

Whitchurch on Thames Village Plan Steering Committee

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 7th November 2018

Attendees:

- John Bradon - Chair
- Cllr Sarah Hanfrey
- Will Barclay
- Cllr Jim Donahue
- Laura Lucas- reporter

Apologies

- Leslie Prater
- Leslie Maynerd
- Cllr Rachel Hatcher

The meeting opened at 8.12pm at Sarah Hanfrey's house: Hannigton.

We agreed the Minutes from the meeting of 3rd October 2018.

1 Open Spaces

1.1 River access

Miriam Rose has asked for the Committee to write down any proposals and/or questions they have regarding access from Sheepwash Lane. John has sent Jim a draft letter to ask for comments before sending it on.

John Southey now has land with river frontage just behind Thamesbank so he could also be approached. (Action John B)

Laura & Bill suggested that gaining river access is contentious as people from elsewhere may start parking in the village in order to use it.

1.2 Drainage

Matthew Beasley of the Highways had been in touch to say that a full clean of all the drains is scheduled for about the end of October and Robin MCCaw and John are going to follow up. Someone needs to be appointed to regularly liaise with the Council. The Village Plan should recommend that that role be established.

Regarding the exacerbation of the issue by the autumn leaves: Muddy Lane and Hardwick Road need some leaf-clearance. Sarah will ask Rachel Hatcher to organise a working party to bag the leaves up. Can the leaves then be collected by Biffa? Someone should call the Council to ask for leaf-clearance at peak times, perhaps the same person appointed to report on drains.

1.3 Community emergency plan

Training has taken place and a meeting is set up to develop a draft plan for approval of the Parish Council.

It's suggested that the Village Hall be used as the Refuge Centre and, as such, it can receive a grant of perhaps £2,000. Will suggested that it could be used to install Broadband. Will also mentioned that more people may want to be trained to use the village defibrillator.

Filling in the risk assessment will require knowledge of any particular villagers with useful assets, such as 4 x 4 vehicles, or any particular skills, such as First Aid. A telephone tree and road wardens to check on vulnerable neighbours were both suggested.

The Village Plan should say that the Emergency plan is to be reviewed and updated annually (as OCC request to keep the plan valid). It is suggested the PC does this.

1.4 Maintenance and Development of Open Spaces

John met with Sally Woolhouse and Gill Goodwin about making a more consistent and complete plan for the village open spaces. Specifics aren't to be included in the Village Plan but the Village Plan should say who is responsible for each area.

1.5 Pavements

Butler & Proctor and others(?) are quoting for the resurfacing of pavements along various roads within the village and to also quote on raising the kerb outside the Ferryboat at the Lower Narrows.

1.6 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,

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Will Barclay said that parking remains a burning issue for the villagers.

Rachel will ask the PC to fund a preliminary, detailed plan of the High Street at a cost of about £100, this will give some idea of what the project will involve. Rachel will also ask for an, in principle, agreement for the PC to fund a consultant to put their full recommendations together and liaise with OCC/SODC/Highways/Police. It is possible that BP/Castrol will agree to provide this Consultant free of charge and Diana Smith is waiting for them to confirm. Will has quotes from two other Consultants in case BP can't carry it out in a timely manner.

2 Community Buildings

2.1 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.

2.2 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).

3 Community

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

4 Other Business & Next Meeting

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

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 5th December at Will's house: 1 Whitchurch House.

Meeting was closed at 9.36pm.