

Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Monday 10th August 2015 commencing 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Keith Brooks
Vice Chairman Jim Donahue
 James Norman
 Dave Bowen
 Jonathan Steward
 Carrie Hart
 James Polansky

Public:

Hilary Jensen, Geoff Weir, Nick Leabeater, Rachel Hatcher.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Rob Simister and Kevin Bullmer

2. To receive declarations of interest

John Seward in the gardening/maintenance of village green.

3. Public Forum: Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council. With the permission of the Chairman, the public may also speak about specific items of business as they arise.

Hilary asked what is happening in the Bus service and can the Parish Council show their support to keep the service running. Dave Bowen has researched the issue and explained it costs £65k per year to run in South Oxfordshire. 4 people use it per trip, 486 people per month all villages. Hilary said the numbers were much higher before Bridge closure had forced people to make alternative arrangements. She was concerned it was a degradation of service and if lost we would never get it back again. Dave Bowen agreed we need to keep fighting to keep bus. Keith had contacted Kevin Bullmer about the service and the reply was SODC are short of money. Next point of contact is David Nimmo Smith, councillor for Henley and Head of transport for South Oxfordshire. The Parish council agreed to continue to pursue further lines of enquiry and support the continuation of the bus service.

Geoff Weir wants to resurrect meeting with reps of locals people for opinions/ideas/feedback, etc. The Bridge Company would give public written response to any issues raised by this working group and that with its new structure it had more time to give and respond to such a working group. He suggested one representative from the Parish Council to lead such group. The Parish Council was happy with this suggestion. KB/DB/JS are to liaise with Geoff and form a user group lead by a Parish council member.

Rachel Hatcher was concerned by speeding, particularly approaching narrows and wanted to know how Parish council would address these concerns. The Parish council has a working group, TAPAG, that deals with these concerns, led by JP and CH. Rachel was invited to join TAPAG by the Parish council and join JP and CH at their next meeting on Tuesday the 18th of August. She will be emailed an invitation by JP at Rachelhatcher1@gmail.com.

Nick Leabeater: Carrie Hart declared her interest in this issue as Nick's partner and was therefore excluded from the discussion. Nick wanted to give the council a heads up that they would be

submitting retrospective planning for Hawthorne cottage as their kitchen extension had been built 37cm over the agreed limit of 3mts. They discovered this only upon return from their holiday, and have since been unable to contact the builder.

4. Agree Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting 6th July 2015,

Minutes of the Monday 6th July meeting.

Approved as a true record.

5. District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Simister absent so no report

6. Planning.

P15/S2286/LB and P15/S2284/LB Hill House, Whitchurch on Thames

No Strong Views.

7. Finance – Approve Payments/note receipts.

Keith received Audit for last year's accounts- all ok. £240 cost to be paid to BDO.

JD suggested the Parish Council accounts should be posted on the website for full transparency. Parish council voted unanimously to agree, subject to SODC approval.

Noted no new receipts.

8. Village Green – report

Cllr. Donahue reported on the meeting of the working group. The main points were:

- The Terms of Reference were agreed.
- They have proposed a charter for how the Village Green is to be used by the various clubs and who is responsible for the maintenance. These will go out to public consultation. (Parish council to set up email database/distribution and use mail chimp/survey monkey. JP to ask Richard to post request on website. Also to be posted on FB, Pangbourne's website, and at stand in village fete requesting interested parties to submit their emails for the distribution list).

Parish council voted they are happy with terms of reference of Village Green working group and for the group to send out a draft Charter of the VG for public consultation.

- Budget and charge costs: the suggestion is that in principal if village green costs are below £2500-£3000 annually (approximately 10% of the precept) then the non-profit local village clubs will not be charged. The school will not be charged during term time. James N wanted assurance that the residents would get a chance to vote on this issue: should money for the village green be raised through charging users or from precept. Parish Council agreed and will be included alongside the charter for public consultation.
- For approval green notice board for village green: £422 for posts and display board +£120 for colour green. Parish council voted in favour. JS to install. JD to order and pay invoice by cheque.
- Apple pressing day Sunday 27th Sep at the Maze.
- Pavilion: Carrie to finalise project brief and speak to relevant stakeholders.

9. Residents Issues List – review/update.

Cllr. Donahue reported.

Bridge issues: Toll rise issue closed as it has been approved.

Disabled issue: they don't accept blue badge. No further action required.

Manor road: Pot holes inspected and will be reviewed again in 3 months' time.

Pots holes also on Eastfield lane.

Old Polish Church site: falling apart. Belongs to OCC. JS proposed Allotment Society could use it for allotments with PC paying peppercorn rent to OCC. JS to continue to investigate and speak to Rosamund Heath and Kevin Bullmer. PC voted to back his proposal.

Skip on manor road: at x-mas and early spring. Council agreed it is a better idea to advise residents district council SODC will collect 3 items for £20.

Alcohol bottles left on bench near playground in Manor road. Individual situation Parish Council cannot address so issue closed.

Sign needed for playground on Manor road saying No Dogs Allowed to prevent fouling in playground. JS to source one.

Weeds on Manor Road/Swanston/narrows. JS/KB to organise group to dig up weeds and to generally tidy up village.

Alley way from upper Manor road to lower Manor road unusable due to hedging/brambles not being cut. JS to organise another working group to trim.

Village working group to discuss new bench, requested by Leslie, to be put in maze.

10. Other Matters for Chairman & PC to Consider. – Items that arise that are not on this Agenda but need discussion and to be proposed of not for a future Agenda.

JP to present outline of the process involved in a future Village Plan.

Parish Council authorised TAPAG to communicate directly with SODC, OCC and other agencies.

JN has agreed to fix the flood problems at Green Hill valley, shared with Goring Heath. Parish Council voted in favour of formally writing to OCC to inform them that we have authorised JN to act on this issue.

Seven applications for Parish Clerk. KB to distribute to rest of Parish Council; only 1 qualified. We will advertise for local non-qualified village residents who are prepared to undertake training on the village website, facebook and elsewhere.

KB suggested the Steven Trinder bench at end of Hardwick Road needs a plaque. Parish council voted in favour of it.

11. Note date of next meeting which will be the Monday 7th of September 2015 at 8pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....Chairman/Date.....