

79. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9th December 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

80. Reports of the County and District Councillors

District Councillor Mrs Hamlin had no report upon District Council issues. Members raised concerns about a lack of feedback from elected Members particularly regarding the County Council's plans to withdraw the 102 bus service as part of a cost cutting exercise.

81. Somerset Rural Youth Project

Stephen Baker, Community Programme Manager, Somerset Rural Youth Project, attended the meeting and outlined his organisation's recent work in Woolavington. Ways in which SRYP might be able to offer on-going support to Flare were discussed and feedback would be reported at future Meetings.

82. Woolavington Awareness Day

Mrs Galloway reported upon an idea for a Woolavington Awareness Day at which village organisations and possibly businesses could explain to residents what they do and hopefully attract new members/volunteers. The idea was supported with a view to an event being organised in June 2015.

83. Big Local Funding

It was noted that the Parish Council had passed all due diligence tests to act as Interim LTO for the Scheme. An update on the current position regarding the scheme was discussed and it was noted that public consultation events on the plan for the first three years would be held during late February/early March.

84. Maintenance Issues

It was noted that the RLT3 grant application in respect of the proposed goal/basket ball facility would go before the Sedgemoor Grants Panel on 27th January 2015. It was agreed to place an order should that application be successful. GB Sport and Leisure had completed the repairs to the skateboard facility but there was currently an issue with part of the work. Gary Bickers would fit sheep wire to the fence in the Lower Playing Field following treatment of wood with preservative and other winter maintenance work was being undertaken by Mr Bickers. It was also agreed to report further fly-tipping at Combe Lane.

85. Highways Issues

Highway maintenance issues at Reeds Drive were discussed and it was agreed to report a need to refurbish the pedestrian crossing markings. Other long outstanding highway items discussed at the Polden Hills Cluster Meeting

together with the standard of reinstatements:- signs at Church Street (which would involve illumination of certain signs), provision of a bus stop flag at Higher Road and damaged verges at Woolavington Estate (which were a low priority for reinstatement) had still not been completed and reference was made to a decline in the standard of service provided by County Highways. It was agreed to commence work on the enhancement of the bus shelter at Lockswell in the spring. It was noted that the County Council were considering the grant of an exemption to the weight restriction for a local business and it was agreed to maintain a strong opposition to this proposal.

86. Financial Matters

The following payments were authorised:-

000905 Greenslades	grass cutting	£313.99
000906 Village Hall Committee	grants	£3,000.00
000907 J. Wall	honorarium	£125.00

87. Risk Management Report and Review of Standing Orders

The Council considered and approved a Risk Management Report for 2015/16. Members also considered a review of Standing Order 1m following a change in regulations to permit the public to film, photograph or record Council meetings. It was agreed to adopt the following text supplied by the legal section of the National Association of Local Councils.:-

1 Meetings

m A person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if he is present at the meeting of a parish council or its committees but otherwise may:

i) film, photograph or make an audio recording of the meeting;

ii) use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later;

iii) report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting.

88. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:-

021 Formation of access, 14 Higher Road – D. Cummings – recommend permission.

022 Erection of extensions, Darkfield Farm, Cossington Lane – Mr. and Mrs. C. Willsteed – confirm recommendation of permission.

023 Conversion of garage to living accommodation, 63 Highcroft – P. Underwood – recommend permission

The Chairman reported that application 016 (Retail convenience store, Prince of Wales) had been permitted by the District Council at their Development Control Committee that afternoon and outlined reasons for that decision. It was agreed to request confirmation from the District Council's legal officers that they had written evidence that the date in the contract between Punch Tavern and Box Properties had not expired.

89. Reports from Voluntary Organisations

Mr Galloway reported upon maintenance work carried out at the Village Hall.

Helen Baker had circulated a detailed report on her work prior to the meeting. It was agreed to form a Sub Group comprising Mrs Chidgey and Mrs Reade to work with Helen and produce a Youth Development Plan for consideration at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

The Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m. Chairman