

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council

MINUTES of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held in the village hall, Monday 16th May 2016, commencing at 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Keith Brooks
Vice-Chairman	Jim Donahue
Councillors	David Bowen Rachel Hatcher James Polansky Jonathan Steward
Clerk	Felipa House

Public:

Charles Cotgreave, Jill & Den Lusted, Hayley Bowen, Jane Maccaw.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Hart.

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.

All members of the public were there to discuss the 143 bus service. Charles Cotgreave supported the continuation of the service for elderly residents who can't or won't drive in to Reading, citing increased traffic or parking issues. Hayley Bowen mentioned that the bus service enables those who are ill to maintain their independence. Jane Maccaw stated that people using the bus might be happy to pay something towards the cost of their fare; perhaps this was something to be considered in the future? There is a need to increase passenger numbers; ideas & campaigns to persuade people to use the bus should be explored.

4. No. 143 bus service

Cllr. Bowen stated that the cost to the Parish Council of the subsidy would be £5,500. Goring Heath Parish Council would be contributing the same amount. No funding is available from OCC. This would enable the service to continue on its current timetable from the end of July to the end of the financial year in April 2017. Alternative routes were looked at but continuing the service in its present form was the most economical & viable route on offer.

The Council voted & unanimously resolved to subsidise the service until the end of the 2016/17 financial year.

The Parish Council expressed its thanks to the Whitchurch Bridge Company for agreeing to waive the tolls for the bus where the Parish Council is subsidising the service. This has saved several thousand pounds. Thanks also to Whitchurch & Whitchurch Hill residents who came along to the Council meetings to show their support.

5. 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

Cllr. Hatcher stated that around 50 people had attended the inaugural Village Plan open day on Saturday. Constructive & positive comments & feedback were received. 14 volunteers had signed up to be part of the sub-groups. Follow-up information will be published on the website & in the next edition of the 'Bulletin'.

After some discussion the Council felt that it had been an error to have submitted the ACV for 'The Greyhound' in its current format & that it should be withdrawn. A new ACV may be submitted in the future. The Clerk will liaise with SODC.

Cllr. Donahue will attend a unitary authority meeting in Henley next month.

The Council's account with Collins will be suspended until the autumn.

The Clerk will notify homeowners next to 'The Cut' & residents about its resurfacing at the end of this month.

The Council agreed to move all future meetings to The Old Stables. The Clerk will arrange the bookings.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....