

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Parish Council meeting held in the Committee Room, Village Hall, Woodcote, 7th October 2009.

PRESENT Chairman Mrs. Fiona Preston
Vice-Chairman Mrs Diana Hadaway
Mrs Maureen Edmonds
Mr. Colin Edwards
Mr. Den Griffiths
Mr. John Lynch
Mrs. Marilyn Maddock

(1) **APOLOGIES**

Mr. Peter Tyler
Mr. Robin Peirce
County Councillor Mr. Dave Sexon

(2) **TO AUTHORISE** the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th September 2009.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted and signed.

(3) **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESS THE MEETING**

Mr. Tom Booker reported noise at midnight caused by youngsters misbehaving in the village car park opposite Church Farm. Glass bottles were smashed and dangerous glass was left on the entrances to the car park. The Clerk was asked to write to the police about this matter and the transfer of a PCSO to Sonning Common. He was also asked to put the security of the car park on the next agenda. **CLERK**

(4) **CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS** None

(5) **PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED**

P09/E0765 The Paddocks, Behoes Lane, Woodcote Erection of hay shed and lean to

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend Approval with the following comments: Woodcote Council recommends that conditions should be imposed concerning (i) the design which does not match that of the existing stables and (ii) future use must be limited to that specified in the application ie. hay storage.

P09/E0934 33 Whitehouse Road Woodcote Erection of 3 x two bed and 1 x three bed dwellings

Postponed to next meeting. Clerk to seek extension of time. **CLERK - done**

P09/E0944 Land Adjoining west side of Woodpeckers, Reading Road Woodcote Erection of single storey 3 bedroom dwelling

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend Refusal for the following reasons: Policy D2 applies: there is a telegraph pole, a bus stop , an entrance to a garage and shop opposite and an entrance to adjacent houses. The access to the main road would be dangerous and vision splay is inadequate. Policy D3 applies, almost no garden proposed. Policy H5 applies, loss of important green space in the village. Also building on this area of land could be a change of use for the land in question.

(6) PLANNING APPLICATIONS GRANTED, REFUSED AND OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

PLANNING APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Parish Council
Recommendation

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| P09/E0836 | Squirrels Heath Whitehouse Road | Approval |
| P09/E0745 | 22 Wood Green | Approval |
| P09/E0815 | Highland House Reading Road | Approval |

PLANNING APPLICATIONS REFUSED None

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

Mrs. Fiona Preston asked all councillors to familiarise themselves with the Olga Mowforth House development plans, which were now available on the web, prior to the next council meeting.

(7) REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor not present.

(8) REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Councillor not present.

(9) FINANCE

(i) Payments in October 2009

The following payments were agreed:

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 3064 | Broker Network Ltd. | General Insurance | 1,253.06 |
| 3065 | Woodcote Conservation | Donation | 300.00 |
| 3066 | Petty Cash | | 97.35 |
| 3067 | Mr. Smallbone | Litter Clearance | 125.00 |
| 3068 | OALC | Planning Course | 23.00 |
| 3069 | Berinsfield | Grass Cutting | 780.91 |
| | | Total | £2,579.32 |

(ii) Receipts in September 2009

| | | |
|----------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 22.09.09 | Natwest Treasury A/c | 3.64 |
| 25.09.09 | Precept | 27,420.00 |
| | Total | £27,423.64 |

(iii) Transfers in September 2009 None

(iv) Request for Grants

(i) Ponds

It was agreed to pay Wood Conservation Group £100.00 to help with weed clearance.

(ii) Sue Ryder Care No donation agreed.

(v) Quarterly Review of Expenditure

The Clerk presented his report of the half year position of income and expenditure against budget to the end of September 2009, attached to these minutes.

Because the income from the NatWest Treasury Account was very low at 00.07% **IT WAS RESOLVED** to invest this money in Government Bonds. It was also agreed to postpone the building of a fence in the car park to save £5,000 this financial year.

(10) CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The following Correspondence was noted except where specifically annotated.

A.

- SODC TPO'd trees

The Clerk to reply (copies to Mr. Robin Peirce and John Howell MP) expressing disappointment in the attitude of the District Council to not being consulted on the issue particularly in view of SODC's own communication guidelines. **CLERK**

- OCC Tree at Folly Green
- OCC Mobile Information Unit
- OALC – Revised Salary Scales for Clerks
- Mr. and Mrs. Eastgate Car damage.

It was agreed that the Council would not accept responsibility for this damage. Clerk to write explaining that there were notices posted by the Council and the cricket team making this clear. **CLERK**

- SBP Chapman Stevens Thames Travel Damage Claim

It was agreed that the Council accept no responsibility for this damage. Clerk to reply accordingly. **CLERK**

- Email from Sam Peates Cricket Ball damage

B.

- OPFA AGM 21 Oct 2009
- NHS Health News
- Whats On in the Chilterns
- Chalk and Trees Autumn

(11) EMERGENCY QUESTIONS

Mr. John Lynch presented a letter to the meeting sent to him by one of the play groups who were seeking a grant to help with refurbishment of the village hall kitchen. The letter requested funding from the Council and also permission to sign a 10 year lease with the Village Hall Committee.

The Council asked the Clerk to write explaining the role of the Council as custodian trustees and expressing the view that it would not support the signing of such a long lease time. The funding request should be directed to the Village Hall Committee.

CLERK

Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

..... CHAIRMAN

..... DATE

Budget Review Oct '09

1. Forecast Income to year end 09/10

The forecast income for the year is £64,047 compared with the budget of £65,990. This shortfall is due to the alarming fall in interest paid on the treasury account which is paying only 00.07% p.a. Investment income is expected to be £550 compared with a budget of £3,300. The miscellaneous income of £846.41 includes £500.00 prize money which does not belong to the Council.

2. Forecast Expenditure to year end 09/10.

The forecast spend for the year is £64,294 compared with the budget of £67,607.

3. Forecast to year end for Individual Cost Groups.

No individual cost group is forecast to exceed its budget by more than 5%.

Administration forecast spend is £21,877 compared with a budget of £21,376. This forecast overspend is primarily due to

- (i) the cost of the ISP (AOL at the moment) recorded under computer equipment, being unbudgeted.
- (ii) the cost of web page maintenance, recorded under Village Communication being overspent.

Village Maintenance forecast spend is £24,367 compared with a budget of £23,630. This forecast overspend is primarily due to the cost of contracting two hedge cuts with a budget that allows for only one.

4. Recommendation

On the face of it the shortfall in income will just be balanced by the underspend. The fall in investment income of nearly £3,000 is serious and the Council should consider postponing any proposed spend to allow some degree of contingency against unforeseen expenditure. The recommendation is to postpone the building of the fence on the car park which will save £5,000 this year. Also serious consideration should be given to finding a better income from the £57,000 currently residing in the NatWest Treasury Fund.