

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 4th July 2011 in the village hall

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth (chairman), Cllr Keith Brooks (vice-chairman), Cllr Vincent Aldridge, Cllr Lindsay Austin, Cllr Jim Donahue, Cllr Nigel Grove

In attendance:

Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), District Councillor Pearl Slatter, County Councillor Dave Sexon

17. Apologies for absence

Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer

18. Declarations of interest

None

19. Police matters

The council discussed a recent spate of car thefts from owner's homes where thieves have been breaking into homes and using keys to escape in the owner's car. Agreed to publish a warning in the Bulletin to remind everyone to keep their car keys hidden or locked away and to report any suspicious behaviour to the police.

20. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of 23rd May 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record

21. Matters arising

Cllr Austin reported telephone wires entangled in trees. Agreed to report to BT.

22. Public forum

None

23. District Councillor report

District Cllr Slatter is keeping an eye on the Bridge planning application and is monitoring progress with the planning officer Tom Wyatt.

She also voiced concerns over the delay with the community sports field.

A resident at Eastfield House turned 100. To celebrate this a bouquet was presented by District Cllr Slatter and Cllr Butterworth and Cllr Grove.

24. County Councillor report

County Councillor Sexon is trying to arrange a meeting with all parties involved with the planned bridge closure to ensure the traffic is managed as effectively as possible. Parish council representatives will be involved and called upon to help with a potential traffic plan.

County Cllr Sexon confirmed that the county council would not be withdrawing funding from libraries entirely. Instead the council is proposing to keep libraries open with some sustained by volunteers working alongside Oxfordshire County Council staff.

25. Planning

Application number	Location	Details	Comments
P11/E0946	23 Swanston Field	Erection of a part two storey, part single storey side extension with dormer windows to the front and rear elevations	No strong views
P11/E0995	Chiltern House, Hardwick Road	Single storey timber outbuilding	No strong views

26. Community Sports Field

Cllr Austin reported that progress is being made with the purchase of the sports field. The sports field committee met for the first time and is making plans for fundraising activities. The committee consists of representatives from the cricket club, football club and the parish council. The committee's priority is to investigate sources of funding. The village green needs immediate funding for a car park and children's football pitch. It also will also need funding for a new refreshments hut and changing rooms. The parish council agreed to call the sports field the village green as it will be an open space for the whole village to enjoy.

27. Environmental Group

Cllr Brooks reported an incident on the bridge. A lorry had to mount the kerb to pass another vehicle and almost knocked him down. All agreed that this is another example of how pedestrian safety has to be taken into account when the bridge is re-built.

It was confirmed that access to the allotments would remain during the gas pipe work on Muddy Lane.

28. Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group

The group has been busy with the bridge application. There is huge support for pedestrian safety. 107 people have commented that an unsafe pedestrian crossing cannot be tolerated for another 100 years. The group have compiled a list of incidents, involving pedestrian safety at the bridge, to send to both local authorities.

Progress is being made with improving pedestrian safety at the lower narrows, located at the Ferryboat car park. A design is being prepared for traffic calming and Geoff Weir's £1000 will be put towards this.

The parish council thanked the group for all their hard work.

29. Village hall matters

The last meeting was on the 9th May. Finances are improving due to the increase in charges. A new filing cabinet has been delivered and a replacement safe it's on its way. The committee will be carrying out a risk assessment of the hall.

30. Sustainability committee

The chairman introduced the newly established Sustainability Committee, chaired by Cllr Donahue. Cllr Donahue co-chairs the Pangbourne & Whitchurch Sustainability Group and has plenty of experience in this area. Cllr Donahue reported that he and Cllr Brooks would soon be meeting with the Allotment Society to discuss allotment rental.

31. Financial matters

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
S Butterworth	Bulletin payment	£367.00
J Wheeler	Salary payment	£48

32. Close of meeting: the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed:

Date: