

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Parish Council meeting held in the Function Room, Village Hall Woodcote Wednesday 1st June 2011, commencing 7.30pm.

<u>PRESENT</u>	Chairman	Mr. R. Peirce Mr. P. Tyler Mrs. S. Harrison Mrs. D. Hadaway Mr. G. Botting Mr. D. Booth Mr. C. Quinton Mr. D. Sexon Ms. Jenny Welham
	District Councillor	
	County Councillor	
	Parish Clerk	

1. To receive apologies for absence

Mr. K. Grady, Mr. P. Stevenson.

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.

PCSO Michael Rawnsley gave a report, the have your say meeting held outside the Village Hall that evening had been unattended. There has been a rise in bicycle theft in the village, a child's bicycle was stolen in Wayside Green, Michael recommends that all bicycles should be securely padlocked if left outside or locked away were possible. There has been a burglary in Behoes Lane which is currently being investigated. The year 11 of Langtree School are nearing completion of their exams, the PCSO's are aware that last year the celebrations involved a degree of vandalism around the village and are keeping a watch for any repeat of this behaviour.

District Councillor Quinton reported that several residents had seen a scramble motorbike minus a silencer being ridden around the village at high speed. He had seen the bike that evening but it was too far away to determine a number plate. PCSO's will watch out for this bike and can issue a section 59 when apprehended.

Michael reported that the speed monitoring is continuing in the village and another unit had been to the Goring Road. A further speed trap is planned nearer the schools when their work schedule permits.

Chairman Peirce reported that a resident of the Goring Road had visited the Parish Office to specifically express strong concern over the number of speeding vehicles on Goring Road and also that currently large lorries named Earthline Ltd where travelling through the village at speeds in excess of 30mph. County Cllr. Sexon confirmed that these lorries are working on a development where a house is being demolished. PCSO Rawnsley made a note and will look out for these vehicles, and confirmed that the speed monitoring is an ongoing process.

(He then left the meeting).

4. To approve Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2011.

Approved

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

Cllr. Tyler suggested that Agenda Item 13 is changed to Committee Reports rather than stating a specific committee name such as Village Green. **It was resolved** that Committee reports would appear on the Agenda as an Agenda item following receipt of the minutes from the relevant Committee.

6. Chairman's Address & Questions

Chairman Peirce gave some feedback concerning the current communications regarding the Core Strategy.

There are two dates when representation can be made one in July and one in November. The area that Woodcote Parish Council gave feedback on will be covered in the November session. He reported that the main change is infill sites are now not being considered and named sites had to be identified. This may affect Woodcote village as designated infill sites were the majority in the village. Chairman Peirce then asked District Councillor Quinton if he would give his report and if he had any further details regarding the Core Strategy.

7. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Quinton congratulated Chairman Peirce on his appointment and also wished him a speedy recovery from his recent surgery. Reporting on the Core Strategy, and the major issue being that infill/windfall sites are not now going to be included. He said that the Officers at SODC are working on how to respond to this. A current area that he is also working on with the Officers is the proposed development at Hilltop Field. He stressed that the village needs to remain active in its opposition for this proposal. The Hilltop Field Action Group are remaining active, and District Cllr Quinton has had dealings with Mr. R. Thompson from the group who has some expert knowledge of this area.

Mr. Thompson on behalf of the Action Group has been researching and unfortunately has found a site in Sussex in an area of AONB that has been developed. The concern is that this may set a precedent. Cllr Botting who is also a member of the Action Group suggested a need to get interest in forming a Neighbourhood Plan. Chairman Peirce proposed that this be an item on the Agenda for the next meeting in two weeks time.

Chairman Peirce made District Councillor Quinton aware of the response from Woodcote Parish Council to the Core Strategy particularly in regard to the comments regarding some incursion into AONB and that the Core Strategy showed a lack of respect for the AONB. District Cllr Quinton responded that he felt this was unlikely to happen but all need to remain active in their opposition. Cllr. Quinton is involved on the following committees at SODC, Audit & Corporate Governance Committee, General Licensing, Licensing Acts, NNDR Appeals Panel (National Non-Domestic Rates). Scrutiny Committee (Substitute) he has only recently been elected so further reports will follow.

8. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Sexon congratulated Chairman Peirce on his appointment and also wished him a good recovery. He had one major item to report which was an update on the Counties libraries. Following a massive response the County Council has now made a new proposal which is to keep all the libraries open and reduce costs. They will still need to make cuts of £6.8 million over the next 4 years. The consultation process has started and will last for 3 months, all letters previously written will be kept and carried forward, however he stressed that people can still write in again and also reply to the consultation online. There will be no changes made until April 2012 or later, Cllr Sexon advised that to meet the budget cuts the changes would have to be introduced by April 2012.

All the counties libraries will remain open and all will receive some degree of funding on different scales.

22 Core libraries will receive full funding. Category A.

Community Plus libraries will receive two thirds of their funding. Category B.

Community libraries will receive one third of their funding. Category C.

Regrettably Woodcote library falls into Category C. Cllr. Sexon does not support this and feels there is still a case to be argued in the consultation for Woodcote library to be raised into Category B as South Oxfordshire does not have any library above this level, apart from Wallingford. Cllr Botting asked him if he will try to get other libraries such as Goring and Sonning Common upgraded. Cllr Sexon replied that he felt Woodcote library is central to many villages so will campaign for their upgrade. The cuts will be across all 43 libraries and much of this will be in staff costs. Book stock and Online computing will not change.

Library Co-ordinators will be appointed to help and support volunteers and a trained librarian will be allocated to areas to train volunteer staff. Further cuts will be gained by tailoring opening hours to reduce costs. Many of the libraries are in buildings owned by Oxfordshire County Council and could therefore be scrutinised to be sold off as assets, however Cllr. Sexon reported that the Woodcote library building is not a cost to OCC as this is covered by Langtree School. Cllr Sexon will try to attend a consultation meeting on 6th June and report back he stressed he will continue to work with the various support library groups and Parish Councils on this matter. Chairman Peirce thanked County Councillor Sexon and District Councillor Quinton for their reports.

(Cllr Sexon and Cllr Quinton left the meeting)

9. Planning

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

Recommend Approval.

9.1 Applications Granted by SODC:

P11/E0434 New Dormer Bungalow. Conway Reading Rd Woodcote

P11/E0595 Front side and rear extension 8 Ashlee Walk, Woodcote, RG8 0SF

9.2 Applications Refused by SODC:

None.

9.3 Other Planning Matters

P11/E0743 Reconstruction of bridge involving partial demolition of listed building. Whitchurch Bridge High Street Whitchurch RG8 7DF. Cllr. Tyler is dealing with this application and reported that Whitchurch Parish Council have proposed a meeting of all the neighbouring Parish Councils to discuss this planning application. The date of the meeting is to be confirmed, Cllr. Tyler will attend and report back. Chairman Peirce will also attend, the meeting is open to all Councillors, the Clerk will circulate the date when finalised.

Chairman Peirce read a letter from Thames Valley Primary Care Agency stating that the application from Red Kite Shop for preliminary consent to provide NHS pharmaceutical services from premises at Wayside Green had received no appeals in respect of the application, the decision of the Oxfordshire PCT to refuse the application as being neither necessary nor desirable is upheld and the application has failed.

10. Finance To approve payments. To note receipts (See schedule)

Cheque	Payee	Amount £)	Date	Reason
18	Village Hall MC	1,375.00	1.6.11	1/2 year office rental
19	Higley Bros	282.00		Bus shelter repair
20	Chiltern Society	25.00		Annual sub
21	K. Knight	156.00		Litter May
22	K. Smallbone	25.00		War Memorial May
23	Arrow Accounting	469.00		Internal Audit

All Approved

To Note Receipts

Oxfordshire County Council, Grant for Grass Cutting £2339.00.

10.1 Quotations/Grants received for approval.

None.

11. Internal Audit Report 2010/11 to review recommendations.

The Internal Audit report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The comment regarding the Fidelity Insurance was noted and the Clerk reported that the insurance cover was for £140K. It was agreed that this amount was acceptable as the risk is low. Action for the Clerk to check if there is savings on the premium if the amount is reduced. The internal audit report mentioned that no Petty Cash was operated by the Parish Council, this is incorrect and the Clerk will report back to the Auditor. The audit comment on long term assets in terms of the share investments was noted, the Clerk to investigate the values of selling the shares for reinvestment and if this is a financially beneficial option.

12. Councillor's Areas of Interest To finalise and agree role & responsibilities of Councillor's to the committees.

The new list had been circulated by the Clerk. Chairman Peirce commented that the areas of interest marked "All" had been moved to the bottom of the list as they were inherently the responsibility of all councillors and would eventually be removed from the list. Cllr. Tyler asked if Mr. Hatt had been contacted regarding New Age Travellers as he was on the list under this area. Mr. Hatt had not been contacted, Chairman Peirce agreed to telephone him.

Chairman Peirce gave some detail regarding the Administration Working Group to be formed. This group would work on areas that needed work and input, such as, Clerk's Salary reviews, Office working conditions, regulatory changes etc. before being brought to the Parish Council for discussion and resolution. He stressed that this would be a working group and would bring recommendations to Council for approval. The Group would be 4 members, the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Financial and one other. He proposed this with Cllr. Harrison for finance and Cllr. Grady as other. **Council agreed.** Cllr. Tyler was concerned that when voting on a recommendation with 4 in the working group and only 4 other Councillors currently, that resolutions could be agreed.

Cllr. Harrison replied saying that this was unlikely to happen as the 4 in the working group may not all agree on a resolution and full council would need to vote. The full council of 10 members would need to resolve the issue. The intention is that the Working Group will meet and have an Agenda item at the 2nd parish council meeting in July.

13. Village Green Report

Cllr. Tyler reported that the artwork created by Langtree School that was in the bus shelter which had been removed due to vandalism is now repaired. The Village Green committee want permission to display this somewhere else in the village. Suggestions were Library, Village Hall, Community Centre . The Parish Council are happy for the Village Green Committee to make the approaches and ask for permission as ultimately it will be their own committees who need to approve the art work is fixed in their buildings or not.

Cllr Tyler reported that the youth had been consulted about the Youth Shelter. The resolution is to move the existing shelter to the top of the football field and place it on a concrete base. A long curved seat will be placed where the existing shelter is sited. This will be done at no cost to the Parish Council, Village Green Committee will fund this work. There has been some vandalism to the play area, the Village Green Committee are covering this and will monitor.

Cllr. Tyler had also attended the Community Centre Committee meeting on Tuesday 31st May and reported on this meeting. This committee had asked if the Parish Council wished to receive their minutes. The Clerk advised that an email had been sent to the Chairman Jenny Horsup, requesting that their minutes are sent to the Clerk for circulation to Parish Council. Cllr. Tyler said that this had not been raised at the meeting, the Secretary is Janet Philips, the Clerk will contact her.

The Community Centre Garden needs some work to be carried out to the shrubs and trees, the Centre are contacting Berinsfield for a quotation for this work, which will be totally separate from the Parish Council contract.

14. Urgent Matters for Council to Consider

Cllr, Tyler reported that the Manager of the Co-operative store had gained permission from the Area Manager to fund a new notice board outside the store to replace the current one. The Clerk had also been to the store and spoken to the Manager, to ensure that the invoice in payment for the notice board would go directly to the Cooperative Store Group. It **was resolved** that the Clerk would get a quotation to present at the next council meeting.

15. Correspondence

15.1 Matters for resolution

Letter from Oxfordshire Carer's Forum for a donation. Resolved not to offer a donation.

15.2 Matters for information

Email from The Community Centre Committee inviting Councillors to their AGM on 23rd June. Clerk to circulate.

Thank you card received from previous Chairman Maureen Edmonds thanking Councillors for the flowers and their support over the year of her Chairmanship.

16. To note date of the next meeting: Wednesday 15th June 2011.

Signed: _____ Date/Chairman

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

