

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 14th February 2006
in the recreation ground pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

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

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (PC/01/06)

The minutes were signed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

a) Affordable Housing – Ms. S. Willers continues to investigate the preferred sites.

b) Harwell Book – Mr. M. Ricketts is investigating a number of ideas for books about Harwell, including a photographic book. He will be appealing in the Harwell News and on the website for help with material.

c) Bins on High Street – Mr. Mulford is looking into the possibility of repairing rather than replacing the bins. JM

d) Grass cutting grant - this item was deferred for discussion at a Lands & Recreation Committee meeting next week.

e) Records in Berkshire Archives – There are 3 items being held in the Berkshire Records Office; the Tithe Map and Award from 1840, and the War Book of Harwell Local Defence Committee from 1942. These items to be mentioned on the website.

3. Reports from County and District Councillors

Mr. Lamont attended a budget meeting at which it was decided to raise the Council Tax by approximately 4.3%, with no cuts to services. Some funding may be available for a local community project, though not necessarily in Harwell.

Mrs. Turner reported on changes to Planning policies; affordable housing will be expected to form 40% of future large developments, and Local Plan structures will be more flexible. She will be attending a meeting concerning the proposed Steventon reservoir on 6th March.

4. Website

The Chairman thanked Mr. Marsh on behalf of the Council for his work so far on the website. Several items were discussed, including future content of the website. Neighbourhood Watch messages and new bus timetables will be added, and, at a later date, information on how to become a Parish Councillor. Mr. Marsh would like the Calendar to be used more efficiently, so that there is less likelihood of events clashing, and added that 3-400 hits per day were being received on average on the website.

Following investigation by Dr. Beswick, a link to Dementiaweb will be set up on the website.

5. Planning Matters

One permission has been received, as follows;

HAR/19385 Replacement conservatory and verandah at 14 Tyrells Close for Mr. R. McStay.

4 new applications have been received in respect of;

HAR/19427 Change of use from newsagents to professional and financial services at Dillons Newsagents Ltd., Curie Avenue for UKAEA.

HAR/19430 Erection of a rear conservatory at 49 Loder Road formr.& Mrs. Macqueen.

HAR/816/1 Erection of a single storey extension to enlarge kitchen and dining room at 6 The Cleave for Mr. & Mrs. P. Fernback.

HAR/19437 Erection of a single storey extension to provide a breakfast room and granny annexe at Kinwood, Blenheim Hill, for Mr.& Mrs. Robertson.

Work is planned to lower the crown of a chestnut tree at 12 Cherry Tree Court, Church Lane.

South Oxfordshire District Council has adopted the South Oxfordshire Plan 2011.

Concerns regarding development in Hengest Gate and at Upper West Field will be passed on to the Vale of White Horse Planning Department.

6. Financial Matters

a) Receipts and Payments cashbook for November & December 2005 - These items will be discussed at the next meeting.

b) Cemetery fees review – The new fees were proposed by Mr. Lilly, seconded by Mr. Mulford, and passed unanimously.

c) Harwell News fees – The new fees were proposed by Mrs. Boughton-Waite, seconded by Dr. Beswick, and passed unanimously.

d) Change of Bank – Change of bank to the Bank of Ireland was proposed by Mrs. Staples, seconded by Mrs. Boughton-Waite, and passed unanimously.

e) Donation requests – both requests (from Home-Start and Oxfordshire Association for the Blind) were discussed, but there is no money available to donate at this time.

f) Staff salary review – This item was referred for discussion at the next Lands and Recreation Committee meeting.

g) OPFA membership – Payment of the membership fee to this organisation has already been agreed and budgeted for.

7. Matters relating to Council Owned Lands

a) Showers – A grant application for third party funding has been made using the 2 quotes available. Mrs. Boughton-Waite mentioned that extra cash may be available from ORCC using the Parish Plan. The Clerk will make enquiries.

b) Play area – Grants for refurbishing the play area are now being considered. The Council should hear more by the end of March.

Play equipment at the former nursery premises in Curie Avenue is not suitable for removal elsewhere. (As the equipment is concreted into the ground, Excavation Permits would have to be sought by UKAEA.)

c) Freeman Orchard –i) – Dilapidated stable – this item will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

ii) – Little Pippins – lease – Little Pippins is not happy with part of the lease. Mr. Lilly has been invited to a meeting at which the lease will be discussed. SL

d) Risk Assessment – The Risk Assessment Annual Review was undertaken by Mr. Hayter and the Finance Officer.

e) Bowls/Tennis Club Rental Reviews – this item was referred for discussion at the next meeting of the Lands & Recreation Committee.

f) Use of Land next to allotments – the Council agreed that the land should be used as allotment land. This will be arranged as soon as possible.

8. Environmental – The village will be entered into the Best Kept Village competition. Mrs. Boughton-Waite proposed that the entrance fee of £20 should be paid. Mr. Mulford seconded the proposal and it was passed unanimously. Details of the competition will be passed to Mr. Marsh for inclusion on the website.

9. Annual Parish Meeting – date & agenda – The Annual Parish Meeting was set for Thursday 18th May, in the village hall at 8pm. Speakers suggested were Mr. Gilbert from VOWHDC and Mr. Sutton from Stagecoach. It was agreed that the agenda should include Great Western Park, and a display of the planned development. Dr. Beswick pointed out that all those attending should be made aware that they will have to use the microphone in order to address the meeting.

10. Highways – bus routes – Mr. Lilly's efforts to have a bus service to Oxford re-instated have now proved successful. Service numbers 32 and 33 will start on Monday March 28th (timetable to follow), and will be circular services, 2 buses per hour direct to/from Oxford High Street, Mondays to Saturdays, via Abingdon, Didcot, Harwell, Hendreds, Grove, etc. A copy of the timetable will be posted on the website as soon as it is available. Mr. Lilly stressed the need for villagers to make use of the services, as they have been set up on a 12-month trial basis, and passenger numbers will be monitored.

11. Any Other Business

The Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council has invited Parish Councils to a reception in March. Mrs. Blissett and Mrs. Boughton-Waite will attend on behalf of the Council.

North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty requested that an article about grants be included in the Harwell News.

A request has been received from East Hendred Boys Football Team regarding the use of the pitches next season. The Clerk will liaise with current users to check on availability.

Mr. Lilly expressed a wish to visit the Police Control Room in Abingdon/Kidlington when that visit takes place; the Clerk will attend to this matter. PC Yates will be invited to the next monthly meeting.

(4)

The Council would like to ensure that the milestone on the A4130 be kept in the parish once it has been removed prior to re-siting. This request will be lodged with the Planning Department.

Mr. Lilly and Mrs. Boughton-Waite attended a workshop in Didcot to do with future development in the town and surrounding areas. Various items were discussed; minutes to follow.

Mr. Hayter mentioned that a new water pipeline is to be laid in the area, and will pass near Harwell; this may cause disruption during construction.

Mrs. Staples and Mrs. Boughton-Waite agreed to organise another Footpaths Walk; details will be put in the Harwell News and on the website. PS,DBW

Mr. Lilly mentioned that the label has been installed on the Victorian post box.

Dr. Beswick reported that proposed closures and mergers of hospitals in the area will affect local communities; the Council agreed this should be monitored.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm.