

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Parish Council meeting held in the Function Room, Village Hall Woodcote Wednesday 21st September 2011, commencing 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Vice Chairman	Mr. G. Botting
	Mr. D. Booth
	Mr. P. Stevenson
	Mr. K. Grady
	Mr. P. Tyler
	Mrs D. Hadaway
Parish Clerk	Ms. Jenny Welham

1. To receive apologies for absence

Mr. R. Peirce, Mrs. S. Harrison.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None

3. Public Forum:

Mr Andy Crockett, was observing the meeting as he is potentially interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

4. To approve Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2011 and approve minutes of Special PC Meeting held on 5th September 2011.

Minutes of the Special Meeting on 5th September needed some minor typing corrections then Approved. Minutes of Meeting on 7th September page 38 bottom paragraph needed to change to would not agree rather than agree, some other font and typing errors changed then Approved.

9. Woodcote Youth Club to review activities to date and financial report – Anne Stevenson. Council agreed to take this Agenda item at this point as Anne Stevenson had arrived.

Anne gave a brief background history on the progress of the Youth Club to date for Councillors who were new to the Parish Council. The Youth Club numbers are still increasing, the lunchtime opening has been a success with 25 to 40 children attending, the evening sessions after school Tuesday to Friday get approximately 20 children daily some from the primary school. The Friday night project has been a great success with approximately 40 attending, however Anne had to advise that PCSO Mark Bell is not going to be able to continue with this, hopefully a replacement will be found. The Monday evening club has always proved difficult but recently some new activities had been carried out and 25 new children had come to the session.

Anne confirmed that the Youth Club is run with help from Langtree school in total approximately 6 people are involved in running the session. There is a paid Youth Worker who works 3.75 hours per week.

Parish Council agreed to pay the budgeted amount for the Youth Club in two payments, half in October for the previous 6 months and the second half sometime next year before the new financial year.

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

None from the Minutes of Special Meeting on 5th September 2011.

Minutes of Meeting on 7th September 2011, Councillor Grady wanted to give feedback on the Parish Council's attendance at the Woodcote Festival and reported that it had been a good day and had worked well, it was agreed that the Parish Council should attend next year. Councillor Tyler reported that the Festival had made £800. Vice Chairman Botting requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to the organisers. Clerk to Action.

6. Chairman's Address & Questions

Vice Chairman Botting who was chairing the meeting, gave an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee. Their first meeting has been organised for Thursday 22nd September, an agenda has been circulated. The purpose of the first meeting is for everyone to meet each other, appoint a Chairman, Vice Chairman Secretary, and Treasurer for this sub committee. He stated that the Neighbourhood Plan is essentially a Parish Council partnership with SODC so the Parish Council need to remain involved. Vice Chairman Botting and Councillor Grady are both on this Steering Committee. No questions for the Vice Chairman.

7. Planning Applications:

P11/E1383 Construction of a conservatory to the rear of the existing property within its curtilage extending no further than 3 metres from existing rear wall, plus associated covering canopy to access garage (through its rear personnel door) 19 Folly Green Woodcote RG8 0ND
Recommend Approval, however SODC had written to the Clerk advising that the applicant had withdrawn he application.

P11/E1436 Extension over garage, utility and part kitchen, front and rear single storey extensions Cotswolds Behoes lane Woodcote RG8 0PP.
Recommend Approval.

P11/E1424 Loft conversion. 23 Whitehouse Road, Woodcote RG8 0RX
Recommend Refusal due to the Dormer windows overlooking the neighbouring garden, invading privacy as not obscured glazing and not fixed.

7.1 Applications Granted by SODC:

P11/E1169 Conversion of garage into a habitable room. 5 Grimmer Way Woodcote RG8 0SN.

7.2 Applications Refused by SODC:

None.

7.3 Other Planning Matters

None.

8. Finance To approve payments. APPROVED To note receipts. NOTED

Cheque	Payee	inc VAT	Date	Reason
48	Berinsfield	597.22	21.9.11	August cutting
49	Berinsfield	1,752.00		Hedge cutting
50	Cancelled	0.00		cancelled
51	Broker Network	1,211.18		Insurance renewal
52	Hawthorne Carpentry	75.00		Repair to office door
53	Greenbarnes Ltd	946.42		New Notice Board
54	SODC	115.00		Election services
55	J. Welham	750.64		Sept Sal + expenses
56	HMRC	1,272.84		6 months contribtns
RECEIPTS	Cooperative Store	500.00	16.9.11	to New notice Board

8.1 Quotations/Grants received for approval.

Quote from RBS Software – Training for Clerk for Year End Accounting system procedure. Cost for the course £160 plus VAT, Council Approved .

Quote from OALC for Course for the Clerk on effective responses to Planning Applications £30 plus VAT. Councillor D. Hadaway also to attend so total of £60 plus VAT.

Council Approved.

10. Consultation on Future of Oxfordshire Libraries. Submission from Parish Council for Owl report.

The OWL group requested a comment for the report they are submitting for end of September. The Parish Council support the view that if possible the amount of reduction in funding should be kept to a minimum if possible. Clerk to draft a reply and circulate to Council for approval then submit to OWL. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to put the Woodcote Library on the agenda for a meeting in October or November and invite the Chairman of Owl to attend to give an update.

11. Committee Reports – Update & Reports from the various Village Committee's.

Councillor Stevenson reported that he had asked the Village Hall Management Committee about the insurance, they do have an insurance policy and have agreed to pass a copy to the Parish Council.

There had been a fire outside the Village Hall on the evening of Friday 16th September, started in the wheelie bins. Councillor Stevenson reported that a very thoughtful and brave Woodcote youth Max Lee had spotted the fire and with his father had pulled the wheelie bins away from the wall to prevent further damage to the structure of the building. Council will write to him thanking him for his efforts.

The VHMC will be handling the insurance claim and repair of the damage to the Hall.

Village Green report from Councillor Tyler .

He reported that there is no insurance for damage to the play equipment in the playground, the cost of this is prohibitive. The cost of repairs comes from the Village Green Committee's budget. The Parish Council cover the public liability on their insurance.

Dog fouling on the green is a constant problem Councillor Tyler asked if the PC had objections to further notices being displayed, the wording to be approved by the Parish Council before they are produced. Vice Chairman Botting suggested that one overall notice be made listing the rules or code of conduct for the Village Green. Council agreed, and Councillor Tyler will report back to the Village Green Committee.

Councillor Tyler raised the question of CCTV cameras around the play area and Village Hall car park, he had been asked by the Village Green Committee to ask the Parish Council for their view on cameras before they go ahead and gather more information on this potential project.

Councillor Grady is strongly opposed to any cameras. Councillor Booth and Tyler support cameras.

Councillors Botting, Stevenson and Hadaway requested more information before they are prepared to give a view on cameras. Councillor Tyler to advise the Village Green Committee.

12. Urgent Matters for Council to Consider.

SODC November Hearings Overall Strategy – review documentation resolve if pre hearing statement to be submitted.

Vice Chairman Botting advised that Richard Thompson is preparing a draft pre hearing statement for the Parish Council to submit, this will be reviewed at the meeting on 5th October, deadline for submission is 13th October. Chairman Peirce will attend the hearing on day 2.

The Clerk asked for a final decision on the delivery of a 1 ton Salt Bag for the village being offered by OCC. Council have discussed this in some depth and a suitable place to store the salt bag undercover has not been found. The only place identified is in the car park of the village hall and this is not idea as the salt will biodegrade even if under a tarpaulin. Council agreed not to take delivery.

Councillor Grady requested that the Traffic Calming project be raised again and that discussions on the budgeted fund for this project be on the Agenda for the next meeting. Clerk to Action.

Councillor Grady referred to the article in the Henley Standard on Woodcote covering the Hilltop Field Outline Planning application . He was concerned at the quotes and asked if people had been interviewed. Councillors advised that the reporter Nick Henderson had attended the Special Meeting on 5th September so had gained his information from this meeting.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Matters for resolution

Email from SODC inviting Clerk and a Councillor to the Town & Council Forum in November. Clerk to circulate, any councillor wishing to attend to reply to the Clerk.

Email from Chiltern Conservation Board inviting attendance to their Annual Forum in November. Clerk to circulate, any councillor wishing to attend to reply to the Clerk.

Letter from J. Allen – regarding activities for teenagers within Woodcote – requesting a skate park. Councillors have asked the Clerk to reply, investigation into the possibility has been carried out in the past and the cost of insurance was prohibitive. Copy of the letter to be passed to Village Green Committee and also Youth Club Committee.

13.2 Matters for information

Thames Valley Primary Care Agency letter. Advising that they are looking at determination of rurality of Pangbourne, Purley, Tidmarsh, Sulham, Upper & Lower Basildon. This was for information only and noted.

14. To note date of the next meeting: Wednesday 5th October 2011.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

