

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005  
in the recreation ground pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mrs J.P.Blissett (Chair)      Mr. L.F.J. Mulford      Mr. R.L. Thomas  
Mrs M. Turner      Mr. D. Hayter      Mrs A. Fisher  
Mr. M. Sedwards      Mrs D. Boughton Waite      Mr. C. Lamont (County Councillor)

Apologies: Mrs. P. Staples      Mr. S. Lilly

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (PC/07/05)

The minutes were signed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

a) Affordable Housing – Mr. Lilly has organised a meeting with Ms.L.Hudson on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, at 9.30 am in the village hall, to discuss suitable sites. Mrs. Blissett, Mrs. Boughton- Waite, Mrs. Turner and Mr. Hayter will attend. **JB,DBW,SL,DH & MT**

b) Report from County Councillor – Mr. Lamont attended a meeting of the County Council earlier in the day, at which the new Structure Plan and Youth Justice Plan were adopted. At a Cabinet meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September, transport schemes for the local area were considered, in connection with the proposed development in Didcot. The Cabinet also offered two options for the siting of 8000 new houses in the area, allocated by the South East Plan; either 4000 each in Bicester and Didcot, or 2000 each in Wantage/Grove and Bicester and 4000 in Didcot. Local Councillors believe major improvements to infrastructure will be required if these houses are to be built in Didcot, to include upgrading the A34. However, the Highways Agency, which owns the A34, would prefer not to upgrade the road, but try other options, such as road pricing, to combat congestion. Consultation forms are to be sent to Councillors in order that they may suggest their own options for housing distribution; the most likely alternative site is south of Grenoble Road in Oxford.

c) Report from District Councillor- Mrs. Turner reported that a study is being commissioned by SODC concerning future plans for Didcot, but that it seemed public involvement in the study would be limited.

3. Planning matters

a) Applications

Formal notice of permission has been received in respect of the following:

HAR/19210	Erection of single storey extension at 25 The Croft for Mr. & Mrs Cockburn
HAR/13790/3-LB	Erection of partition wall in existing utility room at Homeleigh, High Street,for Dr. R. J. Sloane.
HAR/5456/1	Extension and alterations at Yewsley, Didcor Road, for Mr & Mrs. Marriot.
HAR/19151-LB	Internal remodelling to bathroom and kitchen, insertion of rooflights and window at Abbey Timbers, Broadway for Mr. & Mrs. Eachus.
HAR/14745/6	Demolition of rear extension and outbuilding. Erection of two storey extension at Cherry Trees, High Street for Mr. Panther.
HAR/17849/5	Retrospective application for the erection of 1m high garden wall and boundary fence at Adnams Farmhouse, High Street, for Mr. Collet.

HAR/17849/4-LB Insert two conservation rooflights in north roof slope. Rooflights on south slope to be moved. (Barn 2), at Adams Farmhouse, High Street, for Mr. & Mrs. Parker.

HAR/12063/19-X Erection of building for storage and distribution purposes and general industrial use(B8 & B2), improvements to access road, car park, service area, gatehouse and landscaping. Demolition of existing buildings at Plot 9, Land West of Didcot Power Station for Harmsworth Quays Printing Ltd.

Seven new applications have been received as follows:

HAR/18863/1-D Erection of a dwelling and detached garage at Land front of Dormers, Reading Road, for Mrs. McIlroy Speed. The Council asked that neighbours comments should be borne in mind; one objection has been lodged by a neighbour.

HAR/19229 Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of two storey and single storey extensions at 12, Tyrells Close, for Mr. A. Smith & Ms. D. Buttery.

HAR/9868/7 Erection of timber open fronted gazebo at Wellshead House, Wellshead Lane, for Mr. & Mrs. Allan.

V.14/05 Demolition of existing changing rooms and erection of telescopic swimming pool cover for existing pool at Harwell Primary School.

HAR/17849/7 New 1800mm brick wall, retain existing 1800mm high close boarded fence adjacent to proposed brick wall of car port. Erection of trellis fence above existing 1000mm high brick wall at Adams Farm Barns, High Street, for Mr. Collet.

HAR/12063/22-D Approval of reserved matters for erection of building for storage and distribution purposes and general industrial use(B8 & B2), improvements to access road, car park, service area, gatehouse and landscaping. Demolition of existing building at Plot 09 Land West of Didcot Power Station for Harmsworth Quays Printing Ltd.

HAR/12063/20-X Demolition of existing buildings, erection of building for storage and distribution(Class b8) or general industrial(Class B2) use, sprinkler tank, improvements to access road, HGV parking, car parking and structural planting at Plot 09a Land West of Didcot Power Station, for Harmsworth Quays Printing Ltd.

The Council asked that neighbours' comments be borne in mind for those applications.

Two applications for information only:

MIL/7643/4 Conversion of existing barn to provide single dwelling at Grove Farm, Milton Hill, for Mr. & Mrs. Hartwright.

SUT/12063/21-X Erection of building for storage at Land West of Didcot Power Station for RWE NPower.

One refusal was received in respect of:

HAR/19160                      Demolish cob walls. Rebuild with two cottages plus rear extensions at Thatched Cottage, Reading Road, for Mr. Dawson.

b) Planning application at Princes Manor Farm – Mrs. Turner reported that this application was ongoing, and that the developers are intending to make a donation to the County Council for use on bus shelters in Harwell. The Clerk will write to the County Council to enquire as to how the Parish Council is to obtain the money.

4. Councillor – Vacancy

Interest in the vacancy was expressed by Dr. K. Beswick and by Mr. Champion. The Clerk was unable to contact Mr. Champion before the meeting, but Dr. Beswick attended, and gave details of his experience. The Council thanked him for attending the meeting. The Clerk will try to contact Mr. Champion, to invite him to the next meeting.

5. Financial matters

a) Receipts & Payments cash book for June & July 2005

The above cash books will be reviewed at a Finance meeting at a later date, following receipt of the bank statements.

b) Standing Orders

Amendment to the existing Standing Orders was proposed by Mr. Mulford, seconded by Mrs. Boughton-Waite, and adopted.

c) Dog bin maintenance

The change of contractor to SDK was proposed by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Boughton-Waite, and adopted. There have been two complaints concerning full bins so far; SDK have promised swift action to remedy this problem. The Clerk will request whether it will be possible to add an extra bag to the bins in case of any similar problems.

d) Audit 04/05

The £200 fee for the internal audit is now due. Payment was proposed by Mr. Hayter, seconded by Mrs. Boughton-Waite, and was passed unanimously.

e) Bank interest rate review

The Finance Officer explained that a better rate of interest for the savings account is available at the Bank of Ireland. The Council will consider the benefits and discuss the matter further at the Finance Meeting.

f) Responsible Finance Officer – contract

The new contract was signed by the Chairman and by the Responsible Finance Officer, Mrs. Roberts.

6. Matters relating to Council owned land

a) Cemetery extension and Tenancy Agreement

The fencing is now in place. Mr. Mulford noted that once the extension is taken over as part of the cemetery, the site may need to be split and fenced so that the remaining portion may still be farmed.

The lease for Mr. Lay had been prepared. The signing of the lease was proposed by Mrs. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Hayter, and passed unanimously. Both copies of the lease were duly signed by Mrs. Blissett. Mr. Mulford will take the two copies to Mr. Lay for signing. JM

b) Freeman Orchard – dilapidated stable and Little Pippins lease

A proposal for removal of the old stable has been put forward by Mr. Spence. After consideration of his suggestions, the Council decided to undertake the removal of the building; Mr. Mulford will look into the work involved. The Clerk will write to thank Mr. Spence for his interest. JM

Little Pippins' solicitor has been in touch regarding the lease; Little Pippins are willing to accept the Council's recommendations, but their solicitor has asked whether Mr. Freeman has been consulted at all stages of the proceedings. The Clerk will write to assure him that this is the case.

c) Use of parcel of land next to allotments

Discussion on this matter was deferred until the next meeting, when Mr. Lilly will be available. SL

d) Strip of land along A417

The Council agrees that the fence on the land is in the wrong place. It intends to budget for the work next year; Mr. Mulford will ask Mr. Hinchcliffe for a quote. The matter will be discussed further at the Finance meeting. JM

e) Health and Safety Policy

A standard Health and Safety policy is to be adopted by the Council. Mrs. Blissett will review the policy before the next meeting. JB

f) Recreation ground use

No answer has been received from Manor Football Club regarding their intended use of the recreation ground. The Clerk will continue to try to contact their representative.

g) Play area – annual inspection

The annual inspection report has been received. It was mostly very good, but pointed out that the cement rings should be repaired or removed. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Lands and Recreation Committee.

h) Showers – update

Mr. Mulford reported that one tradesman had shown an interest in the work needed, but that nothing further could be achieved without funding. The Clerk will keep trying to obtain possible grants, but reported that two applications had already been unsuccessful. To be discussed further at the Finance meeting.

7. Highways

a) Bus stop outside Montpelier House

Mrs. Blissett attended a recent site meeting; a new sign and road markings will be installed in the next few weeks.

b) Bus routes update

Mrs. Blissett reported that Mr. Vaizey is now interested in this matter, and will intervene on the village's behalf.

c) Rowstock Junction report update

Mr. Hayter reported that he had followed up the original report, and that the matter is still under consideration. Concerns with possible new road layouts and lack of funding have been noted by the report's authors. Mr. Hayter has asked to be kept informed of any further developments. DH

d) Access onto Wantage Road – van parking

Mr. Mulford reported that it is not possible to use the top gate to access the site. He will inquire about possible contractors before the Council applies for planning permission to have the kerb dropped. JM

8. Health update

Mrs. Boughton-Waite reported that facilities at Abingdon A&E Department are limited but otherwise very good. She will be attending a PPI forum at Stratfield Brake shortly. DBW

9. Website

Mr. Marsh has requested whether content from the book “Harwell – village for 1000 years” may be posted on the website. The book was published by the Parish Council; the Clerk will inform Mr. Marsh that details from the book are available for posting on the website. Contract forms for the 3 domain names which were purchased by the Council have been received in the office; the Clerk will contact Mr. Marsh to inform him. The Council expressed its thanks to Mr. Marsh for his continuing work on the website.

10. Any Other Business

a) Victorian postbox

The Collections Manager has inspected the postbox; the label required is not of a standard size. Mr. Pardy from Didcot Mail Centre will be in touch once there is any progress.

b) Local Government and Rating Act

An agenda of forthcoming meetings to do with the Parish Review has been received in the Council office. Mrs. Turner requested a copy.

c) Handbook on Local Investigations and Determinations

The handbook will be kept in the office for future reference.

d) UKAEA Stakeholder report

Mrs. Turner took the report to review it. MT

e) Finance Meeting

The date for the Finance meeting was set for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm. The Clerk will inform those Councillors not present of the date.

f) Vale Chairman's Charity Dinner Dance

Mr. Lilly had expressed an interest. The Clerk will inform him of the arrangements. SL

g) Village Shop of the Year

The Clerk will display posters concerning this competition on the noticeboards.

h) Community Governor – vacancy

Mrs. Blissett explained that she is no longer a Community Governor at Harwell School, and asked whether any of the councillors were interested in taking up the position. After discussion of the duties involved, no one was able to undertake the role.

i) Community project

Mrs. Blissett reported that a scheme to provide a new pavilion has been put forward as a follow – up from the Parish Plan. Mrs. Fisher commented that so far, only the football and rugby clubs had expressed any interest, but that there were a few people making enquiries about starting a cricket team.

j) Recreation Ground – general

Mr. Thomas stated that the fence around the Bowls Club has grown slack. Mr. Mulford will see Mr. Hinchcliffe about this. JM

Mrs. Fisher has received a request from the Rugby Club that their pitch could be left a little longer at mowing. Mr. Mulford will see the groundsmen about this; he also noted that the pitches need treating for clover. JM

Mr. Mulford revealed that the old line box has broken. A replacement has been ordered, for which the football club has offered to pay half the cost ( Total cost is £235 + VAT).

k) Other items

Mr. Thomas commented that the concrete replacement covers on the two Thames Water inspection pits at Chequers Corner were worn. Mr. Mulford informed the Council that an inspector had already been out to several sites in the village, and taken photographs of areas of concern. Mr. Mulford will follow up this matter. JM

Mr. Mulford reported that the new locks have been installed on the allotment gates, but that some users were not locking them up properly; this situation is to be monitored.

A car window was broken recently by debris from Mr. Woods' strimmer. All the correct signs were in place at the time, so the Council expects no further action.

The meeting ended at 9.55 p.m.