

Kings Worthy Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21 October 2013
at Kings Worthy Community Centre, Fraser Road, Kings Worthy**

Present: Councillors: Sarah White [Chairman], Bob Barnes, Ian Gordon, Mandy Hallisey, Stewart Newell, Malcolm Prince, Kerstin Reiners, Martin Taylor, Judith Steventon Baker [left 10.07] and Denis Welstead [left 10.22].

HCC: Cllr Jackie Porter

WCC: Cllr Robert Johnston

Clerk: Colin Arnett

Public: 1

PC/13/113 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Allen and PCSO Chris Martin. Cllr Steventon Baker had a prior engagement and would be late for the meeting [arrived 7.54].

PC/13/114 Public Question Time

Top Field Action Group - Carl Bowring representing the "Top Field Action Group" gave a brief presentation to members expressing the concerns of the group regarding the proposed development on land off Hookpit Farm Lane.

Their principle concerns were;

- The high number of affordable homes
- The site allocation process and the net dwellings required
- The loss and shortfall of green space

He left a paper for members detailing the groups concerns.

Cllr Gordon explained that the Parish Council had asked Drew Smith to wait until they had agreed with WCC when to hold an exhibition on the proposals for the Parish to meet the target imposed on them to provide 250 dwellings within the settlement. He explained that despite this request Drew Smith had refused to wait for the proper consultation sessions as they considered that the officers at WCC were not moving quickly enough.

The exhibition dates had been arranged for the 19 and 20 November 2013, where all three potential developers would exhibit their proposals for achieving the 2031 housing target shortfall of properties within the settlement boundary. It is envisaged that the number of dwellings that will have to be built outside the settlement boundary is only some 22 dwellings.

PC/13/115 Reports from Police/County Councillor/City Councillor/School Governor/Parish Councillors

- **Police** – the monthly report from Chris Martin had been circulated to members [copy attached].

Cllr Gordon expressed his concerns as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Kings Worthy that the figures did not tally with those received from other sources and also that a large number of cases seemed to be closed to investigation at a very early stage. Members agreed that a letter be sent to the police superintendent for the division for clarification on the discrepancy and the current process for handling offences. **Action – Cllr Gordon/the clerk**

- **County Councillor** – Jackie Porter circulated copies of her monthly report to members [copy attached].

She shared with members a letter from Hampshire Highways detailing the cost implications of improvements to the A33 junction. She has a meeting scheduled with the chairman of the South Downs National Park where she will raise many of the issues of concern to residents of the Itchen Valley.

Cllr Welstead thanked her for the grant towards the refurbishment of the war memorial.

- **City Councillor** - Robert Johnston presented his monthly report [copy attached]

He emphasised the work of the boundary commission whereby the number of city councillors could be reduced to between 40-45 and that some parish boundaries could be changed.

Cllr Prince asked that Robert monitor any proposals by WCC to reduce the subsidy on the precept as any reduction would clearly have an adverse effect on the parish.

Cllr Gordon suggested that WCC should review the priorities for parking throughout the village and not just consider schemes in isolation.

Cllr Welstead asked that the Planning Department monitor the mud on Hookpit Farm Lane resulting from the development on top field.

Members were invited to the Festival AGM and Celebration which will be held at the King Charles PH on the 20 November 2013.

- **School Governor** – Jackie Porter indicated that some governor meeting dates are to be moved so as not to clash with PC meetings.

The building extension is scheduled to start in the New Year to include new roofing on the existing building and the removal of the temporary classrooms. The Worthies Youth Football are now using the school football pitch. Cllr White is liaising with the headteacher about a possible meeting with the school council.

- **Worthies Sports and Social Club** – Cllrs White, Prince and Allen had met with the club and discussed the cricket nets, car park, kneel rail, toilet facilities access and the proposal to extend the club's picnic bench area. It was agreed that the PC would continue to advertise the availability of the clubs' toilet facilities to the public during their opening times, but there was a reluctance to put up a "Public Toilets" sign due to concern over the possible abuse of the facilities.
- **Hitting the Cold Spots 2013-14** – Cllr Steventon Baker had attended the launch organised by HCC and has some leaflets available.
- **Winchester Mediation Service**- Cllr Steventon Baker had attended a presentation on this service which covers topics from bereavement to disputes with neighbours.
- **Street Reach/Youth Council** – Cllr Reiners had attended the AGM and has accepted an offer of a site visit to either Winnall, Stanmore or Weeke. Cllr White is to attend a meeting of Ringwood Town Council to see how their student advisors work with the council.
- **Tubbs Hall Management Committee**- Cllrs Welstead & Steventon Baker had attended a meeting and were pleased that progress on a new lease was progressing to enable charitable status for the group.
- **Tenants Association**- Cllr Steventon Baker was pleased to report that lobbying from the group had resulted in a seat being removed from the grass area on Somerville Road where youths had been causing a nuisance. She asked for any suggestions for re-siting it.

PC/13/116 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 16 September 2013

The minutes were agreed as a true record and were signed by Cllr White.

PC/13/117 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16 September 2013

- **PC/13/100 Springvale Road Speed Survey** – the deputy clerk has been asked to chase a meeting with Hampshire Highways.
- **PC/13/104 Core Strategy Part 2** - Cllr Gordon reported that exhibitions had been arranged for the evening of the 19th November [7-10pm] and the afternoon of 20th November [12-6pm] 2013. WCC Planners will be in attendance and the landowners have been asked to attend for the last two hours of the session. The event will be widely publicised and it is hoped that parish councillors will also be available in order to ensure that we receive feedback from parishioners on each site.

- **PC/13/109 Worthy's Fete** - Members agreed that the small balance of monies from the Council's Pimms Stall be held as a float for the next event
- **PC/13/111 Festival Quiz** - Cllr White thanked all those who attended.
- **PC/13/111 Litter Pick** - this had been arranged for the 26 October 2013 [am].

PC/13/118 To receive the Minutes of the Sub-Committees:

The Minutes of the following Committees were received and discussed.

Planning and Highways Committee – 24 September 2013

Cllr Gordon presented the minutes;

- **Car Wash Sign London Road** – this illegal sign was dismantled today. HCC are liaising with WCC with regards the signage. WCC are also investigating reports that persons are sleeping on the site at night.
- **Land off Hookpit Farm Lane** – a presentation was given by Drew Smith on their proposed development of 74 dwellings.
- **Abbots Worthy House** – this planning application had been withdrawn.
- **Tesco Express Garages**- assurances have been received from the manager that the site will be kept tidy.
- **Church Lane** – the white paint around the pot-holes had now worn away. The installation of a sign saying unsuitable for heavy vehicles is being investigated.
- **Planning Applications** – had been received for Down Farm Bull Farm Lane, Land Adjacent to Rose Acre, Well Cottage Martyr Worthy and The Annexe, Lansker House.
- **Fraser Road Parking**- it was agreed that a meeting be held in 3 months with county and city councillors with a view to leafleting parked cars and arranging a public meeting to discuss the issues.
- **Land off Hookpit Farm Lane – Road Naming** – Members agreed that the names Bramble and Buddleia be put forward to WCC. **Action – the clerk**

Recreation and Amenities Committee – 3 October 2013

Cllr Newell presented the minutes and highlighted the following;

- **Skate Park**- a presentation was given to members on the provision of a skate park. They agreed to consider a proposal and examine the financial feasibility.
- **Dog Fouling** – Cllr Reiners outlined the campaign which includes the use of stencils to highlight deposits and a dog colouring competition for children.

Cllr Hallisey indicated that the PC should not be responsible for policing the problem. Complaints should go to the WCC Dog Warden. Cllr Gordon suggested that we gain the support of our county and city councillors to lobby WCC to re-instate the second Dog Warden post. This would then allow Dog Wardens to investigate such issues, as one warden for the area covered by WCC is considered inadequate given the workload.

Cllr Welstead agreed to assist Cllr Reiners in stencil spraying.

- **Church Green** - the contractors had been delayed on completing the path by the inclement weather. The playground public consultation was scheduled for the 15 October 2013 – feedback would be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Fryers Close Playground** – Members had agreed that the scheme proposed by Sovereign was the most favourable.
- **Springvale Road Bus Shelter** – this had now been completed.
- **Play/Sports Strategy** - Members agreed to develop a strategy for ongoing maintenance and the development of community facilities. Cllr Welstead suggested that more organised sports/games be encouraged by the PC.

Finance Committee – 16 October 2013

Cllr Prince presented the minutes and highlighted the following;

The current surplus on current account amounts to £3,278. It is anticipated that the accounts will break even at year end which is excellent when compared with the deficit budget which was set for the current financial year.

- **Grants**
 - **Victim Support** - Members approved a grant of £250.
 - **Tubbies Toddler Group** – Members approve a grant of £70 for new toys and craft equipment
- **Cheque Signing** - Members had discussed the recommendations from the Internal Auditor and agreed that wherever possible cheques should not be signed outside of committee and could also be signed at PC. Members agreed payment of £400 to TCA for tree inspections and the cheque was signed.
- **External Auditors Report** – copies of the BDO Annual Audit Report were circulated to members. Members approved and accepted the report. Members were presented with the issues arising from the report and Cllr Prince confirmed that action had been taken on these.

PC/13/119 Standing Orders

Cllr Gordon had suggested some amendments which he had circulated to the Chairman and Committee Chairs.

PC/13/120 Replacement Clerk

Cllrs White & Gordon are to meet with HALC to clarify the procedures associated with the appointment of a new clerk. A draft job description and advertisement are being compiled.

PC/13/121 Lionel Tubbs Hall & Kings Worthy Community Centre Lease

Under the National Code of Local Government Cllrs Steven Baker and Welstead declared an interest being on the Tubbs Hall Management Committee.

A meeting had been held with the WCC legal team including Cllr Johnston, Cllr Prince and the clerk. A revised plan was shown to members highlighting the areas to be incorporated in the new lease. This will be for some 25 years. The existing lease will be surrendered and WCC agreed to fund the legal costs associated with the new lease. A target date of the 1 January 2014 was agreed for completion.

Phase two will be for the THMC to surrender their existing lease and a new lease agreed with the PC to support their application for charitable status.

PC/13/122 Communications

Cllr White reported that the website and Facebook are working well.

A new listing of the rota for the monthly communications group had been circulated to members. For the next 3 months this would be Cllrs White, Barnes and Taylor

It was agreed that the Core Strategy, Cold Spots Initiative and Plaque Unveiling should be included in the next monthly communications bulletin.

PC/13/123 Clerk’s Notices

None

PC/13/124 Chairman’s Notices

None

PC/13/125 Items for the Next Meeting

Members suggested the following items for the next meeting; Standing Orders, Parish Council meeting dates.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on the 18 November 2013.

The meeting closed at 10.38pm.

Signed

Dated