

Waddington Parish Council

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Meeting of Waddington Parish Council The Village Club – 7.30pm on 9th November 2015

1. To receive apologies for absence

Present:

Councillor D Parker (DP)
Councillor R Edmondson (RE)
Councillor L Haworth (LH)
Councillor G Fisher (GF)
Councillor J Hilton (JH)
Councillor P Elms (PE)

Apologies:

Councillor M Colley; Councillor B Hilton

In attendance:

Natalie Cox (NC) – Clerk to the Parish Council
Mr P Bond and Mr A Coupe, from the Environment Agency

2. To approve as correct the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting in October 2015 were approved for accuracy and signed by the Chairman - Cllr Doug Parker.

3. Environment Agency Presentation

The two representatives from the Environment Agency (EA) had met DP the previous month to conduct a tour of Waddington Brook. Both Mr Bond and Mr Coupe are members of the "Flood Resilience Team". They explained that following the major incident in Boscastle a number of years ago, a major review had been carried out. As a result Waddington is classed as being in a "Rapid Response Catchment". It is recommended that as a result communities need to be prepared.

Waddington Brook is considered at high risk of flooding and 41 properties are at risk. Flash flooding usually happens within six hours from the start of the rainfall. The EA is trying to raise awareness within the communities which are at risk and ensure they are ready to respond. The EA detailed the signs of flash flooding before explaining the positive need for a Community Emergency Plan (a template is available).

After the presentation other areas were covered:

- The EA has permissive powers for main rivers
- Not as much routine maintenance is carried out as in previous years

- Riparian owners have roles and responsibilities but certain jobs would need consent from the EA first
- The ecology of the brook is good – it is high with fish and invertebrates with good numbers of brown trout and occasionally salmon
- Chris Tomlin, the EA's Asset Performance Officer, is due to visit Waddington before the end of 2015 to survey the site – it is possible that as a result of this maintenance work may need to be carried out. If the EA is not going to carry out any work, the Parish Council would need consent before it undertook any work.
- June to September is the window during which maintenance work can be carried out.
- Local authorities can be asked to supply sandbags for use during flash flooding incidents but they would need to be stored in a central location for distribution

Questions were asked about the boulders in the river bed and whether they would need removing due to build up. However, it is a question of balancing habitat and flow.

Concerns were raised that new residents to the village may not be aware of the potential risks. It was suggested that the EA rotate the sites which need occasional work rather than having an annual list.

Action: The presentation by the EA may be made available on the Waddington Parish Council website.

Action: The Parish Council will look into the development of a Community Emergency Plan.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting (not covered elsewhere)

4.1 Community Road Watch / SPIDS

NC had contacted County Coun Albert Atkinson with regard to any follow-up work carried out by LCC after the road survey on the fell road a number of years ago. A secure email had been received on the day of the meeting.

NC has been given two points of contact at LCC to speak to about SPIDS.

Action: NC to find out the prices of solar powered SPIDS and pursue the response from LCC.

4.2 Defibrillator

Matthew Dugdale from the North West Ambulance Service had been in contact offering potential funding help towards the purchase of a second defibrillator for the village. However, the Village Club is being provided with a defibrillator by the organisers of the Duck Race. Simon Doyle has offered the possibility of a two-hour community based first aid course covering life threatening events such as CPR, using a defibrillator, heart attacks and the recovery position.

Waddington Parish Council needs to appoint a "guardian" to check the defibrillator weekly to ensure it is working, once commissioned

Action: DP and JH to meet Mr Dugdale to ensure the defibrillator is installed correctly.

Action: It was agreed that DP be appointed as the defibrillator guardian, with JH also being trained to carry out the checks in case DP is away.

Action: To let the local community know, via the Clitheroe Advertiser, about the commissioned defibrillator, before organising a community first aid event early in 2016

Action: NC to put Mr Dugdale in contact with the duck race organisers to ensure the right equipment is purchased at a competitive price.

4.3 Fell Road escape lane

JH has been in touch with the Clitheroe Advertiser and there will be a piece appearing soon.

4.4 Asset of Community Value

No update to report.

4.5 Christmas tree lights

NC has placed an order for the lights which will be collected in due course by RE. DP had been informed at the RVBC Parish Liaison Committee meeting that money is available towards the cost of new Christmas light, to a maximum of 50%.

4.6 Dog fouling signage

Additional signage has been put up by LH in a variety of locations, but not the churchyard.

5. Police Newsletter

No update.

6. Planning applications

None received.

7. Village Maintenance & Lengthsman

A response had been received from Mr Metcalf which had been circulated to members of the parish council. It was felt that although he had made some valid points in his response, it was mentioned that, at times, his tone had been inappropriate.

RVBC is responsible for cutting the grass and carry it out on average every two weeks.

A few other Ribble Valley villages do employ a lengthsman to carry out work.

Action: NC to contact local parish council clerks who have employed lengthsman to find out about the contracts which are in place, the hours, the type of work carried out and how the work is assigned and how often it is reported back to the parish council.

Action: To publicise and hold a further village clean up in 2016 ahead of the BKVC.

8. Allotment update

Action: DP and RE to visit the allotment plots, in particular to visit plot number 2.

9. Neighbourhood/Community Plans

PE reported that Sawley has put together one of these plans and money may be available from central government towards the cost of putting one in place. Colin Sharpe from RVBC has been to West Bradford Parish Council to do a presentation on Neighbourhood/Community Plans.

Action: NC to make further inquiries regarding these plans.

10. Best Kept Village Competition

The judges' report has now been received. Some of the areas raised as matters of concern have already been addressed e.g. the telephone box, the railings and the war memorial.

Action: In the New Year letters will be sent to the organisations identified in the judges' report.

Action: In March DP will ask Peter Foley to carry out a "mock" inspection to identify areas that will need further attention.

11. Accounts

11.1 Expenditure/Income update from 10/9/15 to 11/10/15

NC reported that at 22/10/15 the balance in the account was £17,010.24 and notification has been received that the concurrent function has been paid.

11.2 Precept

Action: It was agreed to keep the precept at the same level as 2015/2016.

Action: It was agreed to look at holding an event to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday.

12. Correspondence received

12.1 RVBC Parish Liaison Committee

See above for reference to funding for the purchase of defibrillators.

12.2 RVBC Good Neighbours Event

Poster to be displayed in the Parish Council noticeboard.

12.3 Allotment list for Core Strategy

Action: It was agreed that details about the Waddington allotments be passed to RVBC.

12.4 Parish based bus services

Information has been sent from LCC about parish councils considering their own local transport schemes. It was generally felt that Waddington is well served with buses.

13. Borough Council update

PE reported that five "units" of asylum seekers will be given residences in Clitheroe or Longridge as part of a Government scheme.

He added that RVBC had voted against holding a Christmas Fair in the town as it would coincide with Whalley's Pickwick Night and could take trade away from the town centre over the three days. The event will now be held at Dowson's on the A59.

PE is now a member of the Police and Crime Panel.

Concerns were raised about changes which are being made to the levels of local policing.

14. AOB

None was raised.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is: Monday, December 14th 2015 in the Village Club, Clitheroe Road at 7.30pm.

All villagers are very welcome to attend any of the WPC meetings.

Approved: Signed:.....

Date: December 2015