

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Parish Council meeting held in the Committee Room, Village Hall Woodcote 16th February 2011, commencing 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Mrs. M. Edmonds Mr. K. Grady Mr. R. Peirce Mr. P. Stevenson Mr. J. Lynch Mrs. S. Harrison Mr. C. Edwards Mr. P. Tyler
County Councillor	Mr. D. Sexon
Parish Clerk	Ms. Jenny Welham

1. To Receive Apologies For Absence

Mr. A. Allen, Mrs. D. Hadaway

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

Karen Woolley present to speak under Agenda Item Other Planning Matters regarding the restoration of the Dipping Well at Greenmore Ponds. Mrs. Woolley asked if the Parish Council were planning to hold future Parish Meetings in the Community Centre, Council confirmed this is not the case.

4. To Approve Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd February 2011

Approved.

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

None.

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that Councillor Arthur Allen had resigned from the Parish Council due to ill health. Other items the Chairman reported, Bank Charges have started to be incurred on the National Westminster Current and Reserve Bank Accounts, the Clerk is investigating this with the aim to get future charges prevented. Council Election Papers have been received, Clerk to circulate. Lastly the Chairman presented to Council the first newsletter produced by the new Allotment Stewardship Group, this was in hardcopy, Councillor Lynch will scan this so the Clerk can send out to all Councillor's.

7. County Councillor's Report

Councillor Sexon reported on the recent budget cut announcements from Oxfordshire County Council. Some additional funds have been found, total of £640K which was set aside for Music Service as it was anticipated that this area would be cut, but it has not so this additional fund will be used elsewhere. A total of £300K will be allocated to the libraries, Councillor Sexon pointed out that it is imperative that communities continue to work at keeping their libraries open, as this will help with getting some funding allocated, he has had conversations with the Co-Chairman of the Woodcote OWL group who are very active in plans to keep Woodcote library open. The consultation process is about to start and he has been given a guarantee that this consultation will be meaningful.

Councillor Sexon reported that 65% of OCC's funding comes from government and that 28% of that has been cut this represents £119 million, and £54 million has to be cut in the year 2011/12. Areas to be cut are Bus subsidies by £2 million, he stressed that Parish Councils need to have plans regarding what they need to do in this area. Libraries are also affected £2.7 million will be cut over the next 4 years Councillor Sexon stated that this may change.

Youth Services are also being affected, suggested plan is to move to 7 hubs in the County, objections to this are that rural areas do not have the transport links to get to the hubs, assurances have been given that the hubs will operate on an outreach program. There will also be some impact to Adult Social care.

Areas that have not been cut are Fire and Rescue and Children's Social Care.

There is also The Big Society Funding of £200K which is to cover everything, but Parish Council's need to tap into this funding as it will be year on year.

Councillor Sexon advised that he will give further updates as more detail is made available on the overall funding cuts, he also advised that he did vote for the new budget.

The Chairman asked Councillor Grady to show the Draft letter regarding Traffic issues in Woodcote village to Councillor Sexon for his inputs and feedback. Councillor Sexon advised that it is difficult to get the Police to engage in these matters as there have not been fatal accidents. It was agreed to send this letter as a first step towards overall traffic calming actions in Woodcote village. Clerk to send out when Councillor Grady has sent the agreed draft. (*County Councillor Sexon left the meeting*)

8. Planning

8.1 Applications

P11/E0058 Extensions and alterations. Greenhills, Shirvells Hill, Goring Heath.

Approved with note to Planning that this property is not in the Parish of Woodcote.

P11/E0110 Single storey rear extension and new log burning stove to lounge. Facing brick chimney stack to side/south elevation. 37 Bridle Path, Woodcote.

Councillor Peirce pointed out that this is a flat roof extension and that Planning are not always favourable to flat roof extensions in the AONB. The proposed extension is to the rear of the property therefore not in general view Council agreed **No Strong Views**.

7.2 Applications Granted by SODC:

P10/E1924 Erection of single and two storey rear extensions and single storey. 3 The Close Woodcote. Granted.

7.3 Applications Refused BY SODC:

App/Q3115/C/10/2131177 Land on South side of Red Lane, known as Land at Chiltern Park Aerodrome. Enforcement Notice upheld and planning permission refused.

7.4 Other Planning Matters.

The Chairman invited Karen Woolley to speak. Karen explained that Chiltern Conservation Board are applying to English Heritage for funding of £500K to restore and improve certain ponds in the area. Greenmore Ponds are one of these and the proposal is to restore the Victorian Dipping Well at Greenmore Ponds as it is of historical interest. Karen presented photographs to the Council of the well and Ponds. Chiltern Conservation Board will be responsible for the works and they will be carried out to National standards. As the land is owned by the Parish Council a license letter needed to be signed by the Council Chairman. This letter was read out to Council, **it was agreed** to sign this letter for to the Chiltern Conservation Board approving this proposal.

Chairman signed the letter, Karen Woolley then left the meeting with the letter to send before the deadline.

9. Finance To approve payments. To note receipts

<u>Cheque</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>£)</u>	<u>Date</u>
3238	SG Creative Solutions	Web maintance 3 mnths	£117.00	16.2
3239	SwiftClik	DVD's for PC backup	£5.06	
3240	J.Welham	Feb Salary & expenses		
		Nov to Feb inc	£666.45	
3241	Swiftclik		£42.71	
RECEIPTS			None	
None				

APPROVED

To Note Receipts

None.

9.1 Quotations/Grants received for approval

Verbal Quotation from Higley Brothers to repair loose and raised paving slabs to path at rear of Village Hall £60 plus VAT. Council **Approved**.

10. Review of Standing Orders – to review & update Standing Orders adopted by Parish Council. Draft Standing Orders had been circulated to Councillor's. Some minor changes were made to the Draft. Clerk to circulate the Standing Orders when changes have been made. Council **Approved**.

11. Review of Financial Regulations – yearly review update if required. Draft Financial Regulations had been circulated to Councillor's. One or two minor wording changes were made to ensure the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders correlated. Clerk to make the changes and then circulate the Financial Regulations. Council **Approved**.

12. Review of Risk Management & Insurance – to review & update if required. The 2010/11 Risk Management document had been circulated to Councillor's, the document was reviewed. Councillor Lynch questioned if a risk management table should be produced to back up the document, Councillor Harrison will look at this area with the Clerk in future months for the new financial year. Council **Approved**.

13 District Councillor's Report
Councillor Peirce had no report at this time as information is still awaited from SODC.

14. Other Matters for Chairman
The Clerk advised that litter picking in the village by Community Care was not allowed alongside a main road, however Verdant had advised that they will be starting a 12 week cycle this week and Woodcote village will have litter pickers from Verdant. Kevin Knight the Parish Council litter picker has agreed to pick the area around the Co-operative store once a week.

The Clerk advised that Lloyds TSB had emailed details of savings interest rates that were preferable to the current NSI accounts where the bulk of the reserve funds are held. Clerk to circulate the email and place as Agenda item for future meeting.

The Chairman asked Council if they still wanted to hold the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 4th May as the next day May 5th was election day. Councillor Peirce gave a brief overview of the election process to Council, and commented that in previous election years the Council had still conducted the normal Parish Council meetings, therefore it was agreed to hold the May 4th meeting as usual.

Councillor Grady asked whether we could encourage an ordered hand-over/succession for the post of Chairman, The Chairman offered to circulate to Councillors the booklet on Chairmanship duties.

Councillor Grady gave a report on the Youth Club progress which is working very well, he had a newsletter and schedule of events, details will be sent to the Clerk for inclusion on the Woodcote website. Councillor Grady commented that Anne Stevenson had put in a lot of hard work to get the Youth Club to this stage. The Clerk also had a report from PCSO Mark Bell re the Friday Night Youth project which has started well. Councillor Lynch to scan the report. and pass to Clerk for circulation.

15. Correspondence

1. Letter from Sue Ryder – Asking for donation to Chair Appeal. Noted no funds available.
2. Letter from OCC – Oxfordshire Play Space Survey to be completed. Noted pass to Village Green Committee
3. Letter from HomeStart – requesting support as they help 3 families in Woodcote. Noted no funds available.
4. Letter from Julet Tower – Re Flower Festival at St. Leonard's either donation or arrangement. Noted no funds available.

16. To note date of the next meeting: Wednesday 2nd March 2011.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm

Signed: _____ Chairman/Date _____

