

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 5th January 2009 in the village hall

Present:

Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer (chairman), Cllr Vincent Aldridge (vice chairman), Cllr Nigel Grove, Cllr Harry Butterworth, Cllr Keith Brooks, Cllr Liz Robinson, Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), District Cllr Pearl Slatter

107. Apologies for absence

Cllr Nigel Cabeldu, County Cllr John Farrow

108. Declarations of interest

None

109. Neighbourhood Watch

##

110. Thames Valley Police visit

111. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the 8th December 2008 agreed as a true record.

112. Public forum

None

113. Matters arising

No matters arising

114.

##

113. High Street parking

PCSO Mark Bell informed the council that he is under increasing pressure from the Highways Authority to do something about car parking in the region of the High Street/Hardwick Road junction as the High Street is classed as a B road and is subject to specific rules.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Cllr Butterworth reported that he has spoken to residents about problem parking in the High Street. There has been an improvement in the parking since this has happened.

The council resolved to write to all residents in the area, once Mark Bell has clarified the legal parking requirements at junctions and on pavements.

114. Traffic survey

The council resolved to write to Peter Ronalds to apply for a 20mph speed limit.

115. Toll bridge

District Cllr Slatter informed the council that South Oxfordshire District Council is asking the Department for Transport for a public inquiry into the toll increase.

Parish clerk confirmed the Department of Transport's receipt of the parish council's letter of objection.

116. Village hall purchase

Cllr Oppenheimer read out the letter from Hedleys solicitors which covered the draft contract for the purchase of the village hall from SODC. The letter suggested signing the contract. The only issue was the mention of the lease. The parish council were of the understanding the lease has expired and the village hall would be purchased as a freehold.

The council resolved to sign the contract as soon as the text about the lease has been clarified.

117. Village plan report

All councillors read the village plan report before the meeting and commented that it was well written and interesting. The council resolved to approve the village plan. Cllr Brooks agreed to become involved with the environmental group. Cllr Oppenheimer will continue her involvement in the village hall group. The council agreed that it would be appropriate for the community group to drive itself.

118. Road review

All councillors had received the road review action plan. Councillors agreed to review the list and update where the work has been completed, ready for the next meeting.

119. Planning

Chairman _____ Date _____

New applications:

31 Swanston Field [P08/E1307/RET](#) – new dwelling on land to the rear of Swanston Field (An amendment of previous Planning Permission P06/E0555 to retain basement/games room)(as amended by drawing no.493/04F accompanying letter from Agent dated 15 December 2008) – **objection due to overdevelopment**

120. District Councillor Report

Cllr Slatter mentioned a number of planning applications that have been breached in the village, including Ivy Cottage and 31 Swanston field. SODCs budget continues to be restricted. The district council were awarded 8th place in a competition of 383 councils in the UK.

Cllr Oppenheimer expressed her concern about the amount of bins that would be on the street when the new recycling contractor starts. The increased number of bins may cause a problem in a small village with narrow pavements.

Council agreed that parish clerk will express concerns to Cllr Dodds.

121. County Councillor Report

None

122. Finance

Payments at meeting:

Payee	Description	Amount £
Sarah Butterworth	Bulletin printing	367.00
J Wheeler	December salary	377.23
J Wheeler	Clerk expenses	26.21

Payments in between meetings:

None

Payments received:

None

Chairman _____ Date _____

123. Other reports

a) Allotments

Nothing to report

b) Transport

Nothing to report

c) Cricket Field

SODC were asked whether the field could be given as a gift to the village. SODC replied that the matter is very complex. Council resolved to arrange a meeting with SODC to progress the matter.

d) Village Maintenance

Already discussed

e) Toll Bridge

Already discussed

124. Correspondence received and distributed

125. Any other business

All agreed that a change in date to the second Tuesday in the month would be preferable, because of other commitments on Monday evenings. Council resolved to consult with Cllr Cabeldu, and if date was agreed, would issue a new calendar of meetings. The next meeting would remain the same at Monday 2nd March.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

126. Next meeting: Monday 2nd March