

News from Wolston Parish Council – June 2017

Several matters affecting the lives of residents living in Wolston are raised for discussion at the monthly Parish Council meetings. Sometimes these subjects have been raised by residents here in the village or by members of the Council or Mrs Maria Meede, the Clerk. The Parish Council is always pleased to listen to people's problems or queries, to enable improvements to be considered and possibly adopted.

At the May meeting several interesting topics were discussed during the Public Forum and these included the following points:

- One resident asked for an update regarding the recent increase in Vehicle Crime in the village. The resident recognised the work that was being done by the Police which included additional patrols in the area. It was reported that since the ongoing Police investigations, no further incidents have been reported. The Police were able to confirm that action had been taken and said that some arrests have been made. The public were reminded of the importance of reporting any similar incidents by ringing 101 as this ensures that incidents are logged by the Police system. During a discussion about crime in the village it was acknowledged that the Parish Council has no authority in relation to crime matters. They pass on and share information with the Police, which is something that they always try to do, as the Police need to be made aware of problems or they cannot act. It was also pointed out that officers will not be able to share information about the actions they are taking, with the public, as sharing that information may affect their investigations.
- A further matter that was raised was on the subject of Anti-Social Behaviour. One councillor was concerned about drug use in the village and the Clerk highlighted concerns raised with her by another councillor about continual problems on the Church Lane. The Police explained that it would not be possible to send immediate patrols to incidents of ASB. Youths are regularly spoken to and dispersed – but it was noted that this often just moves the problem to a different location. PCSO Cawte said that the Police rely on information and intelligence about incidents, vehicles, and people from members of the public. That information can lead to 'markers' being put on vehicles, people, or addresses. So, even small amounts of information, can assist with the building up of a clearer picture of an incident.
- Another councillor raised the issue of parking, especially vehicles parking on the zig-zag lines by the Co-op. PC Mike Stamp confirmed that tickets were being issued for the offence, and that it would just be the local Neighbourhood Policing Team who would deal with this.
- The ANPR system was also discussed and it was confirmed that the system will pick up any vehicle with a 'marker' – which includes vehicles which are linked to NO TAX, NO INSURANCE, STOLEN VEHICLES, DRUGS, MISSING PERSONS, etc..
- PCSO Cawte introduced Peter Hazelgrove who is a new resident in Wolston and who had been in touch with the Police about his concerns over the recent surge in crime. It was reported that Peter has set up a Crime News Facebook Page and has ideas about sharing crime information with residents in the area, using an email system. Councillors thanked Peter for his work in this area and everyone agreed that it was important for the community to help itself and for residents to work together.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council started after the Public Forum, and the first responsibility was to elect the Chairman. Tim Harvey-Smith was re-elected. Later in the meeting, Graham Fewkes was re-elected as Vice-Chairman. Next, councillors reviewed and elected members on to working groups and outside bodies. They then reviewed and adopted Parish Council policies and procedures before returning to the normal agenda items

Following the last Parish Council meeting three councillors undertook an informal walkabout of the Priory Manor development. The purpose was to ensure that when they met with representatives from Bloor Homes, and a representative from the planning department at RBC the following week, they would be able to identify outstanding matters which needed to be carried out before the development could be signed off. This made the actual meeting the following week more effective and Councillors were thanked for their work on it.

The two Wolston Parish Councillors on the Quarry Liaison Committee had spent time looking round the quarry site as part of the committee's quarterly meeting. They were able to describe to fellow Councillors the progress being made, and Cllr Parker arranged for photographs of parts of the site to be put on the village website for everyone to have the opportunity to see.

Cllr Tim Willis requested a deferral of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group update and endorsement of the questionnaire contract until the June meeting.

The General Power of Competence (GPC) is a new power available to Local Authorities in England provided for in the Localism Act 2011. A Council determines if it is eligible for the GPC and adopts it at a full meeting of the Council. There are restrictions to use of the GPC which include if another authority has a statutory duty relating to providing the activity or service; complying with Government Legislation; complying with financial regulations and duties. Wolston Parish Council is delighted to report that it was able to adopt the General Power of Competence thanks to the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Mrs Maria Meede, having successfully obtained the CiLCA qualification. This success reflects the quality of work we receive from the Clerk and the tireless dedication she gives to her 'adopted' village.

Your Parish Council is always interested in your ideas, requests, or concerns and we do urge you to get in touch with us either by attending meetings, on the first Thursday of the month, or by contacting the Clerk, or individual Councillors. Thank you for your continued support.

Tim Harvey-Smith
Chairman, Wolston Parish Council