

Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Monday 11th May 2015 commencing 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Mr. H. Butterworth Dr. K. Brooks Mr. V. Aldridge Mrs. L. Lucas Mr. J. Donahue Mrs. P. Slatter Mr. J. Donahue Mr. J. Norman
Clerk	Ms. J. Welham

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees and members of the public present.

Cllr. Aldridge addressed the meeting tendering his resignation from the council. He stated that he had tried to withdraw his nomination after submitting it for election but the rules had changed and he could not withdraw his nomination. His resignation was effective immediately and he left the meeting.

The other nominated candidate Pearl Slater who had received votes then joined the Council. There was some discussion regarding the rules, the Chairman advised that as she was the next candidate in the election and had received votes she could join the Council. There was some objection to this from member of public John Steward and also several Councillors questioned the rules of this. Cllr. Norman asked to receive the rules on this, Clerk to action.

1.To receive Nominations for Chairman & Vice Chairman

The current Chairman Harry Butterworth stated he did not wish to stand for another term as Chairman. Cllr. Donahue nominated Cllr. Brooks to Chairman, Cllr. Lucas seconded, a vote was taken and Cllr Brooks was voted to Chairman.

Chairman Brooks then took over the meeting.

Nominations for Vice Chairman, Cllr. Butterworth nominated Cllr Lucas, Cllr. Norman nominated Cllr. Donahue. A vote was taken, each candidate receiving 3 votes, the Chairman has the casting vote and voted for Cllr Donahue who was elected as Vice Chairman.

2. To received Apologies for Absence.

Cllr. D. Bowen.

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. 4 members of the public present, Mr. Wingfield, Mr. Prater, Mr. Steward, one other resident name not known.

Mr. Steward offered to mow the Village Green for free when the current contract expires next year, he said he will not Tender for this as he is offering a free service. He said he had cut the VG for 9 years previously and would offer a good service as he was very interested in the VG as part of the village.

Mr. Prater stated that the contractors leave the grass cuttings, feels the grass is too long, and improvements could be made. He is appalled by the acrimony over the Village Green that has occurred over the past weeks and feels everyone is working for themselves rather than working together in harmony.

5. Agree Minutes Parish Council Meeting 13th April 2015

Approved as true record.

6. County Councillors Report

Cllr Bulmer could not attend.

7. District Councillors Report

Rob Simister the new District Councillor introduced himself and said he was looking forward to working with the Pc and asked for a steer on issues. He has been working in SODC for 5 years with a colleague in a different Ward and hopes he can help the PC with any ongoing problems.

Cllr. Butterworth referred to the Toll Bridge meeting next week and asked him if he could look at reduced charges for village residents. Mr. Simister said it is not something that SODC can get involved in this is central government, but he will lobby the MP for this. Cllr. Norman asked if the Pc had been involved at all, a report had been sent in that the PC endorsed.

The Chairman asked about the planning for Eastfield House, Cllr. Butterworth stated that he had checked with SODC Planning officer Tom Wyatt, the applicant had 6 months to lodge an appeal against the decision (Refusal), the application was from 6th Jan 2015.

8. Reports from other Groups/Committees

Tapag

Richard Wingfield reported that there were not many active members just himself and Cllr. Butterworth.

He asked about the white lines and repainting of existing lines at the Lower and Upper narrows. The Clerk advised that OCC needed to come and use their "wheel" to mark exact distances to place the work order. This is being chased by the Clerk with OCC.

Cllr. Norman asked to see detail of the proposal, Cllr. Lucas presented him with the drawing.

The other outstanding matter was the grips along the hill, this has been chased OCC have replied saying they will be clearing grips this year and these are on their list, but no date was given. Cllr. Norman suggested trying to get a program from OCC detailing when they will be done. The drains along the High Street also need clearing.

Pot holes in Eastfield Lane reported on fix my street, some have been repaired, not all of them.

Village Hall

Cllr. Lucas reported. No major issues. The handover transition is now complete. They have received payment from SODC for use as a polling station. Move the banking online will be done in a few weeks.

Village Green – review and report

The Chairman raised the problem of the trees that had been vandalised on the Maze field. This was reported to the police. The member of public present reported that she had seen 3 youths hitting the oak table and when she had spoken to them about it they gave her a string of verbal abuse. The PC suggested that if she saw this again that she immediately report it to the police.

Cllr. Donahue proposed reinstating the Village Green committee, Cllr. Norman seconded. Cllr. Butterworth suggested that Cllr. Bowen be involved in the Village Green as he knows the Cricket Club well. The PC agreed to a working group being set up, Cllr. Butterworth agreed providing Cllr. Bowen was involved.

Cllr Butterworth raised the public consultation questionnaire regarding charges, he suggested it be produced to go out with the next Bulletin. The timeline for this is short and other Councillors felt this would be a rush and that this could wait and more detail be discussed.

Cllr. Lucas asked on several occasions that a vote be taken for a public consultation before any other groups, and questionnaires were discussed as the PC had stated to the public at the last meeting that they would hold a consultation. The PC voted for a consultation, the PC need to discuss and present their questions, Cllr. Lucas to co-ordinate the suggestions.

The clerk updated the PC on her conversations with OCC Schools department as she had been asked to research the position after the last meeting. OCC confirmed that the School should have a User Agreement with the PC over use of the VG and any charges would be in this agreement. This is not uncommon across the County where schools have limited playground areas. The Officer at OCC was also aware that the school were expanding and a new class room being added, which made such an agreement more important. He has been in touch with the School advising this position and OCC will now work on drawing up the agreement, the timeline is unknown.

The Chairman stated that the Cricket Club had been invoiced for charges. The Clerk confirmed that no invoices had been issued, only an email sent stating that charges would be made. All charging is currently on hold, no invoices have been issued.

9. Planning

P15/S1197/HH Proposed extension and alterations, Littleholme, Eastfield Lane.
The Council recommend Approval.

P15/S1390/HH Proposed Loft Conversion. 48B Manor Rd.
The Council have no strong views.

10. Village Environment.

The Chairman reported that the new notice board top part had been received to replace the marked one, but it was too long so could not be fitted. The Clerk has reported this and the supplier is sending out a new one. They do not require the other one to be returned.

The End of Manor Road has many stones gathering again. A working party will be set up to clear these.

High Street Drains are all clogged. Clerk to report to OCC.

11.0 Allotments/Sustainability

Cllr. Donohue reported,
No issues.

The Chairman raised the question of the gates and suggested that the PC get some idea of prices for new gates. He will look online.

12. Finance – Approve Payments/note receipts.

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Detail
01/05/2015	Jenny Welham	SO	435.04	April Salary
01/05/2015	HMRC	SO	97.76	Tax for April
11/05/2015	Swiftclik	193	30.02	Cartridge and paper
11/05/2015	Broker Network	194	412.6	PC annual insurance
11/05/2015	SODC	195	70	Premises License
11/05/2015	Berinsfield Community Business	196	601.56	April Grass cutting
Total Payments			1646.98	

Approved

12.1 Quotations/ Grants received.

None.

13. Other Matters for Chairman, PC to Consider.

Cllr. Donahue reported that he had found it rewarding canvassing for the election and talking to residents. He had asked for their issues and had created a list, none of the issues were new mostly they were already known to the PC. He requested that he would like the PC to follow up on some of these.

Cllr. Donahue advised that the consultation regarding the war memorial improvements was on Saturday 30th May.

14. Note Date for Next Parish Council Meeting Monday 1st June 2015.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed..... Date.....