

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Parish Council meeting held in the Committee Room, Village Hall Woodcote 4th August commencing 7.30pm

PRESENT

Chairman	Mrs. M. Edmonds
Vice Chairman	Mrs. D. Hadaway
	Mr. Robin Peirce
	Mr. Kevin Grady
	Mr. P. Stevenson
	Mr. J. Lynch
	Mr. D. Griffiths
	Mr. C. Edwards
	Mr. D. Sexon County Councillor
Parish Clerk	Ms. Jenny Welham

1.To Receive Apologies For Absence

Mr. P. Tyler, Mr. A. Allen

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest

None

3. Public Forum

2 Members of the public present to observe.

4. To Approve Minutes of Meeting held on 21st July 2010

Minutes of 21st July 2010 Approved.

5. Matters arising from those Minutes not on the Agenda Elsewhere

None

6. Chairman's Address

Chairman reported on actions taken with SODC regarding a new access point to a residence in Beech Lane which was installed without consultation. Following the discussions a letter from SODC has been sent to the parties advising them that they need to apply for Planning permission.

Chairman reported that the Audit for year ending 31st March 2010 was now finalised and read the letter from the Auditors to the meeting. There were no matters needing attention and the Audit was passed. The Chairman and Councillors gave a vote of thanks to the Clerk for the good work.

Chairman advised the meeting that the Clerk was taking two days holiday, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th August.

Chairman advised that she would be writing a letter of thanks to Christopher Quinton VHMCC Chairman, thanking him for his efforts and proposal to help remove the liability from the Parish Council in regard to the Pre School Funding Agreement. The Chairman asked if the Councillors would like their thanks to also be included, all agreed.

7. Village Hall Pre School Kitchen re-Vamp Funding Agreement

Councillor Lynch gave a brief resume of the background, a New Funding Agreement has been raised changing the original wording. The New Agreement removes the liability from the Parish Council, the new wording had already been circulated prior to this meeting and Councillors agreed and approved the new wording. RESOLVED: the Agreement is ratified.

Agreement has been signed and is lodged with Oxfordshire County Council, the Funding amount of £25,000 will be paid into the Parish Council Current Bank Account.

RESOLVED: Funds when received to be immediately transferred into the Pre School Bank Account.

8. Whitchurch Toll Bridge

Councillor Lynch (with inputs from County Councillor Sexon) gave a report regarding the reconstruction the bridge. Both Councillors had attended the meeting last week regarding the Bridge. He reported that the work needs to be bought forward as the supports of the bridge are deteriorating faster than anticipated. 5800 vehicles are recorded to use the Bridge per day so the support structure replacement needs to be carried out earlier than originally planned.

The Bridge therefore will be closed from October 2011 until March 2012.

As the Bridge is listed this means many different parties/agencies are involved, the Bridge rails will remain the same. Pangbourne Meadows will become the "working" area where on a raised platform, much of the restoration work will be carried out.

The surrounding village Parish Councils have been involved and many factors have been taken into consideration, however the closure will have an impact on neighbouring villages particularly in terms of increased traffic and parking. Concern has also been expressed for the potential damage that could be incurred to Pangbourne Meadows. During the closure a temporary footbridge will be erected for access.

On completion the Bridge structure will have the weight capacity for 40 tons. However the weight limit over the bridge will remain at 7.5 tons so existing signage remains.

9. County Councillors Report

Councillor Sexon report on the new initiative for Oxfordshire for Area Stewards, there will be 14 Divisions with an Area Stewart for each Division and other staff reporting the Stewart, they will handle all matters relating to Highways. The Area Stewart for our area has previously worked in Gloucestershire so is experienced he will remain on a temporary contract for approximately 1 year. This scheme has proved very successful in other counties, also Oxfordshire are now using the same contractors as Gloucestershire so there will be more cross county collaboration for the repairing of highways. Clerk to circulate contact information to Councillors.

Reported on the progress of pothole repairs. Oxfordshire has a good record for reported injuries caused due to potholes, over 15 years only 15 injuries have been recorded. Also Oxfordshire has paid the least amount of damages due to potholes in the Country. New Contractors started earlier than planned and have inherited a large backlog and also some works showing repaired that actually have not been repaired. The process now has more rigour and quality checks to ensure quality repairs. The cost per repair is now £25, however this is not paid until a satisfactory quality repair is signed off. Contractors are also instructed to repair neighbouring potholes without white line marking close to those marked with white lines which previously there were not.

When reporting a pothole it is requested that the depth and width be given and if possible a photograph.

Budget cuts have been carried out with £11 million of cuts in budget for this year so far. Most services have been affected including ones that had originally been ring fenced, such as Youth Services. Further cuts are expected, and Councillor Sexon cautioned that next year will also see further large cuts.

10. Planning

10.1 Applications:

P10/E0880 Demolition of existing hanger & replacement with 3 smaller hangers. The Airstrip Whittles Farm Mapledurham.

Application site is not within the Woodcote Parish. Resolved No Strong Views.

10.2 Applications Granted:

P10/E0803/EX Construction of double garage (extension of time P05/E0490/R)
Fox Covert House Goring Road Goring Heath.

P10/E0660 Erection of two-storey front & side extension, first floor extension over garage & single storey front extension (as amended drawing nos. JSD 10 16 06 REV A, 16 08 Rev A, 60 07 Rev A, 16 02, proposed elevation, accompanying Agents email dated 6th July 2010) 10 Oakdene, Woodcote.

Councillors expressed disappointment as they had refused this development and the subsequent amendment. It was felt that the comments of the Council had not been considered and also the speed that the application was granted would seem to support this view. District Councillor Pierce said he would have a discussion regarding this at the Planning Office. Clerk to write a letter to Planning regarding this application to clarify the process.

10.3 Applications Refused:

None

11. Finance To approve payments. To note receipts

APPROVED

Cheques for Payment PC Meeting 4th August 2010

Cheque	Payee	Amount (£)	Date	Reason
3176	Berinsfield	323.13	4.8	Weed Spraying GS
3177	Jenks Oxford	881.25	4.8	Tree surgery
3178	K.Smallbone	25.00	4.8	War memorial
3179	Cancelled	0.00		
3180	BDO LLP	511.13		Audit

RECEIPTS

CIOF Interest	£6.23
Bank Interest Reserve Account	£3.85
Dog Bin Credit SODC	£720.89
Scottish & Southern Account	£45.68

NOTED

11.1 Quotations/Grants received for approval

Letter from Mark Bell requesting grant for Youth Drop in Centre. Following discussion, it was suggested that a donation of £250 would be appropriate. Councillors requested that a letter be sent to Mark asking for more details of the financial implications, also name of Treasurer. Clerk to Action. £250 APPROVED.

Quote – Higley Bros. repair of bus shelter ridge tiles. £68.00. APPROVED.

Berinsfield – additional hedge quote for cutting adjacent to Langtree playing field. Between £900 - £1050 Discussion needed to establish if the hedge is owned by the Parish Council, also Councillor Tyler needs to propose this at the next meeting as he initially raised the request for the hedge cutting.

(members of public left the meeting 8.50pm)

Community Centre Room Hire for future Parish Council Meetings – Clerk had received costs for the hire of the room of £4 per booking. Councillors voted on changing to hold meetings in future at the Community Centre, carried by 5 votes, 3 abstained. APPROVED. Clerk to check availability.

12. Woodcote Website – To approve changes to Home page

Councillor Griffiths read the wording suggested to the meeting. Agreed that this document be sent out to all Councillors electronically, so they can add their suggestions and make changes.

Action Councillor Griffith to send to Clerk for circulation.

13. District Councillors Report

Councillor Pierce reported on cuts within SODC, further cuts still to be made, suspected that any affected to the Parish Council will not be felt until September, October of this year.

Planning Core Strategy has been removed by the Government but development is still intended to go ahead in Didcot, Wallingford and Thame. Larger villages are in the plan so Woodcote could still be affected.

Chair raised question regarding cuts to Precept funding for next year. This should remain unaffected as SODC cannot interfere in Parish Proposals and the Government has not historically looked at this area.

14. Other Matters to be raised with Chairman

Councillor Pierce raised the question regarding land for graveyard expansion. Reserve funds are held for purchase of land. Clerk to liaise with Church Council.

Councillor Hadaway requested that the overgrown and weedy area on the corner of Goring round and South Stoke Road be attended to. This is unsightly and is at the main cross roads in the village. Councillors agreed to check areas in the village that may need further weeding and report to next meeting. A quotation can then be gained which will cover all areas requiring spraying rather than getting contractors to keep spraying small one-off areas. Action all Councillors to report to next meeting.

Councillor Pierce reported that several areas of hedging where overgrown and covering footpaths, a map to be circulated to all Councillors showing footpaths in the village. Councillors to report areas of overgrown hedging, trees etc. to next meeting so Clerk can write letters to the residence requesting they cut back.

Notice Board attached to the village bus shelter has old and out of date map. Requested that the Clerk replace this with current map. A key to open the notice board will be required.

15. Correspondence

Clerk reported that 3 applicants had applied for the Litter Picker vacancy. They are all aware of the self employed terms. It was agreed that the Clerk should go ahead and offer a contract and fill the vacancy as the Council had already approved the contract financial amount at a previous meeting.

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind letter requesting a donation. Noted. Clerk to reply.

Didcot Citizens Advise Bureau letter requesting funds. Noted. Clerk to reply.

Email from Chilterns Conservation Board advising date of Planning Conference in October. It was agreed that this is a worthwhile conference and Councillors should attend. Clerk to circulate the email.

Email from SODC advising future date for Town & Parish Council Forum. Two places are available Councillors and Clerks can attend. Agreed to circulate and that we should send two delegates. Clerk to circulate details.

Chairman declared Meeting closed at 9.34pm

16. To note date of the next meeting: Wednesday 18thth August 2010.

Signed: _____ Chairman/Date _____