

Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Monday 6th July 2015 commencing 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Keith Brooks
Vice Chairman Jim Donahue
James Norman
Dave Bowen

District Cllr. Rob Simister
Clerk Ms. Jenny Welham

1. To receive apologies for absence

None.

2. Co-opt Three New Parish Council Members onto the Parish Council

Miss Caroline Hart (known as Carrie) Mr. Jonathan Steward, Mr. James Polansky.
The three new councillors were co-opted onto the Parish Council and joined the meeting.

3. To receive declarations of interest

None.

4. **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. Richard Wingfield who advised he is the editor for the Village Website and asked the new councillors to send him a small profile and photograph so it can be put up on the website. John Southey and partner to speak on planning application.

5. Agree Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting 1st June 2015, Extraordinary Meeting 11th June 2015, and Minutes of Annual Village Assembly 19th May 2015.
Approved as a true record.

6. District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Simister reported,

There are training days being held for Community Lead Plans for villages who wish to create their Plan or update their existing Plan. There is one on Wednesday 15th July at Steventon Village.

SODC will be asking for feedback on their homeless strategy which closes 14th July. He will email the link to councillors.

There is to be a change of relief on sports clubs introduced by HMRC this could affect clubs that are currently paying rates.

Didcot Academy are running courses on Education/Food Training and Volunteering, he will send the details to councillors.

SODC have received good feedback from the public on how they managed the recovery of business after the fire destroyed their council premises. 78% reported they were satisfied. Their new premises at Milton Park will hold an open event at the site on 14th July, details to follow.

7. Planning.

P15/S2000/FUL (Full Application) Application Type (see definition over): Minor Proposal: Variation of condition 1 of planning permission P92/S0270.
Address: The Summerhouse High Street Whitchurch on Thames RG8 7DB

The Chairman had visited the site with Cllr. Bowen and inspected the access which has right of access over 7 other residences. Four for vehicle access and 3 pedestrian. John Southey has strong objections as this will mean more people walking across the access, possible late at night and at all different times of the day if the variation is granted to let the property for "holiday lets" which means overnight sleeping. This will invade further the privacy of the residents of the 7 properties.

All agreed to recommend Refusal, the Chairman to write up the planning reasons and send to the Clerk to reply to SODC.

P15/S1914/FUL (Full Application)

Application Type (see definition over): Minor Proposal: Removal of condition 5 (additional car parking) of application P13/S2840/FUL and removal of condition 6 (restriction of use at weekends) of planning permission P95/S0561.
Address: Lubricants UK Ltd Technology Centre Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR

No Strong Views.

8. Finance – Approve Payments/note receipts.

No new payments for Approval.

Noted no new receipts.

8.1 Update Bank Mandate – remove signatures and add new signatures.

The Clerk passed the Bank Mandate around so the new councillors could add their signatures. Old signatures will also be removed. Clerk to send off now all details are complete.

9. Village Green – report

Cllr. Donahue reported on the first meeting of the working group main points were, The Terms of Reference are yet to be finalised.

They will propose a charter for how the Village Green is used by the various clubs.

Looking at costs and possible charges for use.

The new Pavilion project will need fund raising and some ideas for the Village Fete are already being looked into.

It is recommended that a member from WOTHABS is also on the Village Green working Group.

They will likely include the Maze area in their remit.

The VG bookings calendar that is published on the website to be printed and posted up at the Village Green. Council to look into a notice board being purchased and installed at the front of the VG car park for this notice and other relevant notices relating to the VG.

An activities committee is suggested to look at events for the VG such as rounders, fitness circuit, building a bar-b-que, to be run by residents.

Recommend some activities for teenagers, such as a basket ball hoop, skate / bike ramp, ideas are being looked at.

Target SODC Community Grants for funds for the Pavilion project next year as it is too late for this year, Planning permission has to be in place prior to applying and also the PC have to show that they can match funds as the grant will only be up to a maximum of 60% of the costs.

Cllr. Steward has seen a low cost pavilion type building in another village and said it was very good and recommended it. Pavilion project to be looked into by Councillors Hart, Steward and Norman.

The Football pitch needs maintenance at the goal mouths as all the grass is worn away. This is being worked on by Cllr. Steward who will re seed the area and the goal posts will be temporarily moved. Astro turf is a possibility and needs to be investigated.

A single goal “kick about” area was suggested to alleviate pressure on the ground to the existing pitch goals.

Access across the grass crete is difficult for disabled users, suggested a pathway be made to help this for wheelchairs, and frames.

Costs have reduced over the last 2 years on maintenance of the VG, this could be further reduced by looking at the cost of the grass cutting, this needs to be looked at.

Cllr Donahue requested details of the amount the precept was increased when the VG first legally came in the ownership of the PC. Clerk to advise.

10. Residents Issues List – review/update.

Cllr. Donahue reported.

Bridge issues mostly resolved.

Parking and Traffic issues he suggested that Tapag takes action of these and progress the issues. Richard Wingfield advised that TAPAG has almost stopped functioning however he will continue and Cllrs. Hart and Polansky to join him in looking into the Traffic and Parking issues on the list and any new ones added.

Cllr. Steward reported some issues for Manor Rd, the bungalow residents have trouble at night as it is so dark and they have trouble navigating the steps. Cllr. Steward to paint the steps and also suggested he purchased solar lights to install on the garages. This was agreed.

11. Village Environment/Maintenance

Ash Trees in Manor Road - review feedback from SODC.

The Chairman has spoken to the Tree Officer as had the Clerk who had the written report. The trees had been inspected and SODC agreed that they could be coppiced to a certain height.

The Chairman felt that this work should be –paid for by the resident who had raised the issue as it had been indicated at the time that he was prepared to pay. Clerk to advise him he can go ahead with the work to be carried out by one of the tree surgeons on the SODC recommended list.

12. Other Matters for Chairman & PC to Consider. – Items that arise that are not on this Agenda but need discussion and to be proposed of not for a future Agenda.

The Chairman raised the issue of the 143 Bus possibly being discontinued as the subsidies are being cut. He suggested that the PC look into this and the possibility of joining with other Parishes to come together to try to fund the subsidy.

He advised that the defib is up and running. More first responders need to be identified. Cllr Steward would like to received training and be a responder. It was suggested that the details be put into the Bulletin.

Cllr. Donahue is talking to Sally Woolhouse about possibly taking on the Bulletin, Cllr. Steward said he would help.

Cllr. Hart requested that Street Sweeping be carried out. The Clerk to request this.

Cllr. Donahue suggested that the new councillors need to have some training. The Clerk advised that there is a course on 29th July covering Roles and Responsibilities at Didcot Town Hall run by OALC.

He felt that was too soon and suggested the Autumn for training and would like it to be arranged for the Council in the village hall one evening like the Clerk had arranged before. The Clerk advised that this is very expensive (the cost last time was over £400) and that by attending the courses it was a good opportunity for the Councillors to meet other Councillors in the District.

The cost of courses by OALC for member councils which Whitchurch is around £40 per head for each delegate significantly less expensive.

There was some reluctance from councillors to go to training which is held at various locations around the South of Oxford.

13. Note date of next meeting which will be the Monday 10th August 2015.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....Chairman/Date.....