

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Monday 2nd November 2015, commencing 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Keith Brooks
Vice-Chairman	Jim Donahue Jonathan Steward James Polansky
Clerk	Felipa House

Public:

Richard Wingfield
Allan Scriven
Shirley Scriven

1. Apologies for absence

Carrie Hart, David Bowen, Rob Simister, Kevin Bulmer

2. Declarations of interest

Jonathan (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.

Allan & Shirley Scriven wanted to know whether the potential land swap between 'Hopton' & the playground would mean that a driveway could eventually be constructed from Manor Road to the field at the back of 'Hopton', which their house backs on to, & if there would then be the possibility of future development of the field. The Parish Council had no information about this & are waiting to hear from Mark Candlish. Jonathan will discuss Mark's plans with him.

4. Agree minutes of Parish Council meeting 5th October 2015

These were approved as a true record.

5. District councillor's report

Cllr. Simister was not present.

6. County councillor's report

Cllr. Bulmer was not present.

7. Planning

P15/S2751/HH Walled Garden Retreat. The plans have been amended slightly in order to comply with the Environment Agency's guidelines for properties within Flood Zone 2.

8. Finance Approve payments/note receipts

Expenses from M Marshall for new padlock for allotments (£19.99)
Expenses from A Aitchison for topsoil for football pitch (£81.99)
Invoice from Berinsfield Community Business for September grass cutting (£436.32)
Invoice from The National Allotment Society for annual rent (£386.43). 50% of this will be recharged to WDAS in January 2016
Expenses from F House for stamps & Remembrance Day wreath (£34.84)
Invoice from SODC for 6 months' dog-bin emptying (£100.46)

9. Village green – report

The village survey has ended & nearly 70 responses were received. The results will be reviewed & distributed.

Gill Goodwin of the Village Green Working Group has produced a very detailed plan for maintenance of the village green which will be discussed with David, Jonathan & Cormac Neeson. Wood chippings from tree work at 'Hopton' will be used on part of the village green as a natural nettle suppressant.

The maintenance contract with Berinsfield Community Business is ending in February & Jonathan will be taking over. David will produce a contract for him.

Emily Dalton from the pre-school requested use of the village green for a fundraising event in late May. This has been agreed. Felipa will confirm to her & inform WCC.

Andy Heard from WCC asked whether the annual bill for business rates from SODC should be transferred to the Parish Council. This was agreed. Felipa will liaise with Andy

Jonathan wanted to know whether WCC requires its own public liability insurance. Felipa will investigate & see whether the Parish Council's insurance cover is sufficient

A new 'Clear up after your dog' sign has been made & put inside the noticeboard on the village green as the previous one was destroyed.

The Parish Council thanked Jonathan & David for their help in installing the new village green noticeboard.

10. TAPAG

James sent details of the quote received for paving The Cut to Felipa. Felipa will obtain 2 further quotes.

TAPAG have many ideas about traffic control & speeding in the village but cannot progress them until a village plan has been produced. Rachel Hatcher from TAPAG would like to attend a council meeting & present these ideas to the Parish Council.

James is organising a meeting with Bozedown Farm regarding the spoil on the verges. Jim & Caroline will also attend.

Caroline is liaising with OCC regarding the signage for HGVs approaching the village from Cray's Pond. She has spoken to Castrol, who stated that OCC will not allow them to put up any more signs other than the existing 'Technology Centre' sign. Castrol would be willing to pay for more signs if permitted. James will also speak to Geoff Weir about the issue. Could a turning place for HGVs be created? Rogue lorries should be reported to OCC's Trading Standards

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/weight-restriction-orders>

11. Cricket pavilion replacement project

A separate meeting will be held to discuss this. Caroline will arrange. Grants cannot be applied for until it is known what the new building will cost.

12. Residents' issues list Review/update

Trees near The Old School House have been marked with red paint. Felipa will check whether these are to be cut down or whether the paint can be cleaned off.

Felipa will check with OCC that the potential work on The Cut is suitable.

Better 'No dog fouling' signs will be put up along The Cut with the permission of the Haas family.

Having a dog-free zone on the village green has been mentioned, but it was felt that this was not feasible.

Jonathan consulted Manor Road residents about the possibility of establishing an allotment area on the site of the old Polish church. This was not strongly supported but a community garden instead would be useful. Jonathan will investigate the purchase of benches, bulbs & plants. Jonathan will speak to SODC & ask them to liaise with Felipa about future ownership & maintenance.

Jonathan will arrange some collections of bulky household waste for Manor Road. These cost £23 for up to 3 items & £7 per extra item, up to a maximum of 6 items.

A Manor Road resident has submitted an application to have a tree outside his property cut down. He will pay for all costs himself.

13. Village environment/maintenance

The consultation for the restoration or otherwise of the war memorial will be put on the website in a simpler form so that more residents have a chance to comment. The previous consultation indicated that residents would rather the memorial was not restored to its former height.

Keith will clean the memorial this week in preparation for this Sunday's Remembrance Day service. The road closure notice has been displayed & an announcement put on the website. The 'Whitchurch-on-Thames' sign by the toll bridge has been damaged by an HGV. Felipa will contact OCC to determine how it can be replaced. Another 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' sign near the toll bridge is also needed. Felipa will investigate.

14. Parish Councillor vacancy

James Norman has resigned as a councillor due to workload. The vacancy will be advertised on the website with a closing date of 30th November. Previous applicants who were unsuccessful will be notified.

15. 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

James & Keith will be attending a Town and Parish Forum at SODc's Civic Hall in Didcot on 4th November.

Felipa & Keith are attending a Code of Conduct training course in Didcot on 10th November.

All parish councillors & the parish clerk will be attending a 'Roles and Responsibilities' training course in Didcot on 25th November.

Next month's meeting will include a budget forecast, which will not be open to the public.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 7th December 2015 at 8pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....