

**WHAPLODE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2014**  
**AT WHAPLODE VILLAGE HALL**

Present as per register AND District Cllr Chandler.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Stafford, Roulstone and County Cllr Pepper.

In the absence of Cllr Roulstone Cllr Pullen chaired the meeting.

**Appointment of Vice Chairman:**

Vice Chairman due to be appointed from Whaplode St Catherine ward and Tim Clay was proposed by Cllr Merchant and seconded by Cllr Pullen which members agreed.

**Declarations of interest:**

None

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record with the following matters arising,

1. Cllr Barlow reported that he had referred the allotment rent review process to Hix & Co who believed it was valid.
2. Cllr Barlow had met Mr Atkins at the cemetery as an additional tree needed to be removed and a cost of £350 was quoted which members agreed.
3. Cllr Merchant reported that Cllr Stafford had been unable to find a contractor to repair the bus shelter so was doing the work himself.

**Police matters:**

The Clerk reported an email from Cllr Coleman of Gedney Hill Parish Council about the drugs problem in Whaplode Drove which the police were aware. Cllrs were advised that an arrest had been made in recent days. Cllr Merchant advised that at a recent community Police Panel it was discussed that training which needed to be requested by the Parish Council was available for volunteers to operate the speed indicator equipment. Cllr Mackman advised that a chip van/bus was parking dangerously in Broadgate which had been reported to the PCSO. Members agreed for the Clerk to liaise with the police.

**Finance Report:**

The Clerk reported the following cheques for payment which members agreed,

101613 G Hawkes salary	£ 299.20
101614 HMRC	£ 74.80
101615 Anglian water	£ 121.35
101616 M Grummitt	£ 90.00 vat £15.00

1. Balances:	High interest a/c	£ 69,150
	Business Prem	£ 23,333
	Current a/c	£ 14284
	Less cheques	£ 994
	Balances	£105,773

2. The Clerk reported that the audit had been completed and a notice of closure posted in the village notice board.
3. Cllr Pullen reported that a fallen branch from a tree in the cemetery had damaged a garage roof. The Clerk reported that the incident had been reported to the councils insurer.

**Date of next meeting:**

The Clerk advised that next meeting was 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Whaplode Drove and next finance meeting was 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**Planning applications.**

The Clerk reported that applications had been dealt with as per annexed.

The Clerk reported that planning reference numbers 710 and 717 needed comment and Councillors agreed to follow up.

**Allotments:**

1. The Clerk reported that the deeds relating to the allotment roadway were still missing and it was suggested that SHDC may have documentation as they originally owned the land that the houses were built on – members agreed that the Clerk contact Richard Scorthorn at SHDC.
2. The Clerk reported that the rent demand for the Crown land due in October still showed the old figure. October rent demands will go out and confirm the increased rent due in April 2015 will include any backdated element and the normal increase from October 2015 which members supported.

**Highway matters:**

Whaplode village,

Cllr Merchant advised that potholes were a problem in Cobgate which he will report to highways.

Cllr Barlow agreed to review the bridleway at the rear of the Star Inn as it is overgrown.

Whaplode St Catherines,

Members advised there were no issues.

Whaplode Drove,

Cllr Stimson reported overgrown trees in Daniels Drove were a problem to high sided vehicles and the clerk agreed to write to Mrs Attwood the owner of the trees.

Cllr Mackman advised that trees were still a problem at Sheppeau Stow corner and Cllr Dilley agreed to contact LCC.

Saracens Head,

There was no report.

**Parish Council website:**

The Clerk reported that he no longer receives activity statistics and he will chase these up with SHDC.

**Speed signs/indicators:**

The Clerk reported the initiative by LRSP to promote the use of speed indication signs and interactive signs which could be purchased by parish councils at a discount for a limited time period. Members discussed the options and it was agreed that the Clerk circulate details of the scheme to Cllrs Mackman, Roulstone, Clay and Merchant to review each ward and send recommendations to the Clerk for collation.

**Best Kept Village Competition:**

The Clerk circulated scores and judges comments.

**Whaplode playing field:**

Cllr Merchant reported that the official opening of the new play equipment had been completed. Increased useage of the field had caused a litter problem and two new litter bins were now required and Cllr Pullen agreed to contact SHDC for support.

**Whaplode St Catherines playing field:**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted SHDC to see who was responsible for the playing field in Cranesgate North and awaited a reply – he will chase up.

**General correspondence & general business:**

1. The Clerk reported correspondence received from BT to advise they were de commissioning various red telephone boxes and they were to be adopted by the Community Heartbeat Trust who will install defibrallators which members supported..

- 2. Cllr Chandler reported that Saracens Head village hall committee had contacted him for support to purchase new doors at a cost of £2,709 plus vat and members agreed to provide £500 from the capital fund.**
- 3. The Clerk reported a further letter from Mr Stapenhill-Hunt requesting financial support of £9,000 for a CCTV upgrade, repairs to the car park and install play equipment. District Cllrs Chandler and Creese had provided £1,000 and members agreed to support of £5,000 from the capital fund provided it is confirmed that our monies are only used for the purpose requested and sufficient funds are available to complete the projects.**

**There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.50pm.**

**Chairman**