

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Monday 5th October 2015, commencing 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Keith Brooks
Vice-Chairman	Jim Donahue
	John Steward
	Dave Bowen
	James Polansky
Clerk	Felipa House

District Councillor: Rob Simister
County Councillor: Kevin Bulmer

Public:

Mark Candlish
Vincent Aldridge
Mohan Patel
John Southey
Colette & Dominic Rinaldi
Nick Leadbetter

1. Apologies for absence

Carrie Hart, James Norman

2. Declarations of interest

John Steward (any gardening 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.

John Southey thanked the Council for their help with residents' objections to the summer house planning application, which has now been rejected. He wanted to highlight SODC's incompetence in this application (the majority of landowners were not informed, false information was given) & warn for future applications.

Mohan Patel raised objections about the planning application for Walled Garden Retreat. The current plans would allow 3 dormer windows to overlook garden/conservatory/ground floor rooms in Old Wall Cottage. He & his family felt this would be a destruction & invasion of privacy.

Colette & Dominic Rinaldi replied to these objections, stating that they wanted to build a family home from what is now a 2-bedroom bungalow as they have 2 children & need more space. They specifically employed a local architect to draw up a home suitable for its village location. The actual height of the building is only increasing by 85 cms because of a hidden flat roof design. Different options have been discussed with the architect to try to reach a compromise.

Vince Aldridge owns the neighbouring property to Walled Garden Retreat but he was not notified by SODC. He felt that point b in the Design & access statement - "Avoid loss of amenities to adjacent properties" - needs to be considered. The roof elevation currently has no windows in it; was this possibly a requirement of planning conditions when it was built? According to Dominic Rinaldi nothing came up regarding this in the solicitor's search.

Mark Candlish: land swap between 'Hopton' & the playground will be discussed in planning.

4. Agree minutes of Parish Council meeting 7th September 2015

These were approved as a true record.

5. District councillor's report

Cllr. Simister - Parishioners should know that more voters still need to register (even though Whitchurch has the highest voter registration level in South Oxon.) & teams will be coming out to ensure they do. They will be carrying ID so please ensure you check.

Extra garden waste collections will be available from 12-19th Oct. This will be double compostable rubbish, i.e. 2 brown bins instead of one.

Recycling contamination rates are increasing. Contaminants include nappies, cat food pouches, Pringles tubes, plastic coat hangers etc. These should not be in recycling bins. A list of banned items is available here <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-&-advice/recycling-rubbish-&-waste/recycling/what-can-i-recycle/what-cant-be-recycled>

New grants are now open for community projects. Rules have been relaxed on lots of grants & amounts of £1,000 - £500,000 are available. The scheme closes on 27th November, however. Cllr Simister will forward the information.

6. County councillor's report

Cllr. Bulmer: The consultation about waste centre numbers & services closes tonight (5th Oct.). The results of this could affect recycling rates. More consultations are likely in the near future as OCC needs to find an additional £50 million of savings.

Safety checks for electric blankets are available via OCC/Trading Standards.

Major roadworks on A40.

Dave Bowen stated that the cessation of the 143 bus service is concerning villagers. OCC, however, has no legal obligation to provide a service as it's purely a commercial venture & the numbers using it are very small. Grants are available from OCC for parishes that wish to run their own services, e.g. Goring. Enquiries to be made there & with Readibus.

7. Planning

P15/S2751/HH Walled Garden Retreat. The plan includes three new large dormer windows 25-30 metres away from Old Wall Cottage. (One will have frosted glass as it's a bathroom). Objections from neighbours that it intrudes upon the privacy of their garden, conservatory & home as they will be overlooked.

The PC voted & the vote was 3-1 in favour of stating that it's unneighbourly. There was 1 abstention as Jonathan Steward wanted to view the properties before voting. The application was therefore 'Not approved'.

P15/S3006/HH Hawthorn Cottage. Builders overextended the small rear extension so retrospective approval is needed. The PC voted; all 5 were in favour. 'No strong views'.

P15/S3112/HH Hopton. The fence is to be increased so that it's 2 metres from ground level. 'No strong views' by all 5 present.

Mark Candlish would also like to swap a small strip of land in the playground with land from the side/verge of the road next to his property. He would take ownership & maintain this verge strip. Jim Donahue would like a legal agreement drawn up to clarify this, for which

Mark is happy to pay. The PC voted; all 5 were in favour of starting the negotiation process. Mark will liaise with the Council via the Parish Clerk.

8. Finance Approve payments/note receipts

Invoice from Environment Agency (£55.51).

Electricity bill (£26.86) & water bill (£32.62) already paid. The cricket club will reimburse. OALC invoice for parish council training day in November (£624).

Apple day expenses (food) from Jim Donahue (£68) will be submitted.

9. Village green – report

The village survey is still ongoing as more responses are needed (about 40 have been received to date). Dave Bowen will promote on Facebook & a reminder email will be sent out, with a deadline of 30th October.

Jonathan Steward provided feedback from the cricket club via Cormac Neeson, in that the cricket club already contributes towards the use of the village green by paying utility bills.

Jonathan Steward will install a new village green events noticeboard facing the car park.

10. TAPAG

James Polansky has a list of issues that need attention. These are raised on fixmystreet.com. If there is no satisfactory outcome then he escalates to OCC/Kevin.

A first quote of £5,670 to re-pave The Cut has been received. The parish clerk will obtain 2 further quotes.

Spoil on the Hardwick Road verges has been reported. The PC voted in favour of Jim Donahue, James Polansky & Jonathan Steward discussing this with Bozdown Farm, as well as a tree that has been cut down.

11. Cricket pavilion replacement project

Caroline Hart was absent but has produced a project plan, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

12. Residents' issues list Review/update

These have already been covered in other sections.

13. Village environment/maintenance

A tree has been cut down at Bozdown Farm. The PC will speak to them (see above).

Manor Road tree update: a tree surgeon found by Keith Brooks has stated that nothing needs to be done; the PC therefore can't justify the cost of removal/pruning. Jonathan Steward suggested that the resident might be able to cut it down if he meets the cost himself. If it is affecting power lines then he needs to contact Southern Electric. Jonathan will meet the resident to discuss options.

14. Parish Clerk appointment Vote on the appointment of the new Parish Clerk

All 5 voted in favour.

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

Village/Neighbourhood Plan. Grants are available for the costs involved in preparing this. Whitchurch War Memorial. The consensus was that it should stay the same size, but be cleaned & access to it improved. The clerk will liaise with Goring Heath PC to come up with a proposal that WoT PC can support.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 2nd November 2015 at 8pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....