

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 2nd September 2013 at the Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth Chairman, Cllr. Keith Brooks, Vice Chairman Cllr. Jim Donahue, Cllr. Harvey Ainley, Jenny Welham Parish Clerk.

In Attendance – Stephen Trinder. Chairman Village Hall Committee, Richard Wingfield TAPAG

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Nigel Grove, Cllr. Vincent Aldridge, District Cllr. Pearl Slatter.

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.

Chairman declared interest in Planning matter lawful development for Rivendell, Hartslock Bridleway.

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

Member of the public. Laura Lucas present to observe the meeting as she has expressed interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

4. Agree Minutes of Annual PC Meeting 1st July 2013.

Approved.

5. County Councillor Report.

The County Councillor Mr. Kevin Bulmer, was not present his August report had been circulated to the Parish Council, no matters or urgency.

6. District Councillor Report.

Cllr. Slatter was absent so no report. Cllr Slatter had expressed her disappointment at the recent planning decision for Eastfield House.

7. Traffic & Pavements Group – report & update.

Richard Wingfield reported;

Summertime is quiet so no urgent matters.

The Granite Sets in Swanston Field and Hardwick Rd are loose and need attention, it was agreed that a working party be organised to look at these.

The Clerk expressed concern that Highways had not yet erected notices in the surrounding areas notifying drivers of the impending bridge closure. RW will chase this up.

8. Village Hall Report

Stephen Trinder reported;

The temporary surgery on Tuesdays mornings during the bridge closure for residents of Whitchurch and Whitchurch Hill patients is being organised. Efforts continue to make provision for responders and an enhanced ambulance service North of the river over this period.

Some new commercial lights will be installed to replace the current domestic ones so the room used for the surgery will be better catered for.

9. Planning

New applications forward.

P13/S2578/LD – Lawful development at Rivendell, Hartslock Bridleway for residential use of the barn.

The Council have no strong views.

P13/S2275/HH Proposed roof extension to provide bedroom (resubmission of P13/S0034/HH), Walnut Cottage, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames.

The council have no strong views.

P13/S1829/O Outline application for erection of a detached dwelling and grage. Uplands Cottage, Hardwick Road Whitchurch on Thames.

The council have no strong views.

P13/S2526/HH Erection of summerhouse to replace two old garden sheds within the garden. Herons Reach North Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch on Thames.

The council recommend approval.

10. Village Green Committee

Cllr. Ainley reported,

Election of Chairman

Harvey Ainley has now been elected as chair of the Village Green Committee.

Terms of Reference

Terms of reference for the Village Green committee have been agreed and are with the Parish Council for their review and signature before being formally completed.

Replacement Pavilion Project & Funding

The committee have adopted the replacement of the existing cricket pavilion and tea room as the next major project and a priority.

The big issue remains funding and while there is a potential grant available from SODC other funding is required being a mix of private donations and other grants. The committee discussed the idea of a fund raising event but felt that this was likely to be a stretch given the disappointing response to the cancelled Lashings event last year and the possibility that the school is also about to start a fundraising programme.

Research into additional funding options is underway and firming up indications of private pledges into committed funds.

Whether the deadline for 2014 Grant applications can be met is still to be determined given that planning permission will be needed as well as a clear understanding of the additional funding but the committee will progress a decision on that once known.

Benches

The new benches have now been installed at the Green.

Future Membership

With Steve Rogers leaving the area at the end of the year, there will be space for a new person to join the committee.

11. Finance – Approve Payments/note receipts.

No new receipts.

List of payments presented all approved.

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
09/07/2013	T. Franklin Nova Press	SO	£367	Bulletin
10/07/2013	Thames Water	102	£122	Water bill 26/3 - 19/6
12/07/2013	Chiltern Society	103	£25	Annual sub
17/07/2013	Berinsfield Community Business	SO	£481	Grass cutting June
22/07/2013	Stephen Rogers	104	£128	1/2 of Line Machine & paint FC
29/07/2013	SODC	105	£50	Dog bins 1/4 - 30/6/13
30/07/2013	Southern Electric	106	£89	Elec supply pavilion
03/08/2013	Swiftclik	107	£22	Stationery/ink cartridge
04/08/2013	Mr.P. Hollitzer	108	£372	Instal of benches VG
05/08/2013	Berinsfield Community Bus	SO	£322	July grass cutting
23/08/2013	Playsafety Ltd	109	£89	Playground annual inspection
		Total Payments	£2,067	

12. Environmental Group Report

Cllr. Brooks reported;

Since the last meeting of the Parish Council the benches have been installed on the village green and many residents of the village have commented on their fantastic appearance and addition to the an area which is now really looking the part.

Most of the plants which we planted in the Spring have survived unfortunately one tree which was donated by the Trinders has not and I am proposing we replace this in accordance with advice from WOTHABS.

There was a bag of rubbish left on one of the seats and this had become strewn around due to animal attack, which I cleared up. Dave Mattimoe informed that this was a mistake as it was supposed to have been picked up and therefore appears to be an isolated incident. I have also noticed cricket matches during the week have been occurring despite no booking on the sheet on the Village Web Site.

More recently the gate was left unlocked and the combination had been changed on the lock so I spent some time rectifying this.

Stephen Trinder has spruced up the wooden benches around the village and this has greatly improved areas at the end of Hardwick Road, Manor Road and by the school. The green at the end of Hardwick Road where we have spent some time refurbishing unfortunately was used by some builders to make up their cement. I did have words with them and they assured me that they would clear up after themselves. However their idea of clearing up is not the same as would be required by someone who valued the area as a nice place to stop on their walk. This will have to be cleared sometime, concrete waste removed and some reseeding will do the trick.

PlaySafety Limited surveyed the play area in Manor Road and this has brought several items to our attention which are in need of repair in order for us to comply with the requirements of RoSPA. I therefore suggest we employ a contractor to rectify these faults. To this end I propose I make a list of these and get quotations from suitable persons which I can then put to the Parish Council for consideration.

13. Sustainability & Allotments Report

Cllr. Donahue reported;

Whitchurch Maze Committee

Going ahead with Maze brick upgrade:

- New bricks 157 new bricks and 80 replacement bricks ordered
- Whitchurch Society holding funds from sales of brick and will pay invoices
- Installation work to be performed by Phil Wise
- Re-opening Ceremony to be held in conjunction with PAWS Apple Juicing Day 20th October
- Still waiting for Maze grass to be cut. Contractor needs to provide an explanation why it hasn't been cut all year and to provide a schedule for annual cuttings. Also re-iterate our request to get a quote for moving from 2 to three cuttings a year.

Hardwick Road Verges Project:

Working with WOTHabs to promote:

- Conservation of biodiversity of verges along Hardwick Road.
- Improvement of verges to prevent growth of 'unofficial verges'
- Development of a footpath along the length of south side of road to prevent the need to cross back and forth.

PC has received £8000 for the Hardwick road improvements –

- £2000 original Big Society Funding - January
- £6000 from OCC for verges renovation – March

Keith Stenning of OCC finally sent Tim Wilde design to review site on 10th June. Promised to send design with guidance on get way to proceed with budget estimates, but not received yet. Can't proceed with project until OCC approved design is agreed. Requested Kevin Bulmer raise with OCC and join site visit with project committee.

PC participated in community project to clear pathway near Hardwick Estate entrance on February 24th with several volunteers – SSE to complete the tree cutting work due to power lines. Still waiting for SSE to complete work.

14. Other matters for Chairman

The Chairman reported that the Parish had been visited by a lady from Poland looking at how Parish Councils were run in the UK. Full report on the website.

To note date of next Meeting Monday 4th November 2013.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm