

## WALL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of Wall Parish Council held on Wednesday 27 September 2017 at 7:30 pm at Wall Village Hall

**Present:** Councillor M J Crowe (Chairman) and Cllrs R Barker, J Linney, P Sampson, C Rubisch and A Ryman.

**In Attendance:** PCSOs Andrea Horsnall and Thomas Dale, and Peter Young (Acting Clerk).

**Apologies:** None; all members present.

#### **34. Declarations of Interest:**

None.

#### **35. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 July 2017 as circulated with the agenda were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **36. Matters Arising on the Minutes**

- a. PCSO Brain Harbon had retired. The new PCSOs Andrea Horsnall and Thomas Dale were in attendance.
- b. Road gullies blocked by Wall Village Hall: This had been reported to SCC. A message had been left on parked cars to move them on 29 September as gullies would be emptied that day. PCSO Horsnall would call on residents to remind them.
- c. Longstanding smell of gas in Ashcroft Lane just south of the junction with Raikes Lane. Reported again and reply that engineer would attend.
- d. Hilton post box: a further email sent to Royal Mail on 16/8/17 with photo asking for reconsideration of the decision not to provide a larger post box and pointing out that their posting box aperture was smaller than the minimum size required for domestic letterboxes. No reply to date. **Action:** Clerk to seek a reply.
- e. Trooper Licence Variation: objection letter sent, but the application was subsequently withdrawn.
- f. Wall Island: Highways England contacted and a reply received that funding was being sought for further improvements at the Island. **Action:** Clerk to follow up the request for repainting the white lines.
- g. Funding for mobile speed watch signs: Application submitted 12/09/17, decision awaited.
- h. Police and Fire Service Consultation: Response submitted objecting to proposals for a merger.

#### **37. Policing Matters:**

PCSOs Andrea Horsnall and Thomas Dale were in attendance and provided members with their email addresses and phone numbers on which they could be contacted. Matters discussed included:

- a. Police response to the Trooper Licence Variation Application.
- b. Parking problems by Trooper (Watling St/Green Lane junction).
- c. Dangerous parking on bend by Raikes Lane/Ashcroft Lane junction.
- d. Speeding on Watling St through the village and also on Claypit Lane and Ashcroft Lane.
- e. Noisy motorcycles on A5 from 6.30pm onwards Tuesday evenings (on way to Bassetts Pole).
- f. Reports of various burglaries in the area and request for local crime statistics.

**38. Public Session:** No public present

**39. District and County Councillors' comments:** All had been sent the agenda, but none present.

**40. Reports from Chairman, Councillors and Clerk** (including correspondence received)

- a. Temporary Closure Order for Ashcroft Lane: 4th to 15th December 2017 for blockage clearing works. Clerk to circulate the Closure Notice to members.
- b. Staffordshire Playing Fields Association AGM would be 2.00 pm on Wednesday 18th October.
- c. Details of three forthcoming SPCA training courses for members were reported.
- d. **Action:** Purchase of a projector and screen to be arranged if sufficient funding was available.
- e. **Action:** Investigations to be made for purchase of solar-powered LED light for the Watling St car park, to replace the existing column and to eliminate the ongoing cost of the unmetered electricity supply.
- f. **Action:** The Clerk to contact Npower so that invoices for the unmetered supply were sent to his address in future.
- g. **Action:** It was agreed that a draft budget for 2018/19 be considered at the November meeting.

**41. Highways & Open Spaces**

- a. **Best Kept Village Competition 2017:** Wall had been awarded “highly commended”. The judges’ comments had been circulated to members.
- b. **Churchyard Maintenance:** **Action:** Clerk to obtain the expenses spreadsheet from the PCC Treasurer so that the next parish council meeting could consider a grant towards churchyard maintenance within available budgets.

The Chairman reported that a mature Copper Beech tree would require felling because of disease, and the Council would also need to consider the costs of this within a grant towards churchyard maintenance.

- c. **Footpaths and verge maintenance:** The Council was no longer receiving the Lengthsman grant from SCC and no Lengthsman work had been undertaken by the Council this year. The Council was still undertaking grass cutting of highway verges, but this would be the last year that SCC made a grant towards this, so the cost of any verge cutting from April 2018 would need to be met by the Council.  
**Action:** A grass-cutting and maintenance contract be prepared for all routine grounds maintenance works, which could be put out to contract for next year.
- d. **Muckley Corner bus shelter:** The Chairman had inspected the bus shelter and no urgent maintenance works were required, but some minor maintenance (e.g. painting) would need to be allowed for in next year’s budget. although it was OK. When inspecting the shelter he had also noticed that the hedge on the west side of the A461 opposite the shelter (in Hammerwich Parish) was overgrown and impeding access along the footway. **Action:** Clerk to report to SCC.

**42. Planning:**

- a. **17/01191/OUFME Deanslade Farm, land south of Falkland Road, Lichfield.**  
Construction of 475 dwellings, new vehicular access onto Claypit Lane and Birmingham Road, etc.  
**Resolved: comments be submitted to LDC that the access to the new estate via a roundabout onto Claypit Lane would encourage considerably more traffic to use the Claypit Lane/Ashcroft Lane route as a ‘rat-run’ to avoid the long queues southbound on the A5127 at Wall Island. Substantial traffic calming, speed restrictions, or even closure of Claypit Lane would therefore be required to prevent this. (It was noted that Claypit Lane has previously been closed for almost 2 years when Falkland Road was constructed, without any major adverse consequences to road users, and of considerable benefit to Wall and Shenstone by stopping use as a rat-run.) In addition, there should be a roundabout access to the development from the Birmingham Road rather than a T junction.**

- b. **17/01036/FUL Springhill Farm, Walsall Road, Muckley Corner** - change of use from agricultural building to mausoleum.

**Resolved: recommend refusal as the existing agricultural building was totally unsuitable for use as a mausoleum. The proposal was also inappropriate development in Green Belt and the access roundabout from the A461 which was a condition of previous planning approvals for the site had still not been constructed.**

- c. **17/01188/OUT Cranebrook Cottage, Pouk Lane, Hilton.** Erection of a single dwelling (outline)  
**Resolved: recommend refusal as inappropriate development in Green Belt.**

- d. **Decisions on previous applications:** The following decisions on previous applications were noted

Ref	Address	Details	Wall PC Comment	Date	Decision
17 02 823 W	Greener Composting, Wall	Vary condition 13 to allow the site to receive waste 7 days a week	No objections	23/06/2017	Awaited
17/00352/PND	Barn Farm, Cranebrook Ln	Change of use from agricultural buildings to 3 residential dwellings.	No objections (with comments)	23/06/2017	<b>Refused 18/08/17</b>
17/00624/FUL 17/00625/LBC	Wall Farm, Green Lane	Two storey rear extension, etc	No objections (with comments)	26/07/2017	Awaited
17/00908/FUL	Manor Farm, Wall Lane	Demolition of existing building and erection of office building	No objections (with comments)	26/07/2017	<b>Approved 25/08/17</b>
17/01010/OHL	Pipe Hill	Overhead line, Pipe Hill	No objections	26/07/2017	Awaited

#### 43. Speed Watch Sign

It was noted that further to Minute 20(j) of the meeting 26 July, an application had been submitted to the Community Foundation of Staffordshire Road Safety Grant Fund, for a grant of £3,395 to purchase a mobile speed watch sign with recording software. The signs would be purchased by Wall Parish Council but would be made freely available to neighbouring parishes, so as to secure greatest cost-effectiveness for the capital outlay.

#### 44. SPCA AGM

It was noted that the AGM of the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association would be held at Stafford at 6.45pm on 4 December.

#### 45. Proposed changes to Parish Council Local Council Tax Support Grant from 2018/19

It was noted that the Lichfield District Council meeting on 17 October would receive a recommendation that the local council tax support grant would no longer be paid to parishes with effect from 1 April 2018.

Wall's income from precept in the current year was £10,500 of which £457 was local council tax support grant, so this effectively meant that the council tax would have needed to increase by 4.4% simply to produce the same level of income without the support grant. The council would therefore need to take these factors into consideration when setting its precept for 2018/19.

**Resolved: That the Clerk write to LDC objecting to the removal of the local council tax support grant, and stating that if the grant needed to be removed this should be phased over two years.**

#### 46. Conclusion of Audit:

Members received the external audit report on the Council's accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017. It was noted that this had been posted on the Council's website and the Audit Completion Notice displayed on the noticeboard.

**47. Accounts for Payment and bank reconciliation:**

a. Members noted the receipts & payments schedule and bank reconciliation at 31 August 2017.

b. **Resolved: payment of the following accounts:**

Date Paid	Chq No.	Payee	Details	TOTAL
31/08/2017	702	Greenland Garden Services	Grass Cutting Inv. 52+65 (31 July+29 Aug cuts)	400.00
31/08/2017	703	Wall Village Hall	Room Hire 26/7/17	18.00
27/09/2017	704	ACW Arb	Make oak tree safe - loose limb	100.00
27/09/2017	705	P Sampson (re-imburement)	Defibrillator sign	63.57
			Aldi cordless sander (phone box project)	
			Toolstation sanding discs (phone box project)	
27/09/2017	706	Grant Thornton	Audit of accounts year ending 31 March 2017	120.00
27/09/2017	707	P Young	Net Salary Aug/Sept 2017 + expenses	389.62
27/09/2017	708	HMRC	PAYE on salary	93.20

**48. Confidentiality: Resolved: That by reason of the confidential nature of the business next to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the Meeting.**

**49. Staffing matters**

Mr Peter Young to continue as Acting Clerk for the time being. The Chairman and Acting Clerk to continue to seek recovery of the Council's minute books and accounts books.

***There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:30 pm***

Chairman: .....

Date: .....