



**WEST ACRE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of the MEETING HELD on MONDAY**  
**MARCH 17th 2014**  
**at the VILLAGE HALL**

A meeting of West Acre Parish Council was held on Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

Those present were Sally Bridle (chair) Henry Birkbeck, Colin Filer, Eoghan Sheils, Ralph Sliwa, (Councillors) and Sue Filer (Parish Clerk). Also present was Jim Moriarty (Borough Councillor), Deborah Pearson and Nicola Bigg (PCSOs), Joan Beales, Belinda Bush, Brian Cawston and Brian Wright (residents).

**Minute 1 To receive apologies** - There were apologies from Jeremy Cameron.

**Minute 2 To accept the minutes of the previous meeting** - These were approved and signed.

**Minute 3 To receive declarations of interest**  
These remain unchanged from the previous meeting.

**Minute 4 To discuss Matters Arising from the last meeting**

i) Sally stated that she'd had no reply from Andy Wallace re matters to do with speeding, road narrowing and signage. Our PCSO, Deborah Pearson reported that she had spoken in person to Andy and he'd promised her that the work would be done in April this year. When asked, she said that they should inform us before the work starts as to the starting date as Henry would like to approve the exact siting of the signs.

Action - Sally is to keep trying to contact Andy to ask for a time frame for the work and specific details of what will be done.

ii) Village & Footpath Map - Henry presented a draft A4 map to the meeting that was approved. Questions were asked about its size, whether copies would be placed on boards around the village and whether

it would be sold. It was decided to keep the size as it was but to produce some A3 versions to display. The maps would not be sold but would be available at the Estate Office where people would be told that they could make a donation. It was also suggested that more wild life information should be printed on the reverse.

Action - All the councillors were asked to think about the information that could be printed on the map and email Henry with their suggestions.

iii) Emergency Plans - It was decided in Jeremy's absence that this matter should wait until the next meeting. Various points were mentioned: Narborough's plans, asking for volunteers and the fact that the theatre is fund raising for a defibrillator. PCSO Deborah Pearson said that as far as the Police were concerned there is the matter of Data Protection and that information about residents would need to be stored in a secure and approved way.

Action - Jeremy to present his thoughts to the next meeting.

iv) Restoration of the Village Sign - After considering the costs involved (estimated at £200 + materials) it was decided by a majority that this matter should be shelved for the moment but reviewed in a year's time.

Action - this item to be placed on the Agenda for March 2015.

v) Parking at the Stag - Ralph stated that cars parked around the pub sign obscure views for traffic approaching the pub from both ways and this could prove a danger for people sitting and children playing outside in the summer. He had spoken to the pub manager but she didn't want to get involved and antagonise customers. Henry had spoken to her too, but felt that she wouldn't object if a polite notice were attached to the sign.

Action - Henry to do a draft notice and circulate it to the councillors for their approval.

vi) World War 1 Commemoration - Of the leaflets that were delivered to approximately 84 dwellings, there were only 14 replies, 12 wanting the dedication of a new tree on the Village Green, 1 wanting a Peace Garden and 1 wanting 100 candles to be lit at the Group Service on the Village Green on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and an area of poppies to be planted. Thus it was decided to go ahead with the dedication of the new tree to be planted on the Village Green at the Group Service. A lime tree was the tree of choice, since there were some concerns about disease to a horse chestnut.

Action - Henry to source and plant a new tree very soon. Sue to notify Stuart Nairn of the choice and ask him if he'll dedicate it at the Group Service. All the councillors have been asked to submit emails with suggestions for wording on the plaque of dedication.

vii) Dog fouling in Fullers Lane - Norfolk Trails have erected signs in Fullers Lane and the car park and across the road by the signposts for Pedars Way.

Deborah (PCSO) stated that the police would be handing out fixed penalty fines of £75 for owners who let their dogs foul the paths in this area as well as those throwing bagged waste into the bushes.

viii) Replacement of gates in Fullers Lane - It was questioned as to whether gates were necessary and if so what sort of gate should be used. It was generally felt that gates are necessary as vehicles are starting to use this lane again. Ralph stated that if Highways would only produce wooden gates the Parish Council should reinforce them with metal.

Action - Sally to try to contact Highways again.

**Minute 5 The Village Hall**- Ralph reported that things were not moving along very well with the proposed new Village Hall. The two problems listed in the last minutes have not been resolved thus making further progress impossible. Jim warned that a new tax on new buildings would be applied soon and so time is of the essence.

One of the residents said that all the people he'd spoken to felt the whole thing was a "laugh" in view of the continued lack of progress over many years.

Action - Henry and Ralph to report back at the next PCM.

**Minute 6 to discuss matters of Finance** - Budget

Two matters were discussed.

(i) Sally asked whether the £100 quoted was a suitable starting point for the cost of planting and dedicating a tree on the green for the WW1 Commemoration. This was agreed by Council, although the cost may be significantly greater than this.

Action - Everyone to investigate possibilities for the wording on a plaque for the tree/ railings etc.

Eoghan to ask Charlotte Howarth for her thoughts on the plaque.

(ii) As not everyone was happy with what seems to be an incomplete budget( missing out 2013/14 details) it was decided to hold this matter over until the next meeting.

Action - Henry to fill in the missing details.

**Minute 7 Tractor Speeds**. Following a letter from a parishioner concerned about the speed tractors are using along local country lanes our PCSO was contacted. She felt that a 2-pronged approach was needed. The council should write to local farmers and the police safety

department should be contacted. Henry has contacted the farmers and our CPSO has contacted the police safety department.

**Minute 8 To view correspondence** - This was displayed at the back of the room. As the amount of postal mail received by the Parish Clerk is minimal she has written to all Councillors explaining that electronic mail will be forwarded at the time it arrives and that a monthly list will no longer be published. Postal mail will be displayed as usual at each meeting. The clerk will keep a record of all electronic mail should councillors wish to see it.

**Minute 9 To receive any other matters for discussion** - Colin asked Antonia why nothing was being done about more play equipment as this had shown up on the Village Survey as a priority item. It was decided that this matter should be held over until the new Village Hall has been built and the equipment erected there.

Ralph asked if anyone had suitable spring photographs for the parish website to replace the current winter ones.

A parishioner enquired whether the hedge on the right hand side of the junction where Church Green exits onto River Road could be trimmed back as it was a hazard and prevented a good view of approaching traffic. After some discussion Henry said the Estate would deal with this.

Action - Henry to get the Estate workers to trim the hedge.

**Minute 10 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting.** -

This was confirmed as Monday 19th May 2014 at 7pm at the Village Hall. This will also be the Annual Village Meeting.

Action - All matters for inclusion on the Agenda should reach Sue by Monday May 5th 2014