

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Parish Council meeting held in the Committee Room, Village Hall Woodcote 19th January 2011, commencing 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Mrs. M. Edmonds
Vice Chairman	Mrs. D. Hadaway
	Mr. K. Grady
	Mr. A. Allen
	Mr. R. Peirce
	Mr. P. Tyler
	Mr. P. Stevenson
	Mrs. S. Harrison
	Mr. C. Edwards
Parish Clerk	Ms. Jenny Welham

1.To Receive Apologies For Absence

Mr. J. Lynch

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

5 Members of the public present. The applicants for planning application P10/E1924.

Also Mr. David Denham, Mr. Graham, Denton, Mr. Brian Duckett to present their proposed development plans for Land at Behoes Lane.

Mr. Duckett addressed the meeting giving some background and history and advised that the intent was to apply for planning permission following a public exhibition in the village, date to be advised. Mr. Duckett then displayed the outline drawing of the development, explaining that much of the existing hedging and trees will be retained, with open spaces on the west side facing the open agricultural land. Access from the development will be out onto Behoes lane and subsequently Beech Lane. Proposal is for 115 dwellings made up of 1 & 2 bedroom apartments and 2 to 4 bedroom houses all with garaging and parking spaces, 2 per plot. SOHA have been involved and will be party to the application, some of the properties will be shared equity and some rented. Parish Clerk will be emailed requesting details of booking of the Village Hall and advertising the public Meeting.

Chairman thanked them for their presentation and made it clear that the Parish Council could not give any feedback, as the Council can only comment on actual planning applications once submitted, this was understood.

4. To Approve Minutes of Meeting held on 5th January 2011

Approved.

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

None.

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on the public meeting held regarding the proposed Woodcote Library Closure, this meeting was very well attended she advised that Sarah Bentley and Vicky Jordan who Chaired the public meeting had done a very good job.

Chairman advised that Councillor John Lynch had been awarded the OBE for his services to the Border Agency.

7. Planning

7.1 Applications

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

Councillor Tyler and Allen had not been able to make a full inspection of the site as access was not available at the time of visiting. Also SODC had not sent the full set of plans these had been requested but only arrived on Tuesday 18th January. Clerk to request an extension. Councillor Tyler will liaise with the applicant for a suitable time to visit the site.

7.2 Applications Granted by SODC:

None

7.3 Applications Refused BY SODC:

None.

7.4 Other Planning Matters.

The Clerk requested help in completing the ST1 Form for Land Registry in relation to the Parish Councils application for adverse possession for the strip of land in West Chiltern. Approaches to SODC legal had been unsuccessful. Councillor Peirce agreed to take copies of the forms and speak to a colleague at SODC to help complete the form.

Councillor Grady asked what the position was regarding the overall planning process and how much influence on decisions will be passed down to Parish Councils. Councillor Peirce gave feedback regarding the overall planning process, and that there is now greater scope for local decisions has been improved but not yet down to the Parish Council level.

8. Finance - To Approve Payments

Cheque	Payee	Reason	Amount (£)	Date
	3232 J. Welham	January Salary	£677.77	19.1.11

APPROVED

To Note Receipts

None.

8.1 Quotations/Grants received for approval

None.

The Clerk addressed the meeting requesting that Telephone Banking with National Westminster Bank be approved. The Application Form was shown to the Council and **it was resolved to agree** to setting up telephone banking.

The Clerk and Chairman signed the form to be returned to the Bank. **Approved.**

8.2 Budget Review

Budget figures and Actual Year to Date Payments had been circulated prior to the meeting. The overspends on Tree Surgery and Grass Cutting were noted, it was felt tree surgery had been under budgeted and also the Grass cutting pricing had seen an increase. Councillor Peirce suggested that the Car Park Bollards amount should be moved into Village Maintenance and also the Stone Monument into Recreation under Village Maintenance. Councillor Grady asked if the Clerk could give projections to the year end of further spending and represent the figures. The Clerk also needs to do some further reconciliation. **It was resolved to agree** all of these actions and further review the Budget figures at a future meeting. The Chairman advised that the new Accounting Program will produce budget figures and variances with more ease and less manual intervention.

The Clerk also pointed out that the S137 payments were incorrectly coded in this category and **it was agreed** to change these to the correct Powers for the new financial year 2011/12. Councillor Harrison agreed check the Parish Council Accounts with the Clerk at least quarterly.

9. SODC Core Strategy Proposal - to discuss and agree feedback.

Councillor Peirce commented that certain sections of this strategy needed feedback from the Parish Council. In particular section 7.21 The feedback needs to be kept short and positive especially as the required feedback form does not have much space for lengthy responses. He read out his proposed response and also asked if the Parish Council wish to present an oral presentation should they be requested. All **agreed** with the proposed response and also to **agree** to complete the Yes box for Oral presentation.

Councillor Peirce to complete the form in draft and pass to the Clerk so the feedback can be sent by the deadline date of 21st January 2011.

10 Village Hall Report

Councillor Grady had been unable to attend the meeting on the 10th January 2011, had received the minutes and reported that there was nothing that required the Council's attention.

11. Village Green Report

Councillor Tyler reported that there had not been a meeting so nothing to report.

12. Other Matters to be raised with the Chairman

Councillor Tyler had attended the meeting on 10th January of the newly formed Owl Group (Our Woodcote Library) This is the new group formed to represent the village in its bid to oppose the proposed closure of the library. This meeting was predominantly to set up the new committee this was achieved with Sarah Bentley and Vicky Jordan sharing the Chairmanship of the Group. A Treasurer was appointed and also a Secretary. or Gap Way was broken. Clerk to report to Highways. The Group have been visiting other libraries that are on the closure list.

Councillor Tyler reported that the library building belongs to the Education Authority and that they are in the process of getting the building listed. This listing is thought to act to deter any potential development, which although unlikely the listing would strengthen keeping the existing building.

Councillor Peirce pointed out that the Education Authority still comes under the jurisdiction of the County Council so effectively the building is in the ownership of OCC.

The Owl meetings will take place on Mondays frequency to be advised but likely to be fortnightly if any Parish Councillors can attend. The first priority of the group is to get Woodcote Library removed from the closure list. The Chairman reported that our County Councillor Dave Sexon had emailed her from his holiday asking how the public meeting had been attended etc. The Chairman had replied giving him details and an update of the proceedings. The Clerk has invited him to the PC meeting on 16th February.

Councillor Grady asked if items pertaining to the meeting like the one in the public forum regarding the proposed development of land at Behoes Lane could be brought to his attention prior to the meeting as he was finding it difficult to arrive for 7.30pm. The Clerk reported that the email with the document had been sent on Tuesday afternoon, so this was not seen for circulation until approx 6pm on Wednesday before the meeting which was rather too late.

13. Correspondence

1. Letter from Local Government Boundary Commission – regarding council size.

Councillor Peirce suggested that this should be on the agenda for a future meeting **it was agreed**, Clerk to circulate to Councillors.

2. Letter from The Chilterns – Invitation to nominate buildings for design award. No buildings recently built to nominated. Noted.

3. Letter Royal British Legion – Re Poppy Parties. – Pass to Mary Hulbert, Clerk to action.

4. Email from DEA Direct – regarding an EPC certificate on Parish Buildings. Pass to Village Hall MC Clerk to Action.

14. To note date of the next meeting: Wednesday 2nd February 2011.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08 pm

Signed: _____ Chairman/Date _____