

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF POLESWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TITHE BARN, POLESWORTH,
ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor R.M. Meredith, Vice-Chairman, in the Chair,
Councillors Mrs Ball, Butcher, Critchley, Hipkiss, Parsons, Mrs Pugh, and Smitten.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillors Mrs May, ward member for Newton Regis and Warton.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs Smitten, Stanley and Mrs Stanley submitted apologies for absence.

219. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on February 6, 2008, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

220. PROPOSED EXTENSION TO POLESWORTH CHURCHYARD:

(201) It was noted that there was nothing to report on the above.

221. ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE, INCOME AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/09:

(202) In accordance with the decision taken at the February meeting, a precept of £61,692.00 had been issued to North Warwickshire Borough Council and the Clerk invited the meeting consider reducing the provision for Election Costs, in the estimates for 2008/09, from £1,500.00 to £953.00, thereby bringing the total next expenditure provision into line with the precept sum.

RESOLVED:

That the estimated provision for Election Costs, in the estimates for 2008/09, be reduced from £1,500.00 to £953.00.

222. N.W.B.C. — COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH PROJECT:

(207) The Clerk reported that the Borough Council's Community Development Officer (Safer Communities) had agreed to give a presentation on the above project to the Annual Assembly on April 2, 2008.

223. LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY:

(208) Further to minute number 208 of the meeting of the Council held on February 6, 2008, a letter had been received from the Rural Housing Enabler, W.R.C.C., requesting an opportunity to talk to the Parish Council about affordable housing and undertaking a Housing Needs Survey.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Phil Ward, Rural Housing Enabler, W.R.C.C., be invited to address the June, 2008, meeting of the Parish Council on the subject of affordable housing.

224. A DRAFT GREEN SPACE STRATEGY FOR NORTH WARWICKSHIRE:

(210) It was reported by the Clerk that the reference in the above document to the formulation of a management plan for Warton recreation ground had been recommended by the Borough Council's consultants and included in the Green Space Strategy for future action should funding become available and the Parish Council wish to have such a plan prepared.

225. RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES:

(217) The following responses had been received in respect of the matters raised at minute number 217:

- 1) The pothole in Windsor Road had been repaired and the defects created by the utilities' trenches in Tamworth Road would be receiving attention;
- 2) A man had been arrested in connection with the break-in at Polesworth Garage; and
- 3) A replacement unit had been ordered to repair the defective light on column 5, Station Road.

226. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:

(a) Parks and Open Spaces Committee:

The minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee held on February 5, 2008, were received and discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee held on February 5, 2008, be adopted.

(a) The Tithe Barn Management Committee:

The minutes of the meeting of The Tithe Barn Management Committee held on February 5, 2008, were received and discussed.

With regard to minute 19, "Quotations for Re-carpeting the Function Room", the Clerk reported that the firm selected to supply and fit the carpet was unable to meet all of the Committee's requirements and, after consultation with the Chairman of the Meeting and The Tithe Barn Manager, the order had been placed with Brownlow Carpets Ltd.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the action of the Clerk in placing the order for the Function Room carpet with Brownlow Carpets Ltd., following consultation with the Chairman of the Meeting and The Tithe Barn Manager, is approved; and
- (ii) That the minutes of the meeting of The Tithe Barn Management Committee held on February 5, 2008, as altered by (i) above, be adopted.

227. APPOINTMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF A FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE:

RESOLVED:

That consideration of this matter be deferred until the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, scheduled for May 7, 2008.

228. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES, 2008/09:

A quotation received from North Warwickshire Borough Council for grounds maintenance services, litter picking, emptying dog and litter bins, for 2008.09, was received and discussed, including the choice of payment options offered by the Borough Council.

It was noted that only two litter bins remained at Warton recreation ground.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the quotation by North Warwickshire Borough Council for the above services be accepted for the 12 months ended March 31, 2009;
- (ii) That N.W.B.C. be asked to submit invoices for works completed in July, October, December and March; and

(iii) That the Parks and Open Spaces Committee seek comparative quotations for the 2009/10 financial year.

229. W.C.C. INVITATION TO CHAIRMAN’S “AT HOME RECEPTION”:

An invitation was received for the above event, scheduled for Saturday, March 29, 2008, at Shire Hall, Warwick, from 6.30 p.m. until 8.30 p.m. The event is open to parish councillors and their partners.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor and Mrs Butcher shall represent Polesworth Parish Council at the County Council’s Chairman’s “At Home Reception” on Saturday, March 29, 2008.

230. BOROUGH CARE COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE:

Notice was received that the charge for the monitoring service, linked to The Tithe Barn’s intruder alarm, would be increased from April 1, 2008, to £1.03 per week, with future invoices being issued on the basis of 12 months ending on March 31, each year and adjusted for inflation.

RESOLVED:

That the charges detailed above be noted.

231. BUS SERVICES:

(a) Bus Information Point:

Polesworth had been selected by Warwickshire County Council as a location for a Bus Information Point and the County Council’s Transport Planner/Project Manager (Bus Infrastructure Schemes) requested a site meeting with representatives of the Parish Council to obtain guidance and advice on the most appropriate location for the information point.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Hipkiss be appointed to represent the Parish Council at the forthcoming site meeting to determine the most appropriate location for the Bus Information Point.

(b) Bus Service Changes:

Details of changes to local bus services had been received from the County Council’s Transport Operations Publicity Team and circulated, by the Clerk, for the information of Councillors.

232. ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF C7 MARKET STREET/FAIRFIELDS HILL, POLESWORTH:

Notice and a copy of the Order for the above temporary closure from March 26 to April 30, 2008, inclusive, together with a plan showing the traffic diversions to be in force throughout that period, was received from the County Highways Department and noted. The closure was required for the replacement of a gas main.

233. CHANGES TO THE MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME – REVISED TIMETABLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE MINERALS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:

A letter describing the above changes and the revised timetable agreed with the Government Office for the West Midlands was received and noted.

234. WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS:

Information was received and noted about a one day training course for councillors being held at The Grange Hall, Southam, on Saturday, May 10, 2008.

235. W.R.C.C. — LAUNCH OF WARWICKSHIRE BEST VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION:

Notice of the above competition, open to groups or organisations based in settlements of 5,000 or fewer inhabitants, was received and noted.

236. PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

The following publications were received:

N.A.L.C. Direct Information Service, issues 675, 676 and 677;
 W.C.C. “View”, spring, 2008;
 W.C.C. “Viewpoint”, issue 8, winter, 2007/08;
 “Trustee Voices”, March, 2008;
 N.W.B.C. Minutes of Boards and Committees, February 27, 2008;
 C.P.R.E. “Outlook”, Winter, 2008; and
 Village Hall Newsletter, issue 8, winter, 2007/08.

237. NETHERSOLE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

A letter was received from the above committee, explaining that existing officers and committee members would continue in office until the concluding meeting of the Management Committee in November, 2008.

In April, 2008, the Management Committee would be taking stock of its assets and arrange for their disposal before the termination of the Parish Council’s lease of the Centre at the end of October, 2008. It was noted that the Parish Council would be given details of the intended disposal in due course.

238. PLANNING MATTERS:**(a) Planning Application No. APP/2007/0735:**

Copies of the Parish Council’s observations on the above, having been formerly submitted to the district planning authority, were circulated to all Members of the Parish Council, together with copies of the Highway Authority’s consultation response.

RESOLVED:

That the observations on planning application no. APP/2007/0735, as circulated to all Members of the Parish Council with the agenda of the meeting, be confirmed.

(b) Weekly Lists:

(Councillor Critchley declared an interest under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council and did not participate in the consideration of this item of business.)

Copies of lists 5 to 8, inclusive, were submitted, together with copies of applications on those lists for development within the Parish, but there were no comments which the Council wished to be formally submitted to the district planning authority.

(c) Applications Received Not On The Above Lists:

Notice was received that the application for landfill operations at Birchmoor Farm had been withdrawn and copies of applications PAP/2008/0126, PAP/2008/0108, not appearing on lists 5 to 8, were made available for inspection.

(d) Applications Determined Not On The Planning Lists:

Notices of planning approval were received in respect of PAP/2008/0037, PAP/2008/0794, PAP/2008/0025 and PAP/2008/0073.

(e) Neighbouring Authority Consultations:

Documents relating to Tamworth Borough Council’s Core Strategy Issues and Options Report, response form and initial Sustainability Approval Report, were received and noted.

239. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT INTERNAL AUDITOR – QUARTER-ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007:

The report of the Independent Internal Auditor for the period October 31 to December 31, 2007, was received and noted, copies having been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council.

There were no matters requiring the attention of the Council.

240. TRANSFER BETWEEN BANK ACCOUNTS:

The Clerk reported on a transfer of funds from the Parish Council's Business Money Manager Account(1) to its Treasurer Account which he had arranged, under his delegated powers, for Friday, March 14, 2008.

241. ACCOUNTS PAID AND FOR PAYMENT:

Invoices and details of accounts paid and due for payment were submitted by the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That the following accounts be passed for payment:

		£
Globalwave	– Broadband connection (due 1/3/08)	29.32
Warton PCC	– Grant, churchyard maintenance	500.00
Polesworth PCC	– Grant, churchyard maintenance	1,000.00
N. Lane	– Internal audit fee, Q/E 31/12/07	40.00
Poles. Scout Grp.	– Litter picks, February	170.00
Poles. Air Cadets	– Litter picks, February	170.00
Poles. Swifts F.C.	– Litter picks, February	170.00
A. Craig	– Salary (February)	445.80
D. Craig	– Salary (February)	699.51
H.M. Rev. & Cstms.	– Income Tax & Nat. Ins.	260.38
R.M. Meredith	– Repairs to Tithe Barn bollard	20.06
D. Craig	– Postage and catering items	27.33

242. PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS, 2007/08:

Authority was sought by the Clerk to pay any account received between March 13 and March 31, 2008, which related to the current financial year.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk is authorised to pay all outstanding accounts for the financial year 2007/08, received by March 31, 2008, and report thereon to the April meeting of the Parish Council.

243. MATTERS FOR OTHER AUTHORITIES:

It was agreed that the following matters be raised with the appropriate authorities:

- 1) Youths drinking alcohol in Warton recreation ground;
- 2) Increasing incidents of dog excrement on the footways and in the recreation ground, Warton;
- 3) Open hole in the footway from missing bollard in Chaytor Road;

- 4) Need to renew road markings on speed humps and mini-islands within Polesworth;
- 5) Footway surface breaking up between Linden Lane and Longfield Farm, Warton; and
- 6) Condition of wall alongside the canal near to Bull's Head bridge.

244. LITTER PICKING TEAMS:

Councillors Mrs Ball reported on the commendable manner in which Polesworth Scout Group undertook a recent litter pick and suggested the Parks and Open Spaces Committee might wish to consider providing fluorescent tabards bearing the Parish Council's logo.

245. SITE FOR NEW PUBLIC TOILETS IN POLESWORTH:

The meeting gave consideration to the above question.

RESOLVED:

That North Warwickshire Borough Council be informed that the Parish Council's preferred site for the new public toilets was the land in Tamworth Road, Polesworth, where the present public toilets were located.

246. N.W. AREA COMMITTEE OF PARISH COUNCILS:

Councillors Critchley and Mrs Pugh reported on the matters discussed at the meeting of the above committee held at Polesworth on Monday, March 3, 2008, Copies of an additional agenda item submitted for discussion at the Area Committee meeting regarding the intention of Warwickshire County Council to expect all Parish Councils within the county to pay £500.00 to the County Council on return for being informed when work is carried out on roads or footways in their areas, under new legislation being implemented from April 1, 2008, and the implications for Parish Councils, were circulated for the information of the Polesworth Parish Council meeting. It was understood that the proposal and its implications for Warwickshire parish and town councils was being referred to the National Association of Local Councils.

Chairman