

# WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Parish Meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 13th May 2013 at the Village Hall.

## **Present:**

Cllr Harry Butterworth Chairman, Lindsay Austin, Cllr. Lindsay Austin, Cllr. Harvey Ainley, Jenny Welham Parish Clerk.

In Attendance – Stephen Trinder. Chairman Village Hall Committee.

The Clerk opened the meeting, no nominations had been received for Chairman from other Councillors, the Clerk asked the Council to propose their Chairman. Cllr. Austin proposed the existing Chair Cllr. Butterworth and Cllr. Ainley seconded.

The Chairman then took the meeting,

## **1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr. Keith Brooks Vice Chairman, Cllr. Jim Donahue, Cllr. Nigel Grove, District Cllr. Pearl Slater, Not present Cllr. Vincent Aldridge.

## **2. Declarations of interest.**

Councillors are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

None.

## **3. Public Forum – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council.**

None.

## **4. Agree Minutes of PC Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013.**

Approved.

## **5. County Councillor Report.**

The new elected County Councillor is Mr. Keith Bulmer, the Clerk to contact for future meetings.

## **6. District Councillor Report.**

Cllr. Slater had sent apologies.

## **7. Traffic & Pavements Group – report & update.**

Richard Wingfield was absent.

Cllr. Austin advised that finally the white line had been painted on the highway along by the dropped kerb in the High Street.

## **8. Village Hall Report**

Stephen Trinder reported,

The Village Hall Annual accounts had been lodged with the Charity Commission.

Cllr. Nigel Grove has asked to stand down as Treasurer so another Treasurer will need to be found.

Ed Pilcher the hall manager has been unwell, his son in law and wife are carrying out the cleaning of the hall. It is possible that Ed maybe able to carry out some administration work.

## **9. Planning**

No new applications.

## 10. Village Green Committee

Cllr. Austin has not been present due to maternity absence Cllr. Brooks and more recently Cllr. Ainley have been covering. The Green is now completed and all the works finished, the last remaining job to be carried out is the installation of the 4 benches. Cllr. Brooks is organising this and the work is due to be carried out in the next few weeks.

Cllr. Austin enquired if the Goring Lions had been in touch to present their plaque, the Clerk had advised them that their tree was now planted but had not heard back regarding a date.

Clerk to follow up.

## 11. Finance – Approve Payments **APPROVED.** To note receipts.

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
14/04/2013	K. Brooks	92	£40	Flower seed/Rake for VG
19/04/2013	K. Brooks	93	£15	Padlock for VG Gate
19/04/2013	Swiftclik	94	£23	Ink Cartridge
01/05/2013	Hazell & Jefferies	95	£186	Skip for V.Green
01/05/2013	J. Welham	SO	£419	April Salary
01/05/2013	HMRC	SO	£95	Tax April
13/05/2013	Broker Netwrok Ltd	96	£410	Annual Insurance
13/05/2013	Southern Electricity	97	£179	Pavilion elec bill

**Total** 1,366.98  
**Payments**

## To Note Receipts

<u>Date</u>	<u>Cash Received from</u>	<u>Receipt Description</u>	<u>Receipt Total</u>
02/04/2013	SODC	1st half precept	£12,527
06/04/2013	HMRC	Vat refund	£7,206
14/04/2013	Cricket Club	Water bill	£23
18/04/2013	SODC funds to precept		£796
18/04/2013	SODC precept adjustment		£1
26/04/2013	OCC street lamp		£1,540

**22,091.73**

## 11.1 Internal Audit Report – review

The Clerk had received the final internal audit report and there were no negative comments for action, the Parish Council had passed the internal audit. One recommendation was to review the financial regulations with a view to increasing the value before going out to tender. To be an agenda item for the future.

## 15. Environment Group Report

Cllr. Brooks report was presented by Cllr. Ainley

Most of the work so far this year has been centred around our new Village Green which is coming on in leaps and bounds. After the initial planting out of shrubs which was so well organised by Sally

Woolhouse who must be congratulated with her plans and installation of plants like a military manoeuvre and supervising all the willing helpers too many list but thank you one and all!

To add to this the scrubby bit of land on the right of the entrance to the car park was dug over and raked. All the debris was removed and the area levelled and planted with grass seed and compost it is now looking so much better. The wild flower seeds, which were scattered, will hopefully come up in the summer attracting bees and other pollinators.

The installation of the seats is due on the 14<sup>th</sup> June and I have been liaising with David Mattimoe from the Cricket Club with our proposed sightings, which we have modified on advice from him. The installation will cost £480.82.

The water bill for the Village Green came in at around £370, which seemed unusually high since it was over the winter but after reading the meter it dropped to around £30 which was a result! I did have to dig around and remove a layer of mud to get to it.

Other jobs were obtaining a lock for the gate to the Village Green to keep out unwanted visitors. This seems to work very well with the Cricket Club and Football Club both using the facilities without any problems gaining access. Peter Woolhouse and myself have done a lot of clearing up we filled a skip full of old fencing, mattresses, rusty fence parts, guttering. Also someone had dumped a load of tree cuttings, bushes and other green waste behind the cricket nets so we had a bonfire and got rid of that one afternoon. I bought my mower down and prepared one of the bench sites as well.

I must say something about the Chilterns Conservation Board since I attended their 4<sup>th</sup> annual seminar at Coleshill a beautiful village near Amersham. There were some really good presentations by experts on planning for the future of the Chilterns, which we are a part of and their Strategic Environmental Assessment for 2014-2019 which some of us may have read, is a terrific piece of work. I think here in Whitchurch on Thames we are doing our bit to keep the place looking nice and a joy to live in for both humans and wild life.

### **13. Sustainability and Allotment Report**

Main update since last month is that we are on track for a maze upgrade in June as we have sold over 100 bricks ( our minimum target) and have extended the deadline to may 19th to maximise sales to ensure we raise enough money for all the required upgrades

### **14. Other Matters for Chairman**

Cllr Austin advised that their house was sold and that she would be moving from the village possibly to Whitchurch Hill or Pangbourne. It was agreed that she would stay on the Parish Council until the completion of her house sale. Cllr Austin will remain a member of the Village Green Committee.

The Clerk raised the issue of the large yew trees on Manor Road needing some trimming back, buses hit the branches on passing. Council agreed that the Clerk contact SODC regarding a survey as the trees are in the Conservation area.

### **15. Note date of next Meeting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.**

**Meeting closed at 9.00pm**