

## LITTLE WOLFORD PARISH MEETING

### Minutes of the 2018 Parish Annual Assembly, 24 April 2018, The Wolfords Village Hall

**Present:** Ralph Döring (RD), Chairman; Cllr Jo Barker (JB); Chris Cond (CC); David Farman (DF); Bob Large (BL); Simon Lewis-Beeching (SL); Jane Revere (JR); Michael Revere (MR); Diz Shirley (DS); Henry Warriner (HW).

The meeting opened at 7.35pm with a welcome from the Chairman.

1. **Apologies** for absence had been received from Gunter Döring, Charles & Jane Hobbs, Shirley Large and Roz Warriner; it was noted that Colin & Gillian Ablewhite were on holiday.
2. **Election of Chairman for 2018/19:**  
DS proposed that RD be re-elected; this was seconded by JR and agreed unanimously.
3. **Minutes of the last Assembly of 5 December 2017:**  
Approval of these was proposed by JR, seconded by DS, agreed by all and signed by RD as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Matters arising:**  
RD reported that he had attended the Stratford District Council Planning Committee meeting at which the planning application for extensions to 1, The Leys had been considered: the application had been refused on the grounds that the proposed extensions were felt to be out of keeping with adjacent properties in terms of both scale and design. It is understood that a revised application will be submitted at a future date.  
RD also reported that the village telephone booth had been removed by BT, pre-empting his intention to seek to "adopt" it to house a defibrillator; it is understood that the power supply remains "live", and terminated underground.  
There had been no progress with the proposed Notice Board; RD will follow up on this.
5. **Past Chairman's Report:**  
A planning application had been submitted for a proposed wildlife pond at King's Brake Farm, and RD gave notice that an application was imminent in respect of a proposed glasshouse at Tower Farm; since neither proposal would have any impact upon other properties, no objection to either proposal was foreseen.  
BT OpenReach had given notice to Stratford District Council's Planning Department of its intention to site a new broadband cabinet roughly opposite the junction of Broadmoor Lane and Little Wolford Road, giving hope that the majority of properties in the village would benefit from higher broadband speeds in the foreseeable future.  
Notice had been given by FixMyStreet.com that outstanding issues regarding carriageway repairs had been closed. It was noted that yellow markings had appeared around some of the deeper potholes, possibly indicating the intention to patch them at some future point. SL raised the issue of faded road markings, those relating to the 30mph speed limit in particular: as our County Councillor, JB kindly offered to take this up with County Highways Department.  
RD reported that he had initiated enquiries into the purchase of an old-style, red telephone box to house the proposed defibrillator, and would look into how the existing power supply may be reconnected and how electricity might be paid for. RD is organising a Lego event in the Village Hall on 7 July to raise funds for the defibrillator project, the total cost for which is estimated at around £6,000. In the meanwhile, Gunter Döring has kindly offered to make his defibrillator available if required (RD to circulate contact details). DS proposed a vote of thanks to RD for his work towards acquiring and housing the defibrillator.  
RD had discussed with Stratford District Council the possibility of planting a 2.5m silver fir tree on the village green, to the north of the Village Hall access road, to serve as a Village Christmas Tree; he was advised that the Council would have no objection provided that the neighbours are content. He is therefore to approach Orbit Housing who, it is understood, own the two houses closest to the proposed site for the tree. RD proposed the purchase of lights for the Christmas Tree, which the meeting supported

warmly; however, DF pointed out that consideration would need to be given to which of the Parish Meeting's limited range of powers could be used to incur such expenditure: if LGA Section 137 powers were to be used, this would need to be considered in terms of the annual Section 137 expenditure limit and how much of the available funding had already been included within the current year's budget for other projects.

6. **County Councillor Jo Barker** was invited to address the Assembly.  
JB opened by promising to "nudge" BT Openreach if they failed to implement the high-speed broadband service within 3 months, and to "nudge" County Highways regarding the need to renew the road markings within the village. BL suggested that central road markings around the bend at Pepperwell Lane could reduce the risk of collision at this point, since many drivers tend to take the bend too fast and stray into the middle of the road.  
JB advised that the Children's Centre in Shipston would not close as had been feared, and may even expand to provide outreach support for children's mental health services.
  7. **District Councillor Stephen Gray** failed to attend the Assembly.
  8. **Expenditure incurred under delegated powers since the previous meeting:** None.
  9. **Accounts & Annual Return for 2017/18:**  
DF tabled the Draft Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2018, which had been approved by the Internal Auditor, SB. He advised that the Annual Return had not yet been received from the new Auditors, and would check with WALC as to whether the formal audit process was still required.
  - 9.1 DS proposed, JR seconded and the Assembly unanimously agreed a resolution that the Draft Accounts be adopted and the Annual Accounting Statement be approved.
  - 9.2 DS proposed, MR seconded and the Assembly unanimously agreed a resolution approving the Annual Governance Statement.
  10. **Appointment of the Responsible Financial Officer for 2018/19:**  
DF indicated that he was willing to serve for one further year; RD proposed, DS seconded and the Assembly unanimously agreed that DF be re-appointed for a further year.
  11. **Appointment of the Internal Auditor for 2018/19:**  
SB indicated that he was willing to accept re-appointment as Internal Auditor; RD proposed, DS seconded and the Assembly unanimously agreed that SB be re-appointed for a further year.
  12. **Matters of Particular Local Importance:** None raised.
  13. **Matters raised by an Elector of the Parish:**  
DF reported that Thames Valley Police had finally removed, from its official crime data going back to 2014, all "out of area" reports relating to crimes occurring within the Thames Valley Police area but reported erroneously as having occurred in Little Wolford.  
RD advised that he would be organising two fundraising events on behalf of The Wolfords Village Hall: a traditional Bavarian Breakfast on 26 May, and a Classic Car Rally in August.
- The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

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Ralph Döring, Chairman  
24 October 2018