

# WHITCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Whitchurch Parish Council held in The Church Hall, Whitchurch on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 7.30pm

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**Attendees:** Cllr Pain (Chairman), Cllr Bond, Cllr Newman, Cllr Foot, Cllr Shepherd, Cllr Meijer, Sue Mordue – Clerk, in excess of 80 members of the public attended for the open forum. They left after this item and 12 members of the public remained for the rest of the meeting.

**21. Receive Apologies:** none.

**22. Open Forum for Parishioners:**

- a. Mary Monks Close – tree were reported overhanging the footpath.
- b. Neighbouring residents expressed their concerns re planning application 09/00834/ALB (item 26a below).
- c. In excess of 80 residents attended following a leaflet drop by Bernie Hyde to ascertain the level of interest in forming a group to discuss possible options regarding the White Horse Pub. It was agreed that names would be taken and a separate meeting organised at the Legion Hall to discuss this matter as there was such a high level of support.
- d. Thanks were expressed to villagers who had helped tidy up the village for the Best Kept Village Competition.
- e. Bus Shelter at Swan Close – complaints were expressed regarding the ‘vandal proof glass’ in the bus shelter. It was explained that the shelter did not belong to the Parish Council but to JC Decaux. Requests had been made last year to change the glass however this was declined in view of cost and the fact that the glass had been removed by vandals previously.

**23. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda:** Cllr Bond declared his interest in planning applications due to his role as District Cllr sitting on the AVDC Development Control Committee as he will review his decision at Committee based on the additional information available at the time.

**24. The minutes of the last meeting** the Annual Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were confirmed as a true record.

**25. To discuss any matters arising** from those minutes not covered by the agenda.

- a. Following Suzanne Leggett’s resignation from the Council it was agreed that the vacancy should be advertised in the Whitchurch News, website and on the Notice boards.
- b. Cllr Meijer updated that he had attended the meeting re the Incinerator at Edgecott. The Council agreed to keep a watching brief on this but take no action.

**26. Planning: To discuss planning applications and make recommendations:**

- a. 09/00834/ALB – Bolebec House, 13 Market Hill – internal alterations and insertion of windows to convert barn to ancillary residential accommodation. – the Council resolved to OPPOSE the application as :a) insertion of a roof light is inappropriate as it is a listed barn within the conservation area. b) concern as there have been structural problems with the party wall with the neighbours as it is understood that there have been leaks and repairs to the building in 2007 and a year ago yet the application states there have been no repairs. c) If the applicant is to construct a new building within the existing barn then this could destabilise the already fragile building. d) by the erection of an inner shell the fabric of the old building will be hidden and also could not be monitored. e) The insertion of a window would overlook the neighbour’s property so consideration should be given to maintaining their privacy if this application is permitted.

**27. Finance:**

- a. The accounts for the year to date end April 2009 were confirmed.
- b. The audited accounts for the year end March 2009 were signed off by the Chairman and the Clerk following their approval by the Internal Auditor Jonathan Gibbs.
- c. The Council resolved to issue the following cheques:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Linnel Bros                | £653.78 |
| NMSC re Jimmy Watts labour | £510.00 |
| Glasdon                    | £55.80  |
| Playsafety Ltd             | £79.35  |
| E Sharp Electrical         | £172.11 |
| Weedon PC                  | £27.66  |

**28. Highways:**

- a. The clerk had held a site meeting with BCC re Little London. They agreed to fill the major pot holes however the surface was ‘not sufficiently bad enough’ to be resurfaced. Pothole were reported outside the school and further down the hill towards the Cattery. 54 Oving Road hole had reappeared again.
- b. Parking problems around the Legion Hall: It was agreed that all Cllrs should think about possible solutions which would be discussed at the next meeting.

# WHITCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

c. Clerk to report to BCC the various advertising boards on the verge as you enter the village from Aylesbury and request their removal.

**29. Footpaths & Footways:** The footpath from Whitchurch to Hardwick along the main road is overgrown. There are also reports of some flooding along this path. Clerk to ask BCC to resolve.

**30. Street Lighting:** The lights on the bollards in the middle of the road are out opposite The Priory, 51A High Street and the bollard on the roundabout.

## **31. Recreation Ground:**

a. Pond: Cllr Pain had obtained quotations for a pond liner. The Council resolved to accept the quotation from Geosynthetic technology as this would allow the project to remain in budget when VAHT funds are received. Cllr Bond agreed that it could be delivered to their farm and they would unload it and keep it until required. Cllr Pain to obtain a date from George Cheshire to dig the pond.

b. Council to discuss and agree quotation for a marking out of a pitch: quotation was £60 to mark out the pitch. 4 Cllrs were in favour of this, Cllr Newman was against and Cllr Meijer abstained. Once this had been done the Council would review whether to put the goals up depending on usage.

c. New seating – 7 seats had been erected by Jimmy Watts and he suggested that they need a preservative put on them. Clerk requested to obtain a quotation for this from Roy Randles. Clerk also to request the £1000 from the WCVA as promised for the seats.

d. Trees – could not spray around the trees now as the grass is too long therefore Clerk to obtain a quotation from Reg Porter to strim round the trees and then round up could be applied. The apple tree by the side of the tarmaced area is dead and it was agreed that this should be removed for Health and Safety reasons. Cllr Pain will organise this. It was emphasised that it is unfortunate as this tree has been killed deliberately by users of the field rather than it dying on its own causes.

**32. To discuss any correspondence and other communications** received since last meeting not covered by the agenda:

a. Best Kept Village – Cllr Pain thanked people for assisting in the clean up and he was then thanked himself for his efforts. The White Horse pub had donated £50 to assist in making this area look slightly better.

b. AVDC Planning Dept had responded regarding the listed wall at the Firs. They advised they cannot enforce the reconstruction of this wall however suggested the Parish Council write to the owners and 'request' them to reinstate it in view of its impact on the scenery of the village.

c. Cllr Pain had attended the Speed limit review meeting and the proposals will be circulated. The proposal is to move the village nameplate further down the hill and then the 30mph sign back to this place. A response is required by 30<sup>th</sup> June therefore the Council resolved that Cllr Foot would respond on behalf of the Council.

**33. Communications:** Web Site: Keith Adams had undertaken a tour of the village with Bucks Geology Dept and had written a report on this which is on the website. There is also a link now to Ron Adams's old photos.

## **34. Police:**

a. Complete Police Community Feedback Form:

i. Graffiti and Anti Social Behaviour: Graffiti had been sprayed on road signs and then on the alleyway between Ashgrove Gardens and the recreation field. The Police had been involved as there had been retaliation graffiti between youths in the village of Whitchurch with a youth in North Marston. The Police had cautioned those concerned.

ii. Excessive noise at the Recreation Field in the parking areas and the play area at night. At the weekends in particular youths are congregating in the Play Area and drinking under aged. Residents are urged to call the Police non emergency number when youths are causing trouble and request for more Police presence.

iii. Litter – there had been a clear up of litter for the best kept village competition and there had been litter everywhere especially outside the garage under the seat.

b. Cllr Newman update from the NAGs meeting and Speedwatch: The next NAG meeting is in July. Speedwatch was used in Whitchurch and people were caught doing excessive speeds however within 30 minutes of the site being monitored traffic seemed to slow down to below the speed limit. It appears people are being educated by this tool already from its use in many villages. Letters are being sent out from this now. More volunteers are required as it need 3 people to use the device.

**35. The date of next meeting** was agreed as Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm. Signed.....Date.....