

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 7th November 2011 in the Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth (chairman), Cllr Vincent Aldridge, Cllr. Nigel Grove, Cllr. Lindsay Austin, Cllr. Jim Donahue

In attendance:

Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), Jenny Welham (new parish clerk) District Councillor Pearl Slatter, County Councillor Dave Sexon, Stephen Trinder VHMC, John Southey & Richard Wingfield (Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group).

1. Welcome the new Parish Clerk Jenny Welham.

Chairman Harry Butterworth welcomed Jenny as the new clerk taking over from Jo. The transition will be over the next few months.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr. K. Brooks, Cllr. M Oppenheimer.

3. Declarations of interest

Councillors are 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.

None.

4. Police matters

PCSO Mark Bell advised of personnel changes, Colin Boyd has replaced Michael Rawnsley as PCSO for this area. The vulnerable list of resident is being worked on now in anticipation for the cold winter months, Mark requested councillors to advise him of names if they know residents who are vulnerable and they will be paid a visit during any bad weather.

There are people known as "Nottingham Knockers" visiting houses in the area trying to sell various items, they are required to hold a pedal license to sell items at residents doors, there has been an incident of theft from a ladies purse, so be aware and report any suspicious people to Mark. Other actions are, Mark is in the process of updating the Neighbour Hood Watch list, the PCSO's now also have a police patrol car kept at Woodcote.

5. Agree and sign minutes of previous meeting

Signed as a true record of the Meeting 5th September 2011.

6. Matters arising from the previous minutes - NONE.

7. Public Forum

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council on matters of concern.
None present.

8. Planning matters

New planning applications and decisions.

Cllr. Alldridge advised that Mr. Vincent has withdrawn his planning application.
Eastfield House, a further 2nd application is expected.

9. Village development plan

The Chairman expressed that it is important that the village has a future development plan.
District Council Pearl Slater stressed that this will be vital going forward so the village is involved in any potential future development proposals. It is hoped that Whitchurch Pc can leverage from any experience from Woodcote Pc who are a front runner for developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

10. District Councillor report

DC Pearl Slater reported that she and the other DC had worked hard to defer the grant for Whitchurch Community Field until ownership is finalised.

The planning committee meet on Wed 16th November, the Whitchurch Bridge application with be discussed, it is vital that a member of the PC registered to speak on this application. It is hoped that a member from Woodcote will also attend and other neighbouring parishes. The reason is to request that the Traffic Management Plan has to be a condition of the planning if it is approved.

11. County Councillor report

CC Dave Sexon reported that OCC has the overall responsibility regarding the Bridge whether it is closed or rebuilt, so ultimately OCC would prefer that the bridge is replaced and that Whitchurch Bridge Company carry out the work. The survey report does not consider bus services, parking or emergency services. The traffic figures produced do not have data to support them. The OCC traffic survey is flawed DC Dave Sexon together with and West Berkshire DC feel that the OCC traffic survey is flawed and have raised this, however the decision is not to carry out a further survey, but he is continuing to fight this.

The consultation on library closures goes to cabinet on 12th December, there could be changes to how the cuts are spread across the 43 libraries in the County.

DC Sexon asked if Whitchurch had made arrangements for their salt bag, this has been done. The Snow days had not been attended but the feedback was that they were disappointing.

He now has a small Locality fund for highway issues within his Parishes, the allocation is £18.5K for the next 15 months. There will be funding for major works, however 50 areas have already been proposed and Eastfield Road just missed the list. Hardwick Road proposals were raised, Dave requested that TAPAG produce a list of required works be sent to him.

Lastly he mentioned that the amount of fireworks this year seemed to have increased.

12. Village Green update

Cllr. Austin reported that the Committee has met again and they are starting to look at fund raising. There will something on the website by the end of January 2012.

13. Environmental Committee Update

None as Cllr. Brooks absent.

14. Sustainability & allotment report

Cllr. Donohue had had a meeting with the allotment committee AC. There are 41 plots and approximately half of the plots are kept by Whitchurch residents, others are kept by residents of neighbouring parishes. There are 5 plot holders who have two or more plots. The AC do have a constitution but appear fairly relaxed about the rules. 50% of the land is recreational maze area. The plots are currently £14 per year, with a goal to increase the fee paid by NSLAG to the PC from 25% of the annual fee to 50% over the next year. The AC currently pay for the maintenance, figures were not available.

Cllr. Donahue has a draft agreement, the responsibilities between the AC and the Parish Council are not clear. The Clerk – Jenny will send a copy of the Woodcote Allotment agreement to Cllr. Donahue for reference.

John Southey gave an update on Electric supply, requesting that the PC write to Southern Electric re the overhead supply cable between the two transformers near the school, requesting that this be placed underground. The area needs maintenance as trees are overhanging the cable, and trees could come down onto the cable. There are also some major specimen trees so SODC Forestry will need to be contacted. Southern Electric have a maintenance plan but there is no clear agreement. The work would need to be done during the December school holidays.

15. Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group update

Cllr Donahue has been working with the Whitchurch on Thames Habitat Study Group. They agreed that the verges on Hardwick Road need some work. A footpath is required on the south side and the passing places need some improvement. Cllr Donahue will look into funding options.

All the roads and pavements in the village have been inspected and entered onto a spreadsheet, this in the OCC format so that a number can be obtained for each one.

OCC have resurfaced and put in white lines at the Lower Narrows.

The gas contractors have caused some damage, they need to continue to be pressed to make good this damage.

16. Village Hall Management Committee update

In the past there have been problems with booking dates, the new clerk was advised to ensure that Ed Pilcher is kept advised of all booking requirements.

17. Finance – invoices for payment and payments received

Standing Order letter to the Bank for the New Clerk's salary payments was approved and signed. Working from Home allowance agreed at £40 per month.

Mandate forms for CCLA Investment Funds, removal of Jo Wheeler, and addition of Jenny Welham Clerk, Lindsay Austin Councillor were agreed.

It was agreed to change the Council's Bank Account from National Westminster to Lloyds TSB on the recommendation of the new clerk and the current clerk as Nat West are difficult to deal with for Mandates and changes.

The following payments were approved.

01/10/2011	SO	J Wheeler	Monthly salary	£385.00
01/10/2011	SO	HMRC	Monthly tax & NI	£77.00
01/11/2011	SO	J Wheeler	Monthly salary	£385.00
01/11/2011	SO	HMRC	Monthly tax & NI	£77.00
07/11/2011	1514	J Wheeler	Tax overpayment 2010/11	£171.18
07/11/2011	1515	BDO Hayward	External audit	£372.00
07/11/2011	1516	South Oxfordshire District Council	Election fees	£100.00
07/11/2011	1517	S Butterworth	Bulletin printing	£367.00
01/12/2011	SO	J Welham	Nov salary	£332.80

18. Close of meeting & Note Date of Next Meeting

Note date of next meeting Monday 5th December 2011 – Budget meeting for next Financial Year.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

