

# *WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL*

**MINUTES** of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Woodcote 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>	Chairman	Mrs. F. Preston Mr. R Peirce Mrs. M. Edmonds Mr. K. Grady
	County Councillor	Mr. D. Sexon
	Parish Clerk	Ms J. Welham

Members of Public in attendance: Mrs. P. Solomons, Mr. J. Green, Mr. M.Fulton, Mrs. F. Cork, Mrs. K. Woolley, Mrs. M. Hulbert, Mrs. G. Woods, Mr. L. Preston.

## **(1) APOLOGIES.**

Apologies from Mr. D. Griffiths, Mr. J. Lynch, Mr. C. Edwards, Mrs. D. Hadaway, Mr. J. Sandford, Mrs. M. Maddock, Mr. P. Solomons, Mr. M. Bell PCSO

**(2) TO AUTHORISE** the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The minutes were accepted and signed.

**(3) MATTERS ARISING** None

## **(4) UPDATE OF PARISH PLAN**

Mrs. Fiona Preston's initially read out a report to the meeting regarding the Griffiths Higgs Trust copies of the report are available on request to the Clerk's office.

Parish Plan, actions taken, cycle racks have been installed, safe cycle routes map still to be located. Encouraging children to walk or cycle to school has been put in action. Village website one single portal has been completed. Printed leaflets with essential telephone numbers have been printed and circulated to residents cost of this covered from Village of the Year communication funds. Parish Pan Booklets are still available, from Clerks office. Chairman finished by requesting that village residents volunteer to take actions.

## **(5) FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the un-audited accounts for the year 2009/10, copies of which were available to the meeting.

### **Income and Expenditure Account**

Income is on track against budget and is running slightly over budget. Shares owned by the Council will yield very little if any income for the year due to the banking position as they are in Royal Bank of Scotland.

Expenditure was on track and running under budget. No major expenditure items this year to impact expenditure. Reserves running at approximately £90,000.

Precept for 2010/2011 will remain the same as 2009/2010 due to the overall economic position within government.

**(6) PLANNING ROLE OF PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr. Pierce reported that the role of the Parish Councils has further been eroded in the planning process, some of the reasons that the Parish Council's inputs are not going to the planning committee is because the Parish Councils do not attend the meetings to represent their arguments and inputs. He was still of the view that Woodcote Parish Council is very active so our views should be well represented. Planning meetings have been further reduced to 4 weekly from 3 weekly. The District Council are urging Parish Councils to engage online in the planning process to move away from the paper process.

*(Mr. D. Sexon joined meeting 8.30am)*

There has been a major review in planning so this should improve the feedback and communication. The Local Plan process, core strategy has been consulted, reporting will be held back now until after the general election. Report now expected end May early June. Inputs will be possible but may not necessarily alter things unless a positive alternative is offered. Following this a site allocation document will be issued, 600 houses spread across six villages Woodcote being one of the six. The Planning Committee then reviews this to check numbers allocated and check which sites are suitable for development, timescales Autumn 2010/Spring 2011. All existing development in the village is not within this Core Strategy, with the exception of Mowforth House development.

**(7) UPDATE from PCSO MARK BELL**

PCSO Mark Bell was not present. Chairman gave report on his behalf. The Have Your Say Meetings have proved very successful. Crime questionnaires have been delivered to all residents with a positive response, requested this to continue. Results yet to be published and will also be available online. A member of the meeting commented on the increase in parked vehicles on the bend of Greenmore by Wards Farm. Parish Council to follow up.

**(8) VILLAGE GREEN UPDATE** Member of Village Green Committee not present.

**(9) WAR MEMORIAL UPDATE**

Mrs. M. Horsup reported that the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony will be June 17<sup>th</sup> 2010. This will be advertised on the front page of the Correspondent, also within the Correspondent will be a reply slip so numbers attending can be catered for. High ranking members of various regiments have confirmed attendance. The order of the ceremony will be 7.45 pm Memorial Service with hymns accompanied by a band and laying of wreath at the war memorial.

8.30pm will be in the Village Hall, the CD will be launched and available for purchase.

Mrs. K. Woolley formerly gave a vote of Thanks to Mrs. Horsup for her hard work and dedication.

**(10) DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr. Peirce reported,

The new Waste Collection Service had received a National Award for how it was communicated. The service has increased recycling figures from 48% to 70%, making SODC one of the top compared to other districts and has reduced spending on landfill.

Question from member of the meeting, regarding some households having large bins replaced by smaller bins that this process has not happened and that trust is broken. Also is the rubbish just being dumped in landfill.

Cllr. Peirce replied that the process of replacement is ongoing and he is asking for several

households in the village, also that recycled rubbish is not placed in landfill but is recycled. The smaller bins are just as tall as the large bins but narrower. There were not any households in Woodcote that met the criteria not to have bins. The process for back door collection for the elderly still exists, residents need to apply. Mixed recycling process is working well, a visit to the recycling plant was requested, Cllr Peirce to action.

Leisure Centres, the 4 centres in the district have been taken over by Nexus who are running a card member scheme enabling holders to use all 4 centres. The District Council has invested capital funds in these centres.

Didcot town continues to expand, new Orchard Centre has been a success despite the recession, Stage 2 is planned. Cornerstone Arts has also been very successful, but still requires financial subsidy.

District Council has cut back the budget this year area affected in particular is PCSO's. The CCTV project in towns will be reviewed to ensure value for money is achieved.

District Council has not produced as many houses as expected, there will be more schemes next year. The Social housing process now allows applications to bid for property and has become more open.

There have been less planning applications this year. The planning enforcement office have reduced the number of outstanding cases down to approx 300 from a list of over 1000.

District Council joint working with The Vale of White Horse has caused redundancies and early retirements, but has led to efficiency savings, this will be the third year that there has been no increase in Council Tax in percentage terms.

SODC has been scored as one of the top performing Districts in the County.

#### **(11) COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Report is attached to these minutes.

Questions raised to the County Councillor;

Mrs. K. Wooley requested if the Country Cllr. Could help to keep the .5 Youth Worker that Woodcote currently employs as this post maybe lost. Stressed the importance of this role as Woodcote has a large catchment area for Langtree School and youth come into the village in the evenings. Centres in Wallingford and Sonning Common are not easily accessible due to transport issues. Vandalism has reduced and as Goring village has lost their Youth Worker it is very important that Woodcote retain theirs.

Question re remaining build up of Grit still existing on pavements, in particular along the Reading Road by the School and further along. Cllr. Commented that the Council do not drop grit only into bins for use on pavements, so feels that it is likely that the Council will not be responsible to clear it.

#### **(12) CONSERVATION GROUP**

A report was made available to the meeting, further copies can be obtained from the Clerk's office.

Meeting terminated at 9.40 pm - Jenny Welham Clerk to the Council

.....Chairman .....Date

