

WIGMORE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Monday 8 June 2015
(Approved 13 July 2015)

PUBLIC SESSION : Members of the public present: 4

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| 1 | <p>Present: Councillors Graham Probert (GP), Clare Major (CM), Bryan Casbourne (BC), and Kevan Perkins (KP); Carole Gandy (Ward Councillor) (CG), Rachel Dixon (Locality Steward)(RD)</p> <p>Apologies: Anne Gilbert</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Declarations of Interest : KP – non-pecuniary interest declared in respect of Item 7.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Co-option of Councillors</p> <p>Alan Dowdy (Leinthall Starkes), Vic Harnett (Wigmore), Jenny Johnson (Wigmore) had expressed their willingness to be co-opted as Parish Councillors.</p> <p>All candidates proposed by: KP All candidates seconded by: BC All in favour.</p> <p>AD, VH and JJ duly signed acceptance of office forms and they were welcomed as councillors.</p> <p>There remains one vacancy for Elton.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Reports:</p> <p>4.1 Ward Councillor</p> <p>Cllr Carole Gandy (CG) was welcomed as the new Councillor for Mortimer Ward. She gave the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main issues currently are roads and planning. • Core Strategy: It is hoped that the Inspector’s report will be received by the end of June. Assuming it contains nothing controversial, Herefordshire Council will hold a special meeting to adopt the Strategy. Once adopted, there should be no more speculative development applications for the duration of the strategy. • Road surfacing at Ongar Street: surface dressing has been carried out without first filling potholes. RD is investigating. • Fly-tipping: BBLP is reacting to reports of fly-tipping. However, there are delays due to the fact that the (under-resourced) Community Protection Team are required to assess the situation before instructing BBLP. • Chairman of the Council’s charity: under Olwyn Barnett’s chairmanship, the chosen charity was St. Michael’s Hospice. £27k was recently handed over to the Hospice at an event attended by CG, Cllr John Stoner (new Chairman of the Council) and Olwyn’s family. CG reports that the new wing of the Hospice is very impressive. It is likely that this will continue as the Chairman’s charity. <p>CG invited questions and KP raised the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency cover on bank holidays in relation to his attempts to report broken glass on the King’s Meadow play area on Whit Monday. When the street cleansing service did come the following day, the glass was not properly removed. RD to look into. • Fencing around the play area: this has still not been repaired and is dangerous. There has already been an accident. Hfcs Council would be liable for any claims. • RD will ask for urgent inspection. | <p style="text-align: center;">RD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RD</p> |

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| | <p>4.2 Locality Steward</p> <p>GP thanked RD for arranging ditching work to be done near Leinthall Starkes. The team had done a good job.</p> <p>RD reported that the re-surfacing of the A4110 in Wigmore was scheduled for 20-27 July. However, whilst she had requested for resurfacing from the Bury Lane junction to the Ford Street junction, the work would cease at Barnet Lane for reasons of cost (. Councillors agreed that the section between Lingen Lane and Ford Street is more important. RD (with support from CG) will again ask for the full length to be done. Failing this for the stretch from Lingen Lane to Ford Street to be done in preference. It was noted that utility companies can be required to rectify sunken utility covers.</p> | RD/CG |
| 5 | <p>Minutes of previous meetings (11/5/15)</p> <p>The minutes of both the ordinary meeting and the annual meeting of the Parish Council were agreed to be an accurate record of the meetings and signed accordingly.</p> <p>Proposed: CM Seconded: AG All in favour.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Lengthsman update</p> <p>The contract between WGPC and Hfds Council has been signed and returned to BBLP.</p> <p>Contracts between WGPC and contractors undertaking aspects of Lengthsman work are still to be completed.</p> <p>No work has been undertaken under the scheme this year.</p> | LH/Chair |
| 7 | <p>Community Field</p> <p>Tom Smith (TS) and a colleague attended the meeting to discuss use of the Community Field for adult Sunday League football. It is their hope in due course to involve Wigmore residents including youngsters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Councillors unanimously AGREED to the use of the field for this purpose. ● GP confirmed that the school is willing for them to use shower and changing facilities in the short term and will contact direct. ● GP will arrange to remove the old (rotten) goalposts and to research the cost of replacement , probably aluminium, posts. ● WGPC will consider paying for replacements. ● The grass in the field has now been cut by Woodfields. TS and team will take over responsibility for preparing and maintaining the pitch. ● In the longer term, the team will want to establish changing rooms and showers on site. BC suggested asking Hfds Council whether surplus portacabins were still available. CG to follow up. ● WGPC will also consider paying for connection of water, waste and electricity in due course from the Community Field fund. | GP CG |
| 8 | <p>Updates</p> <p>(a) Noticeboard. No progress. GP to take back noticeboard.</p> <p>(b) Defibrillator: the case is faulty, whether due to vandalism is not known. Councillors expressed the view that it should be sufficiently strong to withstand misuse of the keypad and agreed that the supplier should be asked to provide a cabinet which is sufficiently robust for the job. If it is necessary to spend more on providing a metal case then this will be agreed in due course.</p> <p>They did not agree that the unit should be located inside the Castle Inn.</p> | GP AG |

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| | <p>(c) Village litter pick: VH had referred the matter back to the resident who had raised the matter. Nothing further had been heard. Councillors were unconvinced that a litter pick was necessary in the village. This item will be deferred for the time being.</p> <p>(d) Millennium Green A specification for work to improve the Millennium Green had been prepared and priced by P. Blackburne (£680 including materials except plants). However, it is not possible to lay gravel on top of the old tarmac. Honeycomb trays can be laid first and gravel spread over these but they are expensive: approx. £27 per sq.m. Councillors AGREED that PB be asked to undertake the tidying work pending application for a grant from Hfds Council to pay for the honeycomb trays. Proposed: GP Secoded: KP All in favour. BC to liaise with PB.</p> | BC |
| 9 | <p>Regular items</p> <p>(a) Neighbourhood Plan. No further progress can be made until the Core Strategy is adopted.</p> <p>(b) Mortimer News – Summer issue was distributed w/b 1/6/15. Website – a volunteer has come forward offering to take on the updating of the website. In the meantime, up to date agendas and minutes have been posted.</p> <p>(c) Traffic Calming – VH reported that on the last occasion when monitoring was undertaken, no instances of speeding were observed. Village signs would help but RD confirmed that there is currently no money for signage.</p> | |
| 11 | <p>Payments: Payments from the general fund were agreed as detailed below. Proposed: CM Secoded: VH All in favour. There were no requests for payments under the Lengthsman scheme.</p> | |
| 12 | <p>Planning</p> <p>(a) 151270 Land at Burnt House, Castle Street, Wigmore: Proposed demolition of an outbuilding and erection of single detached dwelling. Councillors observed that the proposed building was tight on the plot but otherwise raised no objections.</p> <p>(b) 150651 Barn and Barnet Wood: Change of use from Forestry Workshop to holiday let. Councillors noted the many objections from other quarters. They agreed that the original plan which offered local employment opportunities was acceptable. However, they did not agree that change of use should be allowed, on the same grounds as their previous objection to change of use to a dwelling.</p> <p>Other planning matters:</p> <p>(c) Travellers field adjacent to Barnet Lane. LH confirmed that the Planning Department had registered an enforcement case and will investigate.</p> <p>(d) Councillors asked CG if she could follow up with the Enforcement Officer regarding the Castle, where the owner had lost his appeal. They asked what will/can be done to ensure reinstatement of the land.</p> | LH |

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| 15 | Correspondence As per agenda. | |
| Additional Matter: CG confirmed that Bill Wiggin, MP would be at Wigmore Village Hall from 11-12. She asked that this be publicised and residents be encouraged to attend. | | |
| Date of next meeting: Monday 13 July 2015 at 8pm. The meeting closed at 10.10pm | | |