

HARWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 17th January 2012 at 7.30pm in the Recreation Ground Pavilion

Amendment highlighted below; authorised 14/2/2012

Present: Mr D Marsh (Chairman) Mrs K Beswick OBE (Vice-Chair) Mrs D Turner Mrs S Gaspar
Mrs D Boughton-Waite Mr M Fox-Davies Mr S Davison Ms D Greenfield
Miss K Hawthorne Mr G Buxton Mrs M Turner (Dist Cllr)
Mrs S Taylor (Clerk)

Apologies: Mr S Lilly (County Cllr) Mr R Waite (Dist Cllr) Mr M Ricketts

Open Forum, including

a) Reports from County & District Councillors & Police

District Council; Mr Waite had provided written notes; a shortened version is attached to these minutes. Mrs Turner mentioned some queries regarding e-billing. Mrs Beswick reported that she had recently used the VWHDC fly-tipping reporting service and it had worked well; the site (in Harwell) was attended the next day, and a prosecution is pending.

County Council; Mr Lilly had informed the Clerk that he had secured £6,500 from the Area Stewardship Fund for the Vehicle Activated Sign for Reading Road (A417). Highways engineers have indicated that the sign will be installed on the north side of the A417, approximately 100m from the track which leads to Nightingales offices (adjacent to the cemetery). *Clerk to ask Mr Lilly to write a short article for Harwell News.* **ACTION: SL**

No representative of the police was present.

b) Representations from members of the public – none present.

1. Approve Minutes of the previous meeting PC/2011/12/13

The Minutes were amended in one place, and signed as a true record by Mr Marsh.

2. Declarations of Interest – none.

3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes

a) Actions & status reports, including External Liaison (note meetings attended by councillors)

Mrs Boughton-Waite had attended the Harwell Local Stakeholder Group meeting; mention was made of plans to move low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste from Winfrith to Harwell, but the NDA had not made a decision on the matter. However, recent press reports indicate that the waste will be stored at the Harwell site in a new long-term storage facility within East Hendred parish.

Mrs Boughton-Waite had expressed disappointment that no earlier notice of the decision had been given.

Mr Marsh had attended a meeting to discuss the Great Western Park community centre provision; developers attended the meeting and presented a copy of the draft District Neighbourhood Square Local Area Brief, which includes proposals for the community centre building, but it is still not clear who will own or manage the building.

The Harwell Future Advisory Committee had met recently; it agreed more information on GWP would be welcome (see Any Other Business).

b) Any other Matters Arising – none.

4. Planning Matters

- a) Status of local developments & plans (VWH/SODC Core Strategy, GWP, Chilton Fields, etc).

Nothing further to report other than that mentioned above.

- b) Update re VWHDC draft Interim Housing Supply Policy

Nothing further to report at this stage.

- c) Note Permissions

11/02479/LBC Proposed demolition of existing flat roof extension & insertion of new French doors.

Proposed insertion of new bi-fold doors at Pollards, Townsend

11/02466/FUL & 11/02481/CON Demolition of existing garden wall, erection of new wall & close board fence at 2 Brookside

11/02402/RENWAL & 11/02404/LBC Application to extend time limit of planning permission

08/01143/FUL for extension & alteration of existing dwelling at Leigh House, High Street

11/01903/FUL & 11/01904/LBC Demolish remainder of partially collapsed listed building & store in front garden. Reconstruct as detailed on drawings. Erect 2-storey extensions at rear at Thatched Cottage, Reading Road

11/02094/FUL Proposed 1st floor extension (Re-submission of withdrawn application 11/01223/FUL) at Talbots Way, Grove Road

Noted; full conditions to be kept on file.

- d) Consider Applications

11/02925/FUL & 11/02926/LBC Proposed structural repairs, alterations & change of use of existing listed outbuilding at The Homestead, High Street

11/02541/FUL Conversion of existing garage/workshop to an annexe & loft conversion to existing bungalow at The Hudsons, Barrow Road

11/02603/FUL & 11/02604/LBC Various ground & 1st floor extensions to improve accommodation at Leigh House, High Street (PERMISSION NOW RECEIVED)

11/02666/FUL Establish front entrance to north aspect, remove garage, change roofs to existing single storey outbuildings to duo pitch, including new inbetween making porched entrance cover, single storey rear extension infill & new 1st floor within existing-proposed roof profile to include bedrooms & bathroom at Droke, Wantage Road. (PERMISSION NOW RECEIVED)

11/02598/FUL Single storey extensions & alterations to bungalow at 18 Tyrells Close (PERMISSION NOW RECEIVED)

Planning Committee members had asked that Planners take neighbours' comments into consideration in all the above applications.

A further application had been received in respect of;

11/02835/FUL Erection of a 5165 sq m B1 building with 125 parking spaces. Outline application for 0.20 ha of land for B1 use (layout, scale & appearance reserved) at Land at Fermi Avenue, Harwell Science & Innovation Campus

The Council had no objections to this application, which includes land in Chilton parish.

- e) Note Notice of Appeal in respect of

11/01517/FUL Proposed dropped kerb to serve proposed new dwelling at Droke, Wantage Road

The Council had no further comments, as Highways concerns were at issue.

5. **Financial Matters-**

a) Approve Receipts & Payments cashbooks & ledger for November & December 2011

The finance pages were signed as a true record. Mrs Boughton-Waite had done bank reconciliation and checked petty cash.

b) Discuss requests for funding- i) Little Pippins Pre-School (£269)

The request is for funds towards staff training, and the group has raised the rest of the funds itself, the total required being £3000. **Mr Marsh proposed that the request for £269 be granted;** seconded by Mrs Gaspar; **approved unanimously.**

ii) Wantage Independent Advice Centre

Regretfully declined as the request is not in line with the Council's donations policy.

iii) Vale & Downland Museum

The request is for funds for a building project, towards which the Museum has already raised £217,000 of a target of £500,000. It was agreed that many Harwell residents visit the Museum. **Mrs Boughton-Waite proposed that funding of £100 be granted;** seconded by Mrs Gaspar. **Carried by 6 votes in favour, 1 against, and 3 abstentions.**

c) Review of Harwell News fees: agree that fees remain at current level for the next 12 months

Following discussion, it was agreed to leave fees unchanged at £12 per advertisement for the next 12 months.

d) Approve schedule of payments

All payments as shown on the Agenda were approved.

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

a) Play area – update

Mrs Bewsick reported that children from the Our Street Corner youth project would like to attend the February council meeting to present a cheque towards the play area project. Funding received so far for the play area refurbishment (held by OSC) consists of £2600. Confirmation of the WREN grant and VWHDC 3rd Party Funding (for the WREN grant to be paid) totalling £55,500 have been received by Mrs Greatbanks on behalf of the Project. The request for Lottery funding has been declined. The Clerk has contacted VWHDC again re: planning advice on whether planning permission will be required for any equipment outside the perimeter fence of the existing playground; VWHDC needs to know approximate sizes of the equipment. The Council has until 30 January to respond.

b) Approve notice for Harwell News re: ascertaining public opinion regarding permitting Mason's fair to use the rec

Mr Buxton volunteered to draft the notice, and will circulate it for approval before submitting it to the newsletter.

ACTION: GB

c) Report re: OCC's proposals for bus stops in the parish

Mrs Beswick met representatives from OCC on site; OCC intends to replace the shelters at Rowstock,

install a new shelter at the Tyrells Close/Wantage Road junction (westbound), put in hardstanding at the stops along Didcot Road where necessary, install RTI at the High Street shelter, erect new flags and poles at every stop, unless they have already been upgraded, and lower kerbs where necessary to accommodate low-rider buses. As previously discussed, the Council will maintain any new shelters once ownership is transferred from OCC. Design drawings had been provided for the new shelters. The Council's only concern was that shelters containing glass or Perspex have been vandalised in the past.

- d) Maintenance of Chilbrook stream – report from clerk about discussions over clearance of litter, as part of PC responsibilities for churchyard maintenance.

It seems clear that landowners are responsible for maintenance of streams and banks on their property, but as the churchyard is maintained by the council, maintenance of the section of the stream bordering the churchyard is also the council's responsibility.

- e) Recommendations from Lands Committee;

i) HHYFC tournament - *The committee recommended that permission be granted for a summer football tournament on the recreation ground on 7th & 8th July 2012.*

Mrs Beswick proposed that the Council approve the recommendation; seconded by Mrs Boughton-Waite, **carried unanimously.**

ii) Rugby Club letter - *The Committee recommended that the council continues to allow use of the facilities at the recreation ground by football teams rather than rush to try and accommodate the rugby club in the near future, but that any plans for improvements to the pavilion should include consultation with all local sports teams.*

Ms Greenfield proposed an amendment to the wording of the resolution, ie that the words "rush to" be removed. Seconded by Mrs Beswick, carried.

Mrs Beswick proposed that the new resolution "~~The Committee recommended t~~That the council continues to allow use of the facilities at the recreation ground by football teams rather than try and accommodate the rugby club in the near future, but that any plans for improvements to the pavilion should include consultation with all local sports teams" be approved by the Council, as long as the relevant paragraph explaining the background to the Committee's decision is included in the Minutes; seconded by Mrs Boughton-Waite, **carried.**

The Lands Committee Minutes recording the recommendation are as follows;

1. Discuss letter from Rugby Club

The club has requested that the council alters the existing pavilion to accommodate 2 more changing rooms, so that the club can use facilities in the village. Mrs Beswick had been shown around the facilities at Curie Avenue & Fermi Avenue which the club currently uses. The sports facilities are greatly superior to anything which could be arranged in the village for the foreseeable future, in view of the fact that no response has so far been forthcoming regarding the continuation of the Sports Development Project. Although the council may consider improvements to the pavilion if the SDP folds, there are no immediate plans. The committee also felt that it could not justify decreasing the amount of playing space used at present by the HHYFC boys teams, as youth facilities are limited, and the club has been trying to expand in recent years by encouraging Harwell youngsters to join and play football.

The Committee recommended that the council continues to allow use of the facilities at the recreation ground by football teams rather than rush to try and accommodate the rugby club in the near future, but that any plans for improvements to the pavilion should include consultation with all local sports teams.

- f) Sports Development Project; recognising that the funding climate has changed, and the support for the project from the Harwell Sports community has reduced, the Council will stop supporting the Sports

Development project and will focus resources and funds into renovating the recreation ground pavilion.

No responses have been received to Mr Marsh's emails on this subject, apart from the letter already received from the Rugby Club, and a new email from the Bowls Club which does not mention the SDP. Although feeling it is disappointing that the effort put into the project was unavailing, **Mr Marsh proposed that the Council approve the resolution as set out on the Agenda**; seconded by Ms Greenfield, carried unanimously. *Mr Marsh to draft a notice for Harwell News.* **ACTION: DM**

7. **Discuss responses to OCC consultations; ORCC Community Transport Team & Dedication of Footpath 22**

The Clerk had explained that the first item was irrelevant as nothing has in fact been received from OCC regarding the ORCC Community Transport Team. No response was sent to the consultation on Footpath 22.

8. **Correspondence & circulars received by the Clerk**

Mr Marsh reported that the email from Mr T Stock concerning the proposals for a Harwell Academy was providing information only and did not require an answer at this stage. The Council felt there were possible implications for other proposed schools in the parish, within GWP.

A letter has been received from the British Legion Club, thanking the council for help with road closures on Remembrance Sunday. The Club has also written about possible frost damage to the war memorial; *Clerk to liaise with the Club* as the memorial was repaired in February last year. **ACTION: Clk**

VWHDC has indicated that mugs are available to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee.

OCC has arranged repairs to The Croft & Gaveston Road, involving road closures; Mr Marsh has asked Mr Lilly for more information about the Gaveston Road repairs, because of access to the school.

9. **Any Other Business**

Mr Marsh reported that Cllr Matthew Barber (VWHDC) and Anna Robinson (SODC) are to meet councillors next Wednesday to discuss items such as the Harwell Link Road & VWHDC Core Strategy. Councillors were encouraged to think about more items before the meeting, such as community structuring within GWP, boundary changes, affordable housing, whether the Harwell section of GWP & Valley Park will be seen as part of Didcot.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

Minutes prepared by Mrs S Taylor, Parish Clerk

ACTIONS FROM MTG:

DM: Notices for H News
GB: Notice re fair on rec
SL: Notice for H News re VAS
Clk: Contact RBL re war memorial

Harwell Parish Council
Notes for Councillors on Tuesday, 17th January 2012
from Cllr Reg Waite & Cllr Mrs Margaret Turner

The Thatched Cottage, Reading Road, Harwell:

Following granting of Planning Applications with various stringent conditions, the Vale is still awaiting a response from owner, Mr Dawson, who is being chased.

This cottage collapsed almost 7 years ago on Sunday, 13th February 2005. The owners of the adjoining dwellings have suffered throughout.

1 Loder Road, Harwell:

This dwelling remains uninhabited with the owner tracked down to living in Torquay. At Cllr Waite's request the Vale wrote to him but no response received nor has any work on the property and its gardens commenced. Subsequently a further letter was sent to Mr Puddleford on 4th January 2012 giving him 14 days to sort out the property, failing which the Vale will commence formal action.

The Park, Harwell:

Some of the pathways owned by Oxfordshire County Council have been adversely affected by the ongoing car parking by owners/tenants on the grounds owned by Sovereign & Vale Housing Association during the recent inclement weather. Parts of the grassed areas have deteriorated significantly and become quagmires of water and mud. Several complaints regarding the muddy and swamped pavements have been received with appropriate action sought from the authorities, including Biffa who have been requested by the Vale to sweep and cleanse some of the paths

Waste – Bin reminder text service:

As part of the new service, the Vale and Verdant introduced a text messaging service for residents who want to receive reminders about changes to bin collections. Anyone who signs up for this free service will receive a text the day before their collection whenever there are changes due to bank holidays or bad weather.

Residents can register for these reminders themselves. To sign up, they need to send a text message, with the word 'waste' and their new collection day, to 07797 870371. For example, if, from next week, their collection day is Wednesday, they should send a text saying 'waste Wednesday'.

Recycle your Mattresses!

A trial to recycle mattresses is continuing at South Oxfordshire and Vale of White District Councils. The two authorities operate a joint waste collection service alongside their contractor Biffa.

The trial is running as part of the bulky waste collection service that the councils operate. The mattresses are taken to Culham where they are processed and the metal frames and fibre stuffing are sent away for recycling.

The trial will run until February.

Any Questions Event:

Members of the public will be invited to put questions to an influential panel at an event held at Abingdon Guildhall on 20 January.

The 'Any Questions' event will start at 7.30pm; tickets are priced at £10 which included a drink on arrival and a buffet.

The panel of people will include Nicola Blackwood MP, Andrew Smith MP, Catherine Bearder MEP and author and former head teacher of Abingdon School, Michael St John Parker.

All proceeds will go to the Chairman of Vale of White Horse District Council's chosen charities: Help for Heroes, and South and Vale Carers.

Community contributions to public arts strategy for GWP:

Ideas from residents, businesses and councillors are still sought.

Sign up for e-billing and be in with a chance to win your 2012/13 council tax:

Residents are being encouraged to sign up to receive their council tax bill by email to help save money, and those who do so will be entered in a draw to have their entire 2012/13 council tax paid for them.

To enter the draw, council tax payers simply need to sign up to receive their bills by email by Tuesday 31 January. Email vowh.counciltax@secure.capita.co.uk.

Please note that e-billing is only suitable for those paying council tax by direct debit, credit or debit card.

Businesses invited to join annual breakfast:

The annual SODC & VWHDC business breakfast takes place on Wednesday, 1st February 2012 between 7.30am and 9.30am at Cornerstone arts centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot.

To book a place at the breakfast, you can complete the online form on the Vale's website or e-mail - economic.development@southandvale.gov.uk, or alternatively you can register by phone on 01235 540475.