

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Tuesday 15th May 2012 Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth, Cllr. Nigel Grove, Cllr. Lindsay Austin, Cllr. Keith Brooks, Cllr. Jim Donahue, Cllr. Vincent Aldridge, County Councillor Dave Sexon. Jenny Welham Parish Clerk.

1. Elect Chairman.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman, Cllr. Aldridge proposed Cllr Butterworth, who was voted as Chairman for a further year.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Matilda Oppenheimer, District Councillor Pearl Slatter.

3. Declarations of interest.

Councillors are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

None.

4. Public Forum – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council.

John Southey was present and reported for WOTHABS;

OPM outbreak

On Monday 14th May WoThabs representatives had a constructive meeting with the coordinator of the Pangbourne outbreak, (Martin Townsend of the Plant Health Service, a division of the Forestry Commission).

Main points from Plant Health :-

Reminder of a significant human (and animal) health risk

Tree death (in severe outbreaks)

Can affect all species and ages of oak

Early identification and eradication of caterpillars is important

Plant Health staff are already physically monitoring the known oaks within a 1km radius of a known infestation, which now encompasses parts of Whitchurch T

The offer of adding local knowledge and awareness to the on-going observation work by Plant Health staff was appreciated.

In practical terms we can offer to :-

Update Plant Health's map of oak trees in Whitchurch.

Keep villagers informed of the actions / visits being made by Plant Health staff in Whitchurch

Circulate a Whitchurch specific updated Plant Health's pamphlet that was issued for the Pangbourne outbreak with Oxfordshire contact details - This may result in a minor cost to Whitchurch pc for circa 300 copies to cover all the village.

Distribute information from mid June or time as recommended by Plant Health related to leaf maturity. (timing is critical as it depends on visibility of the larvae growth as well as capturing human interest). By hand, The Bulletin, e-mail to nearest oak owners, word of mouth, website, poster on notice board etc."

Electric Cable, Southern electric had not responded to phone calls from the Clerk regarding the letter written asking if they would consider running the cable underground.

The No Fishing sign on the slipway by the bridge has gone. It was agreed that Cllr. Brooks would source a new sign and arrange for installation. The sign at the bottom of muddy lane that Cllr. Brooks was going to remove was discussed it was agreed that he source a sign with the name Muddy Lane and install it using the existing posts.

5. Agree Minutes of PC Meeting 5th March and 3rd April 2012.

Approved.

6. Matters arising from those minutes not on the agenda elsewhere.

None.

7. County Councillor Report.

Cllr. Sexon talked about his locality fund and projects that were under review, a new dropped kerb outside the new church hall, he will obtain a quote from Highways. The verges along Hardwick Road were mentioned by Cllr. Donahue he requested a meeting with Highways to discuss clearance and upgrading the footpath, TAPAG and WOTHABS are jointly involved in this project.

8. District Councillor Report.

No report as Cllr. Slatter absent.

9. Police Matters.

PCSO not present, but Cllr. Brooks reported that he will be attending the police meeting on 24th May in Henley. He has also attended the Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch

Conference & AGM and is going to apply to join the committee.

10. Village Green – update and report.

Cllr. Austin reported that the Lashings event was well under way and that 11 tables had been reserved. The marquee, caterers and band are all booked. Mores posters will soon be put up around the area.

Meeting with David Painter from Swallow Developments who have purchased the building plot is arranged for Thursday 17th May with herself and the Chairman. There will be discussions regarding Swallow installing the car park.

FTS are the contract who will be appointed to install the Football pitch, and can start immediately depending on weather.

Utilities for the existing building to be changed into the Parish Council name, Water rates and Electricity, then the Pc will onward charge the cricket club. The rates on the building will remain with the Cricket Club as it is their building.

It was agreed to transfer the PC funds in the CCLA Investment Account out into the PC account and £15,000 of the amount to be transferred to the Village Green account for the 60% portion of the car park and football pitch grant from SODC. The remaining amount to be put into a Lloyds TSB deposit account as reserve funds for the PC.

11. Finance – Approve Payments/note receipts.

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
12/04/2012	Philip Weir	24	£50	Website 1Jan - 31Dec2012
12/04/2012	SODC	25	£100	Premises Lisence
12/04/2012	K. Brooks	26	£15	Paint for lampposts
12/04/2012	Hedley Solicitors	27	£710	LEgal Fees V.Green
18/04/2012	Team Digital Ltd	28	£250	Printing for Lashings Flyers
18/04/2012	Henley Standard	29	£102	ad for premises license
18/04/2012	SODC	30	£23	Premises license
09/05/2012	J. Welham	31	£5	Postage
15/05/2012	Switfclik	32	£61	A3 Laminator & 100 sheets
15/05/2012	Chiltern Society	33	£25	Annual subscription
		Total	1,340.91	
		Payments		

Approved.

Noted no receipts

11.1 Approve and Sign Annual Accounts and Audit Return.

The Clerk had circulated the Annual Accounts and Summary for Financial Year ended 31st March 2012. These were reviewed and agreed. The Chairman signed the Annual Accounts and External Audit documentation.

11.2 Review and approve quotations.

Weed Spraying quote from Robert Watson £60 per spray, two sprays needed total £120. This was agreed. Clerk to instruct and liaise with Richard Wingfield re areas for spraying.

Quotations for insurance received from AON (existing) Zurich the least expensive and Aviva. It was agreed the Clerk should check if the other two companies could offer reductions then renew with the least expensive.

12.Planning.

Applications Granted by SODC

P11/E2473 Single storey side extension to provide porch and cloakroom. 3 Manor Road Whitchurch On Thames RG8 7EU

P11/E2478 Extensions and alterations to dwelling house including the erection of a triple garage, and realignment of roadside boundary fence. Mayflower Eastfield Lane Whitchurch On Thames RG8 7EJ

P11/E2479CA Demolition of existing garaging in association with extensions and alterations to the existing dwelling house, including the construction of a triple garage and the re-alignment of roadside boundary fencing. Address: Mayflower Eastfield Lane Whitchurch On Thames RG8 7EJ

New Applications

P12/S0359 Erection of 2 storey rear extension with single storey glazed link. Webb Cottage Hardwick Rd RG8 7HH. Parish Council Recommend Approval.

P12/S0344 Erection of a timber single storey summer house in the rear garden. Address: Tall Beeches Hardwick Road Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HW.

Parish Council Recommend Refusal, The applicant states that the timber single storey “summer house” will be used for recreation purposes, however full services are listed, electricity, water and sewage, this would make the building able to be habitable so could possibly become a residence. Concern that the application may run a fitness business and that classes or tuition would be held in this proposed building, increasing traffic to the area and also privacy loss to direct neighbours.

13. Traffic & Pavements Group – report & update.

No report the TAPAG items covered under County Councillor's report.

14. Environment Group – Report.

Cllr. Brooks reported

Minutes of the Environmental Group Meeting April 2012.

Those present Jill Bradon, Keith Brooks and John Southey with apologies from Susan Lee.

We first discussed the state of Hardwick Road from the village sign to the chalk hills. This area is suffering from informal passing places, which are appearing, and the consequence of this is to degrade the borders of the road. This is being looked at by WOTHABS in association with Councillor Jim Donahue and his Holistic Approach Project. This is important because we have several different issues there is the actual traffic problem, which can also be considered as TAPAG territory together with the effect on the environment in terms of plants and vegetation, which are also suffering. These all have to be considered as whole and not only passing places but also pedestrian safety and access particularly after the Jubilee Walk finishes. KB to contact JD with respect to this and report back.

John reported that the fire hydrants around the village were often not visible and this of course would be very bad if there were a fire. JS will contact Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue.

There are many places on roads, pavements and kerbs where weeds are growing out of control and JS presented pictures to illustrate this. Since we have the opportunity with the 'Deep Cleanse' to request BIFFA to clear these it was decided that John would contact Jenny Welham the Clerk of the Parish Council expressing these wishes. We also spoke about 'The Cut' and it was decided we would try and organise a working party to clear this KB to co-ordinate

There is a redundant signpost by the school, which has no sign on it and which the group feels should be removed since neither the school or the local authority is claiming ownership of it. KB to organise a work party.

The new car park surface on the village green was also discussed in that although 'Grasscrete' is being used some forms of it are more environmentally friendly than others. KB to contact Village Green Committee.

In terms of lighting in the High Street it has not been that straightforward since the new style lamp posts are not able to take signage because they are not as sturdy as the old style ones. Hence we will have to have a separate post for signs where we replace the old style unit with the new thus incurring more cost.

This would be the case outside Wells House where there are signs attached to the existing. Also opposite The Greyhound where we thought that we could get rid of a post and put all the signs on the new lamp stand this of course would not be possible. There are also financial implications in that these new lamp posts and signposts would have to be paid for which is particularly difficult in the current financial climate.

Thanks to all for the valuable help you have given over the last year and look forward to more exciting projects in the year ahead designed to keep our village beautiful.

15. Sustainability & Allotments Report.

Cllr. Donahue reported that he is awaiting the NSLAG Lease and it will have normal RPI increases no more.

Progressing with the Maze, there has been a clear up day and also sample bricks awaited to replace the broken ones, decisions still to be made which type.

16.Village Hall Report.

Cllr. Grove reported that the cupboard had been cleared and offered to the Camera Club for storage. A request was made to the Clerk to come and tidy up the PC archive filing cabinets. The hall generate income from hire which covers running costs and small general maintenance, however large repairs such as a new boiler or roof would not be covered. He requested that the PC keep some of the funds from the CCLA Investment account as a reserve for such eventualities.

17.Matters / Questions for the Chairman.

Cllr. Brooks proposed that a new notice board be purchased cost of approximately £700. It was agreed that the existing notice board was in reasonable condition and that a new one was not really needed. Cllr. Brooks to tidy up the overhanging growth on wall above existing board.

18.Note date of next Meeting Mon 2nd July 2012.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

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