

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 8th March 2010 in the village hall

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth (chairman), Cllr Vincent Aldridge (vice chairman), Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer, Cllr Nigel Grove, Cllr Elizabeth Robinson, Cllr Keith Brooks, Cllr Lindsay Austin

In attendance:

Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), County Cllr Dave Sexon

86. Apologies for absence

Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer, District Cllr Pearl Slatter

87. Declarations of interest

None

88. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of 11th January 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record

89. Matters arising

None

90. Public forum

None

91. Playground

Parish clerk informed the council that RoSPA have carried out the annual inspection of the playground in Manor Road. Recommendations will be actioned.

Paul Hearne has agreed to be the new playground inspector, and will examine the playground on a weekly basis. Parish clerk to email log book and other information.

92. Allotments

Cllr Keith Brooks kindly offered to be the parish council allotment representative.

Cllr Lindsay Austin agreed to be the 'finance' councillor, which will involve looking at the accounts on a regular basis.

93. Sports Field update

The final plans will be drawn up by the architect and sent around. The target date for this is the end of March 2010. Another meeting with the Cricket Club is due shortly.

94. Planning

No new planning applications received.

The parish council was split on a decision for the Whittles Farm planning application.

95. Thames Valley Police update

None

96. District Councillor Report

None

97. County Councillor report

The Oxfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan is ending its consultation period. The plan includes recommendations for the parish:

- Speed indicator devices
- 20mph limit
- Removal of certain white lines in High Street
- Mini roundabout at Manor Road
- Introduction of kerb pavements
- Marked crossing points, especially near the Toll Bridge

Oxfordshire County Council is busy filling potholes. They came top in a recent press survey on local authorities response times to filling pot holes.

98. Environmental Matters

Cllr Brooks provided an update from the Environmental Committee:

- Two tonnes of vegetation was cleared from the Jubilee Path. The feedback from this is excellent.
- The new waste bins and lighting have been ordered.

- Resolved to order four dog waste bins to help with the problem of dog fouling around the village.

Discussion about reports from residents on a lack of lighting at certain points in the village, especially at the end of Eastfield Lane. All agreed that although the parish council sympathises with residents, new lighting is extremely expensive to purchase, install and run. There are also restrictions about where street lights can be placed and operated.

The full Environmental Committee report will be published in the Bulletin.

99. Traffic and road matters

Further to the discussion under the County Councillor report Richard Wingfield (Roads & Traffic Group) reported the need for a replacement Give Way sign at the Ferry Boat.

Richard asked whether a member of the Roads & Traffic Group could meet with the Oxfordshire County Council inspector when inspecting the kerb along the High Street. Cllr Sexon agreed to try to arrange this.

Cllr Sexon also agreed to request that the vegetation encroaching onto Hardwick road be cleared.

Suggestion that WoTHabs could help to decide on an environmentally friendly weed killer to use to kill the weeds along the pavements and kerbs on Swanston Field and Manor Road. Cllr Brooks offered to carry out the work along Swanston Field.

Richard informed the council that a member of the committee will produce a paper to argue why a 20mph speed limit is necessary.

Cllr Aldridge reported that vans are being parked along the High Street, and are causing a nuisance to residents pulling out of their driveways. The vans are there temporarily as a work is being carried out on a house along the High Street.

The full Roads & Traffic Committee report will be published in the Bulletin.

100. Village Hall matters

Stephen Trinder provided an update on the village hall work:

- The electrical re-wiring has been completed and certified.
- The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council sent a representative to inspect the village hall and concluded that the hall compares favourably to others.
- There will be a modest programme of improvement over the next three years.

- Parish clerk to check with the Charities Commission to find out whether a new trustee is required, given the change in ownership.
- Agreed that the village hall schedule needs changing so the wording is suitable for a small village hall rather than a large charity. The current schedule is too general.

101. Financial matters

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
Sarah Butterworth	Bulletin printing	£340.00
Joanne Wheeler	Clerk salary	£754.00
Joanne Wheeler	Clerk expenses	£28.72
Ian Hogg	Jubilee Path tree work	£350.00
DP Architects	Architect fees	£1742.64

102. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 9.10pm. The next meeting is on Monday 26th April 2010.

Signed:

Dated: