

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th July 2013 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr's P Crease, R Arnold, M Balment, J Boundy and R Webber.

In attendance: County & District Cllr Mrs P Colthorpe and the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe.

13/07/13. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr's Mrs G Bicknell and J Burton.

14/07/13. Disclosure of interest in item on the Agenda. None.

15/07/13. To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 21st May 2013 and 1st July 2013 as true records of the meetings. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

16/07/13. Matters arising from the minutes. There is no further information on the progress of planning application 12/01114/Full Conversion of redundant agrarian building to dwelling. Land and at NGR 294546 114739 (adjacent Cotleigh Cottage), Washfield Lane, Washfield.

17/07/13. Election of Vice-Chair. Cllr R Arnold was proposed by Cllr P Crease and seconded by Cllr M Balment. Cllr Arnold was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair.

18/07/13. Planning

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting. No applications received.

b) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC. None.

c) To discuss the MDDC Local Plan Review (initial consultation on the scope and possible content of the plan starts on 8th July 2013). It was agreed to invite someone from the Forward Planning Department to the next meeting to explain about Neighbourhood Plans and the chance to review development boundaries as part of the Local Plan Review. The Parish Council will be able to consider whether additional housing is needed in the parish.

d) Clerk's report from MDDC Planning Training. The Clerk reported on the MDDC Planning Training Session that she had attended. There were five presentations: Planning Overview; Permitted Development Rights; Neighbourhood Planning; Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) an introduction and Assets of Community Value.

e) Any other planning matters. The Clerk reported on changes that the government made to the planning system from 30/05/13. These changes allow larger residential extensions without planning permission and without consultation with the Parish/Town Council and changes of use to take place without planning permission and without consultation with the Town/Parish Council. These include certain agricultural buildings and also the introduction of certain flexible uses.

19/07/13. Highways:

To report on any highways work carried out in the parish, to receive any updates on work requested and to note any highways work needed. Some hedge and verge trimming has been carried out in the parish but councillors felt if any less had been done it wouldn't have been worth doing. There was continuing concern about the poor visibility onto the North Devon Link Road at Stoodleigh

Cross and Rifton. There needs to be a reduction in height of the bushes and vegetation. Big ruts are appearing on Cotleigh Corner and Worth Corner and they are particularly bad for anyone on a pushbike. The Washfield sign is still damaged at Wearfield Hill.

20/07/13. Finance: To approve any payments. It was resolved to make the following payment: Mrs J Larcombe - £77.18 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 448)

21/07/13. County & District Cllr Reports. County Cllr Mrs Colthorpe reported that the roll out of broadband has started in Holsworthy and Sticklepath, Okehampton. With some additional funding it is expected that 90% of the population in Devon and Somerset should get high speed broadband. Lots of companies are involved and boxes are appearing all over the place but that doesn't mean that that parish will be next. Cllr Mrs Colthorpe said she had no idea what order the work would be carried out in. The Government Spending Review means that DCC will lose £100 million from its £1.3 billion budget over the next three years. These cuts will be bound to affect some services.

22/07/13. War Memorial 2014. It will be the 100 year anniversary of WW1 in 2014 and Cllr Crease suggested refurbishing the War Memorial. Councillors will consider how this could be done and it will be discussed again at the next meeting. Quotes will need to be obtained for the work. Cllr Mrs Colthorpe might be able to help with funding.

23/07/13. To note and agree any response to a letter informing the Parish Council that two people are canvassing parishioners of Stoodleigh and Washfield about petitioning MDDC to consider a parish boundary change. Cllr Crease reported that he had researched this and had found there would need to be a demographic change or a significant change to the population before a boundary change would be considered. It was agreed that it was not the Parish Council's responsibility. The Clerk will write and thank the two people for their letter.

24/07/13. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence. Cllr Crease said he had spoken to Mr Hamlin about the visibility problem with vegetation at Cotleigh Cross. When it is the right time of the year he will get the hedge cut right back to the balustrade.

25/07/13. Public Questions. None.

26/07/13. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th September 2013 at 7.30pm.