**Draft minutes of a meeting of Great Wolford Parish Council held Tuesday 11 January 2022 at 7.30 pm in Great Wolford Church**

**Present: Lynn Mathias (Chair, LM), Keith Murphy (KM), Christopher Wolverson (CW), Lynn Bryan (LB)**

**Jo Barker (WCC; JB), Sarah Whalley Hoggins (SDC, SWH)**

**Nick Rew (NR), Sarah Constable (SC), Tom Zielinski (TZ)**

2021:57 *Apologies*: Jennifer Green

2021:58 *Approval of the minutes of the last meeting*: Approved (p, LM; s, KM)

2021:59 *Matters arising*:

(a) *Update on Four Shires Stone Farm*: Reports from the last meeting (16 Nov 2021) seemed to be very promising; however a series of deadlines had been set, all of which have now passed without being complied with. Since the last meeting events have proceeded as follows:

*9 December*: Fire reported, with toxic fumes. KM wrote to WCC, who were the prosecuting body, but received no response.

*21 December:* KM sent reminder email and copied in Nadhim Zahawi (NZ). Nothing was heard over Christmas or the first week of January.

*9 January:* Another fire was reported; KM was called and went to view the fire, which was large. The fire brigade was in attendance, but as the fire was under control no action was taken.

More emails were sent to WCC, which resulted in a misunderstanding with Mr Holloway (Mr H), the prosecuting officer. Asking if he had read the emails of 10 and 21 December phrased as ‘have they got to you yet?’. Mr Holloway read them as an accusation of corruption. KM explained the meaning to him.

KM asked JB to follow up on the Fire service as they had attended a controlled fire, but not inspected what was being burned. He had been told the PC could only have a report on the fire if they paid for it, but it was felt that this would be unproductive.

Mr Holloway has said he had not received emails. He explained he had set deadlines of 03/12 for cessation of fires and 31/12 for the site to be cleared, both of which have passed and no compliance had been seen on the site.

However, JB said that the occupier has a right to appeal ; she was not sure how long, but they can wait until the final day, then appeal. She said it was worth calling the Fire Service as the call will be logged. CW asked if JB could see Mr Holloway, but she said no one is working in the offices due to Covid. CW felt the council needed to know the final date for appeal; KM said Mr H is always rather vague about dates. JB felt Mr H was doing well in the circumstances, but was restricted by legalese.

LM felt the Environmental Agency (EA) should be more involved; KM said they had been, but pleaded no resources and Wolford’s problem was considered to be a low priority

KM felt the only solution was to go back the NZ. SWH said NZ was having a robust discussion with the EA. The council asked if she could find out what response NZ had from the EA. SWH said that NZ had a bigger team working for him now, so should be able to resolve these problems. KM said he would go back to NZ to his surgery; SWH said she could understand the frustration and suggested taking any video to him and a log of the level of pollution. KM reported that the fires had moved back to near the farm again; the last fire was all flame, no smoke, but with noxious fumes. JB emphasized that logging the call to the Fire Brigade was important. KM said he would leave the advice to residents as to call the Fire Service if toxic fumes were smelt. LM asked where the council could borrow a meter to measure toxic fumes. JB suggested the EA or Mr H. KM agreed to seek advice. TZ offered help with monitoring.

*Action*: Motivate the EA, via NZ. KM to ring and make appointment for Friday afternoon surgery.

(b) *Tree planting*: NR reported that there were two proposed sites for planting and provided recommendation – all smaller types of tree. He had contacted a local supplier and will get quotes for both supply only, and supply and plant. LM said she had approached the Highways with the proposed sites and they had no objection.

(c) *Verge at Ingram Close*: JB said there was no problem with Highways with the proposal, but she was hoping to meet with Orbit next week.

(d) *Proposed amalgamation of GWPC and LWPM*: Given the date of 31 January for any comments from LW on this it was agreed that it should be postponed until the next meeting.

(e) *Speeding*: LM said she had contacted the police with regard to speed training, and filled in the necessary forms but nothing further had occurred. SWH said she would follow this up with Phillip Seccombe. CW reported that he had signed up to do a Zoom on proposals for a 20 mph limit in villages.

2021:60 *Planning*:

*New*

Appeal Ref: APP/J3720/W/21/3267339. Close End, Brook Hill, Great Wolford, Shipston on Stour CV36 5NQ [**Dismissed**].

21/03924/FUL, Mr + Mrs T. Zielinski, 1 The Ridgeway, Great Wolford, CV36 5NN. Proposed single-storey extensions, alterations to drive and entrance gates. Members of the PC had made a site visit to the property. The owner was present and commented that the purpose was to provide extra space for his expanding family and would involve landscaping the surrounding area. LM asked the clerk to enter a comment of ‘No objection,’ but with the comment that the council felt it would be better if the solar panels went on the south-facing main house, rather than the west-facing extension, as they would be less intrusive and more efficient.

*Ongoing*

21/03234/COUQ, Barn Adjacent To Wolford Lodge Great Wolford Road Moreton-in-Marsh. Proposed change of use of agricultural barn to single residential dwelling [withdrawn].

21/02181/FUL, Mr W. Coates, land adjacent to Four Shires Stone Farm, conversion to a travellers site with static and touring caravans. (West Oxon CC): No information on any appeal found by 31/12/21.

2021:61 *Finance*: No comments. Approved.

(a) *Expenditure since last meeting:*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 19/11/2021 |  | Little Wolford Village hall | Rent 16/11 |  |  | 20 | 10,272.50 |
| 26/11/2021 |  | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. | |  | 199.84 | 10,072.66 |
| 28/12/2021 |  | Chris Dyer | Computer upgrade | |  | 40 | 10,032.66 |
| 28/12/25021 | | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. | |  | 98.31 | 9,934.35 |

*(b) Discussion of precept for 2021-2022:*  Additional spending for 2022/3 included:

a request from the Church of £600 for maintenance of the churchyard (p, KM; s, LB; Approved).

* a defibrillator course to train emergency responders in the community on the use of defibrillators (needs at least three volunteers;
* approach from Community Heartbeat to set up and Emergency phone line, whereby, if 999 receive a call from someone needing the defibrillator, etc., they will notify the listed responders in the village. (Cost: £80 set up, £180 p.a. running cost, plus VAT). CW felt this was essential. (p, LM; s, CW, Approved). LM to follow-up.

*(c) Proposed appointment of Ann Mckenna as internal auditor for 2021-22:* Approved, clerk to approach Mrs McKenna

2021:62 *Any other business*:

*Search and rescue; donation and possible hub:* Postponed untilthe issue of the LW merger is resolved as the obvious place for a hub is Wolford village hall.

*Jubilee:* CW suggested forming a committee, not just of PC members, but of other residents. NR said that the village fund financed it last time, but queried whether this was still running. It was agreed that the PC would provide seed funding. CW produced a commemorative mug as an example of something that could be provided free to children and at cost to adults (£5.55 + VAT + postage). There was a minimum order of 36. SWH recommended Penny , Tysoe; and LM suggested approaching Whichford Pottery. JB thought funding would be available if needed. SWH advised ordering bunting now if needed, but NR thought the village had a supply. CW agreed to formulate some ideas, then LM would send an email round the village asking for help.

2021:63 *Councillors reports*:

*District Council merger proposal:*  JB reported that the merger to form a super district was to go ahead having been approved on 14 December 2021. Approval has been sought from the Minister. Refuse services will be merged; vehicles will be replaced as needed with environmentally friendly ones; SWH said an additional blue bin will be available at a small charge (unspecified), and rubbish collection will be reduced to every 3 weeks. KM commented that he would write a short article for the Link magazine.

KM asked when there would be news on the unitary councils proposals. JB replied that the government paper had not yet been published. There was concern over whether there would be a straight North/South merger. JB said there were two options:

* A single Warwickshire council.
* Two councils – north and south.

JB felt a single council would be problematic.

2021:64 *Issues raised by members of the public*: None.

2021:66 *Date of next Parish Council Meeting*: the next meeting was arranged for 22 March 2022, at Great Wolford church, at 7.30 p.m.