

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

Present: Mrs. J. Blissett (Chair) Mr. D Hayter Mr. M. Ricketts
Dr K Beswick Mr S Lilly Mr J Fisher
Mr C Lamont (County Cllr)

1. Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman

Mrs Blissett opened the meeting as outgoing Chairman. All Councillors had signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk. Mr Lilly nominated Dr Beswick as Chairman; seconded by Mr Hayter. Dr Beswick accepted the nomination and was elected Chairman unanimously. After signing his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, he took over the meeting. He thanked Mrs Blissett for her hard work as previous Chairman; Mrs Blissett then left the meeting. Mr Hayter nominated Mr Lilly as Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Mr Ricketts. Mr Lilly accepted the nomination, and was elected unanimously.

2. Co-option of further Councillors

Mrs D Boughton-Waite attended the meeting, having declared that she was interested in being co-opted. It was proposed by Mr Hayter and seconded by Mr Lilly that Mrs Boughton-Waite be co-opted to the Council. All Councillors approving of the proposal, Mrs Boughton-Waite was co-opted unanimously. Having signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Mrs Boughton-Waite joined the meeting. Mr F Treml was also interested in being co-opted, but preferred not to join the Council at this meeting. Co-option forms to be made available at the APM.

3. Reports from County & District Councillors & Police

Mr Lilly asked Mr Lamont to provide an Agenda of forthcoming OCC meetings. Mr Lamont agreed. Mr Lamont reported that at a recent Cabinet meeting, items discussed included secondary school provision for Didcot (a public consultation has been recommended. Options include a new comprehensive school on the GWP development, and a new facility for 14-19 year olds, which would use existing schools for part of the time, and new facilities for the rest of the school week. Funding would be released in stages as GWP develops).

There have been more awards for the Oxford Castle project.

OCC has to reduce its Carbon Footprint by 18% by 2011; £450 000 has been set aside to achieve this. One option is to install reflective road signs rather than floodlit ones.

Mr Lamont has passed information re: new fire regulations to Mr Ricketts, who will report at the next meeting if any of the regulations will affect the Council. MR

Mrs Turner was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent a written report; GWP developers have been granted a postponement for 7 months; it is still hoped that another 1500 houses can be built in Didcot between 2016-2026, although this has already been opposed by WVA; talks are on going with Thames Water re: proposed reservoir at Steventon; new regulations re: gambling and smoking have been introduced; new charges for rat catching have led to complaints from residents. Mrs Turner wished good luck to the new Parish Council.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting (PC/04/07)

The minutes of the meeting on 8th April 2007 were signed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising – a) Affordable Housing – No further progress has been made .

b) Code of Conduct – Copy to be examined by Councillors before next meeting.

c) Archivist (PC/04/07, item 7f) – Mr Staples has now seen Mr Woollen and collected some archive material for copying. Councillors acknowledged that Mr Ricketts had already undertaken archive work for the Council, and Mr Ricketts agreed to work with Mr Staples. The copy of the Parish Plan is still missing. Mr Hayter suggested that local landowners may have part copies.

d) Bus survey (PC/04/07, item AOB) – Mr Lilly has contacted ORCC re: the forthcoming bus review. A Transport Needs Survey is planned; it is hoped this can be included in the next issue of Harwell News.

6. Committees/Meeting Dates/WVA

Choosing committees was deferred until further co-option has taken place.

Meeting dates to remain on Tuesdays.

WVA – next meeting is on Monday 21st May, Council agreed that Harwell's meeting room can be used for these meetings. Dr Beswick and Mr Lilly will attend. KB,SL

Representatives from Harwell FC and East Hendred Boys FC recently met Mrs Blissett re: the next football season. Referred for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Planning Matters

3 Permissions have been received in respect of;

HAR/5721/2	Erection of new dwelling & garage at The Orchard, Wantage Road, for Miss C Thompson.
HAR/20004	Construction of new animal shelter at Land rear of Froude Builders, Reading Road, for Miss C Thompson.
HAR/19998	Proposed conversion of ground floor rear kitchen extension & attic conversion forming bedroom & bathroom at Ballut, Church Lane, for P Knibbs & C Woodland.

2 new Applications have been received as follows;

HAR/3250/1	Erection of rear conservatory at 6 Brookside for Mr & Mrs Walker.
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The Council had no objections, but asked that neighbours' comments be taken into consideration.

HAR/1123/10	Retrospective application for the construction of timber decking across stream, erection of close board fencing at Bumble Barn, Church Lane, for Mr M Evans.
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The Council objected to this application as the decking may restrict the free flowing of the stream during times of high water, thereby creating a risk of flooding, and also asked that the Environment Agency be contacted by Planners to clarify its rules in such instances.

OCC has sent a copy of its consultation paper regarding its Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework. Responses should be in by 15th June. Mr Ricketts took the document to study on the Council's behalf, and will draw up responses for the Clerk to send as necessary. MR

8. Financial Matters – a) Receipts and Payments cash book for April 2007 – The receipts and payments cash book for April could not be signed as bank statements have only just arrived.

b) Requests for Funding – i) Victim Support – no funds available.

ii) Home Start Southern Oxfordshire – no funds available, but the Council would be happy to display information on the notice boards.

c) Harwell News – payment of expenses – Mrs Levey had requested an extra £5 per issue towards expenses involved in the production of Harwell News (PC/03/07, item AOB). Mrs Boughton-Waite proposed that this sum should be paid, beginning with the next issue, due out in June. Seconded by Mr Lilly, carried unanimously.

d) Parish Insurance – Insurance schedules and cover are now up to date.

e) Signatories for bank accounts – Mr Hayter proposed that Mr Martin Ricketts, Dr Keith Beswick, and Mr Stewart Lilly should become signatories for the Alliance and Leicester bank accounts and for the Bank of Ireland account, until further notice. Seconded by Mrs Boughton-Waite, with no dissenters. This resolution was passed unanimously.

f) ORCC Membership – payment of the annual membership fee of £20 was proposed by Mr Ricketts, seconded by Mr Hayter, and carried unanimously.

Mrs Boughton-Waite announced that she had been invited to stand for the Executive Committee of OALC, and asked for the Council's approval. The Council was happy for Mrs Boughton-Waite to stand.

9. Matters relating to Council-owned lands –

a) Tennis/Bowls Clubs leases – draft leases are available for this ongoing project. Dr Beswick to look into this, Mr Lilly to assist. KB,SL

b) Pavilion cleaning – the Council agreed that a simple contract should be drawn up for the cleaner's duties and wages, to be fixed at £7 per hour, for 1 1/2 hours work weekly.

10. Environment – Grove Road closure - Grove Road will be closed for 5 days beginning Monday 21st May, for drainage works.

11. Any Other Business

Mr Lilly took a Core Strategy Report document from VWHDC to read on the Council's behalf.

Harwell Reception is being held on 22nd June.

North Wessex Downs AONB - a forum on funding is to be held on 14th May at Hungerford Town Hall. Mrs Boughton-Waite will attend the daytime session, Dr Beswick will attend in the evening. DBW, KB

Dr Beswick suggested that obtaining Broadband for the office computer, and updating computer security, was now essential. Clerk to find out likely costs. Referred to next meeting.

Dr Beswick would like to use a projector at the APM; Mr Ricketts has a projector which could be used.

Mr Lilly reported that there is renewed interest from the prospective purchaser of the stable building in Freeman Orchard. He has advised the lady to write to the Council.

Mrs Boughton-Waite mentioned that noise from the kennels has been less of a nuisance recently. Situation to be monitored.

Mrs Boughton-Waite agreed to be the Harwell News co-ordinator whenever Mrs Staples is away.

Mr Ricketts offered to write Council articles for Harwell News; the articles would be approved by the Council before submission.

Mr Ricketts would also like to see more recycling and composting at the allotments, rather than just burning of rubbish. Mr Hayter pointed out that the Council truck is not permitted into recycling centres. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr Mulford has now left the Council but has stated his willingness to carry on working with the groundsmen if required. After discussion, the Council felt this, though generous, would be inappropriate. Dr Beswick to discuss this with Mr Mulford, also the siting of the key box. KB

Dr Beswick invited Mr Treml to speak; he expressed concerns about teenagers congregating at Drewitts Corner, citing a recent incident in which the police were called. The Council suggested that regular visits from the police may help with this problem.

The meeting ended at 9:15pm.