

## **NEWS from Wolston Parish Council – October 2016**

During the public forum at the meeting on 1st September, a resident from Brook Street reported how during torrential rainfall, the previous weekend, the level of the brook rose quickly and overtopped the bridge outside a neighbour's property. The neighbour had been so concerned that her property would be flooded that she had taken action to remove some of the vegetation growing in the bed of the brook and had deposited it on the footpath. As a riparian owner this was commendable action, but not something all her neighbours could tackle. The amount of weed removed would not fit in the green wheelie bins so one resident asked whether the Borough Council would be able to remove it. The Clerk reported that as the riparian owner had removed the weed from the brook, there would usually be a charge from the Borough for disposal. The Chairman thanked the resident for raising the issue and reminded Councillors that brook clearance was one of the items in the Village Maintenance section of the agenda for them to discuss later in the meeting.

Borough Councillor Derek Poole had followed up on four items from the August meeting which he had agreed to pursue on residents behalf. Of particular interest was the query raised by Cllr Arthur Parker about the repairs to Paddocks Close pavements that had previously been promised by the County Council. Cllr Poole had been given information to suggest that the pavement work required for Paddocks Close would cost £150,000. He could obviously give no indication of when this work might be done. Cllr Poole confirmed that weed spraying had been undertaken around the village shortly after the last meeting; the issue of the "hidden" ditch next to the new footpath had been reported and dealt with; the culverts which had been flattened as a result of heavy vehicle movements over them are being sorted. As there were no further issues, the Parish Councillors agreed to move into the formal meeting to deal with the agenda items.

Of the three planning applications submitted for comment only one required further information, as there was some doubt as to the land ownership.

The accounts paid in August 2016 were approved and the receipt of the Play Grant from RBC was acknowledged.

Following the representation during the public forum about brook clearance, councillors resolved to arrange for 4Counties to come and do the work required to remove the weed in the brook and dispose of it.

Councillors resolved that there should be an adjustment to the operating times for three lights in the vicinity of the Church Field to try to address ongoing anti-social behaviour issues.

Cllr Parker reminded colleagues about surveys previously undertaken which allowed councillors to walk the village and identify those pavements which needed repair or re-instatement. It was suggested that it was time that a full survey of all pavements should be carried out because there is anecdotal evidence that there are a number of problem areas and we need evidence if we are to try to get the issues resolved.

A survey, by our lighting contractor of lighting columns owned by the Parish Council has identified that three of the older lights, with concrete columns, will require replacing within the next 12 months.

The village has a network of "green" footpaths which radiate out across some beautiful countryside in the parish. Sometimes these become overgrown, or way marker signs become obscured. It is the intention of the Parish Council to ask people who regularly use these routes to report any issues that prevent their enjoyment of the open countryside so that corrective action can be taken. We are so fortunate that the farmers in this area are good at ensuring that these

delightful permissive rights of way are kept open to allow us to enjoy the benefits of our rural idyll. Cllr Mrs Jackie Green advised that her husband Paul would be happy to walk the paths and help survey them. If there is anyone else prepared to check footpaths, please contact the Clerk or the Chairman.

Rugby Borough Council is publishing their Draft Local Plan in order for any representations to be made prior to submission of the plan to the Secretary of State. These will be examined by a Planning Inspector. The consultation period will commence on Monday 26th September and run until 11th November. The Parish Council will be submitting a response but individuals may also do so. Further information can be found on the village website or RBC website.

During Parish Matters Cllr Parker asked when the members of the Community Speed Watch Team would be able to get out in the village to act as a deterrent to put off speeding motorists. Cllr Grainger agreed to liaise with counterparts in Brandon and Bretford Parish Council to gain access to the speed-gun.

There was feedback from Neighbourhood Development Plan members on the NDP meetings and the need for more help. Cllr Tim Willis spoke about the NDP referendum taking place at Kineton. He then explained how Lighthorne, Lighthorne Heath and Gaydon haven't gone down the NDP route and have found that a Supplementary Planning Document from Stratford District Council has saddled them with an additional 1000 dwellings each.

Cllr Grainger reported on the progress with the renovation of the Scout Hut – lots of the electrical work has been undertaken, the old toilets have been ripped out and new toilets and framework has been installed. The exterior work to make the building waterproof is due to start mid-September.

This is just a flavour of the content of our monthly meetings. If you would like to learn more, the next meeting will be on Thursday 6th October in the Village Hall at 7.15 pm.

**Tim Harvey-Smith**  
**Chairman**  
**Wolston Parish Council**