**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREAT WOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON**

**TUESDAY 2nd JULY 2019 IN THE CHURCH**

**PRESENT**: Councillor Mrs. Jennifer Green in the chair and Councillors Mrs. Lynn Bryan, Mr. Keith Murphy and Mr. Christopher Wolverson plus the Clerk Mrs. Janet Piller. District Councillor Mrs.Sarah Whalley-Hoggins was also present. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. Lynn Mathias and County Councillor Mrs. Jo Barker. There was one member of the public present.

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Jennifer Green took the chair.

**MINUTES**: The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2019 were approved and signed. **Matters arising**: There were no matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda.

**PLANNING**: (a)It was noted that the following application had been withdrawn:

Fair View: erection of single story side/rear extension, two dormer windows to front and two roof lights to rear (application ref: 19/00722/FUL).

1. Landoff Moreton Road (now known as Paddock Barn) (application ref. number 17/02600/FUL): it was reported that following the unauthorised removal of the verge-side boundary hedge and its replacement by a fence, the site had been inspected by an SDC Enforcement Officer and the owner had agreed to replant the hedge within the next growing season (September 2019 to March 2020) and, once the hedge is established, to remove the new fence.
2. The following planning application was considered:

Bank Cottage: (application ref. number 19/01632/FUL) rear extension in line with existing rear utility and pitched roof over. It was agreed to make no representations but to emphasize the desirability that all building and roofing materials used should match the existing, i.e. red brick and blue slate.

1. Tree policy: it was agreed to follow SDC’s tree policy and to protect the village’s rural environment by requiring as a principle, wherever possible, applicants for tree removal/s to plant a replacement tree in a suitable position or to make a contribution to the cost of buying and planting a replacement tree/s elsewhere in the village.

**UPDATE ON PUB SITUATION:** It was reportedthat Councillor Mrs Lynn Mathias had followed up earlier discussions with senior officers at SDC and had received the following statement from the Enforcement Officer, Mr Ron Goodyer: “After visiting the site and serving a Planning Contravention Notice, a Senior Planner [SDC] has established that the current planning status remains as a public house with associated ancillary accommodation. We have no doubt that the public house operation is suspended but it is not considered abandoned. Also we have no evidence that the current residential use falls outside the ancillary areas so do not consider that a breach has taken place. This may change with time and circumstance and we do plan to review this before the year end. [24 June 2019]”

District Councillor Mrs.Sarah Whalley-Hoggins confirmed that SDC was firmly committed to pursuing this unsatisfactory situation and would take action as and when it could.

It was noted that the Wolford Pub Campaign Group was holding an open meeting on “Next th

Steps” at 10.30 am on Saturday 6 July in the village hall and it was also noted that further pop-up pubs were being organised.

**SPEED RESTRICTIONS AND TRAFFIC CALMING**: Councillor Mrs Green reported that following her approach to WCC on the possibility of extending the existing 30 mph speed limit through the village to include Nethercote, she had been informed that WCC’s Traffic and Road Safety Group would investigate such a possibility and quote on the cost of its implementation for a non-returnable fee of £500. It was unclear from this response whether the full cost of such a scheme, if carried out, would fall on the WCC or the Parish Council. Other traffic calming methods were also considered, i.e. vehicle activated speed signs, the speed limit painted on the road in large numerals at village entrances, gateway signs on each village approach road, and speed bumps (the last-named being regarded as unsuitable for Great Wolford). Following discussion, which included acceptance that any such traffic calming measure would not guarantee reduced traffic speed, it was agreed to raise the issue with County Councillor Jo Barker and seek her advice on how best to proceed without incurring substantial initial costs which could not be justified in a small community. Clerk to contact Councillor Barker.

**CORRESPONDENCE**: The following were reported and noted and would be circulated to Councillors for information: (a) The offer from WCC of free unfilled sandbags which it was agreed to include in the next Newsletter; (b) SDC Briefing Meeting on rural housing needs and supply on 4th July. It was recalled that Great Wolford had carried out a survey in 2015 on this subject (report on file); (c) The Clerk had responded to a request from SDC for data on current capacity in all burial grounds in the District; (d) Notice from WWMALC that countywide data on demographics, health, social care, education, economic indicators, etc was available online through WCC’s Warwickshire Insights; (e) Notice of a Rural; Transport event on 11th July at Stratford Racecourse; (f) Notification that a private online network called Nextdoor Great Wolford was operating to share recommendations on traders, discuss local issues, e.g. crime and security, posting items for sale, etc. (g) Reminder of previously notified large scale cycling event passing through the village on 20th July; (h) Other general correspondence and circulars.

**FINANCE:** (a) It was reported that the following payment had been made since the last meeting: £134.23p to Stratford District Council (emptying dog bin)

(b) It was reported that Mr Marc Lymbery had kindly agreed to act as Internal Auditor. It was further reported that the internal audit for 2018/19 had been carried out and the required paperwork of the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statement had been completed, signed and posted on the Council’s website. It was noted that confirmation had been received from the external auditor of the acceptance of the Council’s certificate of exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH DEVELOPMENTS:** District Councillor Mrs Sarah Whalley-

Hoggins reported that new initiatives to fight rural crime were currently being brought forward and that the topic was being give fresh impetus New statistics had been collected which showed the extent of the problem and all residents were urged to report any incidents to the police immediately (usually via a 101 telephone call). A reminder to this effect would be printed in the next Newsletter. It was further reported that a meeting to launch a new rural crime scheme was being organised for September 2019.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**: (a) Councillor Mr Keith Murphy reported that a special peal would be rung by visiting bell ringers on 8th July.

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL** **MEETING:** It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 17th September and subsequently on Tuesday 19th November at 8.00 pm in the church.