

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 1st November 2010 in the village hall

Present:

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

In attendance:

Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), Stephen Trinder (Village Hall and Parish Plan Committee)

51. Apologies for absence

Cllr Vincent Aldridge

52. Declarations of interest

None

53. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of 6th September 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record

54. Matters arising

None.

55. Public forum

No questions from members of the public

56. Community Sports Field

Cllr Oppenheimer thanked Cllr Austin, Cllr Butterworth, County Cllr Dave Sexon, Stephen Trinder (parish plan chairman), District Cllr Slatter and Neil King for their valuable contributions to the project.

A meeting was held with Cllr Butterworth, Cllr Oppenheimer, Cllr Austin and Stephen Trinder to plan the next phases of the project. Agreed on three phases:

- a) The Planning application and Certificate of Lawfulness application (complete)
- b) Acquiring the freehold of the land (including the Section 106 and conveyance of the land), building the car park and constructing the football pitch in preparation for future use

- c) The running of the community sports field by a sub-committee by the Parish Council

Funding will be required for all three phases of the Project. Funding for the initial phase has been shared by the Parish Council and the Whitelock family and has cost in the region of £20,000 (£10,000 each). This funding includes the Section 106. The second phase will involve Grant applications for the car park and Football pitch. The Parish Council will pay the Solicitors fees for Conveyance of the land.

The official name of the Sports Field will be decided at a later date.

57. Toll Bridge

Geoff Weir (Whitchurch Bridge Company secretary) explained that the briefing paper is on the Bridge Company website. He confirmed that the planning application for the re-build will be submitted in early December. He offered to answer any questions about the bridge.

The parish council expressed concerns over two foreseeable problems: the feasibility of a temporary footbridge and the generation of excessive parking. Geoff replied that he will work with local authorities to address these problems.

County Cllr Sexon explained that he will attend all Highways meetings on this matter and report back to the parish council.

58. District Councillor Report

None

59. County Councillor Report

Oxfordshire County Council have been subject to huge cuts by central Government. There will be massive saving reductions on all services; however the council will try to maintain services for children and the elderly. Areas such as Youth Services will have to rely on volunteers more. There will be subsequent meetings to discuss and decide on budget cuts in detail. The biggest spending cut will be made in 2011.

Cllr Sexon told the council that the area steward is responsible for Highway matters can be contacted.

He also confirmed that the public are allowed to clear snow themselves.

60. Planning

Application number	Location	Details	Decision
P10/E1602	Elm Cottage Hartslock Bridle RG8 7QX	Demolition of existing barn and erection of new	No objection

		smaller barn.	
P10/E1552	Whitchurch House High Street RG8 7EP	Erection of sunroom to rear elevation.	Concerns about the proposed development being too high and out of proportion. Further investigations required, especially as the building is Grade 2 listed.

Decisions

Eastfield House, Eastfield Lane:

Although the planning application were awarded conservation area consent, planning permission was refused. It was refused on the grounds of over-development and would overlook neighbouring properties, and would also damage protected lime trees.

61. Environmental Matters

None

62. Traffic and road matters

Discussion about the proposed scheme to improve pedestrian conditions along the narrows at the Ferry Boat Inn.

Roads & Traffic Group have produced a paper detailing the need for the improvement of the safety of pedestrians on the dangerous approaches at each end of the bridge as well as on the bridge itself. All in agreement that the bridge re-build is an ideal time for this. Geoff Weir responded that it is too late to consider this in the planning application. Parish council agreed that it is a shame as this means the village may be stuck with a dangerous pavement for a considerable time.

63. Village Hall matters

Agreed to instruct Wilsher Plumbing & Heating to supply and fit new sanitary in the village hall, to the sum of £ 2000 + VAT.

64. Financial matters

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
Sarah Butterworth	Bulletin printing	£367.00
DP Architects	Outstanding fee balance	£1318.49

BDO Hayward	Audit fee	£399.50
J Wheeler	Net salary	£610.22
HMRC	Tax & NI for parish clerk	£381.36
SODC	Application for village information board	£47.50
Royal British Legion	Donation	£50.00

65. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

DRAFT

Signed:

Date: