

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 3rd September 2012 Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth, Cllr. Nigel Grove, Cllr. Lindsay Austin, Cllr. Keith Brooks, Cllr. Jim Donahue, Jenny Welham Parish Clerk.

In Attendance – Stephen Trinder VHC, John Southey WOTHABS/TAPAG

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Vincent Aldridge, District Councillor Pearl Slatter, County Councillor Dave Sexon.

2. 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.

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

None.

4. Agree Minutes of Annual PC Meeting 2nd July 2012.

Approved.

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

The sign requesting cyclists to dismount on the Thames Path Cllr Donahue asked if this had been auctioned, the Clerk has requested it from OCC.

6. County Councillor Report.

None as absent.

7. District Councillor Report.

None as absent.

8. Traffic & Pavements Group – report & update.

John Southey reported,

Weed spraying

The contractor, (Robert Watson), has done a good job. This included physical removal of significant growth in the upper narrows that was obstructing line of sight. It represents good value for the PC money spent and may have to be repeated on an "as and when" basis. Suggest a modest annual budget allocation is made for this as OCC won't pay for it.

Overhanging vegetation

Numerous householders have voluntarily cleared areas of highway outside their property that was being encroached by weeds. Some householders have also trimmed back overhanging shrubbery, but this remains an issue. Direct action has been taken elsewhere.

9. Village Hall Committee – update and report.

Cllr Grove reported,

The Electrical PAT testing has been carried out and completed and all is certificated.

There are two new hirers, one for Pilates and one for Play School.

The Pc village hall grant was requested and paid.

Stephen Trinder reported that the Village Information panel is now complete and has been erected next to the notice board on the High Street.

On the 15th September the Cricket Match at tea time will unveil a plaque to commemorate the gifting of the Village Green to the Parish Council from the Whitelock family.

10. Planning.

No new applications.

The Eastfield Lane amended plans were refused at the Planning Meeting, it is anticipated that the developers will appeal again.

10. Village Green Committee

Cllr Austin reported,

Football Pitch – the football pitch is fully seeded and has been cut once. FTS who undertook the work continue to keep an eye on growth and will advise us when they are happy for the pitch to be marked out and used. Feedback on the look of the Village Green with this new neater football pitch area at the northern end of the site has been extremely positive, the field now seeming far larger and more spacious.

The question of ball retrieval from the neighbouring horse field has been raised by the owners of that field. The committee are considering options for the best way to deal with this issue.

Car Park – following July's PC meeting, the contract for works to construct the car park adjacent to the new house on Eastfield Lane was awarded to Swallow Developments. Work has now been largely completed. The area has been dug out, grasscrete set in place, concrete poured and grass seed put down. The area will now effectively be out of bounds for 3 – 4 weeks while the concrete goes off and seed takes.

We are delighted that WoTHabs have agreed to project manage the landscaping of the car park in accordance with the section 106 agreement. The types of plant involved are best planted after leaf fall in late autumn. I am liaising with Sally Woolhouse re the type and number of plants needed and she has kindly agreed to get quotes on our behalf for the plants in the first instance. On planting day we will need to provide at least 4 additional volunteers to help get the plants in.

Website – there is now a separate page for the Village Green on the WOT website. A site plan, minutes of meetings and committee details have made it on so far, with more planned to come.

Events – the Village Green hosted the annual village fete on Saturday 1st September. Anyone who attended will have got a feel for what a fabulous community event this was and I understand that over £3,500 has been raised for the pre-school group

12. Finance – Approve Payments/note receipts None.

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
01/08/2012	R.M.Weavers	SO	£943	June & July grass cutting
01/08/2012	J. Welham	SO	£373	July Salary
01/08/2012	HMRC	SO	£83	July Tax
03/08/2012	SODC	50	£52	Street Name plate Muddy Lane
03/08/2012	Swiftclik	51	£37	Ink catridges black & colour
15/08/2012	K. Brooks	45	£5	Key for notice board
15/08/2012	Souther Electric	46	£27	Supply to PAvillion CC
15/08/2012	BDO LLP	47	£162	Audit 31/3/2012
20/08/2012	R.A.Watson	48	£120	Weed spraying in village
20/08/2012	Shelley Signs Ltd	49	£672	Village Information panel
01/09/2012	J. Welham	SO	£373	Aug Salary
01/09/2012	HMRC	SO	£83	Aug tax
03/09/2012	VHMC	52	£2,000	Annual grant from PC
03/09/2012	Pangbourne Responders	53	£150	Donation
		Total Payments	5,079.50	

Approved.

12.1 Audit Report and Budget Report – review.

The Clerk reported that the External Audit had been completed all figures agreed as signed by the Chairman and notice of completion will be displayed, the public can request copies of annual accounts if required.

The report made just two comments, the assets had been restated up on last year as contents of the Village Hall were understated. Question on charitable trust should be replied as N/A and not No as was stated, these are noted for next year.

12.2 Budget Review – review year to date

There were no significant deviations from budget, most items are on or below budget. Cllr Grove stated that he felt the report produced was not very good and was unclear. The Clerk uses the software tool for the accounting so without the program being changed cannot alter the report.

13. Environment Group – Report

Cllr Brooks reported,

1. After a comment from a resident about the overgrown vegetation from The Mount covering the bus stop making it impossible to stand adjacent to it or even see it Stephen Trinder and myself cleared this. It necessitated several trips to the Recycling Centre at Oakley Wood. Further to this I wrote a letter to the Management Committee for The Mount requesting that they cut back more of the vegetation since Richard Wingfield from TAPAG furnished me with details including photographs which showed that it was impossible to walk along the pavement in Hardwick Road since the growth precluded this. Following this The Mount employed a gardener to come and cut back the ivy. This seems to be an area of concern judging by the number of emails I had on the subject. The general consensus seems to be that more work is needed. Stephen Trinder has asked me to put to the Parish Council a proposal for covering the cost of hiring a trailer. This was passed and I will organise a work party.
2. Following the arrival of our new 'Village Information Board' this was installed in the High Street by myself, Stephen Trinder and Richard Wingfield. I also tidied up the Parish Notice Board which was nearby putting updated information about the members of the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch and also a new village walks map collected from Eric Hartley.
3. Had a meeting with WOTHABS member Sally Woolhouse to discuss putting a hedge along the perimeter fence of the new house being built adjacent to the Village Green. She suggested a beech hedge. The saplings for this might cost in the region of £100 and they would need annual pruning to keep them the right height once established. I propose we wait until the car park is finished and then plant them in October. John Southey was also concerned about the grasscrete being unsightly however I have been watching the progress of the installation and it is clear that topsoil and grass will be covering it making it more pleasing to the eye as the hedge hiding the fence will do.
4. I have been down to the river at Sheepwash Lane which is the only spot where Whitchurch on Thames residents have access to the river and discovered that a fence and padlocked gate now prevent access. This is completely unacceptable and must be reversed as soon as possible. I will be making enquiries as to who and under what authority this has been done as well as contacting SODC and OCC to establish what can be done.
5. The new lights proposed for the High Street were sanctioned so I will be finding out exactly what needs to be done. Cost of £1000 had was agreed.
6. The dog waste bin for Eastfield Lane/The Cut will be obtained and I will arrange installation.

Cllr Brooks raised the question of a Street Cleaner for the village, as at a previous meeting he had been told by another Parish that they had one that was funded by the Council, Clerk to follow up and report back.

13.1 Winter Salt preparations.

Emails from OCC have been received by the Clerk. The offer of a free salt bag is not required as logistics would prove difficult. The PC requested that the Clerk as if the salt bins purchased last year will be refilled. Clerk to Action.

14. Sustainability & Allotments Report.

Cllr Donahue reported,

Allotments:

- Working to renew the Council agreement with NSLAG is up for 21 year renewal this year.

- NSLAG have provided a draft contract for renewal.
- No major change to the terms, but will provide feedback and questions in conjunction with the Allotment society.
- Rent is unchanged at £376.0 per year, reviewed annual with the RPI.
- Will need to arrange a legal review of the document this month.
- Full

Whitchurch Maze Committee

- No progress to report since July. Need to work out issue of funds available from 2004 funds raised by the Whitchurch Society before we can plan new upgrades.
- PAWS Orchard Day is planned for 20th October at the Maze to prepare Juice from windfall apples collected around Pangbourne and Whitchurch.

Hardwick Road Verges Project:

The objectives are to make the following improvements to Hardwick Road between the village entrance and Hardwick Gate:

1. Restoring the carriageway passing place verges to make a consistent width, single carriageway road with clearly defined and maintained passing places at appropriate places.
2. Establishing continuous safe off-road access on the south side of Hardwick Road, connecting the pavements in the village with the miles of recreational walking, cycling and bridle paths available on Hardwick Estate.

As a next step, we would like to set up a meeting with the local Hardwick Road landlords and stakeholders to formally present our proposal to them and get the area steward's feedback directly or via Dave Saxon. We would like to do this in September/October timeframe. We have asked Dave to give an indication when they would be available for such a meeting?

Matters of how this can be funded can be discussed separately, but we would like to understand what types of changes are allowed and recommended and supported by local stakeholders as a starting point.

15. Matters / Questions for the Chairman.

Neighbourhood Plan, it was discussed and agreed that next year the PC should about creating a plan following on from the Village Plan already produced.

The PC are agreed that Cllr Donahue should facilitate the meeting regarding the Hardwick Road project.

16. Note date of next Meeting Monday 5th November 2012.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

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