

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 11th July 2006
in the recreation ground pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

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

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

The minutes of the meeting on 13th June 2006 were signed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising – a) Affordable Housing – Mr Lilly reported that there should be no further delays in this matter by the land owner.

b) Winnaway kennels – a letter received from VOWHDC Environmental Health Department states that noise insulation is being installed at the kennels, and should be in place by mid-July. These will include an acoustic barrier and changes to the roof. To write again once the works are complete.

c) Allotments on North Drive – Mrs. Fisher reported that these allotments are in Harwell Parish. Mrs Turner confirmed that the allotment holders have been told to vacate the plots by the end of the year. Mrs. Blissett to ring the Estates Manager for more information, and the 2 free allotments in the village to be offered to tenants of the UKAEA plots. JB

3. Reports from County and District Councillors & Police

Mr. Lamont reported that a Harwell By-pass is still a feature of long-term plans of the County Council, although money from developers is limited.

Mr. Lamont visited a Waste Incinerator recently; several megawatts of electricity were produced at the plant, with no visible smoke pollution.

The Cabinet has accepted the recommendations in Mr. Lamont's Scrutiny Review of water supplies.

Mrs. Turner reported that there is now a SouthWest Plan which proposes a large amount of development around Swindon, with traffic impacts on the A420, at the VOWH regional boundary. Comments on the Plan can be made via the Council's website up to 30th August.

SODC is considering another 1500 houses near Didcot between 2016 and 2026, in addition to the 4000 already planned. Mrs. Turner has asked to be involved in consultation meetings with other local authorities.

At a recent site visit to the planned Great Western Park, an idea of traffic problems was given to the Committee by travelling along local roads.

The Highways Agency has downgraded the A34 from a Nationally Important to a Regionally Important road.

Sergeant Vale from Abingdon Police Station has informed the Council that a suspect for the break-in in April has been found. Someone should be in touch shortly about a visit to the premises regarding possible future security.

4. Planning Matters

Formal notice of Permission has been received in respect of

HAR/11190/1 Erection of a 2 storey side extension at 1 Brook Farm Cottages, The Cleave, for Mr & Mrs J Shrimpton.

HAR/9868/9-LB &

HAR/9868/8 New raised roof over existing ground floor kitchen & 1st floor bathroom. Remove ceiling tower stair to give headroom & replicate handrails & balusters to staircase at Wellshead House, Wellshead Lane, for Mr & Mrs Allen.

7 new applications have been received, as follows;

HAR/16094/1 Proposed 1st floor extension & front porch at Razmak, Abingdon Road, Rowstock, for Mr & Mrs A Smith.

HAR/11483/4 Erection of a detached bungalow with parking & access via Barrow Lane at The Cottage, Townsend, for Mr G Buxton & Mrs M Kotlowski.

HAR/3542/2 Single storey extension & new pitched roof over existing flat roof at 25 Orchard Way for Mr N Rees.

HAR/5236/5 Replace existing window with French doors connecting to kitchen to patio at Close Barn, Townsend, for Mr A Couldrick.

HAR/4515/4 Conversion of single garage into a reception room. Erection of new single garage at rear at 9 Tyrrells Close for Mr P Millar.

HAR/4402/1 Erection of 2 storey side extension integrated with front entrance porch at 18 Orchard Way for Mrs G Godwin.

HAR/19651 Erection of 2 industrial units with associated infrastructure at Land at former Social Club Building, Harwell International Business Centre, for Oxford Drying Services Ltd & UKAEA.

PD/18/01/31 Work to trees at 3 Hengest Gate for Paul North Garden Services.

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

Since the meeting, one letter of objection has been received in respect of

HAR/4402/1 Erection of 2 storey side extension at 18 Orchard Way (see above).

A second letter has been received from English Heritage, regarding the Thatched Cottage, Reading Road, indicating that English Heritage is deferring to Mr. Audley-Miller of VOWHDC Planning Department in this matter.

The Chairman brought forward a letter from SODC concerning forthcoming Planning meetings at which the Great Western Park development will be considered. Mrs Turner declared an interest and took no further part in the discussion. Harwell PC to be represented at the SODC Planning meeting on 19th July by Mr. Lilly; at the VOWHDC Planning meeting on 26th July by Mr. Hayter. Both gentlemen to speak at the meeting if necessary. Clerk to book places. SL;DH

Mr. Lilly mentioned that Mr. Vaizey had already raised objections in Parliament to the housing plans for the area up to and beyond 2026, and that OCC has written to SEERA to protest against continued development at Didcot, Grove and Bicester, as Oxford is in need of more housing.

5. Financial Matters

a) Receipts and Payments cash book for May & June 2006 – The receipts and payments cash books for May and June were signed as a true record. Petty cash had been checked by Mrs. Blissett.

b) Requests for funding – i) Didcot Citizens Advice Bureau - no donation was made last year. A donation of £50 was proposed by Mr. Lilly, seconded by Mrs. Fisher, and passed unanimously.

ii) Frances Gearing Almshouses – Harwell Parochial Charities have been offered a grant of £500 from VOWHDC, for work required to the Almshouses. This is conditional on a “reasonable” grant being provided by HPC. After some discussion, a grant of £100 was proposed by Mrs. Boughton-Waite, seconded by Dr. Beswick, and carried unanimously.

c) Harwell Playscheme donation – a £200 donation has been made in accordance with the recommendations made in the June meeting (PC/06/06, item 5f).

d) Manor Football – problems with payments – In spite of several attempts to contact the Club’s representative, no payments have been made since March, and there are 2 invoices outstanding. The Club was warned in March that all future bills should be settled on a monthly basis, but this has been ignored. The Council regretfully decided therefore that the Club will no longer be able to use the Council’s facilities.

e) Bank of Ireland Account opened – After some delays, this account is now open and being used.

f) Alternative printers – Harwell News – Print-Mart has now replied with a sample of its work. Clerk to contact Mr. Levey for his opinion, and obtain a sample from another firm.

6. Matters relating to Council-owned lands –

a) Play area – Referred to next Lands and Recreation Committee meeting.

b) Freeman Orchard – dilapidated stable – nothing further to report at this time.

c) Land along A417 – the transfer has now been completed.

d) Tennis/Bowls Clubs - agreements – The Chairman and Mr. Lilly to confer on this matter. JB;SL

7. Environment –

a) Traffic signs for A417 – temporary “Speed Watch” signs are available on loan from OCC. Clerk to request a set; Mr. Lilly to provide a plan and site photographs. Partial funding may be available towards the installation of a permanent vehicle-activated sign, but this would need an electricity supply. Mrs. Fisher suggested “Concealed Entrance” signs as well as speed limit signs. SL

Mrs. Blissett reported that traffic near the garages in Orchard Way was still a danger to schoolchildren.

Mr. Mulford still checking to see whether any signs are available in store. JM

OCC have contacted the Council to say that the surface of Green Road is not in need of attention. Clerk to contact again, with photographs.

b) Rights of Way Improvement Fund – Mrs. Boughton-Waite reported that there is no village site which needs attention at present. No further action.

c) Churchyard Gatepost – the Feast Committee has been applied to for funding.

d) OCC Local Transport Plan Information Strategy – Mr. Lilly took the document on the Council's behalf. SL

8. OCC – a) Meetings with Local Councils – there is a meeting scheduled for 27th July for OCC to update local Councils on recent issues. Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Staples to attend on behalf of the Council. AF;PS

b) Scrutiny Annual Report – Mrs. Blissett took the documents on the Council's behalf. JB

c) Minerals & Waste Core Strategy documents – Mr. Hayter took the documents on the Council's behalf. Comments due by 11th August. DH

9. Any Other Business

Harwell has been judged Best Kept Village in Oxfordshire, in the Large Villages Class. The Judges' Party is to be held at Holton on 13th July; the Chairman and Mr. Lilly to attend. Notices to be put in Harwell News and on the website. The Council expressed gratitude to all its Grounds Maintenance staff for their hard work, and to all volunteers who help to keep the village neat and tidy.

Mr. Lawton, captain of Harwell Football Team, has requested a key for the side doors to the pavilion, now that the lower lock is used (following the break-in). The Council had no objections; Mr. Lawton has already stated that he can obtain a copy at his own expense.

Mr. Vaizey has written to say that, according to Post Office Limited, there is one application for a village post office licence currently being processed.

Results of an OCC school transport survey are available on that Council's website.

Mrs. Turner has been contacted by Mr. Roberts, Transport Co-ordinator at UKAEA, regarding bus stops and cycles on the site. Mrs. Fisher to ask for more information. AF

Mrs. Boughton-Waite has ordered the bark for the War Memorial. To be delivered this week.

She also recently attended a talk on Infectious Disease Control at Stratfield Brake, and a Special Editions Forum at which Oxfordshire's 1000th Birthday celebrations were discussed. Oxford Inspires wants to encourage events throughout the county to mark the fact that Oxfordshire is 1000 years old in 2007. Mrs. Boughton-Waite suggested mentioning it to the Feast Committee.

Mrs. Fisher reported that overgrown vegetation is narrowing the path in Burr Street outside Pollards. As the house is empty, the Council groundsmen will cut back the growth.

Mrs. Blissett has received a letter from East Hendred PC suggesting that Harwell PC joins East Hendred and Chilton PCs in requesting donations from UKAEA for local projects. The Council agreed it seems worth pursuing; Mrs. Blissett to contact the East Hendred Chairman. JB

The meeting ended at 9:45 pm.

