

## WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 7th January 2008 in the village hall.

### Present:

Chairman: Cllr M. Oppenheimer, Cllr Nigel Grove, Cllr Vincent Aldridge, Cllr Nigel Cabeldu, Cllr Harry Butterworth, Cllr Kate Thatcher, Cllr Elizabeth Robinson, District Cllr Pearl Slatter, County Cllr John Farrow

### 90. Apologies for absence

Ann Ducker

### 91. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December November 2007 meeting signed as a true record.

### 92. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 93. Public forum

No members of public were present

### 94. Matters arising

#### Village hall

- **Matilda to contact SODC about renegotiating price of the village hall**
- A police officer has been to 31 Swanston Field and moved the cones back so there is room on the pavement for pedestrians, although since then they have been moved back to take up the whole pavement. **Matilda will contact the builders** at 31 Swanston Field and ask them to leave room for people who need to pass and will express concerns that OCC have.
- **Jo to respond to the resident in Hardwick Road** to explain why the council made the decision to request no parking signs
- Discussion about whether the advert in the bulletin is commercial or not. Suggestion that the council might want to explore having adverts. This was objected because it would have an effect on the income raised from advertising in church magazine. Suggestion that the advert could be rewritten so it wasn't a

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

commercial advertisement and the draft checked at the next meeting. If it can't wait until the next meeting he could send it to two Councillors.

- Oxfordshire County Council will assess overhanging trees on Hardwick Road and near the Ferryboat
- Trees on the hill have been cleared, Cllr Robinson will keep an eye on the area and report any further problems

## **95. Parish plan**

Cllr Butterworth reported the successful response to invites to the parish plan party on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January. The musician and entertainer have been booked, and refreshments arranged. There was a suggestion that Castrol may be able to provide some funding. The next village plan meeting is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January and the parish council will be updated of its progress at the next meeting.

## **96. Allotment rent**

Taking into account the 2004 allotment rental agreement it was agreed that the rent should increase from 25% to 50% in 2008. The increase will equal 50% of the total NSALG rental, which is currently £353.90 a year, and should start from April 2008.

This will bring it in line with the rent charged in other parishes. The parish council doesn't subsidise any other activity in the village and it has to be fair and consistent in the support it gives.

## **97. Bus service**

A review of local bus services has been undertaken but Oxfordshire County Council informed the parish council that the 142 service to Whitchurch was not under review and will not be affected.

## **98. District Councillor Report**

- Reduction of money from central government to local authorities in 2008/09 which will lead to budget cuts at the district council.
- South Oxfordshire District Council have proposed to alter the mechanism for the referral of planning applications to the Planning Committee by only referring major and minor applications to the Planning Committee where a parish/town council objects and the officers' recommendation is for approval. Jo to circulate information on planning event on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January.
- South Oxfordshire District Council will be making some changes to the recycling and waste collections when they renew the waste contract in 2009. Changes will include a weekly food waste collection, new kerbside collection of glass and fortnightly residual waste collection. Containers will either be wheeled bins

(collected fortnightly) or green boxes (collected weekly). SODC will be addressing this issue with nappies as part of the new contract. The assisted service for elderly and disabled residents will continue.

- District Councillor will get six more dog fouling signs and Vincent agreed to put up around village

## 99. County Councillor Report

- The inspector has examined the road surface at Swanston Field and the county council agree that work needs to be carried out to improve the surface. Councillor Farrow will chase this up.
- Councillor Farrow stated that as far as he is aware the 142 bus service will continue as normal following the review.
- Councillor Oppenheimer raised the issue about the builders taking up the pavement at 31 Swanston field. Councillor Farrow suggested that Councillor Oppenheimer mention that the county council has expressed concern at this when she speaks to the builders.
- Councillor Thatcher raised the issue of the hole in the main road in the Bridleway. Councillor Farrow to investigate and report back.

## 100. Planning applications and decisions

Applications: P07/E1589 – Extension to conservatory at New Place, High St  
NO STRONG VIEWS

Decisions: None made since last meeting

## 101. Finance

### Invoices paid

SODC	Uncontested elections May 2007	£73.50
Jo Wheeler	Salary part Oct/Nov/Dec	£943.12
Jo Wheeler	Postage	£16.32
Village hall committee	Village hall maintenance	£2000.00

### Village plan payments

Stephen Trinder	Drinks licence	£21
Stephen Trinder	Musician	£100

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Payments received

ORCC	Village plan	£1950.00
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### 102. Budget

Final budget agreed.

### 103. Other reports

#### a) Allotments

Nothing to report (already discussed)

#### b) Transport

Nothing to report (already discussed)

#### c) Cricket Field

Nothing to report

#### d) Village Maintenance

Nothing to report

#### e) Toll Bridge

Nothing to report

### 104. Correspondence received and distributed

- County Circular
- Subsidised bus service
- ORCC –post office closures
- Casualty report & road safety strategy
- Primary education in Oxfordshire
- Village cinema

### 105. Any other business

Cllr Robinson reported an incident in December where a bike was stolen from a front garden in Swanston Field. It was decided that an article should go in the bulletin to

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remind everyone to keep an eye on their property and to report any suspicious activity to the police.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

**Actions from meeting:**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>
Matilda to contact SODC about renegotiating price of the village hall	Matilda
Contact the builders at 31 Swanston Field and ask them to leave room for people	Matilda
Contact the resident in Hardwick Road to explain why the council made the decision to request no parking signs	Jo
Include article in bulletin about volunteering as a tree warden	Jo
Jo to write to the allotment society about increase in charge	Jo
Jo to research other allotment charges in other parishes and districts	Jo