## Minutes of Meeting of Wixford Parish Council

## Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7.30pm

## MINUTE: 319

## Present: Councillors Dean Morris (in the Chair), Colin Hales and Andrew Reekes. Clerk: Lynne Reekes.

## In attendance: 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr J Haworth; WCC Cllr. Jack Fryer.
2. Disclosure of Interests. *Councillors are asked to declare personal interests in any items on the agenda. Councillors are reminded that the Code of Conduct that took effect in September 2012 provides that should they have a prejudicial interest in any matter under discussion they should withdraw from the room and not seek to influence a decision about the matter.*

None was declared.

1. Comments from the Public:
2. Mr. Ken Vincent asked whether it would be possible to have Grafton Road kerbed up to the 30mph sign, now that it has been moved further outside the village. The kerbing should deter vehicles from speeding as much on the approach to the village. It was agreed that a request would be put to Warwickshire County Highways. The Clerk will write.
3. Jain Drinkwater asked whether the meeting felt that the paper version of the Newsletter should be retained or whether it should be published online only in future. It was felt that people would be more likely to read it if delivered; furthermore, not everyone has access to the internet. Therefore, it was agreed that the paper version should be retained.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 9th January 2018: approved as a true

and accurate record, and signed as such by Chairman Cllr Dean Morris.

5. Matters arising:

* Road condition: Councillor Morris reported the outcome of the meeting between Cllr. Fryer and representatives from Balfour Beatty and County Highways. Although there was disbelief that the poor condition of the road was solely due to weather conditions following the work, it was felt that little could be done other than to wait for the promised remedial works to take place.
* Village speeding issues/ traffic volume: Clerk reported that she had asked County Highways by email if traffic volume could be monitored, but has received no reply as yet. It was thought that an effective discouragement against speeding would be a narrowing of the road, with a Give Way sign, just past the Three Horseshoes and also the other side of the bridge. Traffic Lights on the bridge have been suggested in the past, but were too costly. **It was agreed** that a meeting with County Highways should be requested.
* Severn Trent: water pressure Cllr Reekes reported that Severn Trent have confirmed they are aware of the problem. And work is being carried out which it is hoped, will improve the situation. Anticipated completion date this Spring.
* Weight Signs: It was felt that the number of the signs is now satisfactory. No increase in the number of heavy lorries has been reported.
* Broadband: action is needed to connect the copper to the new access box opposite the Three Horseshoes, to avoid the current situation of being at the end of a long run from Bidford. We need to determine who to contact to explore whether this is possible, and at what cost.

1. Reports from District & County Council representatives.

Mrs. S Adams (SA) and Mr. M. Cargill (MC) joined the meeting.

Cllr Morris addressed the traffic issues to MC and asked whether a chicane/road-narrowing would be possible. MC confirmed that lighting would be required for a chicane, but would not be needed for humps. He asked that the **Clerk** raise the questions the PC have, by email when sending him a copy of the Minutes.

SA and MC then reported as follows:

1. Mrs S. Adams

* SDC has set the Council Tax rise at 1%; WCC 4%.
* Reminded the meeting that there will be a Code of Conduct training session on 22nd March, but there will be a webinar for those who cannot attend.
* Mentioned the SCAN conference (details of which have already been circulated and are on the Village Noticeboard).
* She has inspected the new hospital at Stratford, which is a wonderful facility. Still a bed shortage at Warwick hospital following pressures due to recent severe weather.

1. Mr. M. Cargill

* Announced that Alcester is becoming a pilot for the Care Quality Groups – Old Persons Health and Wellbeing Coordinators will assess villages’ needs re Community Transport etc.
* Confirmed that gritting has been regularly carried out during the recent severe weather. 2200 miles a day have been covered.
* Child Sexual Exploitation is an issue in the County. A training awareness session will be held on 24th May at 5pm at Elizabeth House.
* Announced that the University Hospital Coventry has been designated a Centre of Excellence for Stroke Services. Cllr. Morris felt it would be useful for information to be made public as to which hospital should be used for particular problems. **MC asked that this be confirmed in an email to him.**
* Confirmed that the Game Fair will again be held in Ragley this year – 27th /29th July.

SA and MC then left the meeting, along with Sue and Ken Vincent, 2 of the members of the public.

7. Finance:

(i) The following Accounts were approved for payment, and cheques were signed accordingly:

* Clerk’s salary Dec., Jan. and Feb. plus expenses Dec./Jan.: £567.33
* PAYE £79.04.

1. Clerk reported that she now has full access for internet banking purposes. It would be advisable for one of the Councillors to arrange access also.
2. The Budget for 2018/19 (already circulated in draft) was **approved.**
3. It was **resolved** to appoint Kenneth Dunn (who carried out the Internal audit last year) as this year’s Internal Auditor. His fee last year was £60; a fee of £70 has been budgeted for 2018/19.
4. Planning: no new items to report.
5. Health and Safety/Miscellaneous

It was **resolved** to adopt the new SDC Code of Conduct, details of which had already

been circulated. The Clerk pointed out that new DOI forms would need to be signed by all Councillors. She handed copies with explanatory notes to all Councillors present, and will deliver copies to Cllrs. Haworth and Fryer.

She also circulated copies of Financial statements to 28/02/18 showing the following:

Bank balance at 31/03/17: 16297.12

Income to 28/02/18 : 7037.06

Expenditure to 28/02/18 : 7976.69

Bank balance at 28/02/18 : 15357.49

10. To deal with any correspondence: there was none.

11. Any other Business to note:

Cllr. Morris raised the question of the hedge between Willow Farm and Church Meadow Cottage. It is too high, unkempt, and needs cutting. There is doubt as to whether it belongs to Willow Farm, as it is outside its fence. **Cllr. Morris** will see the owners and discuss with them. It may be that the PC will have to pay for the cutting.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.