

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 14th September 2009 in the village hall

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth (chairman), Cllr Vincent Aldridge (vice chairman), Cllr Nigel Grove, Cllr Elizabeth Robinson, Cllr Keith Brooks, Cllr Lindsay Austin

In attendance:

Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), District Cllr Ann Ducker, County Cllr Dave Sexon, three parishioners, Geoff Weir

37. Apologies for absence

Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer and District Cllr Pearl Slatter

38. Declarations of interest

None

39. Public forum

Geoff Weir presented the planning application for Wells House. He claimed that the new application differs from the original because the design has been revised, based on recommended changes.

As Councillor Ducker needed to attend another meeting, with the approval of the Parish Council, the discussion relating to this application was brought forward (minute reference 43).

District Councillor Ann Ducker commented that she had checked with the planning officer who considers that there are no grounds for refusal due to back land or access reasons. It is the design and size of the proposed development that needs to be debated.

As part of the public forum one resident expressed concerns over the Eastfield House development. The parish council agreed that they can't discuss the planning application until it has been submitted, but invited the resident back to the relevant Parish Council meeting to express views within the public forum.

40. District Councillor Report

Ann Ducker told the council that District Councillor Pearl Slatter is recovering from a knee operation and won't be able to attend meetings for a few months.

She reported that the new waste collection has been successful, with 70% of household waste being collected for recycling.

41. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of the 6th July 2009 meeting signed as a true record.

42. Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Robinson mentioned Julian Rose's allotment plots. The council noted that these plots could also be used by parishioners.

Another burglary in Hardwick Road has been reported. Cllr Brooks advised that he has set up a Neighbourhood Watch in Hardwick Road. Geoff Weir confirmed that is going to arrange a meeting with other Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators.

43. Planning

Presented by Cllr Robinson:

Reference	Location	Description	Parish council decision
P09/E0685/LB	The Old Rectory High Street	Two flue pipes to run out through exterior wall to side elevation of 1960's extension.	No strong views
P09/E0918	Land at Wells House,	Erection of detached two storey three	The Parish Council discussed whether any building of any sort on this site was acceptable

	Eastfield Lane	bedroom dwelling and garage. (Resubmission of planning permission P09/E0166).	and concluded that it was. Although the Council still considers the building to be significantly too large for the plot, there is no other contravention of the Village Plan requirement of suitability for its environment. The Council concluded that on this occasion the only possible outcome of the discussion was no strong views.
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44. Toll Bridge update

Geoff Weir advised the council that the Minister is still deciding on the outcome. Once the outcome of the Public Inquiry is decided more information will be published by the Parish Council.

45. Cricket ground update

Report that Cllr Oppenheimer is progressing with the planning application to turn the cricket field into a public amenity. She is still in discussions with the Cricket Club, the Whitelock Family and South Oxfordshire District Council. All decided that the parish council couldn't fund the ongoing maintenance of the cricket ground from the parish precept.

46. Village website

The new village website is taking shape and the chairman thanked everyone that has been involved.

47. Environmental Matters

Cllr Brooks has arranged a meeting with a waste officer from South Oxfordshire District Council to discuss the bins along the High Street. He has also met with an officer from Oxfordshire County Council to discuss replacing lighting along the High Street. Costing for new lighting and

benches will be reported at the next meeting. A full report from the Environmental Committee will be published in the Bulletin.

48. Traffic and road matters

Police Community Support Officer Mark Bell has confirmed that he will issue notices on offending vehicles parked on Hardwick Road.

The 7.5 tonne weight limit through the village will be enforceable once the consultation by Oxfordshire County Council has ended. Cllr Butterworth reminded everyone that taking photos of vehicles in excess of the weight limit will help to successfully prosecute offenders. A full report from the Traffic & Highways Committee will be published in the Bulletin.

49. Village Hall matters

Cllr Grove advised the council that all invoices have been paid towards the village hall improvements. The next major job is to clear out cupboards and space under the stage. Feedback from hall users has been positive. The trees around the village hall require cutting back. This will be arranged by South Oxfordshire District Council.

50. County Councillor Report

County Councillor, Dave Sexon told the council that Oxfordshire County Council no longer has a budget for clearing weeds and that evidence shows that weeds do not damage the structure of the highway.

He reported on the 20mph speed limit on Pangbourne and said that a "30" sign just before the Bridge might generate a cork-from-the-bottle effect.

51. Finance

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
Sarah Butterworth	Bulletin printing	£367.00
J Wheeler	Salary	£784.00

Sarah Butterworth	Bulletin quiz sheets	£30.00
O'Sullivan	Playground painting	£980.00
R. Wingfield	Website promotional expenses	£15.70

Payments in between meetings:

Payee	Description	Amount
Chiltern Surveys Ltd	Cricket field survey	£948.75

52. Other items

A number of parishioners arrived towards the end of the meeting to express concerns and objections to the Wells House planning application. These views were noted. The Parish Council told the parishioners that it looks at comments from objectors as part of the decision making process.

53. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 10pm.

The next meeting is on Monday 2nd November.

Signed:

Dated: