

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2006  
in the recreation ground pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apologies: Mrs. P. Staples      Mrs. A. Fisher      Mr. J. Mulford

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (PC/02/06)

The minutes were signed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

a) Affordable Housing – Ms. S. Willers has confirmed that negotiations are proceeding regarding the site next to The Winnaway.

b) Parish Action Plan – The money available from ORCC is for villages creating new plans; it is therefore not available to Harwell.

c) Bins on High Street – Mr. Mulford will ensure that repairs are done as soon as possible. JM

3. Reports from County and District Councillors and Police

Mr. Lamont reported that the County Council will be setting up a Children's and Young People's Plan. The establishment of a shared services centre, for centralising such services as financial and human resources, has been approved; this should save around £5 000 000.

Mrs. Turner reported that Harwell has been granted a cleansing grant of £1121, for which the Parish Council is very grateful. This money will help to pay for litter picking in the village. A SODC meeting is to be held shortly to consider plans for Didcot 2030.

Two letters have been received detailing police matters;

Opening hours at Wantage Police Station are to be reduced from 53.5 hours to 52 hours per week. Harwell is to be included in the Milton Park neighbourhood for community policing purposes. Milton Park will have 9 Police Community Support Officers, who will work closely with local communities.

4. Planning Matters

Three permissions have been received, as follows;

HAR/4612/3-LB      Proposed modifications to link building previously approved under application HAR/4612/1 at Princes Manor Farm, Church Lane, for Mr D J & G A Lay.

HAR/CHI/14221/65      Erection of class B1 building with ancillary storage building. Associated car parking and landscaping pursuant to outline permission HAR/CHI/14221/18-X at Fermi Avenue for Deeley Properties Ltd.

PD/18/01/31      Lower crown of chestnut tree at 12 Cherry Tree Court for Mrs. F. Taylor.

Following the Council's response to Great Western Park, South Oxfordshire District Council has requested an update on the level of cemetery space available in the village.

Dr. A. Hughes (Keep Harwell Rural) has highlighted concerns regarding transport and infrastructure at Great Western Park. The Clerk will write to OCC with details of the problems.

VOWHDC has produced a Statement of Community Involvement Submission Document, to do with planning. Mrs. Blissett took the document on the Council's behalf, and will draft a reply accordingly.

**JB**

Mrs. Boughton-Waite mentioned that residents have not yet received replies from VOWHDC regarding development in Hengest Gate. The Clerk will write to them should any reply arrive at the office.

#### 5. Financial Matters

a) Receipts and Payments cashbook for November 2005 – February 2006 – The receipts and payments cashbooks for November 2005 to February 2006 were signed as a true record. Mrs. Boughton-Waite had checked the petty cash.

b) Staff salary review – The Council decided that staff salaries should be increased as follows; Clerk's and Finance Officer's salaries to be increased in line with NALC pay award from £7.622 per hour to £7.846 per hour, representing an increase of roughly 2.95%; Other staff salaries to be increased in line with VOWHDC pay award by 2.95%. Payment to Mr. McConville to continue at the same rate until next year. Proposed by Mr. Hayter, seconded by Mrs. Boughton-Waite, and passed unanimously.

c) Grass cutting grant – The Council has accepted that there will be a loss of £500 in the grant; the matter was discussed at the latest meeting of the Lands & Recreation Committee. The Council accepted the Committee's recommendations on this issue, and no changes to staff working hours will result from the loss in revenue.

d) OPFA membership – Payment of the membership fee to this organisation was proposed by Mr. Lilly, seconded by Mr. Thomas, and passed unanimously.

e) Bus shelters - £4500 has been received from the developers via OCC, for use on bus shelters in the parish. (See Minutes PC/09/05)

#### 6. Matters relating to Council Owned Lands

a) Showers – Nothing further has been heard regarding grant applications.

b) Play area – The Council has received a grant of £5000 from Awards for All towards the work planned for the play area. The Council will consider which areas most urgently need work before engaging a contractor.

Following his inspection of the play area last month, Mr. Sedwards highlighted problems in the play area, and suggested remedies. He will liaise with Mr. Mulford.

**JM,MS**

c) Land along A417 – OCC and Mr. Ferguson have both been advised that the fence has been re-positioned correctly, and that the transfer should now proceed.

d) Boys' football club – use of pitches – There are concerns from Harwell FC about over-use of the pitches. Mr. Thomas suggested that a new pitch could be marked out on the rugby field. The Clerk will

obtain more information before proceeding with this idea.

Manor Football Club has not been in touch in spite of several reminders about fixtures and payment. The Council decided that one more letter should be sent, giving notice that no more matches will be permitted until payment is received.

e) Bowls/Tennis Club Rental Reviews – the Council will agree its own requirements before meeting with Club representatives.

f) Use of Land next to allotments – deferred for discussion at the next meeting.

g) Allotment queries – i) Letter from resident in Green Road asking for a contribution to the upkeep of the road. This is a matter for Highways; the Clerk will make contact accordingly.

ii) An allotment holder has requested permission to erect a shed on her plot. The Council agreed, provided the shed is no larger than 8x6 feet.

h) Freeman Orchard – A valuation has been suggested for the old stable building. Mr. Lilly will arrange a valuation for the Council shortly. Referred to next meeting. SL

7. VOWHDC – free bus passes – free bus passes are available from VOWHDC – application forms will be held at the Post Office. This information to be put in the Harwell News; Dr. Beswick took the letter to inform Mr. Marsh and ask that it should also be mentioned on the website.

8. OCC – Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste – Statement of Community Involvement – Mr. Hayter took the document to read on the Council's behalf.

9. Parish records – Mr. Ricketts has offered to keep Parish records at the Rutherford laboratory. The Council agreed that all records should be kept in Harwell, in the Council office where possible.

10. Any Other Business

Mrs. Blissett made it clear that the Annual Parish Meeting should be advertised in the Harwell News and on the website. Mrs. Turner will ask Mr. Gilbert from VOWHDC to address the meeting; Mr. Lilly will ask for a representative from Stagecoach to do the same. Mr. Lilly agreed that if no-one is available from Stagecoach, he will address the meeting on the subject of bus routes. MT,SL

VOWHDC website – it was agreed to use the village's existing entry for posting on the Vale website. Harwell's website address has already been added.

OCC Highways – public liability insurance is to be rolled over for this year, at a rate of £5 000 000.

Mrs. Blissett and Mrs. Boughton-Waite mentioned that the roads into and through the village are generally in a very poor condition. The Clerk to write to Highways.

Mrs. Boughton-Waite and Mrs. Staples have organised the Annual Footpaths Walk for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April, to start at the village hall at 2pm. A request for volunteers will be put in the Harwell News and on the website; last year there was very little support.

Mr. Lilly has requested enough copies of the new bus timetables to include one with each copy of the Harwell News. He will also prepare a short article for the newsletter about bus routes. He informed the Council that a new bus stop is to be installed near Jennings Lane in the near future. There is a meeting concerning parish transport at County Hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, but Mr. Lilly is unable to attend.

Mrs. Blissett took the letter and will see whether she can attend on the Council's behalf. JB,SL

(4)

Mrs. Turner reported that children and teenagers had been seen riding motorbikes on the recreation ground. An article will be put in the Harwell News and on the website to remind them of the dangers.

Didcot Town Council has written to First Great Western to express concern that train services are to be cut.

North Wessex Downs AONB Forum is to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May. No-one from the Council is able to attend.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.