

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007  
in the recreation ground pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apologies: Mrs A Fisher

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (PC/10/06)

The minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006 were signed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising – a) Affordable Housing – Nothing has been heard in spite of several attempts to contact Mr Roberts from Sovereign Housing.

b) Local Sponsorship Fund – Mrs Blissett explained that a joint letter from East Hendred, Harwell & Chilton Parish Councils would be sent to UKAEA once local groups have been asked for their views on funding requirements.

c) Request for information – the Council agreed to follow the lead of Vale of White Horse District Council in the matter of electronically available information; as much as possible will be posted on the website, but copies will only be available in hard form, with the appropriate charge being made (as per the Publications List).

3. Reports from County and District Councillors & Police

Mr. Lamont reported that the latest OCC meeting was concerned with opposing Oxford City Council's bid to become a Unitary Council; research has shown this would lead to irrecoverable costs, and would reduce democratic accountability.

Funding has been found to keep advice centres in the county open for another year.

It is intended that OCC will raise its precept by 4%, with no reduction in services.

As well as the A34 roadworks, there will be a project to rebuild Wolvercote viaduct starting in summer 2008.

Mr Lamont recently attended a presentation on the proposed Steventon Reservoir, at which Thames Water confirmed it is keen to build the reservoir, and is not considering any alternative plan at present.

Mrs Turner also attended that presentation. Responses can be sent in from the Parish Council if necessary.

UKAEA is to begin a consultation on waste shortly.

The noise from the kennels is still provoking complaints from residents. VOWHDC has confirmed it has given the owners until the end of January to make further improvements before legal action may be instigated.

Mrs Turner reported that recent Planning meetings were held by SODC and VOWHDC Councils to discuss future development at Didcot 2016 -2026, and the response to the EiP in February. The Committees decided that the main constraints to development included the proposed use of Grade 1 and Grade 2 land, infilling between villages, flood risks, and the poor state of existing infrastructure. The meetings were not well advertised and therefore many Parish Councils knew nothing about them. Mrs Turner has asked Rodger Hood (Deputy Director of Planning at VOWHDC) to write to Parish Councils explaining the lack of communication. Mr Lilly added that letters have already been sent to both Councils asking why Parish Councils were not made aware of these meetings. This matter is partly covered by the Western Villages Alliance campaign; Mr Hayter reported that the Alliance's response to the EiP will focus on objections to more housing around Didcot, and suggest reasons why more development could be built in Oxford. The Council voted to give Mr Hayter permission to sign off the Alliance's response on behalf of the Council. (Mrs Turner declared an interest and did not vote).

Police - The Thames Valley Police LPA Commander David Purnell is leaving; his replacement at Abingdon will be Chief Inspector Phillip Littlechild.

#### 4. Planning Matters

4 permissions have been received in respect of;

- HAR/18254/1           Erection of 15m high monopole & associated equipment cabinets & compound at Telecom Site, Princes Manor Farm for T-Mobile UK Ltd.
- HAR/393/3             Dismantle existing single storey outbuilding & replace with new pre-fabricated building at Englefield, Broadway for Mr J Langford.
- HAR/19723/2          1<sup>st</sup> floor extension over existing ground floor kitchen to form new bedroom & single storey side extension at 28 The Park for Mr P Holloway.
- HAR/10325/1          Erection of rear conservatory at 4 Chilbrook for Mr & Mrs W Underhill (this application was discussed by the Planning Committee, who asked that neighbours' comments would be borne in mind when the application was considered).

6 new Applications have been received as follows;

- HAR/11483/5           Erection of detached bungalow with associated access & parking at The Cottage, Townsend, for Mr G Buxton & Mrs M Kotlowski.

This application was dealt with by the Environment & Planning Committee, which asked that neighbours' comments be taken into consideration.

- HAR/16731/2           Additional information received in the proposal to demolish 2 houses, squash courts & tennis courts to erect a new hotel and spa at Land north & south of Curie Avenue for Four Pillar Hotels / UKAEA.

Although no objection was made to the original application, an objection has now been made to the loss of sports facilities at this site; and a request that the views of the sports clubs be taken into consideration. Objections have been made by the Squash Club and the Tennis Club.

- HAR/12835/4-LB       Removal of asbestos. Repairs to plaster finishes & existing timber wall & installation of new timber stud wall at Close Cottage, Townsend, for D Pyke.
- HAR/611/4-A           Erection of illuminated signage at Lloyds TSB Bank, Curie Avenue, for Lloyds TSB.

The Council had no objections to these applications, but asked that neighbours' comments be borne in mind when they are considered.

- HAR/19160/2 &  
HAR/19160/3-LB       Reinstatement of collapsed cottage with rear extensions to form a single dwelling at Thatched Cottage, Reading Road, for Mr K Dawson.

The Council objected to this proposal as not enough consideration has been given to the design of the intended property or to the safety of the adjoining properties and the earth bank at the rear.

Notice has been received of intended work to trees, to which VOWHDC has no objections;

Routine pruning to 2 trees at The Studio, High Street.

1 refusal has been received in respect of;

HAR/5721/1 Erection of new dwelling & garage at The Orchard, Wantage Road, for Miss C Thompson.

VOWHDC has adopted its Local Plan 2011, and its Statement of Community Involvement regarding its Local Development Framework.

RPS Planning has written to confirm there is no need to remove the milestone in Wantage Road to a place of safety in Harwell, as it will be removed and replaced within a day or two, and will be protected at all times.

VOWHDC is holding a meeting re: Thames Water's proposed reservoir at the Guildhall, Abingdon, on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Mrs Blissett & Mrs Staples will attend on behalf of the Council. JB,PS

5. Financial Matters – a) Budget & precept for 2007/8 – the Council discussed the recommendations from the Finance meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006; financial projection for the rest of the year is in line with the budget, including the net cost of £2290 towards the upgrading of the adventure play area. Clerk to contact Wallingford Dog Training Club with a view to setting up a more formal agreement for the use of the recreation ground. Following further problems with the showers, the Council agreed to begin work on them as soon as possible; work to be paid for out of the reserves, and recouped from the new precept. Anticipated income for 2007/8 is £12850; anticipated expenditure is £51000, leaving a shortfall of £38150. Budgeted expenditure for 2007/8 was proposed as follows;

Salaries	28000
Donations /subscriptions/courses	2500
Harwell News	2300
Phone, post, stationery	500
Office equipment	0
Insurance/prof. fees	3500
Pavilion/playground maintenance	1000
Rec ground/allotments	700
Dog bins/ general maintenance	1500
Cemetery/churchyard	2500
Van/tools	1300
Machinery	500
Fuel	800
Misc	100
Adventure playground	1000
Showers	2500
New van reserve	1500
Pavilion floor	<u>800</u>
	<u>51000</u>

An increase in precept was proposed, to be divided into 2 parts:

Last year's precept +5% increase (£31780 + £1580)	£33360
One off payment to meet balance of showers (£2500) + van reserve (£1500)	<u>£ 4000</u>
	<u>£37360</u>

The budget utilises about £800 of reserves (£38150 shortfall - £37360 precept), but the Council anticipates that reserves will remain above £15000.

Mr Lilly proposed adoption of the above budget and an increase in the precept to £37360. Seconded by Mrs Boughton-Waite and passed unanimously.

b) Receipts and Payments cash book for November 2006 – The receipts and payments cash book for November was signed as a true record. Petty cash had been checked by Mrs. Boughton-Waite.

c) Request for funding – Abingdon CAB– there is no money available at this time, though the Council intends to support Didcot CAB as usual.

d) Harwell News fees / Cemetery fees / Bus shelters– referred to the next Lands & Recreation Committee meeting.

e) Little Pippins – Dr Beswick proposed that although the Lease states an annual rent of £1440 is payable by Little Pippins, the Council continue to accept an annual rent of £10. Seconded by Mrs Turner, passed unanimously.

f) Village hall & VAT – the Council is not permitted to buy furniture for the village hall and then reclaim the cost of VAT in the purchase. Clerk has written to explain this to the Village Hall Committee, expressing regret that wrong advice was given, and explaining that the full costs will have to be met by the Committee.

6. Matters relating to Council-owned lands –

a) Cemetery regulations review & Cemetery Extension – Referred to next Lands & Recreation Committee meeting.

b) RoSPA Play Area Inspection– the inspection will take place in July.

c) Churchyard gate post – Mr Mulford to ask Mr R Hinchcliffe to locate a suitable post. JM

d) Pavilion– large quantities of mud and lime have been left in the pavilion and outside the main door. Rubbish has been dumped recently in the groundsmen's room. Dr Beswick suggested levying a cleaning charge if the pavilion is left very dirty or messy. Clerk to invite Mr C East to the Lands meeting with a view to address these problems. A storage area is required for the new goal post crossbars which are at present behind the pavilion. Mr Mulford left at 9pm.

e) Land adjacent to A417 – Clerk to ask for clarification of charges on solicitor's invoice.

7. Oxfordshire NHS Trust information – information about recent changes to health services; Mrs Boughton-Waite took the letter to read on the Council's behalf. DBW

8. Clerk's / Finance Officer's hours – Clerk explained that as she is now taking on more of the finance work, she is working an extra 5 hours per month, as agreed with the Finance Officer, who has reduced her working time by the same amount.

9. Any Other Business

Work is due to start on the A34 between West Ilsley and Milton, resurfacing and replacing the safety barrier. The work will last for approximately 8 weeks and will involve the use of contraflows. Junctions may be closed while a contraflow is in place.

OCC has sent a copy of its report on its school travel survey, and has adopted its Statement of Community Involvement concerning its Minerals and Waste Development Framework. The documents will be kept in the office for reference.

There is a SPISE Seminar on 21<sup>st</sup> April; Mr Lilly may attend.

Mrs Blissett will attend a reception held by OCC's Leader in Oxford on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Mrs Blissett expressed thanks to Mrs Fisher for organising the Christmas Dinner.

She also reminded Councillors to obtain the necessary forms if they intend to stand for re-election. Information will be placed in the Harwell News (and is already on the website) concerning the election.

Mr Thomas complained that Highways has still not done anything to improve the traffic signs along the A4185. Clerk to ask for progress again.

A letter has been received objecting to plans to ask that the Winnaway footpath be upgraded (PC/10/06). Clerk to copy the letter to Mr Ricketts as information.

Mr Sedwards informed the Council that he will be leaving the village this year.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.