

WOOLAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Woolavington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Higher Road, Woolavington on Tuesday, 2nd October 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- A.J. Chidgey (Chairman), Mrs S. Chidgey, R. Darch, J. Dobson, B.J. Galloway, Mrs C. Galloway, M.P. Herbert, A. Sharp, R. Young (Clerk), District Councillor Mrs A. Hamlin, County/District Councillor M. Healey and 48 members of the public.

Apology for absence received from R.J. Raymond and Mrs J. Reade.

42. Disclosures of Interest

Mr and Mrs Chidgey disclosed interests in matters relating to the B3141 as residents of Causeway and Mr Sharp disclosed an interest in matters relating to BAE Systems due to a pension.

43. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21st August 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

44. Reports of the County and District Councillors

District Councillor Hamlin reported upon welfare benefit issues and County Councillor Healey reported upon a Health and Well-Being Budget and highway and economic development infrastructure issues Councillor Healey undertook to invite the appropriate County Council Cabinet Member to the next Meeting to enable various concerns to be discussed..

45. Police Issues

Representatives of the Police were not in attendance. It was agreed to request the Police to attend to the overnight parking of a HGV in Vicarage Road and parking issues in the Chilpitts and Windmill Crescent areas.

46. Proposed Housing/Surgery Development, Crockers Hill

The Council received a presentation from Avril Baker, Avril Baker Consultancy on the Public Consultation Exercise carried out on 7th/8th September and from Matt Halstead, Alder King Planning and Jamie Furse, AWW Architects on the revised plans which were designed to overcome the concerns of the Parish Council and local residents and secure compliance with Policy P4 of the Sedgemoor Core Strategy and meet objectives contained in the Parish Plan. Dr Andrew Rowling, Edington Surgery, Martin Davidson, Chairman of the Patient Participation Group and Dr David Rooke, Chairman of the NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group addressed the meeting on the need for a new Surgery to cater for Woolavington and surrounding villages, funding/timescale issues and possible assisted transport measures for patients. Members of the Development Issues Working Group reported upon detailed and lengthy meetings with representatives of BAE Systems to discuss the concerns with the original proposals and it was noted that the developer had listened and acted on nearly all of the concerns and had significantly addressed the requirements of Policy P4 of the Core Strategy. Draft results of the Housing Needs Survey indicated a need for 14 units after completion of the SHAL development. 18 affordable units were shown on the current plans, 4 of which would be built in a second phase. (Parish Councillors in discussion with District Council officers had identified known families facing difficulties and yet had failed to respond to the survey. Further work with such families was imminent). After discussion Members of the Parish Council agreed that there were now no strong policy grounds to object to application 54/12/00009 in light of the amended plans and to withdraw their objections, subject to certain provisos.

47. Development Issues

The Council received a report on other work of the Development Issues Working Group since the last Meeting. The opinion of the Monitoring Officer as to whether a representative of the Woolavington Neighbourhood Forum could join the Group was still awaited despite a further reminder.

48. Maintenance Issues

It was noted that a request had been received for enhancement of the play equipment in the Lower Playing Field. Eugene Green had again been reminded of the need to undertake remedial work to the pavilion roof. Dan Manley had ceased grass cutting on medical grounds and A1 Gardening of Axbridge had taken over his contract for the remainder of the season. A group of residents at Hectorstones had cleared accumulations of loose grass and had cut the grass again on The Batch following concerns regarding the issue of poor quality of grass cutting by the District Council. It was agreed to contribute towards the cost of their petrol should they continue with maintenance of this area in the future and to seek reimbursement from the District Council. It was also noted that a highway verge in Reeds Drive had been tidied. Fly tipping had ceased to be a problem. Community Payback personnel had carried out a further litter pick in the Sportsfield and surrounding area during September. It was agreed to explore enhancement of the Lockswell bus shelter, possibly by way of a children's art project.

49. Highways Issues

The B3141 18 tonne weight restriction order had been confirmed by the County Council and would be implemented when signs had been changed. A number of road defects had been reported since the last Meeting and had been repaired. The Highway Authority were investigating introduction of road markings to improve highway safety in Crockers Hill and had jetted a culvert in Combe Lane. The need to cut certain hedges and overhanging vegetation would be reported.

50. General Power of Competence

It was resolved that Woolavington Parish Council met the criteria to use the General Power of Competence.

51. Accounts for Payment

The following payments were authorised:-

000797 A1 Gardening	grass cutting	£254.99
000798 G. Bickers	grass cutting	£240.00
000799 Greenslades	grass cutting	£299.00
000800 Parish Clerk	expenses	£467.12

52. Planning Applications

The following new planning applications were considered:-

014 Change of use of existing stable and arena from domestic to business use and formation of new driveway and access to Middlemoor Drove, north of Reeds Drive – Middlemoor Equestrian – defer for Site Visit;

015 Change of use and conversion of former chapel to dwelling and erection of double garage, Causeway – T. Howes – recommend permission.

It was also agreed, if necessary, to report unauthorised development at Cossington Lane to the Planning Enforcement Section.

53. Reports from Voluntary Organisations

Mr Galloway reported upon completion of work to the lounge roof at the Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Chairman

Items discussed in public question time included planning issues, parking issues and overhanging vegetation.

