

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2007
AT 8.00 PM. IN THE CHURCH ROOM, WEST WYCOMBE

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs Mrs V. Smith, Chairman, Mr R. Seymour, Mr F. Downes,
Mrs C. Dakin, Mr D. Callaghan, Mrs A. Harris, Mr N. Timberlake
Mr N. Phillips – The National Trust, Mrs S. Henson, Clerk

4 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE ACCEPTED FROM:

Dist Cllr Mrs J. Teesdale & Dist Cllr Mr I McEnnis

CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING

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

TO DECLARE ANY PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

Cllr Timberlake declared a personal interest in the letter relating to West Wycombe
Library Action group.

Cllrs Mrs Smith and Mr Seymour declared a personal interest in the discussions on
the Village Hall.

REPORT ON PROGRESS ON ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Clerk attended the SLCC Conference – probably would not attend in the future.
Sir Edward is going to put forward a proposal for the Parish Council to consider
relating to the Pedestal Playing Field

The meeting with the National Trust has been postponed until 16th November

Cllr Mrs Smith attended the inaugural GC2C meeting

Cllrs Mrs Smith and Mr Callaghan attended the Local Area meeting – we raised the
issue of the resurfacing of the A4010 and we are waiting for the technical justification
for the expenditure. We submitted bids for the Local Area Committee – the
comments from BCC do not look favourable particularly in relation to the white lining
on the A4010 or the bollards for Copperfields.

MEETING CLOSED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS
MEETING REOPENED

134.1 Correspondence received from 12th October- 8th November

1. BCC acknowledgement of our letter about the M40 and traffic issues but no full response.
2. Chiltern News Magazine
3. Invitation from WDC for the Chairman and Clerk to attend a Planning Training session on 13th November – Chairman and Clerk will be attending
4. Invitation from BCC for the Chairman to attend the inaugural meeting of the GC2C for our area – Cllr Mrs Smith gave a brief report on the hastily called Neighbourhood Action Group meeting where 13 members of the public met 4 members of Thames Valley Police. It was obvious that Thames Valley Police were unaware of GC2C. No contact with the Parish Council prior to the event. Very poorly organised. We will write to Thames Valley police.
The GC2C meeting was a complete presentation. BCC officers are very enthusiastic but Councillors are more sceptical. There will be a lead officer – Anne Davies who we can use to help us with our cause. There is a further meeting on 12th December to talk about 'A New Deal for Buckinghamshire'. Cllr Timberlake and Cllr Downes may be able to attend.
5. Agenda and papers for the Local Area Meeting
6. Playing Field Newsletter
7. Invitation to the BALC AGM on 16th November – no one is able to attend
8. Open Spaces Magazine
9. Email from Mrs Pratt of Spring Coppice (not in our Parish) asking for the Parish Councils support in getting WDC to not renew the lease with Wycombe Air Park in order to close it down – the airfield is working entirely within the

law and has worked hard to try to work with the local communities. We would not want to be associated with any letters relating to the closure of Wycombe Air Park.

10. National Association of Local Councils has issued the Clerk salary increase – operational from 1st April 2007. The Clerk salary will increase by £12.92 per month. Councillors resolved to implement the new rate.
11. BCC information on the Mental Capacity Act – issued to those present
12. Letter from West Wycombe Library Action Group asking the Parish Council to consider making a financial contribution of approximately £2000 towards running the Library. Money has already been set aside this year for distribution to the Library and the Village Hall. Councillors felt that the Parish Council should support the library but probably at a lower level. It will be on the next agenda. Cllr Timberlake will give a short presentation on the library.
13. Notification of Stokenchurch Parish Council meeting on 21st November at 7.30pm in Longburrow Hall where the Highways Agency will explain the proposed motorway bridge closures.
14. WDC/BCC consultation document on creating a Special Parking Area and having the powers of civil parking enforcement. Comments due back by 14th December. To be read by all Councillors. Clerk has highlighted the important sections. We need to consider all the implications for our residents.
15. Email forwarded to all Councillors stating that the Forum is up and running.
16. Information from Mike Henson Presentations about continued use of the website in its existing format - £1200 plus VAT pa. To have the site rebuilt to a new layout and style then £2000 pa for the next three years should be allowed for.

134.2 PLANNING

Decisions

PECS/07/07340/CTREE – West Wycombe County Combined School – felling of 2 greengage and 2 apple trees – not to make a TPO

07/06702/FUL – Copperfields – amendment to curtilage boundary of plots 15 & 16 and revision to boundaries of adjacent car parking area – permit

07/07122/LBC – 45 High Street, West Wycombe – removal of internal first floor partition wall - permit

Applications

DBL/07/07609/FUL – 349 West Wycombe Road – extension and conversion of existing dwelling to form 4 x 1 bed flats – although no sound planning reasons to object to the application we are very concerned about the changing character of West Wycombe Road and the increasing traffic which the house to flat conversions will cause.

ELH/07/07634/FUL – 16 Bradenham Road – construction of single storey rear Conservatory – no objection

MJD/07/07544/FUL – Summer Cottage, 15 Beechwood Road – erection of detached double garage & carport to rear – no objection but we would ask that a condition is imposed that it can only be used as a garage and that we are concerned about the proposed height of the building and the affect it will have on neighbours and views in the AONB.

Mr Phillips reported on the Development Control Committee where 74 Copperfields was discussed and The National Trust gave a case against the Application and it was refused.

- 134.3 To consider Highways issues including the planting of shrubs on the verge by the Pedestal Roundabout, clearing Cutty Alley and planting bulbs in the verge
Elizabeth Ross provided a price of £20 per time to clear Cutty Alley; £528 for planting 4,100 bulbs along the one side of the entrance to the village from High Wycombe; and £1240.66 for planting the area in front of the Pedestal Monument. It was resolved to place an order for clearing Cutty Alley. The National Trust will be consulted on the proposal for the Pedestal Monument Area.

Mr Phillips highlighted the issues of rural versus urban appearance by planting daffodil bulbs. Most Councillors appreciated this point of view, but it was generally felt that non structured bulb planting, leaving the grass in an uncut state during their growth would not look too urban as it will revert to grass for the remainder of the year. If we want to proceed with the project this year we are getting short of time.

134.4 To consider the use of the Pedestal Playing Field

Sir Edward will supply information so that the Parish Council make an informed decision.

134.5 To consider the projected end of year figures prior to discussing the budget and precept for 2008/09

The Clerk had issued year to date, projected year end and actual income against expenditure spreadsheets as well as a suggested budget for 2008/09 Cllr Mrs Smith asked if we could consider extending the Heritage lighting in West Wycombe Hill Road, possibly another 2 or 3 lights up near the school. The Village Hall needs a large amount of money spent on it. The heating has failed and is not repairable. An alternative scheme is going to be installed for emergency heating. They have to spend a vast amount of money on replacement windows. As the Village Hall is in a Conservation Area they have to conform to certain requirements. Mr Phillips suggested that with new materials appearing on the market, there may be a slightly cheaper option which would satisfy The National Trust and WDC.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should investigate ways in which we may be able to reduce our lighting/energy costs.

It was suggested that we should consider carrying out an environmental audit during next year.

134.6 To approve the Accounts for November 2007; Signing of Cheques

Cheques and standing orders for Mrs S. Henson and Bucks CC School Crossing patrol and expenses for Mrs Henson. It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment.

134.7 Matters Raised by Councillors

No matters were raised.

133.8 Date of next meeting and those for 2008

Thursday 13th December at 8pm in The Church Room.

The Clerk issued a list of meeting dates for 2008 to all Councillors. 10th January, 14th February, 13th March, 10th April, 1st May – Annual Parish Meeting, 8th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting and normal meeting, 12th June, 10th July, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November, 11th December..

It was agreed to continue this years practise of holding the July meeting one week later i.e. it will now be on 17th July. Please change the date on your lists and in your diaries.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.