

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 5th March 2012 Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth (Chairman), Cllr Vincent Aldridge, Cllr. Nigel Grove, Cllr. Lindsay Austin, Cllr. Keith Brooks, Vice Chairman, Cllr. Matilda Oppenheimer, Cllr. Jim Donahue. Jenny Welham Parish Clerk.

In attendance:

District Councillor Pearl Slatter, County Councillor Dave Sexon, Stephen Trinder VHMC, Richard Wingfield, (Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group), Geoff Weir Whitchurch Bridge Company. PCSO Mark Bell.

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Agree and sign minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of meeting 9th January 2012 agreed and signed.

4. Public Forum

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council on matters of concern.

PCSO Mark Bell reported that cars had been broken into during the night, several in Woodcote. He stated that the cars had been left unlocked and not secure. Minor thefts of loose cash, and any other items left in the vehicles was stolen. Few Burglaries have been reported. Some concerns over youths travelling on trains without tickets and then causing a disturbance when they leave the train, slight concern that this may come into Whitchurch from trains to Pangbourne . He advised that the Police do work closely with the Transport Police on these matters.

He then left the meeting.

5. Whitchurch Bridge Company – G. Weir update on footpaths and other issues.

Geoff presented maps of potential pedestrian access options following feedback from Pangbourne PC and TAPAG on behalf of Whitchurch PC. He stated that all of these options will require land to be acquired. Cllr. Oppenheimer suggested that The Bridge Company should involve Planning even at this early stage, this will be considered. The Section 106 has been signed by West Berkshire CC on Monday 5th March, signature it is still awaited from Oxfordshire. TAPAG to review the drawings and draft the reply on behalf of Whitchurch PC. At a later stage a public meeting will be held to display the details and options for the pedestrian access.

6. County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Sexon reported following a meeting at the Lower Narrows with Highways some of his Locality Fund will be used to upgrade the road signage. The give way signs will be checked as well as other road signage. Also from this fund the low level fence at Hillside which has already been installed to stop lorries when turning going over the grass verges and granite sets.

7. District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Slatter confirmed that the grant from SODC was confirmed for the car park at the new Village Green. Following successful award of the grant any further grant applications cannot be presented for two years. Cllr. Slatter felt this would be the right timescale to begin to look towards a new Pavilion.

Cllr. Slatter had talked to SODC Forestry regarding the trees on the new village green and also the trees in the surrounding area. Many have a TPO, she has requested that Forestry email the Clerk with the list of trees. Signs have been placed on the trees with a TPO, these had been removed, Cllr. Brooks has reinstated them placing them higher up so that they cannot remove them without a ladder! She raised the question of dogs and fouling on the village green suggesting that the Parish Council need to consider this and how they will manage this.

Cllr. Austin reported that many residents had raised complaints regarding the lights outside the Greyhound Public House. Cllr. Slater had already spoken to the tenant who had paid to have the lights put in place to increase his business. Most of the Councillors have received complaints, Cllr. Slatter agreed to check with enforcement on the regulations regarding lighting.

Lastly Cllr. Slatter reported that on walking round the village there is a high percentage of Fly Signage, she will be keeping an eye on this to ensure it does not increase.

8. Reports from other Committees,

Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group. Following the completion of the Gas Works, on Hardwick Road the loose and granite sets are being restored. Also the hole in the tarmac left by the traffic lights will be repaired. Further reinstatement of the road tarmac that is wearing thin, a meeting with Highways has been arranged as this will involve closing the road.

Village Hall Management Committee. Mr. Trinder asked when Eastfield Lane would be re surfaced, this is scheduled for sometime during April. He had no further report.

Environmental Committee, Cllr Brooks reported, Following the reinstatement of the wooden bollard in Muddy Lane this was removed again for some inexplicable reason. After enquiries to the allotment patrons did not shed any light on the matter so it has been replaced again and seems to have been left in place.

Installation of the Salt Bins was carried out just in time before it snowed, they have proved useful.

Together with Mr. Trinder he has carried out repairs to the bench seats in the children's play area in Manor Road, several local residents have thanked them for this which was very pleasing.

Following communication from TAPAG a survey of street lamps was carried out in the village. Several are unsightly with the paint having come off, (High St. Manor Rd, Swanston Field) OCC have confirmed that the paint is now obsolete. He proposed purchase of similar paint for a working party to repaint the lamps. This was agreed. The replacement of lights in the High Street has been deferred for the moment as there is some uncertainty regarding their necessity.

There is redundant sign in Muddy Lane, which Cllr. Brooks would like to remove. It was agreed that ownership of the sign should be established first. The Clerk to check with SODC. Cllr Brooks to check with the school.

Cllr. Brooks read an email from SODC regarding the dog waste bins, the email stated that the cost of emptying the bins would be borne by SODC. Currently the PC are invoiced for this service. Clerk to follow up and check this.

Allotment & Sustainability Report. Cllr. Donahue's report;

Allotments - NSLAG Contract Renewal discussions started:

- Provided list of questions
- Waiting for NSLAG contract template for review
- Will need legal review
- Contract not due until end of September.

Allotments invoiced for last year's rental. AGM Friday 9th March – plan to attend reiterate Council's priorities:

- Encourage broad participation in Allotments of members of the community, through broad communication of availability of spaces, limiting number of multiple allotment holders, and giving preference to those within the district
- Also principle of financial self-sufficiency for allotments society in paying 50% of HSLAG annual lead going forward. Council does not dictate price charged for allotments, happy for the Society to keep them low, but note that they are much lower than other neighbouring communities.

New agreement between the Council and WDAS:

- Not tied to contract with NSLAG legally, but the new terms will be impacted by NSLAG terms and if makes sense to upgrade them at the same time.

Other Sustainability activities:

Hillside Verge rails and Parking Notice:

- New rails provide significant improvement for Hillside residents
- Next step is to plant flowers or shrubs. Some neighbours already expressed interest in helping.

- Seek Council approach of Parking Leaflet as important element in ensuring no obstruction to delivery vehicles. The copy of the leaflet was read to the Council, as it will be issued on behalf of the Parish Council content was agreed. The leaflet will be placed under the windscreen wipers of vehicles that consistently park in this area

Maze Committee formation:

- There have been a number of discussions recently about improving the Millennium Maze area, potentially in conjunction with the Diamond Jubilee. This would be a temporary committee reporting into the Parish Council for the Jubilee year or until the agreed improvements recommended by the committee have been implemented.
- Jim Donahue to coordinate this on behalf of the Council. Already approach the Whitchurch Society who welcome the council sponsorship of this as an important to allow them to release Maze brick funds they are currently holding.
- Proposed Members, with interest in Maze improvements
Steven Trinder, Felipa House, Peter Woolhouse, Nick Brazil, and Sally Woolhouse, Jim Donahue, Harry Butterworth and Lindsay Austin.

Cllr. Donahue was asked by the PC to investigate the ongoing issue of Mr. N. Brazil claiming he is needs payment for work carried out to the bricks.

- Hardwick Verges Project. WOTHab initiated but looking for Council Sponsorship in future, includes 4 elements
 - Road Verges – TAPAG looking at
 - Footpath on south verge – from Village Plan
 - Biodiversity of Verge management
 - Hedge management
- Litter Pick-up Day March 17
 - Formally invite all Councillors to attend
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Other PAWS Climate week Activities:

Family Cycle Ride to Caversham – 25th March – John Howell to start event. Other activities in PAWS 2012 Programme.

9. Village Green – update on events and ongoing maintenance.

Cllr. Austin reported that a further meeting had been held, this meeting was just to discuss the Lashing Cricket Event scheduled for 21st June 2012. Preparations are going well but there is a lot of work to be done. Quotes for the ongoing maintenance of the Village Green have been obtained, the Clerk reported no reply had been received from the email to the current person who cuts the cricket square and outfield. Cllr. Austin will follow this up. All the quotes are now obtained for the car park work. The Village Green Committee have decided to register as a Charity, this is ongoing and the registration will begin in the next month.

10. Planning Applications – None.

10.1 Applications Granted by SODC

P11/E1948 Erection of replacement Dwelling, Littleholme, Eastfield Lane, RG8 7EJ.

Cllr. Aldridge mentioned two other applications granted but did not provide details.

10.Finance

| <u>Date Paid</u> | <u>Payee Name</u> | <u>Cheque Ref</u> | <u>Amount Paid</u> | <u>Transaction Detail</u> |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 18/01/2012 | OCC | 07 | £600 | Salt bins |
| 20/01/2012 | H. Whitelock | 8 | £400 | Help with Section 106 |
| 20/01/2012 | HMRC | 9 | £83 | Dec11 tax bank stopped SO |
| 20/01/2012 | S. Butterworth | 10 | £27 | Underpayment of Bulletin print |
| 30/01/2012 | Bouchier Fencing Ltd | 11 | £88 | timber/bolts to repair bench |
| 01/02/2012 | J. Welham | SO | £373 | Jan salary + home allowance |
| 01/02/2012 | HMRC | SO | £83 | Jan tax |
| 04/02/2012 | Swiftclik | 12 | £40 | Stationery items |
| 04/02/2012 | S. Butterworth | 13 | £85 | Expenses/postage for bulletin |
| 04/02/2012 | RBS Software Solutions | 15 | £455 | Accounting software+instal |
| 07/02/2012 | SODC | 16 | £163 | Dog Bins 2010 & Jan, Feb, Mar 11 |
| 23/02/2012 | SODC | 17 | £49 | Dog bins 1Oct to 31Dec 2011 |
| 05/03/2012 | Swiftclik | 18 | £24 | Ink Cartridge/memo book |
| 05/03/2012 | J. Welham | 19 | £70 | Mileage Jan/Feb 12 |
| | | Total Payments | 2,539.96 | |

Payments Approved.

Noted no Receipts

11. Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Asset Register, Risk Report

New Financial Regulations and Standing Orders had already been circulated by the Clerk, these were agreed to be adopted. The Risk Report had been studied by Councillors it was approved and agreed. The Clerk is still working on collating the asset register, but the major items are in place, and further review is not required, final list to be circulated.

12. Other Matters for the Council to Consider.

Jubilee matters. – Mr. Trinder outlined his plans for the Jubilee event on the 4th June. He requested that two members of the Parish Council join the committee, Cllr. Brooks and Oppenheimer agreed. The event will be self-financing as much as possible but a maximum amount of £200 sponsorship was agreed from the PC if necessary. He has approximately 30 offers of help for the event, but more will be welcomed. All the necessary communication is in hand.

Annual Parish Assembly. – The date is Tuesday April 3rd. The Chairman will check last year’s agenda and forward to the Clerk as planning needs to begin, also he will ensure the date is published in the next Bulletin. Cllr. Oppenheimer suggested that a guest speaker be engaged.

Village Archive – Cllr. Grove advised that he is currently the holder of some archive material. He asked of their is any official policy on holding village archives, the Clerk advised that known is know but can check. Cllr. Grove to pursue the possibility of a village archive with the Village History Society, the filing cabinet in the Village Hall would be a possible location for the material.

13. To note next meeting date Tuesday 3rd April Annual Parish Assembly.

Meeting Closed at 9.40pm.

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