

WOOLAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Woolavington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Higher Road, Woolavington on Tuesday, 18th December 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- A.J. Chidgey (Chairman), Mrs S. Chidgey, R. Darch, B.J. Galloway, Mrs C. Galloway, R.J. Raymond, A. Sharp, R. Young (Clerk), District Councillor Mrs A. Hamlin and 7 members of the public.

Apology for absence received from J. Dobson, M.P. Herbert, Mrs. J. Reade and County/District Councillor M. Healey.

68. Disclosures of Interest

Mr and Mrs Chidgey disclosed interests in planning application 021 as owners of nearby land. Mrs Chidgey disclosed an interest in planning application 022 as an employee at the school. Mr Sharp disclosed an interest in matters relating to BAE Systems due to a pension. It was noted that dispensations had been granted to 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 and A. Sharp to enable the precept to be determined.

69. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13th November 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

70. Reports of the County and District Councillors

District Councillor Mrs. Hamlin had no report.

71. Development Issues

The Council received a report on the work of the Development Issues Working Group since the last Meeting. The Monitoring Officer had advised that it was for the Parish Council to determine as to whether a representative of the Woolavington Neighbourhood Forum could join the Group. It was agreed not to invite a representative of that Forum to join the Group as such person would not be bound by the Council's Code of Conduct.

72. Maintenance Issues

Arrangements had been made for remedial work to be carried out to the pavilion. Fly tipping had ceased to be a major problem. The District Council were planning to carry out maintenance work to the trees/bushes in the Churchyard during the winter. It was agreed to arrange for a gully to be dug in the north-eastern section of the Sportsfield to prevent water from entering adjoining gardens. It was reported that the "environmental group" now had some 125 small trees potted up. It was agreed to try to get the School interested in the tree planting project. Various potential sites were discussed and it was noted that the conifers in the Lower Playing Field were showing signs of die-back. It was felt that this site might be suitable for replanting possibly as part of a refurbishment of the whole area. It was also noted that completion of the memorial bench might take place in the near future.

73. Highways Issues

A number of road defects had been reported and repaired since the last Meeting. It was agreed to report defects at Church Street and problems at Coombe Lane and also to enquire as to whether the one-way street signs at Church Street conform to regulations. The Highway Authority had provided white edge markings to the carriageway at Crockers Hill. The need to cut certain hedges and overhanging vegetation had been reported and the majority had been cut back. The bus stop sign near Chertsey Close had been removed and a possible alternative location in which to site it was being investigated.

74. Concern regarding dogs, Reeds Drive

The Council considered a letter of concern regarding certain dogs at Reeds Drive. The dogs were on private property and not contravening any regulations and it was therefore agreed to note the matter.

75. Big Local Lottery Funding

Woolavington and Puriton had been selected to jointly receive £1 million Big Local funding. This came from a £200m endowment from the Big Lottery Fund and the scheme was run by an organisation known as Local Trust.

Local Trust's mission was "to enable people to make their communities better places to live" They do this by helping people "develop and use their skills and confidence to identify what matters most to them and to take action to change things for the better, now and in the future" They would provide a mix of funding and support to enable long-term sustainable change, maximise impact and make the best use of resources. The funding would be spread over a period of 10 years.

A Big Local representative had been appointed to give support and advice and it was the intention for Woolavington and Puriton Parish Councils to jointly meet him, informally, early in the New Year to discover the best way to take this exciting opportunity forward.

76. Accounts for Payment

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

000807 Post Office	pavilion electricity account	£1,244.71
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The following payments were authorised:-

000808 G. Bickers	grass cutting	£210.00
000809 S. Banham	gardening	£203.00
000810 Sedgemoor DC	cemetery landscaping	£930.00
000811 Parish Clerk	expenses	£367.01
000812 Sedgemoor CAB	grant	£100.00

The Council considered the draft budget for 2013/14. It was unanimously agreed that the budget be approved and a precept of £38,970 be levied, less any Council Tax Support Scheme grant.

77. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:-

016 Outline permission for development and associated landscaping, infrastructure and access off Woolavington Hill – Sycamore Property Development Fund and Mrs C.K. Hudson – defer at request of the applicants;

020 Conversion of garage to living accommodation, 6 The Drive – Mr & Mrs S. Dunn – recommend permission;

021 Erection of stable block and tack room, formation of horse riding arena and use of land to park horse lorry/trailer, north of Reeds Drive – S. Marsh – recommend conditional permission.

022 Renewal of planning permission for Elliott building, Woolavington Community Primary School, Higher Road – Somerset County Council – recommend permission.

78. Reports from Voluntary Organisations

Mr Galloway reported upon the recent AGM of the Village Hall Committee. Work was taking place to refurbish the space previously allocated to Royal Mail and investigation was taking place into providing a broadband connection for the hall.

Helen Baker and Rachel Vickery submitted a report on WRAP activities. It was noted that a Christmas production was planned for 20th December. The young people were to be invited to consider a new name for WRAP and various procedural issues were discussed.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman

Items discussed in public question time included consultation forms in respect of planning application 00009.

