

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in ‘The Old Stables’, Tuesday 9th January 2018, commencing at 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Keith Brooks
Vice-Chairman	Jim Donahue
Councillors	Dave Bowen
	Sarah Hanfrey
	Rachel Hatcher
	Denise Huxtable
Clerk	Felipa House

Public:

Chris Martin, Richard Wingfield, Lawrie Gatherum, Warren Beard, Rob Simister.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Carrie Leadbeater-Hart & Cllr. Bulmer. Cllr. Leadbeater-Hart is taking a leave of absence until February due to work commitments but continues to be included in all Council correspondence.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr. Leadbeater-Hart mentioned by email that she could not comment on planning application P17/S3578/HH, Prospect House, High Street, as she had prepared the flood risk assessment.

3. Public forum Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council. With the permission of the Chairman, the public may also speak about specific items of business as they arise.

Chris Martin mentioned that at the last art exhibition held in the village hall it had been noted that the artwork displayed had been there for some time &, as some refurbishment is about to take place, it had been suggested that her prints might be a suitable replacement. She had brought along some examples to show the Council, which cost £55-£70 each. It was also suggested that some photos from a local photographer could be displayed, as well as artwork by other local artists. Cllr. Brooks will raise this with the village hall committee.

Warren Beard & Lawrie Gatherum spoke about the planning application for ‘Prospect House’. Warren is still liaising with the owners of the adjoining property ‘Mayflower’, who have submitted a lengthy opposition to the plans. They are concerned about the trees on their land & the proximity of the new, much bigger structure to their boundary. Warren mentioned that most of the structure would be of oak so significant foundations would not be needed & these could be adapted to minimise/avoid damage to the tree roots. Lawrie Gatherum, who drew up the plans, has been in correspondence with SODC, who have made some amended proposals & requested an arboriculture report. Lawrie stated that the new building would be about 1.2 – 1.5m taller & slightly further away from the road than it is currently.

Lawrie also spoke about the plans for ‘Ash Court’, explaining that there were some parking options available which could mitigate concerns raised about parking & turning in this area, especially with the High Street’s current traffic issues. The owner of the adjoining property, ‘Racquets’, is not in favour as she feels that the proposed dwelling would overlook her property.

4. Agree minutes of Parish Council meeting 12th December 2017

These were approved as a true record.

5. District councillor's report

Cllr. Simister mentioned various planning items, including SODC's ongoing work regarding land supply & its involvement in judicial reviews to support local Neighbourhood Plans & planning regulations.

Cllr. Brooks asked whether Cllr. Simister would be able to help the Council with funding for the new pavilion. Cllr. Simister has access to only a small amount of funding but will ask the Grants team to become involved once the application has been approved.

Cllr. Hatcher asked whether anything could be done regarding Eastfield House. Cllr. Simister stated that there was nothing to prevent the owners from leaving it in an increasing state of disrepair as it is their property. It is not possible to have the building listed.

6. County councillor's report

Cllr. Bulmer was not present.

7. Planning

P17/S3578/HH, Prospect House, High Street. Replacement of existing garage with new double-height oak-framed garage. Most councillors felt that the size of the building was out of keeping with the conservation area & that it would change the area's character & potentially set a precedent for the rest of the village. Cllrs. Hatcher & Donahue disagreed with the Council's intention to refuse the application, but the majority of councillors voted in favour of rejecting the application.

P17/S4302/HH, 'Cliff Cottage', Hardwick Road. Back extension to create a larger kitchen. The Council voted unanimously to submit 'No strong views'.

P17/S4397/FUL, Ash Court, High Street. Demolition of detached single garage to erect 3-bedroomed dwelling with integral garage. The consensus amongst the Council was that this was too much change within the conservation area, particularly as part of the brick & flint wall would be removed to create vehicular access. Ideally a new house would be smaller, more affordable & have better parking possibilities. The councillors voted unanimously to reject the application.

8. Finance Approve payments/note receipts

Monthly salary for the Clerk

Invoice from NSALG for annual allotment rental (previous payment went missing) (£408.74)

Invoice from Rialtas for annual accounting software maintenance (£139.20)

Payment to St. Mary's PCC for hire of 'The Old Stables' for 2018 PC meetings & village group meetings (£345.00).

Signatory access to the Council's bank account has now been updated.

9. Village green

Cllr. Brooks stated that a working party would take place on Thursday at 12.30pm to prune vegetation around 'Little Croft House'.

Cllr. Hanfrey has replied to queries from a local resident regarding 2017's grass cutting in the village & emphasised the importance of publicising the grass-cutting schedule.

10. Village green working group/pavilion

Cllr. Leadbeater-Hart will return for next month's meeting so it was agreed to postpone any discussion about the pavilion until then.

Cllr. Hanfrey mentioned that she would like to discuss a better & more transparent procedure for dealing with replies to consultations but would raise this at a future meeting.

11. TAPAG (Traffic and Parking Action Group)

There was no update.

12. Village hall refurbishment project

Cllr. Brooks has obtained 4 quotes for replacement windows & doors. He will pass these to the village hall committee for comment & pass on their recommendations to the Council at next month's meeting.

13. Village environment/maintenance

The Council voted unanimously to approve production of the 2 new village signs, including installation & disposal of the old signs. The Clerk will arrange.

The Clerk is still awaiting permission from SODC regarding the installation of a new fence at the Polish church site.

14. Village Plan

The next meeting of the Village Plan working group will take place in February.

15. Meeting dates for 2018

The Council voted to continue holding their meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 8pm in 'The Old Stables'.

16. Other matters for Chairman & PC to consider Items that arise that are not on this agenda but need discussion & to be proposed for a future agenda

Cllr. Brooks mentioned the idea of having a party on the village green in May to celebrate the Royal wedding.

17. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 8pm.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....