

# LITTLE WOLFORD PARISH MEETING

## Minutes of the 2019 General Meeting

14 Nov 2019, The Wolfords Village Hall

**Present:** Helen Bostock (HB), Chairman; Adam Bewsey (AB); David Farman (DF); Charles Hobbs (CH); Jane Hobbs (JH); Simon Lewis-Beeching (SL), RFO; Jane Revere (JR); Michael Revere (MR); Cllr. Sarah Whalley-Hoggins (SW).

1. **Apologies** for absence had been received from Colin & Gillian Ablewhite; Cllr. Jo Barker; Ralph Döring; Roz and Henry Warriner.
2. **The Minutes** of the Annual Assembly on 22nd May 2019 were and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising**
  - a. The pot hole near Broadmoor Farm has not been repaired. SL has reported flooding along the road in the village to Fix My Street. HB agreed to identify holes and liaise with SW who will communicate with County Councillor Jo Barker (**Action HB**).
  - b. The website - SL and HB to follow up with a local web developer to making it more user-friendly and sustainable (**Action SL/HB**).
  - c. Footpath markers - Henry Warriner as landowner will replace them where necessary (**Action Henry Warriner**).

Reports on other matters were deferred until the Chairman's Report.

#### 4. **Chairman's Report**

- a. The parish notice board has been erected on the Village Green, on the site of the old telephone box and formally opened by the Chairman and members of the Parish on 16th June. Thanks to Colin Ablewhite for designing and constructing the board, and to Colin Ablewhite, Oliver Wenman and Adam Bewsey for erecting it.
- b. HB has been updated by Ralph Döring that the second defibrillator fundraising Lego event held on 29th June this summer did not break even. However, Waitrose in Stratford have raised £470 for the appeal and will be sending a cheque in 6-8 weeks. Taking account of monies raised at the first Lego event in 2018, fundraising currently stands at £1004.39. A fundraising account has been set up on the Community Heartbeat Trust's website (entitled 'Defibrillator Appeal') with a target of £2,170 to cover the full costs of the defibrillator, the metal box to house it and installation. If LWPM award a grant of £500 under Section 137 spending in next year's budget, this leaves a total of £665.61 still to raise. Ralph Döring has set the date for next year's Lego event as Saturday 27th June 2020.
- c. HB has attended a number of WALC training events for Clerk and Chairmanship skills. Recommendation was made to secure a fireproof and waterproof box or case for important parish documentation such as the Minute book. The cost of such an item is around £20-30. Other meetings attended by the Chairman on behalf of the parish since the last meeting include the Rural Crime Policing Forum (4th Sep), Shipston Stour Community Forum (10th Sep) and Great Wolford Parish Council (17th Sep).
- d. There have been no planning applications received for Little Wolford since the last meeting.
- e. The second tranche of the Parish Precept (£625) was received from Stratford on Avon District Council on 26/09/19. Three items of budgeted expenditure have been settled since the last meeting: £38.44 for website hosting, £10.00 for the hire of the Village Hall, and £383.86 for the cost of the new notice board. The balance in the Treasurer's Account as at 14/11/19 is £2,225.43.

5. **District Councillor Sarah Whalley-Hoggins** was invited to address the meeting
  - a. SW described the extent of local flooding after extremely heavy rain on the day of the meeting. SW informed the Meeting of her past experience as a police officer and head teacher and her current broad remit in relation to the police and planning. She said that if any resident has a problem with people cold knocking on doors they should dial 101. And stressed that all crimes should be reported, however small, to ensure they are included in county statistics. HB passed on thanks received from Colin and Gillian Ablewhite regarding the efforts of SW in getting the nuisance caravan removed.
  - b. It was in SW's opinion that the proposed cost for the defibrillator was excessive compared to her experience in other villages so LWPM might wish to investigate cheaper quotes in the interest of purchasing the defibrillator speedily, looking to annual fundraising or parish expenditure to over maintenance costs **(Action HB)**.
6. **County Councillor Jo Barker** was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.
7. **Matters raised by an Elector of the Parish**

DF expressed concern about the overgrown state of the lower section of the churchyard in Great Wolford. At the moment we contribute £200 per annum to its upkeep and Great Wolford contribute £400 per annum. DF suggested that we might consider increasing our contribution. SW recommended having sight of the maintenance contract in the first instance. HB will write to the PCC to raise the matter and consider ways forward **(Action HB)**.
8. **Budget requirement for 2020/21**

HB suggested until further enquiries were made the budget for cemetery maintenance should remain at £200; that £80 be allowed to cover village hall hire, stationery and other minor expenses; that £70 be allocated to website hosting and domain; £40 towards WALC membership and training; £550 towards website development; and a £500 grant towards the defibrillator appeal under S.137 (capped at £8.12 per elector so approx £700 per annum based on 87 electors).

HB therefore proposed a budget for 2020/21 of £1440; this was seconded by DF and approved unanimously.
9. **Precept requirement for 2020/21**

HB suggested reducing the precept from last year (£1,250) as some monies went unspent (e.g. defibrillator) but allowing enough to cover website development. HB therefore proposed that the parish precept requirement for 2020/21 be set at £1000; this was seconded by DF and approved unanimously.

DF suggested that a separate bank account for the defibrillator might be set up if deemed easier to manage financially by the RFO **(Action SL)**.
10. **Matters of Particular Local Importance**
  - a. HB shared copies of the Great Wolford Village Design Statement. It was generally agreed that Little Wolford did not need one because it falls within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), unlike Great Wolford. Any further thoughts on whether to adopt similar or refer people to it when considering development in LW to be raised at the next meeting.
  - b. HB made the meeting aware of the Supported Villages Scheme, a Warwickshire initiative similar to Neighbourhood Watch. SW explained 50% of the village will need to sign up to the initiative for the village to qualify and recommend the Chairman contact local police officer Bob Church which was met with approval by the meeting **(Action HB)**.
11. **Any other business**
  - a. HB queried if Christmas lights needed to be purchased for the tree on the village green. MR said he had some lights which would be appropriate and JH and JR offered baubles. HB suggested those wishing to help decorate the tree meet on 30th November **(Action ALL)**.

- b. SL suggested that it would be nice to have some wild flowers on the village green. This was discussed but the general feeling was that it would hamper grass mowing during the growing season. However, there was some support for increasing the spring bulb display by planting in autumn 2020. To discuss further at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.