

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup> 2007

Present.

Mr D. Brown.	Chairman
Mr R. Allum.	
Ms R Cottingham.	
Mr M. Frost	
Mrs M. Goodman.	
Mrs F. Groves.	
Mr K.D.Miller.	
Mrs K. Willis.	
Mr Q Webb.	District Councillor
Mr C.W.Goudge	Clerk

### **30. Thames Water presentation.**

Representatives for Thames Water outlined the work which would be undertaken during the next eight months in replacing the foul sewer drain in the Village, necessitated because of the increase in dwellings in the Village. There will be a public meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> in the Village hall, and the meeting will be publicised to all residents by leaflet.

Thames Water will liaise with the individual properties which will be affected as the work progresses, and traffic lights will be installed to keep traffic moving, though there might need to be road temporary closures. The road closures would be with agreement from West Berkshire Council, and there would also be liaison with the District Council to tie in the footpath widening work which would be undertaken by Contractors from West Berkshire Council. The Cementation site itself had been adequately catered for by the Developer.

### **31. Public Forum.**

A former Councillor expressed appreciation for the continuation of the Council after the previous Council cessation in April.

Comments were made that the S.106 amounts of money appeared small compared with other Councils. The total contributions paid to WBC by Developers in the Parish was some £ 2 million, of which £120 thousand is earmarked for specific projects in the Parish.

Large potholes were reported in Newbury Road, and it was suggested that potholes and road repairs could usefully be reported to Streetcare at West Berkshire Council at any time by members of the public.

### **32. Apologies for absence.**

An apology for absence had been received from Mr Pask.

**33. Minutes of the last meeting held on July 12<sup>th</sup> 2007.**

The minutes had been circulated. An amendment was agreed to include the Council's discussion regarding Bryant Cottage. With this amendment the minutes were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairmen.

**34. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

Minute 19

**i** Village Hall.

Draft plans have been circulated and the plans are almost ready for submission to the Planning Authority. WBC queried whether the new Hall should be as large and this is being dealt with. The finance and legal Agreements are also in process. The amount of £91k provided to WBC under S.106 Agreements will only be available to the Village Hall some eighteen months after the Developer has completed the outside work, and this could raise a temporary funding problem.

The land on which the Hall stands is to be transferred to the Parish Council.

Minute 25.

**ii** Parish Council laptop.

A query was raised regarding the laptop age and value at which it should be transferred. This would be investigated.

Minute 29.

**i** Meeting dates.

The December meeting date was confirmed as Thursday December 13<sup>th</sup> and the April 2008 date as April 24<sup>th</sup>

Other.

**i** Village website.

It was confirmed that the site has been brought up to date with Council data.

**ii** Village Walk.

A reminder that the Walk will take place this coming Monday starting at 2.00pm with tea at 4.00pm. The walk will cater for every level of participation.

**ii** Patient User Group.

The Group is based at the Surgery and aims to keep patients and staff in touch with events at the Surgery. A planning application has been submitted for an extended car park which will greatly help patient access.

The suggestion that the Surgery computer is linked to the National system has been turned down by the Practice.

It was confirmed that Mr Gower would attend the next Group meeting on behalf of the Council.

**35. The report from the District Councillor.**

Mr Webb mentioned the plans made by WBC to review the recent flooding, so as to both understand any causes which could have been mitigated and to plan precautions for the future. There will be a joint meeting with the Environment Agency and other directly affected parties, including Parish Councils, later in the year.

There is a grant of £200 from Government through WBC available to affected households and a notice with a claim form would be placed on the notice board.

**36. Planning.****Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

		<b>Decision</b>
07/01035/FULD	Hermitage Garage, Newbury Road. New detached dwelling.	<b>Approved</b>
07/01076/HOUSE	The Yews, Newbury Road. Conservatory	<b>Approved</b>
07/01152/HOUSE	Woodpeckers, Hampstead Noerreys Road. Extension.	<b>Approved</b>
07/01250/HOUSE	Mulberry Cottage, Deacons Lane. Extension and rebuild.	<b>Approved.</b>
07/01338/FUL	1 & 2, Concrete Cottages, Wellhouse. Demolition and replacement of two units.	<b>Approved.</b>
07/01238/HOUSE	Rivendell, Hampstead Norreys Road. Alterations to widen access.	<b>Approval</b>

**New planning applications.**

07/01534/HOUSE Primrose Cottage, High Street.  
Extension & Conservatory.

**The Council returned “no objections”.**

**Other matters.****WBC.**

- i Provision of Caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers.  
Consultation for SEERA was noted.
- ii S.106 contributions towards open spaces in the Parish.  
The amount of £4,440 is now available from the contributions paid by the Developer of 06/02883/FULD, a single dwelling at Hillier’s Garden Centre. It was decided to accept this and complete the undertaking for WBC.  
It was noted that another amount of £24,310 had also been obtained by WBC specifically to improve public open spaces in the Parish, as part of the development at the Arena site. It was decided to ask WBC when this money would be transferred to the Council.

**37. Highway matters.****Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.****Minute 24..**

- i West Berkshire Freight Route Consultation.  
This was noted. It did not appear have any significant effect on this Parish..

**Other matters.**

- i Long Lane bus shelter.  
It was decided to accept the quotation of £960 for repairs to the shelter.
- ii Hermitage Green footpath.  
Serious concern was expressed about the lack of surfacing and the proximity of barbed wire on the boundary fence. Discussion is still ongoing with the developer to complete the path. It was decided that Councillors would investigate.

- iii Tree on a footpath.  
This would also be investigated by Councillors.
- iv Dog nuisance.  
It was reported that some dog walkers did not clear up after their dogs. The matter has been reported to the Police. It was decided to attend the next NAG meeting in September to raise the matter.
- v The following matters which need repair or clearance have been reported to WBC.
  - Newbury Road subsidence at the Village Hall.
  - Marlston Road/ Yattendon Road culvert & footpath..
  - Marlston Road/ Slanting Hill junction blocked ditch.

**38. Finance..**

- i Receipts.  
To be notified.
- ii Payments authorised.
 

F.C.Lawrence	Grasscutting & shelter maintenance	£363.08
Hacker Young	External audit to March 2007-08-30	£334.88
Falkland Builders	Plumbing repairs	£47.00
C.W.Goudge	Salary & expenses	£342.66
- iii Other matters.
  - i The Annual Return and Accounts had been received from the External Auditors after examination with a clear certificate.
  - ii It was noted that the Precept for the coming year to March 2009 would be fixed at the December meeting.

**39. Burial ground.**

- i Repairs to walls.  
Two estimates had been obtained.  
It was decided to accept the estimate for £1,050 with an additional amount of £50 to allow for better bricks than those in the estimate.
- ii Plumbing repairs.  
It was noted that the tap had been leaking and that repairs and plumbing work had been carried out. Total cost of both was £55 exc VAT.
- ii Fee schedule.  
It was decided to review the fees schedule in December.

**40. Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

The correspondence was discussed, and, where appropriate, placed into circulation.

**41. Items to be raised by Councillors.**

There were no further items raised.

**42. Date of the next meeting.**

**Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.45-pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.**

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Chairman

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Date

