

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Parish Council meeting held in the Function Room, Village Hall Woodcote Wednesday 6th July 2011, commencing 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Vice Chairman Mr. G. Botting (Who Chaired the meeting)
Mrs. S. Harrison
Mr. D. Booth
Mr. P. Stevenson
Parish Clerk Ms. Jenny Welham

1. To receive apologies for absence

Mr. P. Tyler, Mrs. D. Hadaway, Mr. K. Grady, Chairman Mr. R. Peirce.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None

3. Public Forum: Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council. With the permission of the Chairman, the public may also speak about specific items of business as they arise. Miss Booker was in attendance as the consultant with regard to Planning Application P11/E0919/LD. The Chairman requested a change to the Agenda to discuss this planning application, this was agreed. P11/E0919/LD, the site had been inspected by Cllr. Tyler and Cllr Botting gave his report. The Council had no representations about this application and the reply to SODC will state None.
(Miss Booker left the meeting at 8pm)

4. To approve Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2011.

Approved

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

None

6. Chairman's Address & Questions

Vice Chairman Botting reported that Chairman Peirce had spoken at the Core Strategy Scrutiny Meeting and had presented the views very well. The next meeting will be the Public Examination Meeting on July 22nd, and Cllr. Botting has registered Chairman Peirce to speak at this meeting. Vice Chairman Botting raised the issue of Parish Council publicity and communication to the village and expressed that the recent article in the Woodcote Correspondent looked rather disjointed. He also felt that over the next years communications will become a key area with all the activity around the Core Strategy and our proposed application for a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors felt that a two way communication is needed between residents and the Parish Council. Vice Chairman Botting suggested that a "press officer" function would be useful to critique all communications that went out. Councillor Harrison offered to take this responsibility and Council agreed. It was suggested that the village website could be used more and that residents could post their views on this. Clerk to investigate with our webhost and report back at next meeting.

7. Neighbourhood Plan Report and Update on Woodcote PC application.

Vice Chairman Botting gave the following report;

At the PC meeting on 15th June it was agreed he draft a letter to be sent to SODC that would propose that Woodcote and SODC apply to the CC&LG to become a Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner. In so doing a grant of £20,000 would be available to cover the costs – although voluntary effort would still be needed.

This letter was drafted, circulated, confirmed and delivered to SODC on the following Monday, the 20th June.

The following day, the 21st June, District Councillor Quinton drew the letter to the attention of David Buckle at SODC which resulted in his support for the proposal and the appointment of Toby Warren of SODC to lead the production of the Application. Speed was, important because applications close at 17:30 Friday 8th July.

A conversation with Toby Warren on the 22nd June led to him obtaining a copy of the application made by Lewes District Council and cutting and pasting this, using data from the Woodcote Parish Plan, to provide a skeleton for completion with the data and reasons why Woodcote was a good candidate.

Jerry Green, as chairman of the Woodcote Parish Plan was co-opted and Chairman Peirce, Vice Chairman Botting and Jerry Green met with Toby Warren at SODC on Monday 27th June. It was discussed what was required from Woodcote and Vice Chairman Botting provided this, completed the skeleton, and produced a document that could be submitted to the CC&LG.

The Application was sent to Toby Warren on 3rd July and Vice Chairman Botting met him the following afternoon. At this meeting Toby Warren advised that that he had not read the application but would discuss it with Miles Thompson at SODC (the Shared Planning Policy Manager) on the afternoon of the 5th July, and would then get back to Vice Chairman Botting as soon as possible so that the application could be discussed at the meeting of the Parish Council on 6th July. Statements of support have been received from District Cllr. Quinton, County Cllr. Dave Sexon, Chiltern Conservation Board, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, Angie Paterson Planning SODC, and with District Cllr. Quinton's help, John Howell. MP.

The application has, with the exception of a few minor changes, been accepted by Miles Thompson. However there are a certain few important words that suggest that Woodcote's Neighbourhood Plan would 'conform' to SODC planning decisions which, in the view of Vice Chairman Botting, rather ruled out a significant local input and undermined the whole purpose of Neighbourhood Plans.

Accordingly Vice Chairman Botting wrote to Toby Warren and Miles Thomson at SODC advising them of his disquiet and doubt that the Parish Council would want to support Neighbourhood Plans which excluded serious input from the village and its residents. It was also noted that the Parish Council had not yet given its approval to Woodcote as a partner. This has been done with Chairman Peirce away on holiday but he has been kept fully informed by e-mail and District Cllr. Quinton is included in that correspondence as he has been very supportive throughout. Currently no response from SODC but, if the application is to continue then a decision needs to be made as the deadline is 2 days away.

Councillor's confirmed their disagreement with the wording "conform" but agreed that the application should still go ahead with this wording changed. A meeting at SODC with Vice Chairman Botting and District Cllr. Quinton and Miles Thomson SODC is proposed for 7th July. Further report at the next meeting.

8. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Sexon reported on the following areas;

He is continuing to work with OWL (Our Woodcote Library group) and is in the process of setting up a meeting with them and the relevant Cabinet Minister.

Whitchurch Bridge replacement, many strong objections have been raised from Whitchurch Parish Council and Pangbourne Parish Council in particular to the provision for pedestrian access over the bridge. Also the traffic management plan has not been fully considered by the developers. Councillor Sexon is arranging a meeting with the relevant Parish representatives and Highways to discuss the traffic management issues in more detail.

Utilities that currently run under the bridge are being moved so the bridge will be closed on July 17th 2011.

Oxfordshire County Council are proposing to give Parishes large bags of salt in preparation for bad weather conditions. The salt would be for the Parishes to replenish salt bins and to grit areas that cannot be reached by the County Council. The salt would need to be stored in a dry area and the Parishes would need to distribute the salt as the Council not longer have the resources to replenish salt bins. This matter is still under discussion and Councillor Sexon will report back any decisions.

Councillor Harrison reported that the Woodcote Youth Centre Youth worker had now resigned and asked Councillor Sexon if there were funds in the budget for Youth Workers. He confirmed that there is no budget for Youth Workers and suggested that an application for Chill Out Funds be tried as there were funds still available.

9. District Councillor’s Report

District Councillor Quinton thanked Vice Chairman Botting on his excellent application for Woodcote Parish Council Front Runner Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Quinton has emailed Anne Ducker and Miles Thompson at SODC to arrange a meeting on 7th July to further discuss the application.

He reported that the Core Strategy had been somewhat rushed following the Inspectors decision to reject windfall sites and only designated sites being accepted. As the deadline for submission was then very tight the need for the haste was necessary.

He reported that the Public Examination meetings for the Core Strategy will take place in July and November.

10. Planning Applications:

P11/E0869 Demolition of the existing single storey side and rear extensions, erection of two storey side, front and rear extensions and replacement single storey rear extension. James Farm South Stoke Rd Woodcote RG8 0PL. Recommend Approval.

P11/E0884 single storey side and rear ground floor extension to replace existing garage and carport 20 Whitehouse Rd, Woodcote RG8 0RX. Recommend Approval.

P11/E0919/LD Land Adjacent to Beech Cottage Beech Lane Woodcote the erection of buildings, hard standing and formation of access onto the land in ancillary residential use. Recommend Approval.

P11/E0818 Woodcote Youth Club Village Hall External ramp to facilitate access by disabled persons. Recommend Approval.

10.1 Applications Granted by SODC:

P11/E0685 Construction of hay and implement store and a stable yard building (amendment to planning permission P09/E0153 Greenmoor Hill Farm, Woodcote RG8 0RW).

P11/E0746 Replacement Conservatory 22 Croft Way Woodcote RG8 0RS.

10.2 Applications Refused by SODC:

None.

10.3 Other Planning Matters

Summerhouse – 91 Whitehouse Road – A letter had been received back from the Planning enforcement officer stating that this structure is in breach of planning. The Officer has been in contact with the owners of the property and invited them to apply for retrospective planning permission. The letter also states that during his visit the officer felt that the outbuilding did not give rise to any harm either to the surrounding area or to neighbouring properties, the building is currently being used for storage but will be used as a summer house and games room once the current building works at the site are completed. The Council Noted the comments.

11. Finance To approve payments. To note receipts APPROVED

Cheque	Payee	Amount (£)	Date	Reason
27	K. Smallbone	25.00	6.7.2011	War Memorial June
28	K. Knight	156.00		Litter Pick June
29	BDO	480.00		Audit charge
30	Berinsfield	930.54		Grass cuts May
31	SLCC	118.00		Membership Renewal
RECEIPT	SSE Wayleave Register	47.01		Consent

11.1 Quotations/Grants received for approval. Notice Board Donation Amount from Co-operative Stores.

The Area Manager has replied to the Parish Council stating that the Co-operative Store is prepared to donate £500 towards the cost of a new notice board outside the store. The Clerk to bring cost details of the notice boards to the next council meeting for the Council to decide if they want to spend additional funds.

12. Village Green Report

None as Councillor Tyler absent.

13. Urgent Matters for Council to Consider

Vice Chairman Botting reminded Council that we still had two vacancies FOR Parish Councillors and asked if there had been any replies to the advertisements, the Clerk confirmed that to date there had been no interest. Further efforts to be made by all to identify possible candidates.

14 Correspondence

14.1 Matters for resolution

None.

14.2 Matters for information

Email from Fiona Preston to Martin Gamay at SODC regarding the removal of two young silver birch trees on the corner of Mowforth Close and Folly Orchard Rd. The Parish Office was copied on this email. To date no reply has been received. Clerk to monitor this and report back.

15. To note date of the next meeting: Wednesday 20th July 2011.

Vice Chairman Botting closed the meeting at 9pm.

