

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Parish Council meeting held in the Function Room, Village Hall Woodcote Wednesday 7th December 2011, commencing 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Mr. R. Peirce (arriving late)
Vice Chairman	Mr. G. Botting
	Mr. D. Booth
	Mr. A. Crockett
	Mr. P. Stevenson
	Mrs D. Hadaway
	Mr. P. Tyler
	Mr. K. Grady

Clerk Ms. Jenny Welham

In Attendance

Mr. Christopher Quinton District Councillor.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Mrs. S. Harrison, Mr. D. Sexon County Councillor.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None.

3. Public Forum:

No members of the public present.

4. Police – New PCSO, update on Traffic Management.

Colin Boyes PCSO who joined Woodcote recently to work with Mark Bell, previously having been in Sonning Common. He covers 12 parishes. Areas that are being worked on currently are; establishing more communication with the Neighbourhood Watch schemes within Woodcote, Vulnerable persons list being collated so visits can be arranged especially over the winter months, door knockers tend to target the elderly and vulnerable for burglary. The Crooked Billet are offering a Christmas Day lunch to single pensioners, the PCSO's are gathering a list of names, Colin asked for volunteers to help with transport. He was given the Woodcote Volunteers telephone number to contact them as they will have a list of drivers. Lead theft is still high, but two people have recently been apprehended in the area.

Traffic Management has been carried out using SID the mobile speed display. The PCSO's carried out checks on the 29th and 30th of November on the Goring Road. 8 cars on the first day were speeding and 22 on the second day, the average speeding recorded was 35/36mph in the 30mph zone. However on the 30th they did have one driver recorded at 49mph. The PCSO's are not empowered to stop and issue offenders with tickets, but the car details are recorded and the owners are sent a letter each time SID records them, the third time the letter will advise that they are pending prosecution. Barbara Taylor has been in contact with the Clerk and another step is to request Archer strips to be connected to record data which can then be used with the Police and Highways to instigate action and changes. Cllr. Grady said he felt that the use of SID is a priority and asked if it can be used weekly, PCSO Boyes said he cannot promise this it was dependant on other priorities in any given week, but will try to use SID weekly or as often as possible. Cllr. Grady also requested that the Police Radar Traps be set up, Colin said that he will ask about this.

Cllr. Crockett asked if more publicity should be given, such as an article in the Correspondent, Christopher Quinton advised that the January deadline was past, and that a report from the Police is received monthly for the Correspondent.

(The Chairman arrived at the meeting)

5. County Councillors Report

None as not present.

6 District Councillors Report

Cllr. Quinton advised that we will not be available in January due to holiday.

He reported that SODC are cutting the Council Tax next year by 2.5%, this is due to savings made by amalgamation of some functions with the Vale.

There is to be a new initiative called "Do it Once", this is for people who have experienced a death in the family, they call this service and rather than making the numerous telephone calls advising of the death, the "Do it Once" service will do all the necessary calls.

Pot holes are still an issue, in particular the area in Woodcote from the top of Pot Kiln Lane down Whitehouse Road past the turning for Bridle Path. Cllr. Quinton has been liaising with County Councillor Sexon to get the area resurfaced. The work has been requested but this does not guarantee that it when or if it will be carried out. To concluded his report Cllr. Quinton wished all present a Happy Christmas, he then left the meeting.

7. To approve Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2011.

Approved.

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

None.

9. Chairman's Address & Questions

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Police about the email received regarding the public gathering at the War Memorial on the day of the Service in November. They had asked him to let them know next year a month in advance of the Service and they will visit the writer of the email to speak to him. The Clerk is just to acknowledge receipt of the email.

The Chairman has the two half cases of wine for the two individuals discussed at the meeting on the 16th November. Arrangements to be made with the Clerk.

10. Budget 2012/13 – Review and finalise for next Financial Year.

The Budget report was reviewed, it was based on the assumption of the precept being increased by 2.5% as it will be 3 years since an increase has been made. The Chairman suggested that an amount for the Neighbourhood Plan should be allocated as the amount being used from the £20K grant by SODC was yet to be itemised and some funds may be needed, this was agreed, the amount to be approximately £2K so that the budget balanced.

Cllr. Booth asked if consideration need to be given for an amount for the Woodcote library as cuts to their funds are impending. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council cannot fund areas that are already funded or part funded by other District or County Councils, but felt that there would be some way to allocate funds as is done for the Youth Club. The extent of the cuts is not yet know, and expected later in the year 2012, so this funding can be reviewed later into next year.

The funds allocated for the Village Hall were discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Booth obtains the VH financial statement at the meeting on 12th December and that the Match funding is an agenda item for January. The budget and precept increase by 2.5% was agreed.

11. Finance To approve payments. To note receipts.

Payments Approved

Berinsfield Community Business October Grass Cutting £738.54

K.Knight November Litter Picking £156.00

K. Smallbone November upkeep of War Memorial £25

R. Peirce Chairman's Expenses 3 quarters £90

Swiftclik Stationery £69.85

The following receipts were noted:-

Allotment Management Fee for 2011/12 £1064.85. Woodcote Cricket Club £190.00.

11.1 Quotations/Grants received for approval.

4 quotations had been received for the Hedge Reduction of the VH Car Park and the large Hedge alongside the allotments and the Recreation Ground. Following the review of the 4 quotations the Chairman proposed the quote from Tom Cottrell, this was agreed. Clerk to request a date for the work.

12. Planning Applications:

P11/E1880LB Replacement of UPVC windows with timber frame windows. The Oratory School Woodcote RG8 0PJ. Recommend Approval.

P11/E1865 Erection of sheds to plots 1,2 & 3 on Builders Ede development Wood Green. (amendment to planning permission P09/E0991).

Cllr. Grady did not participate in the discussion of this application as he has an interest.

Recommend Approval.

P11/E1881 Single Storey extension to front & rear aspect. 7 Ashlee Walk Woodcote RG8 0SF.

Recommend Approval.

12.1 Applications Granted by SODC:

P11/E1526 Single Storey extension to match existing materials. 4 Cuddesdon Way Woodcote.

P11/E1594 Demolition of existing rear extension. Proposed single storey side and rear extension. 4 Gap Way Woodcote RG8 0RU.

P11/E1647 Demolition of existing canopy and construction of new entrance Woodcote Primary School

12.2 Applications Refused by SODC:

P11/E1511 Demolition of existing single storey side and rear extensions, erection of two storey, front and rear extensions and replacement of single storey rear extension. James Farm South Stoke Rd Woodcote RG8 0PL.

12.3 Other Planning Matters

None.

13. Committee Reports – Update & Reports from the various Village Committee's.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Cllr. Botting gave a report following their meeting on the 24th November, the first reports are coming back from the sub groups of the Steering Group detailing which sites are available for development and what type of housing. He had been for a meeting with the Thame Town Clerk and this had been informative, as they are further forward with their plan and much larger.

Next week he will visit the data observatory, and also ORCC who are keen to help. On 13th December he has a meeting with SODC to further improve the partnership and get answers to questions, and on 20th December a meeting with the Environment Agency will take place.

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Group is 12th January, all Councillors are invited.

There is a big focus on communications, using the Woodcote Correspondent, Yahoo, the village website, a public event in the village is scheduled for the morning of Saturday 10th March.

SODC are starting to make announcements using the local press and their website.

Identifying potential sites has started and land owners will need to be contact to put their land forward, an advertisement is being considered. The Chairman advised that SODC had done extensive work in this area and advised that the Group use this data, he also thanked Cllr. Botting for all of his work so far.

Traffic Management Committee Report – update on first meeting and request for actions. Cllr. Grady reported on the first meeting of the Traffic Management Committee, other Parish representatives attended from Goring Heath and Whitchurch on Thames, also County Councillor Sexon. Using feedback gained from the Parish Plan, The Neighbourhood Plan Group, Residents comments to the Clerk, and at the Woodcote Festival the traffic issues were identified. There followed a brainstorm exercise where ideas and actions were assigned. A timeline of June 2012 was agreed. The next meeting is 14th December Highways representative Keith Stenning will be attending.

14. Matters for Council to Consider.

14.1 Councillors to provide their list of questions regarding the CCTV proposals to the Clerk. The Clerk had received inputs from some of the Councillors. Cllr. Grady expressed his concern that this proposal was being discussed again, the Council had already given their decision. The Chairman advised that following the discussion that had taken place with the Village Green Committee Secretary he had made it clear that this matter would not be presented to the Parish Council again until the village response had been gained and only if the village approved the idea following all the facts being made available. It was agreed that the Clerk was to send a document with the considerations so far so Councillors can review it and not duplicate the same things, then it will be sent to the VGC.

14.2 Adverse Possession of land, Tidmore Pond, West Chiltern – update from Clerk. The Clerk had taken legal advice on this matter. The legal advice was that adverse possession is very hard to obtain and the likely hood was that time and money would be spend and still the possession would not be granted. If the land is not totally enclosed and that permanent use over a period of time can be proved it is very unlikely that a case can be made. The Chairman felt that the land in West Chiltern was not as at risk as originally now that the property developer had sold the house and was no longer trying to develop in the rear garden. He advised that the Planning process will cover any future attempts to gain access over this strip of land in the future, Council agreed. Regarding the Tidmore Lane Pool the action is that the Clerk and the Chairman will liaise with Karen Woolley of the Conservation Group.

15. Correspondence

15.1 Matters for resolution. None

15.2 Matters for information None

The Chairman proposed that the next meeting be cancelled. Cllr. Tyler responded saying that it would be the first time that the Christmas meeting of the Council would not take place. It was agreed to hold the meeting with a shortened agenda covering essential matters only.

14. To note date of the next meeting: Wednesday 21st December 2011.