

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in ‘The Old Stables’, Tuesday 5th July 2016, commencing at 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Keith Brooks
Councillors	Jim Donahue James Polansky Jonathan Steward (arrived at 8.45pm)
Clerk	Felipa House

Public:
Lissie Steward.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Hart, Cllr. Bowen, Cllr. Hatcher.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr. Steward (gardening contracts in the village).

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.

Lissie mentioned that there appeared to be more instances of dog-fouling in the village. This may be something that needs further action.

4. Agree minutes of Parish Council meeting 7th June 2016

These were approved as a true record.

5. District councillor's report

Cllr. Simister mentioned that there had been an 81% turnout in the area for the referendum. There will be a Town and Parish Forum in Didcot on 12th July; Cllrs. Brooks & Donahue will attend. Biffa has a new telephone number – 03000 101111 – for any road cleaning issues. If there's something on the road that could be a hazard to drivers Highways should be notified (08453 101111). SODC have just published a document – ‘Local Plan 2032’ - setting out their preferred options on how to deal with the housing needed in South Oxfordshire, and are asking everybody to comment. A series of public events will be held across the district to explain the options, which everyone is welcome to attend. <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2032>. Needs for housing from Oxford City mean that small villages may no longer be exempt from development. Cllr. Simister recommended the adoption of a village plan.

SODC have also rewritten their Design Guide, the document that makes sure all new developments are of a high quality and suitable for South Oxfordshire. They are inviting comments by 29th July. See <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/conservation-and-design/design/design-guide>

6. County councillor's report

Cllr. Bulmer stated that Brexit will affect any proposed plans for a unitary council. Roads are now being included on a proper maintenance schedule, so progress should be seen (e.g. Whitchurch Hill – Crays Pond, Goring High Street & Crays Pond – Goring). Eastfield House will be closed temporarily from August & residents will be moved. There will be increased traffic/noise etc. during the renovation work.

7. Planning

P16/S1805/LB, 'The Dower House', Hardwick Estate. Internal refurbishment. The Council unanimously agreed that 'No strong views' should be submitted.

P16/S2016/HH, 4 Old Barn Cottages, High Street. Alteration to existing roof space, including new rear & front facing rooflights. The Council unanimously agreed that 'No strong views' should be submitted.

P16/S2193/FUL & P16/S2195/FUL, Eastfield House, Eastfield Lane. Removal & variation of condition 13 of planning permission (travel plan). The Council were concerned that, if approved, the developers would no longer need to provide a travel assessment, even though the work would increase noise & congestion. Cllr. Simister will investigate with SODC Planning &, if this is the case, the Council unanimously agreed that they should refuse the applications.

P16/S1789/DIS, 40 Manor Road, P16/S1919/DIS, Eastfield House, Eastfield Lane, P16/S1956/DIS Eastfield House, Eastfield Lane & P16/S0916/FUL were all discharges of planning conditions previously imposed. As such, no decision was required.

8. Finance Approve payments/note receipts

Monthly salary for the Clerk

Expenses for the Clerk for Queen's birthday celebration expenditure (£116.86)

Invoice from Purdy Gates for new allotment gates (£1,392.00)

Invoice from Steward Grounds Maintenance for June gardening services (£250.00)

Invoice from Community First Oxfordshire for PAT test training (£204.00)

£290 had been received from SODC as a grant towards the cost of the Queen's birthday celebrations. £30 was received from the Whitchurch Hill fete organisers for furniture hire.

Before the meeting the Clerk had circulated a copy of the first quarter Council spending.

9. Village green

Cllr. Donahue has been in touch with OCC regarding formalising the use of the green by the school.

A bench & fence have been damaged & a window in the cricket pavilion smashed.

There is a Village Green Working Group meeting next week.

10. TAPAG

The Clerk is still obtaining quotes for the resurfacing work needed near the school.

11. Village hall replacement project

Cllr. Simister stated that he is the councillor responsible for property matters at SODC. Cllr. Hart will liaise with him regarding the potential sale of the village hall.

There are some concerns about the state the floor is left in after use of the village hall. Cllr. Steward has discussed this with Richard Scarce, who will monitor the situation. The Clerk will discuss the situation with the group concerned.

12. Village environment/maintenance

New allotment gates have been installed & look very elegant.
The bollard outside Wells House has finally been replaced.
The Council thanked Cllr. Steward for the extra maintenance work he has carried out during the last few months due to the weather. He requested extra money for petrol, which the Council approved. This will be added to his next payment. He will also remove the small log rolls near the village sign. Amendments will need to be made to the maintenance contract when it expires to ensure that all areas of the village are included, as this is not currently the case.
Cllr. Brooks would like the area around the bench at the junction of Hardwick Road & the High Street to become more of a feature. He will investigate.
Cllr. Donahue has given the winning village sign designs to Gill Williamson of the Art Café. She will create 2 designs for the Council to vote on.
The Clerk has received costs for legal work on the contract for the lease of the Polish church site. This was felt to be too high so she will obtain further quotes.

13. Village Plan

Cllr. Hatcher will write an article for the ‘Bulletin’ about the Village Plan.

14. Other matters for Chairman & PC to consider Items that arise that are not on this agenda but need discussion & to be proposed for a future agenda

The Parish Council, & particularly the Clerk, would like to express their sincere thanks for all the hard work put in by Lissie Steward & friends to organise the Queen’s birthday celebrations & also to the Whitchurch Bridge Company for their generous donation.
The Clerk will investigate the payment of a small amount to the pre-school as thanks for the loan of their marquees.

15. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6th September 2016 at 8pm.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....