

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 13th March 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. M Sedwards
	Mrs P Staples	Dr K Beswick	Mr C. Lamont (County Councillor)
Apologies:	Mrs A Fisher	Mrs D Boughton-Waite	Mr S Lilly (Vice Chair)

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (PC/02/07)

The minutes of the meeting on 13<sup>TH</sup> February 2007 were signed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising – Affordable Housing – A letter has been sent to the land owner; copied to Mr Roberts Sovereign Housing.

Mr Hayter commented that noise from the kennels has not improved.

3. Reports from County and District Councillors & Police

Mr. Lamont reported that OCC has been awarded four stars by the Audit Commission, and is therefore regarded as an “excellent” authority. This has strengthened opposition to Oxford City Council’s bid to become a Unitary Authority, which has only been classed as “weak”.

£28 500 000 is available for education facilities in the Didcot area, mostly from developers in the Great Western Park project. The money will be used to build 2 new primary schools, with a secondary school to follow at a later date as more funding is secured, although it is not clear when this will be. (possible funding may be available via Abingdon & Witney College and the Learning and Skills Council).

Mrs Turner reported that VOWHDC has granted a Cleansing grant of £1092 to Harwell PC. This is slightly less than last year, but is very welcome.

Mrs Turner attended the EiP in Reading last month re: development in the South East 2016-2026. It appeared that OCC, SODC and VOWHDC did not put their cases across very well. Oxford City Council put forward a good case for more housing to be built within the city, as well as a request to get 2% of existing green belt land reviewed.

A Planning meeting is to be held shortly at VOWHDC, to discuss Section 106 Agreements relating to Great Western Park. SODC has already held such a meeting.

New regulations regarding smoking at work come into force on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Seminars will be held to provide more information.

Police - Copies of questions and responses from the recent Community Safety Scrutiny Committee meeting have been received. Mrs Boughton-Waite attended the meeting.

4. Planning Matters

2 Permissions have been received, in respect of;

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/19903 Demolition of existing pavilion, erection of replacement sports pavilion, incorporating changing rooms, storage, club room & temporary access for construction traffic at Sports Field, Harwell IBC, for UKAEA.

Permission for Work to Trees at Abbey Timbers, Broadway, has been granted by VOWHDC.

2 new Applications have been received as follows;

HAR/19966 Demolition of shed. Erection of 2 detached dwellings with associated garages. Alterations to access & provision of additional parking spaces for Blenheim Terrace & Burr Cottage at Lant to rear of Blenheim Terrace, Burr Street, for Bellwood Homes Ltd.

The Council asked that particular care is taken to consider neighbours' comments in this Application, especially in the areas of existing sightlines (the fact that the proposed houses will stand higher than existing properties, and therefore overlook them), and access onto Burr Street for vehicles – it is not clear from the plans whether existing access is to be widened, but this would be desirable in view of the fact that more vehicles will be using the access.

HAR/14934/2 Conversion of loft with side dormer to provide bedroom & shower room at Sunny Side Cottage, Didcot Road, for Mr Tye.

The Council asked that neighbours' comments be borne in mind when considering this application.

SEERA has invited participation in a review of Regional Housing Strategy. Mrs Blissett took the document on the Council's behalf. Comments are required by 27<sup>th</sup> April. JB

SEERA is also undertaking an Aggregates review – Mr Hayter took the documents on the Council's behalf. Comments required by 30<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Hayter also took documents from OCC re; Minerals & Waste – comments also due by 30<sup>th</sup> March. DH

There is some confusion about the agreed 50/50 housing split between VOWHDC & SODC from 2016.

A Community Involvement event is to be held at Didcot Town Football Club on 22<sup>nd</sup> March re: future development at Didcot.

Information regarding Planning Aid has been received. This organisation provides guidance and information on planning matters. Mrs Blissett took the leaflet on the Council's behalf. JB

Mr Hayter attended the recent EiP. WVA's arguments were made by Mrs Sue Toterdell. Some pressure was apparent on developers to put more housing in Oxford, with Oxford City Council arguing that up to 8000 houses could be built in the city, but some land owners were against this. Developers seem keen to increase the number of houses built in the area, with the percentage of Affordable Housing proposed as 50%. Concerns were expressed about lack of funding for roads and infrastructure. The Inspectors will not reveal their findings until the next meeting. See also Mrs Turner's report.

5. Financial Matters – a) Receipts and Payments cash book for February 2007 – The receipts and payments cash book for February was signed as a true record. Mrs Boughton-Waite had checked the petty cash.

b) Requests for Funding – i) Oxfordshire Children's Information Service – invited to re-apply after April.

ii) Sunningwell School of Art – declined on the grounds that there are many more local organisations which need assistance.

iii) Harwell School – A donation to the School was discussed in January 2006. The matter was mentioned in Finance meetings, but never finalized, though £300 was set aside by the Finance Officer to cover the donation. Dr Beswick proposed that this donation should now be made, providing that the £300 is still available. Seconded by Mrs Turner, carried unanimously.

c) Salaries – no decisions on salary awards have as yet been made.

d) Staff training – Mr Woods has asked about training courses for chainsaw handling. Clerk has made inquiries, but has heard nothing back to date. Council was in favour of staff training, but no decision can be made until costs are known.

6. Matters relating to Council-owned lands –

a) Cemetery Extension – The solicitor has confirmed he holds the missing document. Clerk will proceed with the Planning Application. Mr Mulford pointed out that sheep fencing will be required; he will check existing fencing before it is moved. JM

b) Play Area – the new safety surface appears to be very good, although some councillors were concerned that it may prove difficult to repair. The Burma Bridge has not yet been fully installed – this is to be completed shortly.

c) Harwell book – the website is generating interest in the Harwell book, and there have been several requests for old photographs of the village. Clerk to speak to Mrs B Pyke about photographs. Likely cost of a reprint of the book to be ascertained – Mr M Ricketts may be able to help.

d) Risk Assessment - The Annual Review of Risk Assessment was undertaken by Mr Hayter and the Clerk. Dr Beswick suggested more secure back-up for the office computer – Clerk to get advice from Mr Marsh. It was agreed that the groundsmen should not cut the grass verges along Reading Road where there is no path, because of safety concerns.

e) Pavilion cleaning – Mr Blissett is retiring due to ill health. Deferred for discussion at the next meeting. Mr Mulford has continually tried to contact the plumber, but has so far been unsuccessful in obtaining a start date for the work to the showers.

f) Freeman Orchard – a resident of Manor Green has asked that part of the old iron fence in the Orchard be removed where it borders her property, to facilitate erecting new fence panels at the end of her garden. Mr Hayter was concerned that if the old fence is removed, the Council's boundary will be lost, and suggested leaving in corner posts and some for sight lines. Mr Mulford to meet Mr Hinchcliffe at the site before any of the fence is removed. JM

g) Allotments – a resident of Green Road has written to complain about the surface of the road. Clerk has written to explain that upkeep of this bridleway is the responsibility of the County Council, which has been informed of the complaint.

7. APM date & agenda – the date has been changed to Friday 18th May, at 8.00 pm, as the village hall was unavailable on the Thursday. Agenda was decided as follows;

New smoking legislation

Update re: Great Western Park

Thames Water – new pipeline

Any Other Business

Clerk to ask representatives from VOWHDC and Thames Water to make short presentations. Dr Hughes may be available re: Great Western Park.

9. Any Other Business

Dr Beswick suggested that an agenda item “Members’ Items” should be added, as well as AOB. Councillors were reminded that the Clerk is happy to add items to the agenda if requested at least 5 days before the meeting.

Harwell Scouts’ AGM is on June 6<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped at least one councillor will attend.

The Scouts have organised their tree planting for 29<sup>th</sup> April – a White Beam is to replace the dead conifer, which is to be removed at the same time.

They have also requested permission to hold an overnight camp on the recreation ground on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

ORCC has suggested a Transport Survey should be done in the village, as reviews are imminent on local bus services. Mr Lilly will let the Clerk know once he has read the document. SL

Mrs Turner took documents re; Oxford City Council’s bid to become a Unitary Council.

Mr Marsh has added a link to the website re: airport news.

OCC has written to say fault reports have been issued concerning surface water in Grove Road, but technicians have been unable to identify defects in the verges.

Councillors to consider staff leaving presents for Mr Blissett and Mrs Roberts.

Mrs Boughton-Waite had requested the use of a lockable room during Harwell Feast, for the safekeeping of money. Council recommended that 1 person from the Committee be nominated to have access to the office.

Mr Thomas requested a notice be put in Harwell News re: parking on verges during wet weather, and suggested a letter be written to Police to ensure other emergency services, and bus companies, are informed when there is an emergency road closure in the village.

Mr Mulford reported that following an examination of the bus shelter at Rowstock, Mr Hinchcliffe has recommended concreting around the shelter to help stabilise it.

Mrs Turner suggested that the use of the tarmaced footpath at the rear of The Park be monitored, to ensure traffic does not turn right down Wellshead Lane. Clerk to check plans.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm

