

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 8th October 2007
in the recreation ground pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

Present:	Dr K Beswick (Chair) Mr G Taylor Mrs D Boughton-Waite	Mr. M. Ricketts Mr R Thomas	Mr J Fisher Mr D Hayter
Apologies:	Mr F Trembl Mr C Lamont (County Cllr)	Mr D Marsh Mrs M Turner (District Cllr)	Mr S Lilly Mr R Waite (District Cllr)

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (PC/08/07)

The Minutes from the September meeting were signed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising from previous Minutes – a) Affordable Housing

Nothing further has been heard from Sovereign Housing.

b) AGM - ORCC

Mr Ricketts attended the ORCC AGM. Village awards were given out, and local schemes were discussed, eg Drayton has instigated various schemes to link with other villages. ORCC provides information for parishes about the Rural Housing Scheme.

c) Local Sponsorship Fund

Clerk to contact East Hendred and Chilton PCs again for further information.

d) EiP Response

Mr Fisher had looked into traffic calming measures; discussed at Item 6.

3. Reports from County/District Councillors/Police

Mr Lamont had telephoned to say there was nothing to report relevant to Harwell.

Mrs Turner and Mr Waite were both attending other meetings, and had sent their apologies.

No representative of the Police attended the meeting.

4. Planning Matters

Environment & Planning Committee members had seen the following new application;

HAR/20270	Extension & alterations to form chalet bungalow & new attached garage at Craig View, Reading Road for Mr C Bladon.
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Committee members asked that Planners take into consideration neighbours' comments.

Mr Hayter had declared an interest as a neighbour, and took no part in any discussions about this application.

2 other new applications have been received as follows;

HAR/13118/1	Proposed ground floor & first floor extension at Willow Tree Cottage, Barrow Lane, for Mr & Mrs Pickles.
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HAR/59/60(k)	Erection of compound security fencing (retrospective) at The Pier, 187 Milton Park, for Baumatic Ltd.
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The Council asked that neighbours' comments are borne in mind by Planners when considering these applications.

One notice of Work to Trees has been received;

CS/RL PD/18/01/31 Fell one sycamore at Harwell village hall for Harwell Village Hall Management Committee.

The Council had no objection to the work.

Some residents have expressed concerns about the recent repainting of milestones around the village; this was undertaken by Mr Ricketts before he was elected to the Council, but he explained that he has restored them to their former state, not changed them. He will check procedure to see whether Listed Building consent is required. His enquiries into obtaining Listed status for the Bargain Stone are ongoing. MR

Several councillors intend to attend a meeting with Planning Officer Mr Gilbert at his office on 11th October, to discuss Great Western Park and its impact on Harwell. Several points will be put forward, such as what funding is likely to be available for Harwell, problems with precepting for the new development's services, and infrastructure problems.

The Church of England Registrar has been contacted about the consecration of the cemetery extension; Mr Ricketts to see Mr Lay and check the existing fencing. MR

5. Financial Matters – a) Receipts & payments cashbook for September 2007- The receipts and payments cashbook for September was signed as a true record. Mrs Boughton-Waite had checked petty cash and done bank reconciliation.
- b) Budget review – The budget is on target so far this year. The work to the showers cost more than expected, but the increase in pitch fees has offset this. Dr Beswick suggested maintaining a reserve in future for unforeseen maintenance costs. Clerk to check figures for the last 4 years. The Finance Meeting will be on 11TH December.
- c) Banking problems – Alliance & Leicester have still not updated signatories. Mr Ricketts proposed the Co-operative bank account be opened with a £5000 deposit; seconded by Mrs Boughton-Waite, passed unanimously.
6. Matters relating to Council Owned Lands
- a) Recommendations from workshop – most recommendations to be dealt with by L&R Committee. Mr Ricketts is working on a grounds plan of Council owned property. Clerk to pass on jobs to groundsmen where necessary. L& R Committee meeting deferred until 30th October. Mr Fisher has been in touch with several PC Chairs to discuss traffic signs. Reasons for other villages obtaining VASs vary, but Mr Fisher will continue to pressure OCC, as the Council agree traffic speeds are excessive throughout the village, in particular along the main roads.
- b) Pavilion; lock/ vacuum cleaner - Mr Taylor to find out cost of coded lock; he has arranged to repair the handle on the side door. Mr Ricketts has a vacuum cleaner to replace the one currently kept in the office, which has broken. GT,MR
- c) Tennis & Bowls Clubs – leases/ rent review - Mr Lilly is still working on the Leases; rent review was not undertaken.
- d) Dilapidated stable – Mr Lilly is still in contact with the prospective purchaser.

e) Play ground report – Mr Taylor reported problems found in a recent inspection; seesaw needs new bearings, some swing seats have split, new sleepers are needed urgently. He will attend to the sleepers asap with Mr Woods, and is also trying to locate a new spring for the gate. GT

f) Cemetery regulations – these need to be updated. Mr Fisher to speak to Mr Russell. Clerk has contacted VWHDC for a copy of its regulations. JF

g) Harwell News – free copies – free copies to be sent to Radio Oxford and Didcot Herald, as well as to UKAEA, Diamond, and Central Library, Oxford. Mrs Turner had reported she is still happy to take spare copies to Didcot Library.

h) Health & Safety queries – those items on the list drawn up by Mr Treml to be discussed at a later meeting when he is present. Mr Taylor will do the electrical testing in the next couple of weeks. One fire extinguisher sign to be removed from the meeting room; extinguisher is now located in the hallway. GT

7. Environment – a) traffic signs on Reading Road – discussed at Item 6a.

b) Bus service review – Ongoing. Mr Lilly to report as necessary. SL

c) Footpaths Walk – although the Walk has not been held this year, many Councillors have walked footpaths in the parish. Full list of those walked to be drawn up by the Clerk; any paths not on the list to be walked before the end of the year. Dr Beswick asked that OCC be contacted again about the dangerous footpath near The Holloway.

d) Footpath rear of Manor Green – residents have complained again about this footpath. Clerk to contact landowner again.

8. Any Other Business

VOWHDC – Code of Conduct training – Mrs Boughton-Waite to attend on 20th November at Wantage Civic Hall.

- Litter – fines are to be imposed for fly-tipping.

OALC – Risk Assessment training – Mr Ricketts to attend (cost is £23.50 inc VAT) on 13 November at Stratfield Brake.

Dr Beswick will be on holiday next month; Mr Lilly to Chair the monthly meeting.

ORCC – Shop of the Year competition; nomination forms are available from ORCC.

Mr Fisher reported children had been taking used dog bags from dog bins and throwing them on the street; notice to be put in Harwell News.

Dr Beswick attended the recent Parish Liaison Meeting; report to follow from VWHDC.

Mr Hayter has received complaints about large lorries and building work at the site of the former pumping station in The Winnaway. Clerk to contact VWHDC Planning Department.

Mrs Boughton-Waite reported on the latest UKAEA Liaison Committee meeting – there is less money available for clearing sites, and the work will therefore take longer.

Mr Thomas reported piles of cans had been left next to the bottle bank on the British Legion car park; notice to be put in Harwell News.

He asked whether there was any news concerning the collapsed cottage or the large new house on Reading Road; Clerk to write to Planners.

Mr Taylor reported there are several trees which need lopping on the rec and in the cemetery; he will liaise with grounds staff. GT

Mr Ricketts to place a notice in Harwell News following complaints about bonfires. MR

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.