



Mr Marsh had attended the consecration ceremony for the cemetery extension, the recent Stakeholder Meeting at Harwell Campus, at which Goodman's had been due to mention its plans for the site (however, no Goodman's representative attended the meeting), a Sports Development Committee meeting (discussed at Item 4 d), a SODC Core Strategy meeting (discussed at Item 3 a), and had chaired the village hall meeting at the request of the Village Hall Committee – a report will follow in Harwell News (Committee to pay extra printing costs).

3. **Planning Matters**, including

a) Update on local development plans, including note response to SODC Core Strategy Consultation

Mr Marsh reported that SODC must allocate land for building projects for the next 5 years, and it was unlikely that overall housing figures for Didcot will change. Long Wittenham PC was not happy with the proposal to site 2000 new homes north of Didcot; local parishes have joined forces to try to work together against further expansion of Didcot into surrounding parishes, forming the group DROP (Didcot Ring of Parishes). Mr Marsh had been involved on behalf of Harwell PC, and had copied all correspondence to the Clerk. He had drawn up HPC's response to the Core Strategy consultation (copy attached). There is still confusion over the number of Growth Point Funding houses proposed under the SODC Core Strategy, and it is still not clear if the SODC figure includes those houses which have been allocated to the Vale area. Growth Point Funding is dependent on housing being built by 2016, a seemingly impossible deadline in the Vale area; Mr Marsh has asked for clarification. DROP is to speak at the SODC Scrutiny Committee meeting on the subject of the Core Strategy.

The lack of cemetery space in Great Western Park is now being given attention; the Clerk has been in consultation with Mr Burroughs, a VWHDC planner, who has now suggested an area of at least 1 hectare for cemetery space for Harwell parish within Great Western Park. The Council had no objections.

b) Permissions –

HAR/21173/2 Demolish existing bungalow. Erection of chalet bungalow at Crossfields, The Cleave, for Mrs Douglas.

VWHDC conditions were as follows;

1 The development to which this permission relates shall be begun within a period of 3 years from the date of permission.

2 Prior to commencement of development, samples of all materials to be used externally in the construction shall be submitted to & approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be built using only the approved materials

3 Prior to commencement of development, details of the existing ground levels of the site, & the proposed slab levels of the new dwelling shall be submitted to & approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved slab level

4 Notwithstanding any details shown on approved drawings, the new 1<sup>st</sup>-floor window(s) on the north elevation shall be glazed with obscure glass & shall be fixed & incapable of being opened. Thereafter, the window(s) shall remain obscure glazed & fixed shut. Notwithstanding the provisions of Class A of Part 1 Schedule 2 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or the equivalent provisions of any order revoking & re-enacting that Order), no additional 1<sup>st</sup>-floor window(s) shall be inserted in the north elevation of the dwelling without the prior grant of planning permission

5 Prior to the use or occupation of the new development, the car parking spaces shown on approved drawing number 10/03009/p14(a) shall be constructed, surfaced & marked out. The parking spaces shall be constructed to prevent surface water discharging onto the highway. Thereafter, the parking spaces shall be kept permanently free of any obstruction to such use.

6 Notwithstanding any details shown on the approved drawings, the site's internal & external boundaries shall be enclosed in accordance with a detailed scheme & programme of implementation which shall first have been submitted to & approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme shall ensure that the approved boundary treatments for each dwelling are completed prior to the occupation of that dwelling, & the approved boundary treatments for the whole site are completed prior to the occupation of the last dwelling.

HAR/CHI/20130/2-A Erection of 10 free standing signboards (Amendment to previously approved application HAR/CHI/20130-A) at Harwell Science & Innovation Campus for Harwell Science & Innovation Campus General Partnership Ltd.

VWHDC conditions were as follows;

1 No advertisement is to be displayed without the permission of the owner of the site or any other person with an interest in the site entitled to grant permission

2 No advertisement shall be sited or displayed so as to;

- a- Endanger persons using any highway, railway, waterway, dock, harbor or aerodrome (civil or military)
- b- Obscure or hinder the ready interpretation of any traffic sign, railway signal or aid to navigation by water or air; or
- c- Hinder the operation of any device used for the purpose of security or surveillance or for measuring the speed of any vehicle

3 Any advertisement displayed, & any site used for the display of advertisements, shall be maintained in a condition that does not impair the visual amenity of the site

4 Any structure or hoarding erected or used principally for the purpose of displaying advertisements shall be maintained in a condition that does not endanger the public

5 Where an advertisement is required under the Town & Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 to be removed, the site shall be left in a condition that does not endanger the public or impair visual amenity.

c) Applications

HAR/19210/1 Proposed rear extension, front porch, & convert existing garage to study at 25 The Croft for Mr & Mrs Cockburn.

Planning Committee members had requested that neighbours' comments are borne in mind by Planners.

HAR/21371 Demolition of existing bungalow. Erection of a detached house at Carita, Didcot Road, for Mrs Jones.

HAR/21012/1 Amendment to previously approved application HAR/21012. Changes to front aspect of property & garage at Droke, Wantage Road, for Mr Beer.

Planning Committee members to comment on the above 2 applications by the due dates.

P10/W1150/RM-100 Phase 1b(i) of Great Western Park development consisting of erection of 220 residential dwellings, associated infrastructure, section of spine road, temporary bus turning area, temporary pumping station, surface water attenuation pond & adjacent areas of landscape (as amended by information & drawings accompanying letter from agent dated 13.10.2010) at Land at Didcot Road, Didcot.

This application is for information only, as the area in question is within Didcot parish.

d) Discuss & agree response to Local Government Boundary Commission electoral review of OCC

The Commission is to propose changes to the number of councillors at OCC. The Council had no comments at this stage.

6. **Matters relating to Council-Owned Lands**

a) Report on the condition of bus shelter in Wantage Road, Rowstock

Mr Taylor reported that repairs could be made rather than replacing the shelter, at a probable cost of around £200. The grounds staff do not have the requisite tools to undertake the repairs; Mr Taylor volunteered to contact RH Fencing for a quote; repairs to be carried out using Reserves set aside for bus shelters. The Council noted that R H Fencing has repaired the wooden bus shelter opposite Tyrells Close, and wished to record thanks for a very good job.

**ACTION: GT**

b) i) Report on cemetery extension project

Mr Ricketts reported that he has almost finished seeding along the former boundary with Section F; grounds staff to remove a heap of surplus soil & stones. Clerk to obtain quotes for waste disposal. Mr Ricketts & the Clerk to prepare a summary of predicted expenditure for the next 2 years, in advance of the Finance Meeting. The Clerk reported that grounds staff had assessed the hedge on the west side of the extension, but hawthorn and brambles will need to be cut back before the fence can be removed. To be discussed further by the Lands Committee.

**ACTION: MR, Clk, LCttee**

ii) Agree that the Council confirms its policy regarding use of weedkiller in the cemetery, whereby it is only used under the direction of the designated councillor liaising with the groundsman, and request that the Lands Committee revises the cemetery worker's duties to indicate that:  
1 Weedkiller is not to be used on grass adjoining paths, gravestones, or trees etc, unless duly authorized  
2 Grass edges adjacent to paths, gravestones & trees are cut by strimmer or other tools  
3 If it is necessary to apply weedkiller to the path then it must be confined to the path

For further discussion by the Lands Committee.

**ACTION: L Cttee**

c) Approve repairs to war memorial based on quotes obtained

As mentioned in the report attached to the Agenda, cracks have appeared in the marble. Quotes have been requested, none so far have been received. The Council had no objections to the work.

d) Sports Development Project & Village Hall development – i) update from Council representatives

See Item 2 for village hall update.

The SDP Committee has agreed to move forward if possible, and has approached Sports Solutions GB for advice and assistance in getting basic proposals drawn up. A simple Agreement for members has

been drawn up (attached to the Agenda). It was noted that Harwell Village Football Club, Harwell Tennis Club, and Harwell Short Mat Bowls Club are not listed on the new Agreement, but Mr Fisher reported that other sports clubs which are interested in joining the Committee will be welcomed as members, and will still have input into the project; they were left out of the Agreement at this stage because of funding, membership, or other issues.

*ii) To authorize the Chairman to sign the attached Agreement for the Sports Development Project, committing the Council to contribute 40% of the total cost of £5,500 for the next phase of the project*

Some councillors were not happy at not having seen the full document before the meeting, but agreed that the total cost to the Council of £2,200 could be paid using funds already allocated to the project.

**[Note from Clerk: the document was copied to all councillors after the meeting, prior to its signature a few days later]** Mr Fisher proposed that the Council accept the resolution as set out on the Agenda, seconded by Mr Hayter. Carried by 8 votes in favour, with 1 abstention.

*iii) To agree that the Council shall enter into a formal agreement with Sports Solutions GB for the next phase of work for the Sports Development Project. This agreement is for work to the value of £5,500 (excluding VAT) which is to be shared in agreed amounts with the members of the Sports Development Project*

Mr Marsh explained that the document was a basic Agreement which commits the 4 named Committee members to payment for the first tranche of work to be done by SSGB, although he had not yet circulated the full document to all councillors. Mr Fisher proposed that the resolution be accepted as set out on the Agenda, seconded by Mr Marsh, and carried by 8 votes in favour, with 1 abstention. Mr Marsh to sign the agreement on the Council's behalf. **ACTION: DM**

*iv) To agree that Sports Solutions GB invoices shall be paid in full by the Council, and that the Project members which are parties to the Agreement in 4 d ii above shall pay their contributions direct to the Council*

Mr Fisher proposed that the Council accept the resolution as set out on the Agenda, seconded by Mrs Beswick. Carried by 8 votes in favour, with 1 abstention.

*e) Tennis & Bowls Clubs – update on new Agreements*

Mr Marsh reported that the Tennis Club has almost resolved its issue with insurance responsibilities, and is happy to revert to the original wording on the Agreement. Mr Marsh to approach the Bowls Club as soon as possible. **ACTION: DM**

## 7. **Financial Matters**

*a) Approve Receipts & Payments cashbook for October 2010*

Mrs Boughton-Waite had checked bank statements, Miss Hawthorn had checked petty cash. The cashbook was signed by Mr Marsh as a true record.

*b) Approve donation to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal*

Mr Thomas proposed a donation of £25; seconded by Mr Taylor, carried unanimously.

*c) Approve payment of Bowls Club green insurance, up to a maximum of £165*

Approved nem.con.

d) Approve purchase of Christmas gifts for staff, up to a total amount of £50

Mr Taylor declared a Personal & Prejudicial interest and took no part in the discussion. The Council approved the resolution nem.con.

e) Schedule of payments for approval (attached to Agenda)

Approved nem.con.

8. **Meeting dates**

Agree that meetings for 2010 should take place on second Tuesday in the month, and set date for Finance Meeting in December 2010

The Council agreed that meeting dates for 2011 should remain as second Tuesday in the month except for August and December when there will be no meetings. The 2010 Finance Meeting was scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> December.

9. **County & District Council**

a) VWHDC Review of Polling Districts & Places

The Review recommends not using Cockcroft Hall as a venue for voting in future because of the lack of facilities for disabled users; Miss Hawthorn to check with North Drive residents before comments are submitted.

b) OCC Consultation on concessionary bus fares

Clerk to circulate document to all councillors for comment.

**ACTION: CLK**

10. **Any Other Business**

Mr Fisher may be able to attend the OPFA AGM later this month.

Mr Ricketts took documents received from the North Wessex Downs AONB to read on the Council's behalf.

Mr Fisher & Mr Thomas will attend to the road closures on Remembrance Sunday. Mr Ricketts & Mr Marsh to contact High Street residents regarding parking during the parade. The Council expressed thanks to the Gardeners Club for tidying the Memorial Garden, and the Our Street Corner youth group for cleaning the war memorial.

There were some problems following the first session held in the pavilion of the Our Street Corner group, including the disappearance of a fire extinguisher. A replacement extinguisher has been kindly donated from the Freeman Hall, and group volunteers have promised to look into the problems and make sure they do not continue.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

**Actions;**

**DM:** Sign documents re: Sports Development Project  
Check on S106 funding re: Great Western Park  
Contact Tennis/Bowls Clubs re: Agreements

**MR:** Prepare expenditure figs for cem project

**GT:** Contact RH Fencing re: bus shelter repairs

**PI Cttee:** Planning responses

**L Cttee:** Discuss cemetery project matters

**Clk:** Obtain quotes for removal of waste from cemetery/ prepare expenditure figs for cem proj  
Prepare income/expenditure figures for all user groups  
Circulate bus fares document

**Harwell Parish Council**  
**Notes for Councillors on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010**  
**Comments from Cllr Reg Waite & Cllr Mrs Margaret Turner**

**Waste contract roll out:**

The first week of the new waste service was quite successful with the vast majority of residents putting the right bins out on the right day, showing a high understanding of the changes.

There were some teething problems, however, which you'd expect when rolling out a service of this scale to over 50,000 households.

If you spot any **pockets** of missed collections in our patch please contact Reg or the waste team right away on 01235 540549 so it can speed up these collections. It is important **individual** property householders contact the contractor about a missed collection so that it can be checked on their onboard technology to ascertain any reasons why this might have happened and can log the call. If you are contacted about an **individual** household being missed please refer them to the contractor on 03000 610 610.

This week is the first recycling week and experience from South Oxfordshire District Council has taught the Vale it can expect higher than normal volumes of recycling from people storing up items they couldn't previously recycle. This results in vehicles filling quicker and therefore more trips to the depots so some collections may spill over until the next morning. Please leave your bins out until lunchtime the following day and if they haven't been emptied by then please report this as a missed collection. If you could advise residents to do the same it would be a great help.

The Verdant call centre and Abingdon Local Service Point were inundated with calls as we expected. Between them they dealt with over 3000 calls in the first three days, which was far more than they expected to deal with in a month.

A good proportion of the calls were questions about which bin to put items, which is a good sign that residents are embracing the scheme by making the most of it.

The Vale is still learning about properties which have not received their bins.

Finally thank you to those of you that helped residents in any way.

**Possible Rogue Traders:**

The Vale District Council has become aware that many of their residents are receiving cold calls from companies offering free loft and cavity wall insulation. Many of these companies claim to be working in conjunction with the Council, however South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Council only recommend a company called Cocoon.

For more information or for a free no obligation survey on your home contact Cocoon on 0800 80 48 777 or visit [www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk](http://www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk)

**Creating a healthy Oxfordshire:**

District Councillors have been invited to attend an event to have their say about the future of health services in Oxfordshire. NHS organisations and Oxfordshire County Council are working together to ensure they can provide high quality sustainable health and social care services in the future. Society is changing so health and social care systems need to change to respond to increasing demand, patient expectations and advances in technology and medicines.

This event will be held on Friday, 29 October 2010 commencing at 10.00 am and please feel free to let Margaret and Reg have any comments and suggestions you may have.

**No Revaluation of Council Tax Bands:**

The Government has pledged there will be no revaluation of council tax bands in England this Parliament.

This means there will be no rise in local taxes for householders based solely on the increased value of their homes.

Every property in England sits in one of [eight council tax bands](#), depending on its value. These were last set on the 1st April 1991.

**The Thatched Cottage, Reading Road, Harwell:**

The Petition is now underway and at 9.00 am this morning inly 48 residents have supported it as follows –

- 36 On-line
- 8 Newsagent
- 4 Bob's the Butcher
- Royal British Legion

Reg will be knocking on doors to obtain further signatures and he would welcome any additional volunteers to do likewise.

Response from Harwell Parish Council to SODC Core Strategy Consultation, sent 28.10.2010 (prepared by D Marsh).

Our main concern is the expansion of Didcot, and its incursion into Harwell parish.

As such, it is not our place to comment on matters in SODC which do not directly affect us, and will not be responding to Q2, Q3 or Q4.

In Q1 you ask: What do you think about us working to the South East Plan numbers?

The SE Plan had an allocation of 8750 houses for Didcot (6000 SODC, 2750 Vale). Of the 8750 house approximately 4500 are already committed. (GWP etc), and the remainder are split roughly 50/50 between SODC (2030) and the Vale (2150).

We continue to question these figures, and specifically the figures for the Vale houses in Harwell Parish, because:

- The doubling in the size of Didcot, without supporting infrastructure, will have severe implications for Didcot itself, and for the surrounding villages, specifically in terms of traffic. The infrastructure resulting from the existing plans (GWP etc) does little to solve the problems anticipated in the villages, and it doesn't seem right that the only way we might get funds for solutions is to build yet more houses.
- The expansion of Didcot towards the surrounding villages puts pressure on the rural gap between the town and the villages. The westward expansion threatens Harwell, any southern expansion threatens the Hagbournes, and the northern expansion creeps towards Long Wittenham and Appleford.
- The split of the 1500 Growth Point Houses 50/50 between the Vale and SODC seemed arbitrary, and it forced the development of Didcot to the west for 750 of these houses. We urge a reconsideration of this split, and the allocation of all the Growth Point numbers to the SODC.

The evidence base supporting the numbers is now several years out of date, and there are good reasons for putting that evidence into question and requesting a review of the housing numbers:

- Build rates in the last few years have failed to deliver on the plans. GWP is running years late and the first house has yet to be built, and there is no sign of any development on any of the other committed sites. Clearly the demand forecast took no account of the recession.
- The recession is not yet over, and there must be doubts about the future of employment growth in the area. Although the Government's major spending review has protected science funding, it is not clear to us that the forecast housing demand is properly supported by the growth of employment in SVUK. In fact we are concerned that the skills gap in the area (reported to the Didcot Communities Forum as being one of the largest in the country) will not be addressed by building large estates of market houses (albeit with a percentage of affordable homes)
- There is a lot of uncertainty about the impact of decisions being made by the Government – Local Government funding, Localism Bill, New Homes Bonus, Growth Point funding, affordable homes financing and targets etc that it seems premature, and even foolish, to commit to a plan with a 15 year outlook.

We would have liked to propose a pause of between one and five years in these plans for the expansion of Didcot. It seems to us that with 4500 committed houses, yet to be built, there is a more than adequate flow of real houses for Didcot for the near future. As well as giving time to review the evidence base. pausing would give time to examine the impact of this planned growth on Didcot Town Centre, the transport infrastructure and the traffic impact on the surrounding villages.

However, we understand that delay to the Core Strategy is not possible because of the need to plan for SODC as a whole. But we would still urge that if there is way to slow down the expansion of Didcot, it should be investigated and adopted.

Finally, we would like to repeat the observation which we made at the consultation workshops, that presenting a figure of 2330 houses for the expansion of Didcot is very misleading because it ignores the committed housing not yet built, and all the housing planned by the Vale. We urge you to continue your co-operation with the Vale, and see if there is any way you can work together more coherently in the planning of the expansion of Didcot so that you avoid presenting only the SODC half of the story, and people see a more honest presentation of the plans for the expansion of Didcot being developed by the two Districts.