

Whitchurch on Thames Village Plan Steering Committee
Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 5th December 2018 Whitchurch House

Attendees:

- Cllr Jim Donahue
- Cllr Rachel Hatcher
- John Bradon - Chair
- Will Barclay

Apologies:

- Cllr Sarah Hanfrey
- Laura Lucas
- Leslie Prater

We agreed the Minutes from the meeting of 7th November 2018.

John and Jim had met to agree an outline structure for the Village Plan document and the meeting was structured as a run through of the key points in each sections.

1 Introduction

The introduction explains how the villager plan was set up, consultation meetings. It will highlight the following key points: Actions to improve traffic and parking, replacement pavilion, upgrade to village hall, plans for open spaces (overview). We will also include a "What Can I do" section including volunteering and donating.

1.1 Open Spaces

1.2 Preparation for Conservation Area Assessment

It is the OCC responsibility to develop a Conservation Area Assessment for Whitchurch. However, a good first step to write down a list of buildings and other features worthy of conservation (walls, etc.) as community input. Laura, Sarah, John and Peter Hawley will put some initial material together which the Village Plan will summarise,

1.3 River access

Actions: John to send letter on Sheepwash Lane to the Hardwick Estate. Also follow up other opportunity.

1.4 Drainage

We were pleased that the full clean of all the drains took place pretty much as scheduled and that leaves have been cleaned away at the same time which should extend the time until they get blocked again. Action: John to email Matthew Beasley of the Highways to pass to thanks and say we might have put cones out to keep cars from parking preventing

access, if we knew when the clean would take place. Include Soakaway on Whitchurch Hill.

Will recommend that someone takes on coordinating drains and flooding. Action: John to find out about previous work on flooding from John Southey.

1.5 Pavements

Muddy Lane needs some leaf-clearance. John to organise.

Jim has had quotes for resurfacing pavements. (This is included in the costed actions spreadsheet sent out with these minutes).

1.6 Community emergency plan

A draft plan has been written. Two people volunteered to help and their names have been added.

A further meeting of the team (Sarah, Keith, Dave Bowen Geoff, John) who wrote the plan is to be arranged with the aim of getting a version of the plan for review in our next meeting (Jim to add to agenda). The plan lists 8 actions which need to be completed soon including applying for a grant to set up the Village Hall as the Refuge Centre (e.g. installing broadband), training to use the village defibrillator, and setting up a telephone tree with wardens to check on vulnerable neighbours.

The Village Plan should say that the Emergency plan is to be reviewed and updated annually (as OCC request to keep the plan valid). We discussed whether it was better for the PC to do this or whether to have another group. Action: John to find out if those involved want to continue to meet annually.

1.7 Village Green

Action: John to try and find out what younger people want.

2 TAPAG

BP/Castrol may provide some help with engaging a Consultant and Diana Smith is waiting for them to confirm. In the meantime, the work has been split into stages and PC has agreed to fund some work by Laura Fitzgerald a suitable transport consultant on Stage 1 which is to begin to design parking bays to avoid the road being blocked by traffic.

A request for funding for Stage 2 is on the January PC meeting agenda.

Stage 2 will involve surveys (including parking) and will make recommendations.

Different options will be shown on a map (Laura is investigating the cost of an Ordnance Survey map).

3 Community Buildings

3.1 Village Hall

The Village Hall is being painted internally today. (With help from Keith and Sarah)

Jean-Marc has already given us his prioritised plan for the Village Hall. The Parish Council who agreed an additional £2,000 of funding and agreed that a joint application for Capital Award Funding covering both the Hall and the Pavilion could be submitted. The next grant submission will not be until June 2019. This will obviously affect the timing of work on both the Hall and the Pavilion.

3.2 Pavilion

Neil Huntington has the project in hand (with support from Keith and Sarah). We await approval of the plans submitted in October.

Replacing the pavilion will be a top priority in the Village Plan. The cost will be the biggest financial challenge for the village in a long time and every source of funding will need to be considered.

Everyone (including potential donors) will want to see a business plan including estimates of building costs and operating costs. At some point, the Cricket Club need to be approached about this. Action: Jim to circulate agreement with the Cricket Club.

4 Community

John will contact Jean-Mark/Keith regarding arranging community lunch at the Village Hall.

5 Next Steps & Next Meeting

Rachael suggested reviewing each section in detail with each team to make the editing more manageable.

Thanked Will for hosting the meeting.

John will start typing up the draft and Jim agreed to provide photographs for it.

John and Jim will continue to work on an outline financial plan to help the PC prioritise future expenditure.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th February at John's house: Rylands, Hardwick Road.