

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER 2005
AT 8.00 PM. IN THE CHURCH ROOM, WEST WYCOMBE

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs Mrs V. Smith, Chairman, Mr D. Callaghan,
Mrs A. Harris, Mrs C. Dakin, Mr N. Timberlake
Mr N. Phillips Property Manager, The National Trust, Mrs S. Henson, Clerk
Cllrs Mrs J. Teesdale and Mr McEnnis from 9.10pm.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE ACCEPTED FROM:
Cllrs Mr R. Seymour, Mr F. Downes and Mrs J. Teesdale

TO DECLARE ANY PECUNIARY, NON-PECUNIARY, PERSONAL OR PRIVATE
INTERESTS:
None declared

CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF THE NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

These were agreed by those Councillors present and signed by the Chairman

REPORT ON PROGRESS ON ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. WDC are seeking extra funding to have an active rather than a passive pollution monitoring system installed in the village – we will be asked to suggest suitable sites for installing the ‘meter’ box. The Environment Dept was unaware of the proposed traffic lights.
2. Cllr Callaghan has issued copies of the analysis of The Parish Plan.
3. Cllr Seymour had a walk around the parish with PC Dave West and a colleague. They have asked for the name of the football club using the Pedestal Field and will then write to them about parking issues; then it will be notices then fines. There are stickers available in Oxfordshire CC which says - Pavements are for People. They will be monitoring parking in Beechwood Road.
4. The Police, at the Festive Fare evening, handed out the ‘safety alarms’ purchased by the Parish Council.
5. The Clerk had reported the ‘wash’ problem caused by cars during a flood. We have been given permission by John Catterton to purchase signs which say ‘Flood’ and ‘Slow’ and he has supplied a catalogue for us to make the purchase. Mr & Mrs Plumridge have agreed to place and remove the signs at one end of the village and we have a couple of choices for the other end of the village.
6. Network Rail have made contact re the repair to the steps across the track on footpath 10 (reference number - 48330)
7. The Clerk has made a request to Highways on Call for white lining on either side of the A4010.

MEETING CLOSED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS
MEETING REOPENED

- 112.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM 11th NOVEMBER –8th DECEMBER
1. Letters from Paul Goodman MP with a copy letter from Mr Bob Strong re the possible library closure
 2. email from Planning Dept at WDC re a proposal by the ODPM which will affect Rural Housing schemes - Information re The Staircasing on Rural Exception Sites
 3. WDALC Minutes and agenda for 15th December

4. BCC legal notification and maps of the Area 5 Speed review
5. Copy letters from Mr Fooks of the High Wycombe Society re The Friend at Hand planning application.
6. Acknowledgement of our Imagine the Future response.
7. Acknowledgement of our input and attendance at the Transport Matters consultation.
8. Standards Committee Newsletter - circulate
9. BCC Code of Practice on Volunteers and Volunteering
10. Consultation Workshop on 'How to support voluntary and community groups in Buckinghamshire' on 12th January – West Wycombe Community Association.
11. Big Time Newsletter - circulate
12. Invitation to 'Building Stronger Communities' conference on 2nd February at Hotel Russell – too expensive at £399 per delegate.
13. Cllr Seymour has advised the Clerk that a teenage resident was knocked off his bike along the Chorley Road.
14. The Chilterns Conservation Board Annual Review - circulate
15. Policing in the Thames Valley newsletter - circulate
16. Email from the School Travel Plan committee advising us that they are about to submit their bid to assist with funding for the pathway along Church Lane to the school; that they have not heard from Sir Edward about the barrier on the car park and are resending the letter; that they are dealing with a people carrier parked inconsiderately.
17. BCC invitation to the Transportation Symposium on Friday 3rd February at The Town Hall; 9am – 5pm – Cllrs Smith, Timberlake, Seymour and the Clerk will attend.
18. BCC Proposed modifications to the Mineral & Waste Plan.
19. Letter from Mr Paul Goodman MP stating that he thought it unlikely that we would qualify for funding under most categories – we could try funds aimed at helping older people. He also supplied a list of funding bodies.
20. Priorities Newsletter - circulate

112.2 PLANNING

Applications

MJD/05/07499/OUT – Allotment Gardens, Beechwood Road –outline application and amended form and plans for erection of 2 x 3 beds and 1 x 4 bed dwellings- Councillors have been spoken to neighbours and they have concerns about access as it becomes a building site; longer term traffic pressure; loss of enjoyment - view. Countered by possible reduction of noise; who would want to live by a railway line; good to have a turning circle but congestion getting to it; flats have a high turnover and are subletting adding to the car parking problem; refuse lorry and even cars sometime have problems accessing and moving along the road; prime site for development. It was agreed that we object on grounds of access but minded to accept a proposal that with a section 106 be drawn up with ways to improve the Beechwood Road parking issues, which are huge as well as a transport plan for the building stage this would go a long way towards solving the objections; suggest that the applicant could possibly offer extra parking for Beechwood Road on the site. Condition that no high density building be erected on the site.

Decisions

AJC/05/07146/FUL – 34 Portway Drive – part 2 storey, part single storey side and rear extension – permit
05/07240/FUL- 43 Bradenham Road – construction of single storey rear extension – permit

- 112.3 TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE 'RIGHT TO STAIRCASE ON RURAL EXCEPTION SITES' PROPOSAL BY THE ODPM
WDC forwarded an email from the Rural Housing Trust which indicates that the government is considering changing the law regarding affordable housing and where people have previously purchased a share in a property and then sold it back to the Housing Association, in future it looks as if they will be able to purchase outright. If this happens then the houses will go on the open market and local people will have lost the opportunity to part purchase, at a reasonable price in their home village. It was agreed to send a letter raising our concerns.
- 112.4 TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF WEST WYCOMBE LIBRARY.
Cllr Mrs Smith Chaired a public meeting, attended by Mr Paul Goodman MP, Mr Peter Mussett and Mr Bob Strong of BCC, County Cllr Frank Downes and District Cllr Mrs Jean Teesdale and 61 members of the public. The main outcome was to look at ways of keeping the library/building in some way by looking for funding. The National Trust does not have covenants on the building. We will distribute 500 consultation documents throughout the Parish. A solution may be to use it as a facility for ordering books on line and having them delivered once a week for collection by readers but this would still need a librarian/assistant as older people may need assistance. This would mean that the whole library stock would be available for choice; we would lose the 'browsing' ability.
The general consensus is that we probably need to think in terms of diversifying and that the building is the main issue. Cllr Mrs Teesdale reported that the District Council (Barbara Mahers) is prepared to work out a plan. We may get a time extension as long as we show that we intend to put in a proposal. The Clerk will send Cllr Mrs Teesdale the list of people prepared to sit on a committee to look at the library's future.
- 112.5 TO REVIEW THE NEED FOR ANY CHANGES IN THE BURIAL GROUND RULES AND REGULATIONS
It was resolved that we would include a clause in our regulations that anyone living in the Parish and on the electoral rolls from 1987 onwards could be buried in West Wycombe Burial Ground. This will ensure that we comply with the terms of the land lease agreement with West Wycombe Estate.
- 112.6 HIGHWAYS – TO DISCUSS THE AREA 5 SPEED REVIEW AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION
We support the proposals; however this Parish is concerned about an increase in street furniture.
- 112.7 TO SET THE PRECEPT FOR 2006/07
Clerk's hours need to increase to 36 hours a month and include another 50 hours per year for special projects.
Village Hall is community facility that needs to be supported and the library building should also be supported if the opportunity arises.

Collection of rubbish in the burial ground; donation to West Wycombe Brass Band; purchase of new Christmas tree lights and the creation of a permanent fixing for a tree on the triangle.

The major project for the year will be to complete the lighting replacement and improvement scheme along the Bradenham Road. Jacobs Babbie has produced an estimated price of £11,400 and we will have to ensure that this price is strictly adhered to.

It was resolved to agree a Precept of £32,000.

112.8 TO RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR DECEMBER 2005 AND SIGNING OF CHEQUES

Cheques and standing orders for Mrs S. Henson, Bucks County Council, St Lawrence Trust, West Wycombe Community Association, BT, Thames Water, Fairprint, Solon Security. The printer, which was the Clerks personal machine, needed to be replaced. After discussions with the Chairman and also the Chairman of Hambleden Parish Council, it was agreed that the Parish Councils would purchase a new laser printer on a 50/50 split, this has been done, with the purchase of a spare toner cartridge at a total cost of (incl VAT) was £173.78. It was resolved to approve the accounts.

The Chairman reported that the Village Clock has been damaged by the recent power cuts; although the clock belongs to the church they are not in a position to repair it. It was agreed that the Parish Council would bear the total cost of £441.80 (incl VAT) and that we make efforts to raise the money to refund the Parish Council. Mr R Plumridge kindly made a donation of £50 and Cllrs Teesdale and McEnnis thought they may be able to make a donation towards it once the Clerk has forwarded paperwork for it. Money from a coffee morning will also go towards it.

112.9 MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Mr Phillips reported that an application has been made to cut down the trees in the Village Hall car park and replace with shrubs.

Mr Phillips reported that a request for the installation of a septic tank at St Lawrence Church as been made, as it is the site of an ancient monument this will make the process cost more and take longer.

112.10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND THOSE FOR 2006

Thursday 12th January at 8pm in the Church Room.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm

The Chairman invited everyone to stay for mince pies.