

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 24TH 2008.

Present.

Mr D. Brown. Chairman
Mr R Allum
Ms R Cottingham.
Mr M Frost
Mrs M. Goodman.
Mrs F. Groves.
Mr A. Hayes-Jones
Mr R Rodgers
Mrs K. Willis.

Mr C.W.Goudge Clerk

Twenty four members of the public.

126.Public Forum.

A number of queries regarding the Hermitage Green play area were raised by members of the public.

There are ball games on the Green – could there be a small ball game area. Stewart Souden has been contacted about this.

Not everyone has had notice of the tentative play area.

The original plans do show it very clearly.

The Chairman said that the Council had noted all the comments, which were very helpful, and the matter would be taken forward. It was noted that a survey of the residents showed a differing view.

Marlston Road bridge.

The basic situation has become worse.

There were a number of the residents who gave instances of traffic problems with the present system.

WBC had informed the Council that the concerns expressed in the Council's comprehensive letter listing the problems were being studied.

Footpath widening in the High Street.

Could the Post office be moved from the High Street to the Village Hall site. A feasibility study should be commissioned to examine all the possibilities.

There were a number of the public present who expressed views opposing the widening at all of the footway.

A member of the public had carried out a detailed survey of the High Street to help in the discussions.

The Chairman said that the Council would be glad to look at any evidence which helped to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. The subject had been raised at yesterday's Area Forum, where it was decided that it would be appropriate to hold a full public meeting of the whole Parish to allow for all views to be expressed. This meeting would be set up under the auspices of WBC and the Parish Council.

The land drain at the back of the High Street.

It is reported that WBC believe the drain is redundant.
There is concern that in a flood condition, water would have nowhere to drain.

It was decided to check with WBC to see if the drain is actually redundant.

127. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Jennings, Mr Miller, Mr Pask and Mr Webb.

128. Minutes of the last meeting held on March 13th 2008.

The minutes had been circulated, were agreed as correct, and signed by the Chairman.

129. Matters arising from the minutes not referred to elsewhere.

Minute 111

i Councillor's roles.

Councillors decided to assume individual roles as follows.

Burial Ground.	Mrs Goodman.
Pathways & Footways	Mrs Groves & Ms Cottingham.
Park & Play areas	Mr Rodgers & Mrs Willis..
Village Hall	Mr Allum
Pre-School	Mr Frost
NAG	Mr Rodgers
Downlands Youth network	Mr Rodgers & Mrs Willis.
Highways	Vacant
Emergency planning	Vacant

It was also decided to set up a Planning Committee which would meet, if necessary, on the Thursday before the monthly Council meeting. The Committee would have delegated powers to approve an application or to refer it to a full Council meeting. The quorum would be of four members drawn from

Mr Allum
Ms Cottingham.
Mrs Goodman
Mrs Groves
Mrs Willis.

130. The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

Apologies had been received from Mr Pask and Mr Webb.

131.Planning.**Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

		Decision
07/02463/HOUSE	1, Brick Walk, Hermitage. Fence to enclose garden	Refusal.
07/02615/FUL	Hermitage Primary School. Outdoor pavilion	Approval
07/02791/FUL	The Birches, Slanting Hill. Replacement dwelling	Approval
08/00131/HOUSE	11, Bryant's Piece, Hermitage. Side extension & porch	Refusal
08/00144/HOUSE	Holly Lodge, Pond Lane. Garage replacement & loft conversion.	Approval

New planning applications.

08/00336/HOUSE Red Roof, Chapel Lane.
Front & rear extensions.

The Council returned "no objections"

08/00622/HOUSE 16, Hermitage Green.
Conservatory.

The Council returned "no objections"

08/00629/HOUSE Bluebells, Deacon Lane.
Extension to replace conservatory.

The Council returned "no objections"

Adjacent Parish application.

08/00364/HOUSE 4, The Old Nursery, Hermitage.
Conservatory.

The Council returned "no objections"

Other planning matters.

- i S.106 data.
The Council noted this annual report from WBC.
It was decided to request WBC that, before any S.106 Agreement is completed, WBC make the Parish aware of any sums of money destined for the Parish, and particularly how the contractual usage is specified.

132.Highways.**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 113.

- i Footpath widening in the High Street.
This had been discussed above during the Public Forum when it was mentioned that a public meeting would be held of the whole Parish to discuss the matter.

Minute 119

- i Marlston bridge traffic

- ii A report is awaited from WBC
VAS sign
WBC have erected a VAS sign where the Council felt it was inappropriate.
- iii Bids for the Capital programme.
The first bid is shown as completed. The Council commented that the design was flawed and did not achieve the objective.
The second bid was turned down by WBC as having to alter a recently completed scheme. The Council felt that this scheme was also flawed.
- iv Doctor's Lane.
There have not been any further reports. The surfacing design is under review.

New matters.

- i M4 motorway noise.
It is reported that the noise is considerably louder than it was two years ago. There is a meeting with Highways to which this Council has been invited.

133.Environmental.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 120

- i Hermitage Green play area.
There was a general discussion following from comments made during the Public participation.
It was proposed and seconded that
"This Council gives it's full support to the provision of play areas and equipment".
The proposition was passed unanimously.
It was felt that clarity as to the WBC position both as to the actual siting of the play area and the ultimate maintenance responsibility is needed. District Councillors were urged to take this up and give a progress report at the next meeting.
- ii Emergency planning for the Parish.
This was deferred for the moment.

Finance.

- i Receipts.

Bank of Scotland	Interest	Feb / March	£241.51
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- ii Payments authorised.

F.C.Lawrence	Grass & shelters		£348.08
Thames Water	Burial ground	Dec/ March	£11.85
West Berkshire Council	Burial Ground rates	08 / 09	£22.90
Mr D. Brown	APA expenses		£43.70
Mr D Brown	APA drinks		£63.36
Mr D Brown	Travel		£31.90
Mr J. Rodgers	APA food		£101.00
Mayprint services	APA Agendas		£60.00
BALC	Subscription	08 / 09	£215.69
C.W.Goude.	Salary & expenses	April	£372.61
Hermitage Village Hall	Hall hire for the APA		£50.50
Marian Dean Fund	Grant – display screens	APA	£25.00

iii Grants authorised for payment in the December 2007 minutes.

Home start	£50
Hermitage Village Hall	£1,500
Hermitage cubs	£800
Downland Youth network	£150
Holy Trinity Church	£1,000
Hermitage Horticultural Society	£150

iv Other matters.

i The Council noted the Statement of Receipts and Payments to date.

134. Burial Ground.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 122.

i Water supply.

It was reported that the supply stopcock possibly needed replacing.

ii Request for reserved spaces.

A request had been received to reserve three spaces in the burial ground. Because the remaining spaces are limited it was decided to suspend granting any requests for space reservation until the burial ground could be enlarged.

135. Items to be raised by Councillors.

It was reported that a playground inspection is currently being organised. The preceding inspection report needs to be located.

Orchard Close had sewerage backfilling during March, and it is thought that the new development inadequate drainage is partly responsible for this.

Litter dropping and flytipping appear to be increasing through the Parish.

The annual Patient Survey from the local GP practice indicated a satisfactory feeling with the practice from patients.

It was felt that communications with the Village and Parish needed to be carefully scrutinised so that any decisions or comments from the Council would be properly evaluated.

136. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday May 15th at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

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Chairman

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Date