

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in ‘The Old Stables’, Tuesday 6th September 2016, commencing at 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Keith Brooks
Councillors	Jim Donahue Carrie Hart Jonathan Steward
Clerk	Felipa House

Public:

Lissie Steward, Leslie Prater, Lesley Maynerd, Alan Davies.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Bowen, Cllr. Hatcher, Cllr. Polansky, Cllr. Simister & Cllr. Bulmer.

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.

Lesley Maynerd stated that a village group to be known as MOWS (Make our Whitchurch special) has been formed to care for the village. Official members are currently Cllr. Steward, Cllr. Brooks, Lissie Steward & Lesley Maynerd. The Council requested that this group return next month with a charter, plan of work, costings etc. so that they can be formally recognised as a working group.

Leslie Prater asked the Council whether any progress had been made regarding the potential sale & relocation of the village hall. He would personally object to the resiting of the hall to the village green for various reasons & wondered whether a village hall was actually needed in Whitchurch, due to the facilities that already exist locally. Cllr. Hart will progress the matter with SODC.

4. Agree minutes of Parish Council meeting 2nd August 2016

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

P16/S2864/LB, 4 Whitchurch House, High Street. Rebuilding garden wall/fence with brick & flint wall. The Council voted unanimously for ‘No strong views’ to be submitted.

P16/S2801/LB, 'The Old Rectory', High Street. Erection of single storey rear extension to kitchen, alterations to windows & side entrance steps. The Council voted unanimously for 'No strong views' to be submitted.

8. Finance Approve payments/note receipts

Monthly salary for the Clerk

Expenses for Cllr. Brooks for weedkiller (on behalf of Cllr. Steward) (£27.98)

Expenses for A. Aitchison for grass seed & top soil for the village green (£439.95)

Invoice from Steward Grounds Maintenance for August gardening services (£250.00)

Donation to Whitchurch pre-school for the loan of gazebos for the Queen's birthday celebration (£50).

The Council also approved Cllr. Brooks' forthcoming expenses for the purchase of more weedkiller for the village (approx. £90).

£12,991 had been received from SODC as the second half of this year's precept.

9. Village green

A working party was held at the green on Bank Holiday Monday, which was very productive.

A new hose & electric pump are needed for the green due to the lack of water pressure there. Cllr. Steward will obtain quotes & send to Cllr. Hart to check the specifications are correct.

Cllr. Donahue is meeting the school & an OCC representative this week to formalise the agreement between the school & OCC for the school's use of the village green.

The Clerk will investigate the provision of a Biffa/Grundon bin on the village green to prevent any littering there.

10. TAPAG

Cllr. Polansky has indicated that he will be leaving the village in the near future. A new person will therefore be needed to take on the issues he has been managing.

11. Village hall replacement project

Cllr. Hart has this in hand.

The Clerk will arrange for the loan of a PAT tester which Cllr. Brooks can use to test electrical items in the village hall.

12. Village environment/maintenance

The Clerk has written to SODC regarding the provision of extra dog-bins in & around the village & is awaiting their reply.

The Council discussed the possibility of re-opening an account at Collins for the purchase of seeds, bulbs, compost & weedkiller only. This would be subject to an annual budget limit & will be administered by MOWS once they have been formally established and the scope of their charter agreed.

The Clerk has contacted SODC regarding the lease of the site of the old Polish church & is awaiting answers to her queries.

A resident has contacted Cllr. Donahue regarding the potential purchase of some Council land in Manor Road which abuts their property. The Council will invite the resident to its next meeting in order to fully discuss the matter & make its decision.

13. Village Plan

Cllr. Hatcher will now be focusing on the Community Plan. Cllr. Donahue will be spearheading the Neighbourhood Plan & will be setting up a working group to begin proceedings.

14. Use of village hall

Cllr. Steward had wanted to discuss establishing a coffee morning here, but felt this was no longer necessary. Leslie Prater stated that he would be happy to transport Manor Road residents to the coffee mornings already being held at The Old Stables should they be unable to make their own way there.

14. 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. Donahue presented the Council with some images for the new village sign. These were felt to be a good initial design but Cllr. Hart will also give them to a local graphic artist for a second opinion.

The Clerk is drafting new & revised policies for the Council's approval & will be circulating these shortly.

The Council extended their very best wishes to Cllr. Hart on her recent marriage. The Clerk will investigate maternity leave arrangements for her.

15. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 4th October 2016 at 8pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....