

## WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 3rd November 2008 in the village hall

### **Present:**

Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer (chairman), Cllr Vincent Aldridge (vice chairman), Cllr Nigel Grove, Cllr Nigel Cabeldu, Cllr Harry Butterworth, Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), County Cllr John Farrow

Members of the public: Simon Lidbetter (Allotment Society), Rosamund Heath (allotment society), Garden House applicant, Owen Darbshire

### **64. Apologies for absence**

District Cllr Pearl Slatter and Cllr Robinson

### **65. Minutes of previous meetings**

Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> July & 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 agreed as a true record

### **66. Declarations of interest**

None

### **67. Public forum**

The applicant of the Garden house planning application made a presentation about the proposed changes. He stated that there will be minimal change to the roof height to accommodate a large family. Only one of the neighbours has shown an objection but the rest support the application.

Owen Darbshire spoke about the proposed toll increase from an economic perspective and explained that the increase is not appropriate because it is passing on a huge up front cost to parishioners. Owen agreed help the parish council to build a case for objecting to the proposal.

Simon Lidbetter and Rosamund Heath explained that the allotment society charges £11 per plot. This rent covers expenses including insurance, maintenance and repairs. If the parish council increases the rent they won't be able to meet these expenses.

### **68. Toll bridge**

The parish council discussed the number of letters and emails from parishioners unhappy about the proposed toll increase. All agreed that the parish council will object to the proposed increase from Whitchurch Bridge Company (WBC) as it is unfair to burden

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those who live in the village at present with such a significant amount of the cost of re-building the bridge. The parish council will write to the WBC to request a copy of the application (including accounts to date) and to inform WBC that it objects to the proposal.

### **69. Allotment rent**

All agreed that the allotment rent would remain the same and thanked the allotment society for their hard work in maintaining the allotments.

### **70. Matters arising from previous meeting**

Councillor Oppenheimer confirmed that she will continue as chairman until the next annual meeting, in May 2009.

### **71. Councillor vacancy**

Councillor Oppenheimer introduced Keith Brooks as a candidate for the parish councillor vacancy. Keith told the parish council about himself and why he was interested in becoming a councillor. He has been living in the village for six years and he is very interested in taking a more active role in the area. He has a particular interest in environmental issues such as recycling, energy usage, carbon footprint and other current hot topics. He is also concerned about the excessive speeding in the village, especially along Hardwick Road, and the problem with dog fouling.

### **72. Speeding survey**

The parish council reviewed the results of the speeding survey published by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

County Councillor John Farrow informed the parish council that the average speed northbound is 29.5 mph and the average southbound speed is 28.7mph. This means that some people are exceeding the 30mph speed limit. He explained that the policy regarding vehicle activated signs has changed which means the parish council cannot have one in the village. Councillor Oppenheimer asked about removing the white lines in the road and Councillor Farrow suggested we discuss this with Peter Ronald, OCC area traffic engineer.

OCC is carrying out a review of speeding in Oxfordshire and this could mean the parish council could apply for a 20mph speed limit in the village. The parish council agreed to invite Peter Ronald to the next meeting to discuss the options.

### **73. Remembrance Sunday**

Councillor Oppenheimer will present the wreath on behalf of the parish council on Remembrance Sunday.

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#### **74. Public payphone**

All agreed to apply to BT to adopt the red pay phone kiosk but decided against keeping and funding the phone service, as usage is minimal.

#### **75. Village plan report**

Councillor Butterworth updated the council on the progress of the village plan. The next meeting will be on 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. This meeting will include reports from sub groups and a presentation of the results from the village plan questionnaire.

#### **76. Village hall**

Councillor Oppenheimer informed the council that rebuilding the village hall at its present site or at a new site is being looked into by the Village Plan Village Hall subcommittee. Because this can't be carried out for another 5 to 7 years (as it takes time to purchase land, draw up plans and apply for grants) she suggested that the council funds some refurbishments, such as new flooring, paint and curtains. This should greatly improve the appearance of the hall and help to encourage usage. All agreed to the suggestion. The parish clerk informed the council that the solicitors are progressing with the purchase of the village hall from South Oxfordshire District Council.

#### **77. District Councillor Report**

None

#### **78. County Councillor Report**

Councillor Farrow informed the council that the work on Manor Road is completed. Bob Burgess (the highway engineer) is dealing with pot holes and other problems. Councillor Farrow confirmed that all work on the problems listed in the roads and pavements review will be carried out, unless the parish council hears otherwise.

#### **79. Planning applications and decisions**

##### **New planning applications:**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Location/Description</b>	<b>Parish council comments</b>
<a href="#">P08/E1064</a>	The Garden House High Street Whitchurch on Thames Erection of single storey front, side and rear extensions. Raising of roof to allow first floor accommodation. Erection of car port to existing garage.	No objections

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### Planning decisions:

P08/E0760 Ivy Cottage Hardwick Road, installation of flue through roof and masked by dummy chimney – **granted**

P08/E0946 29 Manor Road, two storey and single storey side extension - **granted**

P08/E0912 Jasmine Cottage Single and two storey extension to the rear (North) elevation, replacement of flat roof with pitched to south elevation, and internal alterations - **granted**

P08/E0721 Ferry Boat, alterations to existing rear store to form external covered area – **granted**

P08/E0687 White House Cottage, erection of garden shed – **granted**

P08/E0875 Eastfield Lodge, Eastfield Lane, first floor extension over rear dining room - **granted**

### 80. Finance

#### Finance

Payments at meeting:

Royal British Legion	Wreath & donation	£50.00
Clean UK	Cleaning of memorial	£120.00
J Wheeler	Salary Sept & Oct	£754.46
S Butterworth	Bulletin printing	£367.00
Clean UK	Memorial cleaning (cancelled)	£141.00
RM Weavers	Grass cutting for 2008/09	£2010.00
BDO	Audit fee	£158.63
S&PM Signs & Graphics	Signs for slipway	£47.00

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Payments in between meetings:

S Trinder	Parish plan	£26.19
ORCC	Parish plan	£13.00

Payments received: none

### **81. Other reports**

a) Allotments

Already covered

b) Transport

Nothing to report

c) Cricket Field

Nothing to report

d) Village Maintenance

Councillor Brooks agreed to take on a specialist role in village maintenance, for example, investigating problem pavements or road surfaces.

All agreed to approve suggested signage on Whitchurch Hill.

e) Toll Bridge

Already discussed

### **82. Correspondence received and distributed**

### **83. Parish councillor vacancy**

All agreed to appoint Keith Brooks as new councillor and welcomed him to the council.

### **84. Any other business**

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

### **85. Next meeting**

8<sup>th</sup> December 2008

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