

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE PARISH OF WASPERTON  
HELD AT WASPERTON VILLAGE HALL  
ON MONDAY 19 APRIL 2010 AT 7:30PM**

Present                    M J Metcalfe (Chairman)  
                                  Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman of the Joint Parish Council)  
                                  Eleven Wasperton Electors

**Minutes**

- 1            The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2009 were approved as a true record.
- 2            Matters Arising:
- 2.1        Minute 18. The working party formed with the mandate to respond to the WCC Minerals Core Strategy consultation with a firm rejection of the proposals for the Wasperton site had, with the aid of a very good consultant's report commissioned by Mr Lacey, met its remit.
- 2.2        Minute 22. There had been no progress in imposing a speed limit in the village.
- 2.3        Minute 24. The portable electronic speed detectors had not been used in the village. Nor had the speed gun; it was intended for use in 30 mph restricted areas and was therefore inappropriate for Wasperton
- 2.4        Minute 25. The purchase of dog bins and "poop bag" dispensers had not been investigated. A change of policy by WCC required the removal of dog bins because they contained "special waste" and were therefore expensive to empty. [See also Minute 3]

**Report by Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman Joint Parish Council)**

- 3            Cllr Murphy's reported:

2009-2010 has again been a busy year – 9 routine JPC meetings, numerous Planning meetings, 3 Special JPC Meetings, numerous Working Party or subcommittee meetings, the three Annual Parish Meetings and two Special Barford Parish Meetings.

**A46 Sherbourne Bypass** – This has continued to move on at a great pace since last year and is now largely functional. Work is progressing well on the old main roundabout and traffic mostly flows well despite the works, but there have still been some serious jams, not always related to the roadworks themselves. All indications are that the project is on time and should be completed later this year with only minor works remaining off-line.

We were pleased to see the completion of the **Barford Village Design Statement (VDS)** this year and it was adopted in full by the JPC and subject to very minor amendment by WDC. It will henceforth be used as a support document for determining applications but perhaps more importantly as guidance for potential developers and householders at the earlier stage of planning design.

During the year we assisted the Glebe Hotel with funding investigation work concerning their landmark Cedar of Lebanon tree which is not looking too well. The investigation confirmed its state of health and the specialists advised detailed work around the roots to combat the compaction problems caused by parked cars. Despite acceptance of the findings and an initial agreement to undertake the required works nothing seems to have happened so far and we will need to chase this matter up if this tree is to have any significant chance of survival.

**Dog Fouling** – This remains a constant problem and although much less than in years past is still causing concern. There are strict rules and severe fines for offenders and the Dog wardens promise zero-tolerance when folk are caught. Dog mess bins are currently available in Barford but

will be removed at some stage following some waste classification clarifications – dog owners are now encouraged to put their pets' waste in the standard waste or litter bins.

Speed through and past our villages remains a major issue and we have recently again been conducting Speed Checks. These are only permitted in the 30mph areas and will be supplemented later this year by use of the mobile speed monitoring signs which have been funded by the Warwick West Community Forum. Nationally there is some evidence that the message is slowly getting through and that attitudes to speed are slowly improving, all reinforced by greater detection rates with cameras and the wider use of Speed Awareness courses for those caught. When accidents do happen the speed at the time really does make a difference, especially to children and pedestrians.

Inconsiderate, and often illegal, parking continues to be an important issue at various locations. There are tentative plans to restrict parking near the Wasperton Lane/Wellesbourne Road junction and we continue to pressure the Police to take stronger action near the entrance to Bremridge Close where parked vehicles compromise safety and cause obstruction.

**All three village halls** have this year been supported by JPC grants - £944 to each – members again recognising more active management and fund raising taking place in the smaller villages, to make their halls more viable.

The JPC also gave grant support towards maintenance of each of the three churchyards.

**Minerals Core Strategy – Revised Spatial Options** – We are still waiting to see which if any of the local sites emerge as the WCC Strategic Sites as the decision has slipped backwards from last autumn with no current indication of time frame, especially in the light of the upcoming General Election and possible or probable change of government.

Similarly we are also awaiting the next stage in development of **WDC's Core Strategy** which will determine where future housing and commercial development should be located. Despite the results of earlier stages of the consultation WDC have so far elected to locate most of the growth in large blocks, ignoring much brownfield potential, and much of their proposals will impact on the areas south of Warwick and Leamington and hence on our parishes. A few extra sites have emerged during the consultation and these are currently under consideration.

Ongoing review of **Regional Spatial Strategy** has directed WCC and WDC to allocate land for accommodation of “**travellers and gypsies**”. There was some alarm when an application was submitted for a private site in Stratford DC area but adjacent to Sherbourne, and much relief when that was withdrawn promptly, only to be replaced in August by further alarm that the J15 works depot site may have been earmarked for a future permanent site. This is not confirmed but we will need to keep a watch on developments of this policy.

**Affordable Housing** – We continue to search for a suitable site to provide housing to meet our clearly identified affordable housing need. We have drawn up a shortlist of possible sites and the Rural Housing Enabler is currently negotiating with landowners to establish interest.

We have been attempting to assist WDC in drawing up a generic s.106 agreement, for use when Affordable Housing is built in villages, with the aim of ensuring that such houses are prioritised for use of people with genuine local connections. Sadly we are struggling to achieve some of the conditions we consider important and this means that we will have to be very cautious in future if we are to avoid some of the problems which occurred with allocation of the Oldhams site houses.

**Conservation Area status** is generally viewed as a good thing; helping to preserve our historic and picturesque environments – but not always. In C.A.s the old mercury streetlights which fail must be replaced with whole, new and expensive CA style lamp standards with sodium lights, and even before the worst of the current recession the budget for this is just too small, so ones which fail may be out for some time. Add to this the fact that the previous inspections of street lighting have been withdrawn and we now rely on local informants to get any streetlights mended in our area.

The threat of development on **land around Barford House** has been topical again this year with further exhibitions staged by Sharba Homes. There have been Special Parish Meetings to consider this and Barford Residents' Association has been asked to oversee a truly independent survey to gauge local opinion as it was generally felt that the Sharba results could not be relied upon. Meanwhile the JPC must refrain from comment pending an actual Planning Application and/or a reliable measure of opinion.

**Allotments** – Barford JPC allotments continue in good use and we have managed to release and subdivide a few more plots which means that we are currently satisfying local demand, even though that is much greater than in years gone by.

Despite a messy start, WCC's **Travel Token** scheme has now settled down and the tokens are available, to residents of all three parishes, to the value of £25, on proof of age or disability.

All councillors have attended many meetings and generally have served their electors extremely well, working as a strong team with James Johnson our excellent Clerk/RFO. Many thanks to all for their input. Some have done much more than the expected minimum and these are particularly deserving of our community's gratitude.

**Councillor attendance records:**

Name	Since May 2007 to date			2009-2010 year		
	Meetings	Present	%	Meetings	Present	%
Cllr Mrs P W Barlow	33	25	76%	12	10	83%
Cllr M P Byerley	33	19	58%	12	5	42%
Cllr R Clay	33	26	79%	12	10	83%
Cllr Mrs D S Cobb	33	22	67%	12	7	58%
Cllr Mrs M A Hayward	33	27	82%	12	9	75%
Cllr D C Morrow	14	14	100%	12	12	100%
Cllr R G Mulgrue	33	31	94%	12	12	100%
Cllr J V Murphy	33	30	91%	12	11	92%
Cllr A B Rhead	33	21	64%	12	9	75%
Cllr W Worrall	33	31	94%	12	10	83%
Cllr Mrs A Gordon	33	33	100%	12	12	100%
Cllr Mrs P L Johnston	32	15	47%	12	4	33%
Cllr Mrs P W Wilkinson	33	27	82%	12	9	75%
Cllr Dr M J Metcalfe	33	27	82%	12	10	83%
Cllr N F J Thurley	33	32	97%	12	12	100%
Cllr J T Wright	33	30	91%	12	10	83%

4 Matters Arising:

- 4.1 The question was asked whether the layby on the A429 Wellesbourne Road was still earmarked as a possible Travellers' Site. Cllr Murphy said that it was but very low on the list of priorities

**Police Matters**

- 5 No police representative having responded to the invitation to attend the meeting, it was agreed to combine this agenda item with the next.

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

- 6 Mr Jim Gilligan delivered his report.
- 7 It had been a relatively quiet year, and he listed the incidents which had come to his attention. Several were innocent but he stressed that it is better to investigate a “non-crime” than to let a real crime go unreported.
- 8 The residents could take comfort from the knowledge that they lived in one of the safest areas in the county.
- 9 The usual warning about telephone and internet scams was repeated as was the caution about callers without identification. So also was a reminder to park cars off the road where possible; to lock them and not to leave valuables inside them.
- 10 Mr Gilligan asked if the village contact list (names and telephone numbers) should be expanded to include email addresses. The meeting decided not.

## **Any Other Business**

- 11 Potholes. Those attending were advised to contact WCC directly on its web site to report potholes stressing the safety implications.
- 12 Flooding. Mr Gilligan reported that his paddock was now prone to flooding which he attributed to a blocked land drain. He was advised to contact the Environment Agency directly.
- 13 Community Activities. Mr Wright drew attention to the community spirit of Wasperton citing:
- Monthly coffee shop
  - Refurbishment of war memorial
  - Second-hand book sales for village hall funds
  - Art group
  - Initiatives to keep the village hall going
  - The planned Open-Gardens festival in June
- 14 Attendance. The Chairman drew attention to the low attendance and invited suggestions to improve it in coming years. Amongst other things these were offered:
- A notice of the next meeting to be delivered to each house in Wasperton (drawing attention also to the minutes of the prior year's meeting on the Barford web site)
  - Compiling a voluntary email distribution list.

## **Appointment of Chairman for 2010-11**

- 15 Mr M Metcalfe was appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

## **Closure of the Meeting**

- 16 There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:32pm, thanking those who had attended.