

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF POLESWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TITHE BARN, POLESWORTH,
ON WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor D.C. Parsons, in the Chair,
Councillors Mrs Ball, Butcher, Critchley, Meredith, Mrs. Pugh, Smitten, Mrs. Smitten, Stanley
and Mrs Stanley.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Hipkiss submitted an apology for absence.
Apologies for absence were also received from Borough Councillors Humphreys and Mrs.
May, Ward Members for Newton Regis and Warton.

154. BIRCHMOOR VILLAGE TRAFFIC PLAN:

Mrs. Christine Lambert, Village Traffic Plans Officer, Warwickshire County Council, gave a short presentation on the County Council's proposed traffic plan for the village of Birchmoor, replied to questions from Councillors and noted their comments.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the meeting expressed its unanimous approval for the Birchmoor Village Traffic Plan and the Chairman thanked Mrs. Lambert for giving up her time to attend the meeting .

Mrs. Lambert then left the meeting.

155. MINUTES:

(a) Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 5 October, 2011:

The Clerk reported on the need to correct the wording of resolution (iii) for Minute 120 of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 October, 2011.

RESOLVED;

- (i) That the Parish Council confirms its intention to exercise the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), to purchase three grit bins, being expenditure incurred for the benefit of the residents of the Parish;
- (ii) That the wording of resolution (iii) for Minute 120 (5 October, 2011) be deleted and the following wording substituted in its place:

"That the Council agrees to exercise the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), to purchase three grit bins, being expenditure incurred for the benefit of the residents of the Parish and the Clerk be authorised to place the order forthwith"; and
- (iii) That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 October, 2011, as amended by resolution (ii) above, be approved.

(b) Minutes of Meeting of the Council held 7 September, 2011:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 November, 2011, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

156. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, WARTON:

- (151)** The Clerk read out a reply from the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, based at Atherstone Police Station, explaining the actions being taken by the police to deal with anti-social activity carried out by youths at Warton.

157. POLESWORTH SWIFTS F.C. – USE OF FOOTBALL PITCH, STATION ROAD RECREATION GROUND:

(137) The Chairman reported on his continuing discussions with the Chairman of the above football club and on a proposal that he and other Councillors should open the gates to the hard-surface area on a match day to gauge the effects, of its use as a car park for match visitors, on parking in adjacent streets.

158. W.A.L.C. NEWSLETTER ADH/97:

Copies of the above newsletter and accompanying documents having been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting, for information, were formally received and noted.

159. GRIT BINS REVIEW:

(a) Location Assessment, Ivy Croft Road, Warton:

Councillor Smitten submitted his location assessment of the request for a grit bin to be sited at the junction of Ivy Croft Road and Maypole Road, Warton. The assessment had been carried out using the criteria adopted by Warwickshire County Highways. The results would be taken into account when considering locations for the three remaining grit bins of the total of twenty acceptable by County Highways.

(b) Councillors' Recommendations for Footway Grit Bin Sites within their Respective Wards:

Councillors were invited to review the need for footway grit bin sites within their respective wards and recommend locations to Councillor Smitten for assessment and submission to the next meeting of the Parish Council, when an order of priority would be determined.

160. PLAY SAFETY – PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL TO PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS WITHIN NORTH WARWICKSHIRE:

(In accordance with the Code of Practice adopted by the Parish Council, Councillors Butcher, Stanley and Mrs. Stanley declared personal interests as they were North Warwickshire Borough Councillors and did not participate in the consideration of the following business, nor vote upon the matter.)

Consideration was given to proposed changes to the play area inspection service provided by North Warwickshire Borough Council, following central government cut backs in local government funding, full details having been circulated with the agenda for the Parish Council meeting. Under the proposed scheme, effective from June, 2012, participating parish and town councils would be required to contribute towards the cost of inspections, comprising one annual independent safety inspection and risk assessment, carried out by an external inspector, at a cost of £57.25 per site, and four quarterly operational safety inspections carried out by N.W.B.C. staff at a cost of £20.00 per site visit (£80.00 per year). Borough Council staff would be available to carry out weekly routine safety inspections, if required at an additional cost, yet to be determined.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council opts for the full inspection service at a cost of £137.25 per site, per year, commencing June, 2012, and defers consideration of the offer to provide weekly routine safety inspections, until the cost for that additional service is known.

161. DOG FOULING ENQUIRY:

(In accordance with the Code of Practice adopted by the Parish Council, Councillors Butcher, Stanley and Mrs. Stanley declared personal interests as they were North Warwickshire Borough Councillors and did not participate in the consideration of the following business, nor vote upon the matter.)

Following an investigation by its "Task and Finish Group" into the problem of dog fouling within the Borough, an enquiry had been received from North Warwickshire Borough Council, seeking the views of the Parish Council as to whether the matter was a problem within the Parish. Similar enquiries had also been made of the Atherstone and Coleshill Town Councils.

Should there be a need, the Borough Council was proposing a joint meeting to discuss ways for effectively dealing with it.

RESOLVED:

That North Warwickshire Borough Council be informed the problem did exist within the Parish of Polesworth and Councillors would welcome a meeting of concerned parties to discuss and agree effective action to deal with it.

162. BIRCHMOOR RECREATION GROUND – USE OF FOUL LANGUAGE AND VERBAL ABUSE OF A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:

The Clerk reported on an email received from a lady resident of Birchmoor, who had been subjected to vile verbal abuse from members of the visiting football team, after she had remonstrated with them for using foul language during the match.

RESOLVED:

That a letter be sent to the secretary of the appropriate body, expressing the Parish Council's concern about the incident and requesting it be investigated and appropriate disciplinary action taken against the team and the players responsible.

163. WINTER SERVICES IN WARWICKSHIRE – 2011/12:

Details of Warwickshire County Highway's plans for dealing with ice and snow on roads within the County during the coming winter months, were received, discussed and noted.

164. NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORE STRATEGY:

- (125) Councillors Critchley and Meredith reported on their attendance at a presentation on the above plan, given by officers of the Borough Council's Forward Planning Team, on Tuesday, 22 November, 2011, and drew attention to the financial implications for Parish and Town Councils arising from the procedures laid down by central government.

Comments on the draft proposals were required to be sent to the Forward Planning Team by no later than 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 12 January, 2012, using the relevant Core Strategy Response Form, copies of which were circulated at the Parish Council meeting, when it was agreed that the Parish Council's formal response be determined at its next meeting, on 7 January, 2012.

165. MAYOR OF NORTH WARWICKSHIRE'S CHARITIES:

- (a) Help for Heroes & the Scoliosis Association UK; and
 (b) Annual Charity Golf Tournament;

The attention of the meeting was drawn to the above events being held on 17 December, 2011, and 17 April, 2012, respectively, in aid of the Mayor's Charities, the details of which were noted.

166. PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

The following publications were received:

- N.A.L.C. Direct Information Service, issues 771 and 772;
- C.P.R.E. "Countryside Voice", Winter, 2011;
- N.A.L.C Local Council Review, Winter, 2011; and
- N.W.B.C. Minutes of Boards and Committees, 14 December, 2011.

167. ATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL – OBJECTION TO WITHDRAWAL OF REGISTRATION SERVICE:

A copy of a letter from Atherstone Town Council to Warwickshire County Council objecting to the lack of proper consultation prior to the withdrawal of the local registration service from Atherstone to Nuneaton and demanding its immediate return, having been received as part of a circulation to N.W.B.C and all parish councils within the Borough, was discussed.

RESOLVED:

That a letter be sent to Warwickshire County Council deploring the lack of consultation prior to the withdrawal of the registration service from Atherstone and supporting the Atherstone Town Council's call for the service to be reinstated.

168. NORTH WARWICKSHIRE AREA COMMITTEE OF PARISH COUNCILS – MEETING HELD 5 DECEMBER, 2011:

Councillors Mrs. Pugh and Critchley reported on their attendance at the above meeting, and asked the Parish Council to consider making the Tithe Barn available for the next meeting of the Area Committee on 5 March, 2012.

RESOLVED:

That, in respect of the meeting of the North Warwickshire Area Committee of Parish Councils, scheduled for 5 March, 2012, the Parish Council agrees to offer the use of the Tithe Barn as the venue for the meeting and provide light refreshments, free of charge.

169. PROPOSALS FOR LAND AT WARTON:

The Chairman referred to a letter he had received that evening, regarding land adjoining the Fox and Dogs public house, Warton, where the new owners wished to establish a facility for children with disabilities and vulnerable adults to enjoy nature, education, peace and tranquillity in a managed and supervised setting. The writers had expressed an interest in discussing the project with the Parish Council, but owing to the lateness of receipt, the Chairman proposed that the matter be placed upon the agenda for the January meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the project's proposals be deferred until the January meeting of the Parish Council, when the principals will be allowed to make a brief presentation to the Council.

170. PLANNING MATTERS:**(a) Weekly Lists:**

Copies of lists 41 to 46, inclusive, were submitted, together with details 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.

(b) Pre-Application Proposal to Erect 8 Wind Turbines at Land South of Austrey, Warwickshire:

(In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council Councillor Critchley declared a personal interest as a resident of Warton living within the effective range of the application site and did not vote on this item of business.)

The meeting received copies of emails and an extract from the Scoping Report relating to the above and noted that a public meeting had been called for Tuesday, 13 December, 2011, in the village hall, Warton, to enable residents of that village to make their views known. At the request of the local ward members, the meeting was to be chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

(c) Notification of Amended Plans and a Planning Application:

Notices were received of application DOC/2011/0080 to discharge conditions of an earlier planning approval and an application, reference PAP/2011/0623, for the erection of a single wind turbine at Granada Service Station, Tamworth Motorway Services Area, Green Lane, Dordon.

171. UN-PRESENTED CHEQUE VOIDED BY TIME:

The Clerk submitted a written report on the above and sought the Council's instructions.

RESOLVED:

That the voided cheque be cancelled in the Parish Council's accounts and a replacement cheque issued.

172. 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, 9 December, 2011.

173. 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:

		£
Wybone	– Grit Bins (pd. 18.11.11)	885.82
Globalwave	– Broadband connection (pd. 1.12.11)	29.94
The Polesworth Society	– Grant	300.00
R.B.Roe	– Installation of concrete bollards	245.00
Poles. Scout Grp.	– Litter picks, November	170.00
Poles. Air Cadets	– Litter picks, November	170.00
Poles. Swifts F.C.	– Litter picks, November	170.00
A. Craig	– Salary, November	552.90
D. Craig	– Salary, November	663.54
H.M. Rev. & Cstms	– Income Tax & Nat. Ins.	198.78
Watford Gap Nurseries	– Winter plant displays	2,400.00
S.L.C.C.	– Membership renewal	157.00
D. Craig	– Postage, janitorial and catering	27.85
R. Meredith	– Reimbursement of travel expenses	18.20

174. OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO BE INFORMED OF:

Councillor Meredith commented on the number of street lights which were not functioning in Tamworth Road, Bridge Street and the Hall Court, Polesworth. Once the relevant column numbers had been obtained, the defects would be reported to County Highways.

Chairman