

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 9th May 2006
in the recreation ground pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

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

1. Appointment of Chairman & Vice-Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Lilly took the Chair. Mrs. Blissett had expressed in writing her willingness to continue as Chairman for the ensuing year. Mrs. Turner nominated Mrs. Blissett as Chairman; Mrs. Staples seconded the nomination and it was passed unanimously.

The Council passed a resolution that Mrs. Blissett may sign her Declaration of Acceptance of Office at a later date.

Mr. Mulford proposed Mr. Lilly as Vice-Chair; Mr. Thomas seconded the proposal and it was passed unanimously.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (PC/04/06)

The minutes of the meeting on 11th April 2006 were signed as a true record.

3. Committees - Apointments

Committees for the next year are as follows;

Lands and Recreation: Mr. Mulford, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Blissett, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Hayter

Environment and Planning: Mr. Lilly, Mrs. Staples, Mr. Hayter, Mr. Sedwards, Mrs. Boughton-Waite, Dr. Beswick.

4. Matters Arising – a) Affordable Housing – Ms. S. Willers has contacted the Council to report that Sovereign Housing has been granted funding for a development of 14 houses in the village.

Negotiations are continuing with the owner of the selected site.

b) Bins on High Street – Mr. Mulford has agreed with the groundsmen that repairs are to be done as soon as possible.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors & Police

Mr. Lamont reported that at the Cabinet Meeting on 16th May, items to be discussed include the LIFT Project (concerned with investment in local health care), educational projects for Didcot Girls' School, and a Local Government White Paper concerning future funding in Local Government.

Following the recent election, there is no overall control of OCC.

Mrs. Turner reported that at a recent Neighbourhood Action Group Meeting at Wantage Police Station, the role of Community Support Officers and NAGs were explained. Community Support Officers will be able to issue fixed penalty notices, eg for littering. Neighbourhood Groups should report the 3 most pressing worries in their areas for action by the Police. Funding for the CSOs is only available for 2 years. The CSO for Harwell is Mr. McCreath, who will be invited to the Parish Meeting later this month.

Mrs. Turner also commented that bus passes may now be used on Newbury buses.

Two letters have been received concerning Police matters;

Residents have been invited to put forward nominations for the Police Community Awards. Posters with details of the procedure have been displayed on the notice boards for about a month.

An update regarding the Neighbourhood Management scheme contains information about the Milton Park Neighbourhood. Harwell is classed as a Capable area, with a team headed by Sergeant D. Metcalfe. The first NAG meeting for the Milton Park area will be held at the beginning of June, when dates for public meetings will be set.

6. Planning Matters

Formal notice of Permission has been received in respect of

PD/18/01/31 Work to trees at The Homestead, High Street for Complete Tree Services

3 new applications have been received as follows;

HAR/19538 Single storey rear kitchen extension for domestic use at Amberley, Wantage Road, for Mrs. J. Charleston.

HAR/19529 Demolition of single storey extension & removal of existing roof. Erection of single storey rear extension with 2 bedrooms in roof space at 1 Orchard Way for Mr. C. Millar.

HAR/10567/2 Raising the roof pitch, erecting single storey extension, conversion of first floor extension for accommodation at Brookside, School Lane, for Mr. D. Moore.

The Council had no objections to these applications, and asked that neighbours' comments should be taken into consideration by the Planning Department.

One letter of objection has been received in respect of HAR/10567/2 (details above) at Brookside, School Lane.

A copy of a letter to Ms Scotting at SODC Planning has been forwarded to the Council from Keep Harwell Rural. The letter is from OCC and outlines concerns regarding Transport Plans in the Great Western Park development. OCC ask that the letter be considered a Holding Objection until the problems can be addressed.

Mr. Thomas asked that any progress on the site of the Thatched Cottage, Reading Road be passed to the Council by the Planning Department at VOWHDC, so that residents may be kept fully informed. Clerk to write with the request.

7. Financial Matters

a) Receipts and Payments cash book for Mar & April 2006 – The cash books for March and April were signed as a true record. Mrs. Boughton-Waite had checked the petty cash.

b) Harwell News - i) additional funding – The Clerk had written to VOWHDC to request additional funding towards Harwell News printing costs. Funding is only available via a grant, which will only be considered as a last resort; the Council would have to show that every other source of funding had been sought before a grant application could be lodged. No further action at this time.

ii) printing costs – a quote from Print-Mart in Grove has been obtained, but it is not clear whether VAT is included. The Clerk to write for more information.

c) Letter from Botley Alzheimer's Home – a letter of thanks has been received for the Council's donation.

8. Matters relating to Council-owned lands –
- a) Break- in – new doors/locks for the pavilion – the pavilion was broken into on 25th April, the lock on the main doors having been forced. Mr. Woods has repaired the lock for the present. The Council decided to obtain quotes for new steel doors and for steel shutters.
- b) Play area – the Council has been unsuccessful in its application for a grant from Community First. Clerk to apply to WREN.
A quote had been obtained from Matta re: safety surfacing. Clerk to write and obtain samples. Deferred for discussion at the next Lands and Recreation Committee.
A roadshow is to be held in July by OPFA on childrens’ playgrounds. Mr. Lilly may be able to attend on the Council’s behalf. SL
- c) Land along A417 – Mr. Mulford signed the transfer documents. They will now be returned to Mr. Ferguson for completion.
- d) Use of Land next to allotments – Work to start on the site by the weekend. Clerk to write to Mr. Parlett to thank him for his help. Mr. Mulford to assist the groundsmen in marking out the new allotments. JM
- e) Showers – Nothing further has been heard re: grants; clerk to chase up. After much discussion, Mrs. Fisher proposed that subject to some funding being available through grants, work should start on the showers in advance of the new football season. The proposal was seconded by Mrs. Staples; there were 7 votes for the proposal, Mr. Mulford abstained from voting. Mrs. Fisher to liaise with contractor about a start date. AF
- f) Freeman Orchard - i) Little Pippins lease – the Counterpart Lease has now been received.
ii) Dilapidated stable – Mr. Lilly will look into this situation again. SL
9. Environment –
- a) Post Office closure – correspondence – a letter has been received from Post Office Ltd. regretting the closure of the village post office, but hoping that an alternative site may be found. A copy of the letter was sent to Mr. Vaizey, who was also contacted by a constituent. Mr. Vaizey sent a copy of a second letter which he had received from Post Office Ltd. concerning the closure.
Mrs. Fisher wanted to make it clear to parishioners who have difficulty in getting to alternative Post Offices that transport may be available via the Ring and Ride service.
- b) OCC response to problems along A417 – OCC has responded to the Council’s concerns regarding the roads in the village (PC/03/06). Repairs will be carried out when funding is available.
The A417 is to be closed between Ardington and West Hendred from 20.00 to 05.30 for 2 weeks from 8th May for resurfacing.
The Holloway will be resurfaced during June.
- c) Footpaths Walk – update – no major problems were reported following the footpaths Walk; there was some litter and tree prunings, and a broken stile. Rails need attention on the footbridge over the stream, and there were a few lumps of concrete which need to be cleared. The Council expressed thanks to all those who took part in the Walk.
- d) Bus Passes on Newbury buses – this item was discussed in Mrs. Turner’s report (item 5 on the agenda). Mr. Lilly mentioned that buses are well used at present.

10. Any Other Business

A letter from OCC Highways has been received. Future funding for Transport Safety Schemes such as pedestrian crossings, cycle tracks, etc. will have to be provided by District/Parish Councils or developers.

The Harwell Scouts AGM is to be held on 24th May; Mrs. Fisher will be attending on behalf of the Council. AF

Mr. Mulford mentioned that the rugby field needs spraying for clover. He will arrange this. JM

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.