

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 5th November 2007 in the Village Hall.

Present:

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

58. Apologies for absence

Cllr Kate Thatcher

59. Minutes of previous meetings

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2007 be signed as a true record.

60. Declarations of interest

Members were asked to declare any personal interest, and the nature of that interest, which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. There were no declarations of interest.

61. Public forum

No members of public were present

62. Matters arising

- Sign on slipway – Matilda will speak to residents to get permission for ‘no parking’ sign on their fence.
- Dog fouling – Vincent has continued to post notices about dog fouling all over the village.
- The Parish Council has decided not to participate in the bus service 142 review
- Jo to action Total Dec’s work to paint the railings.

63. Clerks appointment

All agreed to appoint Joanne Wheeler as the new clerk and Jo to sign the contract in a few days.

64. Whitchurch Hill accidents

Cllr Butterworth raised the issue of accidents on Whitchurch Hill. Although the accidents are infrequent they happen regularly and are always serious. All agreed there is a need to reduce the

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likelihood of accidents. Cllr Fowler will look into what OCC can do and **Jo will also write to Malcom Bowler at OCC about the concerns and to ask what can be done.**

65. Village fete

It was agreed that the 2008 village fete should be organised by the pre school again as they do such a great job. **Cllr Oppenheimer to write to pre school to agree.**

66. Parish plan

Cllr Butterworth provided an update on the parish plan. Support for the plan is growing and a group has been put together to start the plan. Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Oppenheimer that the Parish Council will provide £300 to get the group started and to cover initial expenses. Cllr Butterworth will provide a further update after the parish plan group meeting on 6th November.

67. Village hall

The latest email from the Parish Council solicitors states that SODC solicitors are still awaiting documentation from SODC. **Jo to speak to Parish Council solicitor and chase SODC for documents if necessary.**

Cllr Grove spoke about his role as treasurer and licensee and suggested that the Parish Council find someone else to help with the management of the hall. The best option is a volunteer to help Mr Pilcher with cleaning and management on the days that he doesn't work.

Cllr Oppenheimer suggested that the parish plan group be used as a platform for this and Cllr Butterworth agreed to raise this at the next parish plan meeting.

68. District Councillor

Cllr Slatter is going to present a wreath on behalf of the District Council at the memorial service on Remembrance Sunday.

69. Remembrance Sunday

All agreed that Cllr Robinson would present the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council again this year.

70. County Councillor

Cllr Fowler addressed the issue of the OCC traffic survey. He hasn't seen the results yet. Cllr Butterworth suggested that the cameras aren't in an effective location. Cllr Fowler will look at the results, discuss with Malcolm Bowler (OCC) and report back.

Cllr Farrow explained about the solution to the problem with parking on Hardwick Road. White lines are only advisory so the police can't enforce (as they can with yellow lines). Cllr Cabeldu

also provided an update on his meeting with Malcolm Bowler that OCC can only lay white lines, not yellow ones. All agreed that is what the Parish Council requires. Malcolm Bowler will action the work.. Nigel Cabeldu to contact Bob Edmundson to inform him.

Cllr Farrow agreed that the best way to improve visibility of the Give Way sign on the Whitchurch side of the toll bridge is to follow the usual process of asking the resident to cut their trees back.

71. Planning applications and decisions

Applications:

P07/E1260/LB - the New Rectory - partial rebuilding of two areas of boundary wall plus a new section of foundation - NO STRONG VIEWS

Decisions received:

P07/E1033 – Cliff Cottage, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames – Erection of single storey outbuilding to side of house – GRANTED

P07/E0870 – Coach House, High Street, Whitchurch on Thames – Change of use from store/coach house to church meeting room and formation of parking area — GRANTED

P07/E0879/CA – Milverton House, High Street – Partial demolition, rebuilding and repointing of brick and flint retaining wall – GRANTED

P07/E0876 – Milverton House, High Street – Erection of 1.5 metre high picket fence set 1 metre back from boundary wall – GRANTED

P07/E0877 – Milverton House, High Street – Remove and rebuild sections of brick and flint retaining wall – GRANTED

72. Finance

Invoices paid between meetings

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|----------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Andrea Gardner | September salary and WFH | £377.23 |
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Agreed at meeting

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| RM Weavers | July/August grass cutting | £754.36 |
| Nova Press | Bulletin costs over £301 | £66 |
| Newbury Weekly News | Job advertisement | £202.33 |
| Z Net Ltd | Domain name and hosting packages | £35.25 |

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| Environment Agency | Accommodation charge for frontage | £41.60 |
| NSALG | Allotment rent | £353.90 |
| NSALG | Affiliation fees | £58.75 |
| Mrs Shepherd | Remembrance Sunday Wreath | £50 |

Cheques to be signed when replacement cheque book arrives at bank.

73. Other reports

a) Allotments

Nothing to report.

b) Transport

Nothing to report (already discussed)

c) Cricket Field

Cllr Cabeldu stated that nothing will materially change until the New Year.

d) Village Maintenance

Cllr Robinson commented on the state of the road surface at Swanston Field. The road hasn't been resurfaced for over twenty years. The problem has been reported to OCC.

Cllr Cabeldu commented on the state of the footpath at the top of the alleyway.

Cllr Farrow will arrange for an inspector to look at the area and report back. Action: Jo to write to highway inspector at OCC to report both problems.

Cllr Aldridge commented on the flytipping issue in the area. Cllr Slatter agreed to report this to SODC.

Cllr Oppenheimer updated on the progress of getting the bins in the playground emptied. Fred Brown at SODC is dealing with this.

Cllr Oppenheimer to ask the Whitchurch Bridge Company to remove the bin at the toll bridge as it isn't up to standard and doesn't serve a purpose.

e) Toll Bridge

Cllr Cabeldu stated that the reconstruction project will go ahead once planning permission is granted. There are toll increases planned for 2009 and the amount depends on the reconstruction

costs. All agreed that the Parish Council should be involved in all decisions relating to the toll increase and to keep an eye on the progress of this project.

Cllr Slatter suggested looking at the fees of other toll bridges in the area but those bridges may differ in size, usage and need for reconstruction.

74. Correspondence received and distributed

- Casualty report and road strategy plan plus guides to road safety in Oxon
- Tree warden scheme
- Risk assessment and FOI training for Councillors and clerks
- Affordable housing – housing needs survey
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- DEFRA Climate change information

Note that all correspondence sent to Andrea (previous clerk) would be sent onto Jo (new clerk) and presented at next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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