

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 12th May 2008 in the village hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer, Cllr Vincent Aldridge, Cllr Nigel Grove, Cllr Nigel Cabeldu, Cllr Harry Butterworth, Cllr Elizabeth Robinson, Cllr Kate Thatcher, Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), Cllr Pearl Slatter

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr John Farrow

2. Election of chairman

Agreed that Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer take the Chair for the Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council for the year 2008/2009.

Proposed by Cllr Harry Butterworth, seconded by Cllr Kate Thatcher

3. Election of vice chairman

Agreed that Vincent Aldridge take the vice chairman for the Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council for the year 2008/2009.

Proposed by Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer, seconded by Cllr Nigel Cabeldu

4. Declaration of acceptance

Cllr Oppenheimer duly signed the declaration of acceptance for the post of chairman of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council. Cllr Aldridge duly signed the declaration of acceptance for the post of vice chairman of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council.

5. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of the 17th March 2008 meeting signed as a true record.

6. Declarations of interest

Cllr Thatcher and Cllr Butterworth declared an interest in a discussion about Greenshoot's charitable open day.

7. Public forum

Chairman _____ Date _____

Michael Haas spoke about planning application number **P08/E0362**. He explained that the plans have been amended since the council made its comments in the March meeting. Mr Haas gave examples of piece-meal developments in the village with larger planning footprints.

8. Matters arising

Website

Cllr Robinson read notes from the web editor which clarified the roles in maintaining the village website:

- David Robinson – edits website
- Phillip Weir - provides technical support and software maintenance
- Parish council – manages the content

All agreed that the parish council should encourage the village to provide updates.

Decided that the website should be a regular agenda item to ensure it is kept up to date.

Bulletin – Greenshoot’s open day is charitable and should be included in the Bulletin.

9. Village plan questionnaire

Council discussed the draft parish council questions about planning and housing in the village plan questionnaire. District Cllr Slatter confirmed that the village isn’t a potential site for affordable housing. The council feels it would be beneficial to evidence the views of the residents on such matters.

Everyone reviewed the questionnaire and all agreed on minor changes to the wording to ensure its clarity. **Cllr Oppenheimer to make the changes and email final copy to everyone.**

10. Communal gardens

Comments were discussed about an untidy garden in Hardwick Road. Suggestion that we write to the residents to mention. **Parish clerk to first contact OALC to ask them for advice about similar problems.**

11. Slipway

Discussion about the ‘no parking’ sign on the slipway. Confirmation that the residents have built a fence on which the sign could be attached. **Parish clerk to speak to the owners to ask them what size sign they would be happy with.**

12. Village hall meeting

Chairman _____ Date _____

Cllr Oppenheimer provided an update on the meeting between the parish council and South Oxfordshire District Council. The notes of this meeting have been circulated by email. All decided that before the parish council reaches a final decision the two options need to be clarified:

1. Purchase price
2. Rent and terms of lease

The council agreed that the current village hall site is limited by the lack of parking. There was a suggestion to make a planning and grant application for a new site and the head of planning at SODC has suggested the village plan village hall team sketch some drawings and send in. Another suggestion to use the pre school building which is empty in the evening.

13. Roads and pavement review

The road and pavement review list and maps has been received by Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. Some of the work has already begun at Swanston Field and Manor Road. All agreed to review the list at every meeting.

14. Vehicle activated sign request

All agreed after the positive response at the annual assembly to go ahead with funding some vehicle activated signs to help to reduce speeding in the village. **Parish clerk to submit a formal request to Oxfordshire County Council and arrange a meeting to assess the most appropriate locations.**

15. Memorial bench

All in support of Fiona Skidmore putting a memorial bench in Manor Road play area. All agreed that Fiona Skidmore would order the bench and reimburse the council for the installation. Parish clerk to contact Pete Woolhouse to obtain a quote for installation and liaise with Fiona Skidmore.

16. District Councillor Report

Cllr Slatter offered to give a talk on the planning process at the next meeting. **Councillors to provide a list of questions ready for the next meeting.**

17. County Councillor Report

None

18. Planning applications and decisions

Applications

Chairman _____ Date _____

P08/E0448 - Tanglewood, High Street. Replacement of utility with single storey rear extension, replacement of porch to the front of the house and erection of fence leading to the entrance of the house – information missing, parish clerk to request more detail from South Oxfordshire District Council and consult councilors by email.

P08/E0362 - 10 Swanston Field. Two storey side extension to form annex plus two storey rear extension, single storey side garage and dormer window – **no objections** following amended plan submission (10SF.SP02 dated 6 May 2008).

Decisions

P07/E1557 - Mallards High Street - GRANTED

19. Finance

In between meetings

S Butterworth	bulletin printing	£367.00
S Butterworth	bulletin expenses	£52.92
J Wheeler	Annual assembly expenses	£13.60

At meeting

J Wheeler	Salary Mar/Apr	£754.36
J Wheeler	Expenses	£12.96
Chiltern Society	Membership	£25.00
Total Dec	Painting of playground railings and notice board	£1116.25
OALC	Annual subscription	£144.56

20. Other reports

a) Allotments

Parish clerk has responded to email from Allotment Society and explained that the rent increase will be in effect from next year to ensure the society has enough time to prepare.

Chairman _____ Date _____

b) Transport

The village has experienced problems with large lorries passing through and causing considerable congestion. The parish council will request that another warning sign is positioned at Crays Pond to warn lorry drivers of restrictions in the village.

Parish clerk to liaise with Geoff Weir and Goring Heath parish council. Jointly request sign to prevent lorries coming through the village.

c) Cricket Field

None

d) Village Maintenance

Already discussed

e) Toll Bridge

Nothing to report

21. Correspondence received and distributed

22. Any other business

None

23. Next meeting

7th July 2008

Chairman _____

Date _____