

Whitchurch on Thames Village Plan Steering Committee

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 3rd October 2018

Attendees:

- John Bradon - Chair
- Leslie Prater
- Cllr Sarah Hanfrey (last 30 minutes)
- Keith Brooks

Apologies

- Cllr Jim Donahue
- Leslie Maynerd
- Will Barclay
- Cllr Rachel Hatcher - reporter

We reviewed the Minutes from the meeting of 5th September 2018, which had been emailed out and agreed previously.

Open Spaces

There were a couple of specific actions:

- River Access. Jim has contacted one owner of a section of bank without success, however conversations continue. The Hardwick Estate have asked us to write down some suggestions of what we want. Action: Jim and John to draft.
- Drainage: JB has surveyed Eastfield Lane High Street, Hardwick Road and Swanson Field. 22 drains are blocked (about one third of the total). These were logged on Fix My Street and Matthew Beasley of the Highways has been in touch to say that a full clean of all the drains is scheduled for about the end of October. Action: JB to follow up and also speak to Robin McCaw about drainage (Action carried over).

Now that SJH has also attended the village emergency plan training session we arrange a session to create a plan using the template. This draft can be taken to the Parish Council for review and approval. We suggested the following group: Sarah Hanfrey, Tim Suiter, Leslie Prater, Keith Brooks, Dave Bowen and Geoff Weir. Action: JB to arrange session.

The issue of having a Conservation Area Assessment for Whitchurch. Action: John to invite Laura Lucas to next Open Spaces Working Group or Steering Group meeting.

TAPAG

Previous actions were:

- Action - WB to ask consultants to review our status and current ideas
- Action - RH to send upper narrows document out
- Action - JD - waiting on quote for pavement resurfacing

Village Hall & Pavilion

Village Hall

In the previous meeting Jean-Marc had given us his plan for the Village Hall. A draft of how all three community buildings (the Hall, Pavilion and Old Stables) complement each other had also been written. At the PC meeting, of 11th Sept this information was briefly presented to the Parish Council who agreed an additional £2,000 of funding and that a joint application for Capital Award Funding covering both the Hall and the Pavilion could be submitted.

Jean Marc and Keith had met Kathy Deacon of SODC to discuss the capital grant. (Note: This was a follow-up meeting after Tessa Hall of Community First)

- Submission of the grant needs to be by the PC as owner of the hall.
- Due to council elections in April/May next year, 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.

Jean-Marc and Keith are trying to reconstitute the Village Hall Management Committee.

Pavilion

Neil Huntingdon has got the final plans submitted for Planning approval. The next steps include working out the costs both of construction and ongoing maintenance. Then it will be possible to work out what funding is needed both initially and then per year of operation.

We discussed the uses of the pavilion. The planning application just states: "It is anticipated that the new Pavilion will be used by: Cricket Clubs, School Sports Days, Pilates and Yoga Groups, Youth Groups, Football Clubs". We do also anticipate it could support other village-wide activities on the Village Green like the fete or the recent outdoor cinema. However the open area inside measures 5x6m so the inside capacity will be low. The point was made that allowing wider uses will encourage a wider group in the village to see value in contributing but also that some might want to see late night usage restricted.

If the pavilion is made available to book private events it would be good to have some clarity on possible times available, consistent charging between the three community buildings and, possibly, a single online booking system.

The Parish Council should consider the ongoing funding for both the pavilion and the village hall.

Community

JB and SJH had met Claire Alcock and Sue Matthews. The idea of having a community meal was discussed. Some people had suggested more support for older residents and Sue reminded us that the Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre covers Whitchurch. We should publicise this.

We also mentioned the emergency plan and agreed to consider the church. We will continue to talk to Claire and Sue about these points and the village plan generally.

Next date for meeting. Wednesday 7th November. 8:00pm. Sarah's House.