

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th February 2007  
in the recreation ground pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

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

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (PC/01/07)

The minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007 were signed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising – Affordable Housing – The land owner of the proposed site has written to say the project is still under discussion. Sovereign Housing is trying to establish ownership of the footpath, in case access is needed off it.

3. Reports from County and District Councillors & Police

Mr. Lamont reported that OCC has agreed a 4% rise in Council Tax, with no cuts to services. OCC is opposing Oxford City Council's bid to become a Unitary Council (which would result in changes to County and District Councils).

Mrs Turner reported that VOWHDC has a budget meeting next week.

Noise from the kennels is still being monitored; further complaints from residents have been received. Mrs Turner has spoken to Mr Gilbert of VOWHDC Planning re: SODC's letter concerning specifications of proposed amenities on the Great Western Park development (EP/01/07). The specifications are drafts, and more details are to be sent at a later stage. Mr Hayter pointed out that the latest plans for the development have yet to be sent out.

The next NAG meeting will be held at Milton Park on 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm; Harwell has been invited to send a representative. Clerk to request Minutes from the meeting if no-one can attend. Police to be invited again to Council meetings.

4. Website

Mr Marsh, the Council's Webmaster, attended the meeting, and was invited to speak at this point. He requested a short statement and any other available information to publicise the forthcoming elections, and intends to provide links to other sites which may have relevant information. The website has seen a recent rise in the number of hits per day, which is probably due to the growing number of links from other sites back to the Council's. The Council expressed thanks again to Mr Marsh for continuing to run the site.

5. Planning Matters

The Environment & Planning Committee dealt with the following at a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January;

3 permissions, in respect of;

HAR/11483/5 Erect detached bungalow & associated access & parking at The Cottage, Townsend, for G Buxton & M Kotlowsky.

HAR/12835/4-LB Removal of asbestos. Repairs to plaster & existing timber wall, installation of new timber stud wall at Close Cottage, Townsend, for Mr D Pyke.

HAR/611/4-A Erection of illuminated signage at Lloyds TSB Bank, Curie Avenue, for Lloyds TSB.

4 new applications-the Committee requested that neighbours' comments be borne in mind when these are discussed by the Planning Department;

HAR/6825/7-LB & HAR / 6825/6-LB Removal of existing staircase, formation of new staircase. Formation of new ground floor opening. Installation of roof light to rear at Rosemead, High Street for Mr & Mrs P Herbert.

HAR/19902-A Proposed new signage at Harmsworth Quays Printing Works, Land West of Didcot Power Station for Harmsworth Quays Printing Ltd.

HAR/19903 & Amendment Demolition of existing pavilion, erection of replacement sports pavilion including changing rooms etc, and temporary access for construction traffic at sports field, Harwell IBC, for Mr D Bowerman.

1 refusal, in respect of;

HAR/19160/2 Reinstatement of collapsed cottage, Reading Road for Mr K Dawson. Refused by Planners as proposal was felt to be out of character and scale compared to the original building.

Since the Environment & Planning meeting, 1 permission has been received, in respect of;

HAR/19902-A Proposed new signage at Land West of Didcot Power Station for Harmsworth Quays Printing Ltd.

3 new Applications have been received, as follows;

HAR/19931 Demolition of existing garage & conservatory. Erection of single storey extensions, conservatory & detached garage at Meadow View, Didcot Road, for Mr & Mrs Hunt.

HAR/19950 Proposed extensions to side & rear of bungalow at Margo, Didcot Road, for Mr K Jones.

HAR/5196/6 Erection of rear conservatory at Brook Hose, Blenheim Hill, for Mr & Mrs Manning.

The Council requested that neighbours' comments be borne in mind when these applications are considered.

The following application has been withdrawn;

HAR/16731/2 Demolition of houses, squash courts & tennis courts. Erection of new hotel, leisure club & spa at Land north & south of Curie Avenue for Four Pillars Hotels/UKAEA.

Work to trees is proposed as follows;

GF/KAP PD/18/01/31 Fell 1 small beech, prune 3 other trees at Abbey Timbers, Broadway, by Ringrose Tree Services.

VOWHDC has written to remind all Councils to comply with the Code of Conduct in Planning matters, following a complaint from the Standards Board.

Upton PC has asked for information on proposed road resurfacing – slurry sealing is planned for Upton, which has already been done in Harwell. Councillors who have looked into this approve of the procedure for minor roads.

Mr Hayter reported that neighbours of the collapsed cottage on Reading Road will be applying to have repairs carried out shortly. The Council has no power in the situation except to ensure that correct procedures are followed throughout.

6. Financial Matters – a) Receipts and Payments cash book for Dec 2006 & Jan 2007 – The receipts and payments cash books for December and January were signed as a true record. Mrs Blissett had checked the petty cash.

b) Recommendations from the Lands & Recreation Committee –

i) Cemetery fees/regulations – the Clerk pointed out that at the Committee meeting, no mention had been made of the existing PC charge of £55 for plaques on the wall of remembrance. After discussion, the Council decided not to add an extra £20 as proposed by the L&R Committee to the charge for plaques. The other recommendations were discussed; Mr Hayter proposed that the Committee's recommendations on other Cemetery fees be accepted. Seconded by Mr Mulford, passed unanimously. Plot fees for burials to rise by £20 from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 (cost of a resident's burial will then be £175, that of non-residents will be £200). No other changes.

Mrs Turner proposed that the Committee's recommendations on the Cemetery Regulations be accepted; seconded by Mr Thomas, passed unanimously. Clerk to add the paragraph (EP/01/07).

ii) Harwell News fees- After discussion, Mr Mulford proposed that the Committee's recommendation to raise the cost of advertising in the newsletter to £12 (+VAT) per issue from April 1st be accepted. Seconded by Mr Hayter, passed unanimously. Full cost to advertisers will be £14.10 inclusive of VAT.

c) Requests for funding – there is no money available at this time, but all those who have requested funding this month are invited to re-apply in April, ie Home Start Southern Oxfordshire, Oxfordshire Carer's Forum, Gone Sailing, and Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service.

d) OPFA subscription – Mrs Turner proposed payment of the annual £40 subscription fee. Seconded by Mr Hayter, passed unanimously.

e) Football Foundation grant – the grant has now been received, a total of £355.

f) War Graves maintenance – Mr Richardson has paid for repairs to the electric edger which the Council purchased for him, although the invoice is made out to the Council. Mr Mulford has explained to Mr Richardson that many repairs can be made by the Council's groundsmen (and therefore will not incur extra labour charges). Mr Richardson will bear this in mind in future.

7. Matters relating to Council-owned lands –

a) Cemetery Extension – The solicitor has been contacted again regarding the missing document. Mr Mulford commented that graves in the cemetery are not being properly aligned as the grave digger is making some spaces too long; some are almost eight feet in length. Clerk to contact local funeral directors, and speak to Mr Russell.

b) Play Area – work has started; the contractors will try to keep disruption of the recreation ground to a minimum, and make good the ground as well as they can once work is finished.

c) Allotments – an allotment holder has sent in a request to keep a pig at the site. After discussion, the Council decided to refuse the request, out of concerns for the safety of such an animal as well as possible future problems which could be caused by keeping livestock at the site.

d) Church gatepost/dead tree– Mr Hinchcliffe has been asked to do the work. Mr Mulford will look again at the tree. Harwell Scouts would like to plant a tree in the cemetery this year to commemorate their Centenary. The Council agreed in principle, but asked for more details. Council were in favour of a slow-growing hardwood tree, eg an oak.

e) Pavilion – Council accepted the Lands & Recreation Committee’s report on the footballers’ plans to install more lighting (LR/01/07). The teams have been contacted re: use of the roller in the current ground conditions. Mr Mulford reported that he has repeatedly spoken with the contractor about starting work on the showers, but that no date had as yet been set. An electrician is still needed for the wiring work.

f) Bowls/Tennis Club agreements – Mrs Turner had obtained a draft lease from ORCC. Mrs Blissett had examined the document, and suggested drawing up a lease which would make the Clubs responsible for their own repairs, reducing the annual rent if necessary. Mrs Blissett to look into this matter further. It was acknowledged that solicitor will have to draw up the final documents. JB

g) Feast Committee request - Harwell Feast Committee have requested permission to use the recreation ground for Harwell Feast on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May this year. Permission was granted.

h) Proposed new changing rooms – Mrs Blissett attended a recent meeting re: proposed new building. The British Legion Club is now keen to be involved in the project, as well as some of the sports clubs. Suggested plans include developing the existing Bowls Club pavilion, to possibly include a meeting room and offices for the Council. Plans are still at an early stage.

i) Bus shelters – Mr Hinchcliffe has been asked to examine the shelter at Rowstock.

8. APM date– the date has been set for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May, at 8.00 pm, providing the village hall is free. Agenda to be decided at next month’s meeting.
9. OCC - reorganisation – a letter has been received from OCC setting out its objections to Oxford City Council’s bid to become a Unitary Council. Mr Hayter took the letter to read on the Council’s behalf.
10. Any Other Business

Little Pippins Pre-School is holding its AGM on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March. It is hoped one of the Councillors will be able to attend.

A revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members is planned by the Government. Mrs Blissett took the consultation paper to examine on the Council’s behalf.

Dr Beswick had questioned whether the content of Any Other Business should be made known before the meeting. Council felt this would be difficult to do, as the purpose of Any Other Business is to discuss matters which have lately arisen. Dr Beswick to be asked for further comments.

Mr Hayter took consultation documents concerning Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste to read on the Council’s behalf.

VOWHDC has written concerning the DTI Consultation on Post Office Network. Clerk will respond if necessary.

A resident has written expressing concern about an overgrown hedge in Wantage Road. Clerk to write to the occupiers of the property concerned.

Mr Thomas reported that bricks had been knocked off the car park wall; repairs to be carried out by the groundsmen.

Mr Thomas commented that the signs on the A4285 have still not been corrected. As responses from Highways have been disappointing, Clerk will ask Mr Lamont to investigate.

Mr Mulford reported that construction traffic from the barns in Wellshead is turning right down Wellshead when restrictions apply. Clerk to write.

The meeting ended at 9.45