

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Tuesday 12th May 2009 in the village hall

Present:

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

In attendance:

Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), District Cllr Pearl Slatter

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Nigel Cabeldu

2. Election of chairman

Resolved that Cllr Harry Butterworth take the Chair for the Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council for the year 2009/10

3. Election of vice chairman

Resolved that Vincent Aldridge take the Vice Chairman for the Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council for the year 2009/10

4. Declaration of acceptance

Cllr Butterworth signed the declaration of acceptance for the post of chairman of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council. Cllr Aldridge signed the declaration of acceptance for the post of vice chairman of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council.

5. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of the 12th May 2009 meeting signed as a true record.

6. Declarations of interest

None

7. Public forum

David Robinson presented a request from the Twinning Association for help in financing the extra costs incurred due to the 30th anniversary of the Twinning. The council agreed to provide £100.

Signed

Dated

The website was also discussed. David is re-designing the website along with some of the parishioners. The website is taking a different focus with an emphasis on news and forthcoming events.

8. Toll bridge

Cllr Oppenheimer has contacted Jim Kerevan about helping with accounting side of the inquiry case, which is currently being drafted. Agreed that the parish council could not justify spending funds legal representation from barrister. Agreed that Cllr Aldridge will present the case if his work schedule allows it, and agreed to pay for a supply teacher to cover Cllr Aldridge's regular work. Agreed that Cllr Aldridge, Cllr Oppenheimer, Neil King and Jim Kerevan would meet before the inquiry to continue with preparations.

9. Cricket ground

Cllr Oppenheimer briefed the council on progress: Hugh Whitelock has met with the recommended architect to start to draw up plans. The parish council, have received three quotes for flood risk assessments (as part of the planning application). The quote of best value was from Monson. All agreed to request that Monson carries out the work.

Cllr Aldridge suggested capping funds allocated to the cricket ground. All interested parties, including the school and football club, are in support of the proposal. Cllr Oppenheimer will continue to liaise with the cricket club and will continue to lead on this project.

10. Allotment allocation

Cllr Oppenheimer read out a complaint received from a village resident. The resident's complaint was that two families living outside the village were allocated an allotment before the family that live in the village.

All agreed that the parish council must ensure residents are allocated available plots over non-residents, especially as the parish council subsidises most of the rent. All agreed that the parish clerk would contact the Allotment Society to pursue the matter.

11. Village plan

All agreed that Cllr Brooks will represent the parish council on the Environmental Group and that he would contact Stephen Trinder to make arrangements.

12. Village hall management committee

All agreed to reinstate the Village Hall Management Committee as:

- Stephen Trinder (chairman)
- Audrey Kingham (secretary)
- Ed Pilcher (caretaker)

Signed

Dated

- Nigel Grove (treasurer)
- Cllr Oppenheimer (parish council representative)
- Committee members (ideally to include hall users)

13. United Charities Trustees

Resolved to continue with the current trustees of United Charities.

14. District Councillor Report

Cllr Slatter informed the council that an enforcement notice has been issued at the Rectory.

15. Other reports

- a) Village Plan - already covered
- b) Allotments – already covered
- c) Transport – already covered
- d) Cricket Field – already covered
- e) Village maintenance & road review – already covered
- f) Toll bridge – already covered

16. Planning

Planning applications received:

Reference	Location	Description	Parish council decision
P09/E0305	Racquets High Street	Garden room with a single pitch roof	No objections
P09/E0326	Lynches Lodge High Street	Erection of two storey front extension with hipped and pitched roofs	No objections

Planning decisions received: none

Signed

Dated

17. Finance

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount £
Sarah Butterworth	Bulletin printing	£367.00
J Wheeler	Salary	£754.00
Internal auditor	Review accounts	£35.00
J Wheeler	Expenses	£26.57
Twinning Association	Donation	£100.00

Payments made in April annual assembly meeting:

Payee	Description	Amount £
Allianz Insurance	Annual insurance premium	£628.75
Sarah Butterworth	Bulletin expenses	£52.70
OALC	Annual subscription	£138.43
J Wheeler	Salary	£754.00
S Trinder	Parish plan	£25.32

18. Correspondence issued

School consultation on speeding traffic

Cllr Oppenheimer reported on her discussions with the headmistress at Whitchurch School about traffic speed in the village and the impact this has on the safety of children walking to and from school.

Street Lighting

Parish clerk reported that Oxfordshire County Council are considering turning off street lights between 12.30am and 5.30am to help to reduce carbon emissions. They are consulting with parish councils and Thames Valley Police. Agreed to include an article in the Bulletin asking for the views of residents before responding.

19. Close of meeting

Signed

Dated