

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON DECEMBER 6th, 2016

Present were Nicky Brooks, Mark Walker, Eileen Mawle, Alan Wilson & Simon Stace. Apologies were received from Martin Wilson, Peter Emery (WODC) and Charles Mathew (OCC) Six members of the public were also present.

Russell & Anne Cherry gave a short presentation of their role as Footpath Wardens and left a list of six damaged / missing stiles / footbridges with a request the PC might like to contact the land owners to ask for repair work to be completed. They will make occasional reports to the PC in the future.

Minutes for the October meeting were signed as being a true record of proceedings.

There then followed a long discussion about Declarations of Interest which should or should not have been made at recent PC meetings concerning the possibility of starting proceedings for some of the parish to become a Conservation Area.

On the basis that house values would increase inside such an area, Mark Walker this evening declared an interest but need he have done so? Each councillor could probably make the same declaration in which case nobody would be able to take part or vote. On the other hand no councillor should be asked to make the declaration, it is up to each councillor to make their own decision. One member of the public present said the two landowners on the PC who own land that could one day be developed should have declared an interest. This, she said, means the result of the vote should be cancelled. However as only the two councillors in question voted against and motion it would not have affected the result. Eileen Mawle stated, "notwithstanding land held, I voted against the Conservation Area idea because I thought it would not be good for the village".

We obviously need clarification of the law from WODC when such a conflict of interest occurs.

Equally contentious was the issue of whether or not permission was required to collect fallen leaves off the village green which appears to have caused a certain amount of bad feeling in the neighbourhood. All the councillors were of the opinion that such permission was not required.

MATTERS ARISING

Mason Arms. Work has started on repairing the property and the thatch is being removed. Local people are being employed wherever possible and a chef (not local) has been appointed.

Conservation Area. A Neighbourhood Plan will help to determine how many houses could be built in the village. Graham Soame has offered to find someone who might be prepared to do the preparatory work so that all that remains is for WODC to review the application. GS will find out the likely cost.

Precept. Councillors had been provided with a breakdown of expenditure in the last two years and an estimate for next year. It was felt we should build up a maintenance fund for the hall but as the existing precept is slightly above expected outgoings and we will also receive half of any profit made by the VHC it was decided to leave it at the same figure as last year.

PLANNING APPLICATION

Acre Cottage. Change of use of office to holiday cottage. Councillors were concerned about the relatively high elevation compared to the existing structure and urbanisation of a listed building. It was considered too large a property so close to the present dwelling and would spoil the rural setting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Stanton Harcourt PC that they hope to acquire a speed gun for less than £100 and asking if we would be interested in sharing the gun and cost. Replied that we are.

Letter from Savills advising us that the MAFF depot will soon be let and the remainder of the access track from Station Road will be built.

AOB:

Charles Mathew to be asked if he is able to provide two reflective posts for the grass verge opposite Tar Wood House.