

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 13TH 2007

Present.

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

Nineteen members of the public.

79.Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Allum, Mr Miller, Mr Frost and Mr Pask.

80.Public participation.

It was decided to bring forward the planning application of Gabled House (07/02226/FULEXT) into the area of Public Participation. There had been 14 letters of objection sent directly to the Planning Department at WBC. The Representative speaking for those objecting to the application made the following comments.

- The proposal is very out of keeping with the rest of the Village vernacular.
- It represents the demolition of a well known Village house.
- The boundary of the Village envelope runs along the other side of Yattendon Road.
- The access would be very difficult situated as it is on a difficult part of the road, and this would pose dangers for both residents and also passing traffic.
- The proposal is not consistent with the Village Design Statement, which has been accepted by WBC as a Planning guide.
- The proposed parking spaces are not adequate and underestimate the needs of residents.

The Agent speaking for the application made the following comments.

- Gabled House is a period property which has reached the end of it's useful life in the present form. The new use for over 55's would meet a perceived need for the Village. A lift would be provided to all floors.
- The building at the moment is quite close to the road, and the application would move the structure back into the grounds. The road noise would be much less.
- Road safety would be much better because sight lines would be improved.
- The trees are protected by a full TPO, and the application will return the property to a mature woodland, and this would help to provide a peaceful environment.
- It is proposed to have a people transport to answer everyday needs of the residents.
- Parking for residents would be limited to one car for each apartment.

Councillors questioned the Agent about the points which had been raised. The Council then decided to object to the application on the following grounds.

- The size of the building would be out of keeping with the Village vernacular and would not accord with the Village Design Statement.
- The increased traffic from the development would be exiting on to a busy road increasing the chance of accidents. The proposed parking and suggested transport arrangements in the development are unrealistic.
- The development would be outside the Village envelope.
- The development would be within 25m of the existing footpath.

The Chairman then thanked both the members of the public and the applicant's Agent for their attendance. This had allowed a wide ranging discussion about the application, considerably helping the Council to reach their decision.

81.Minutes of the last meeting held on November 15th.

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

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

Minute 69.

- i Parish notice boards.
A decision was deferred.
- ii Mr & Mrs Shah.
Mr & Mrs Shah had written to the Council thanking them for their good wishes and support after winning the Asian Trader Award – Spirit of the Community.

83.The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

Mr Webb reviewed matters at WBC, which is in the process of preparing the draft budget for the coming year.

If there are any matters over which the Council needs assistance with WBC Mr Webb would be glad to be of help.

84.Planning.

Decisions from the Planning Authority

		Decision
07/01121/HOUSE	Red Roof, Chapel Lane. Extensions & roof raising	Approval.
07/01988/HOUSE	Bryants Cottage, Yattendon Road. West elevation alteration.	Refusal
07/02058/HOUSE	Sandhill House, Hampstead Norreys Road. Flat roofs to pitch & car port to garage	Approval.
07/02138/HOUSE	Merrywinds, Pond Lane. Side extension	Approval

Planning application for consideration from the last meeting.

07/02226/FULEXT The Gable House, Yattendon Road.
This had been discussed fully earlier in the meeting.

New planning applications.

07/02330/HOUSE Fairfields Farm, Red Shute Hill.
Two storey extension & conservatory.
Demolition of porch and store.

The Council returned “no comment”

Other matters.

WBC.

- i Options consultation & request for Housing Land Proposals.
The Council noted the consultation and would consider their comments.

85.Highways.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 72.

- i Traffic under Marlston Bridge.
There had been a meeting with WBC Highways. The Council decided to defer comment until the next meeting.
- ii 30mph sign.
WBC Highways wish to keep the sign where it is.
- iii Footway with barbed wire.
The Council would consider this in January.

New matters.

- i Blocked gully near the burial ground.
This has now been cleared.
- ii Junction of Slanting Hill and Marlston Road.
There are leaves and debris which need to be cleared. WBC would pass this on to the Highways Maintenance Team.
- iii Pond Lane junction with Yattendon Road.
The road is in poor condition but the Maintenance Team believe it not to be at an intervention level.
- iv Station Road culvert.
The culvert is not draining and WBC would investigate whose responsibility it is to keep it clear.
- v M4 noise.
The Highways Agency has supplied some more data which is being analysed.

86.Environmental matters.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 55.

- i Timber for new posts and rails..
The gate has been repaired.
- ii Dog bins.
The Council decided not to purchase a dog waste bin.

87.Finance.

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|-----|--|---------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| i | Receipts.
Bank of Scotland. | Interest | November | Not known |
| ii | Payments for authorization.
F.C.Lawrence
C.W.Goudge | Grasscutting etc
Salary & expenses | | £348.08
£373.25 |
| iii | Other matters. | | | |
| i | The Council noted the Statement of Receipts & Payments to date. | | | |
| ii | It was decided to make the following grants, which would be paid after the A.P.A. meeting in April 2008. | | | |
| | Home Start | | £50 | |
| | Hermitage Village Hall. | | £1,500 | |
| | Hermitage Cubs | | £800 | |
| | Downland Youth Network | | £150 | |
| | Holy Trinity Church | | £1,000 | |
| | Hermitage Horticultural Society | | £150 | |
| iii | It was decided to set the Precept for 2008 / 2009 at the January meeting. | | | |

88.Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.

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

89.Burial Ground.

- i Request for a memorial stone.
The Agent is to visit the Ground before submitting a further request.

90.Items to be raised by Councillors.

It was decided to accept the quotation from Mr Lawrence for maintenance of the grass round the telephone box outside the Fox in the sum of £100.

Mrs Willis had attended a meeting of the Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee. General matters were discussed. The February meeting will focus on funding for the project. The football pitch was also discussed, particularly in relation to the size off the pitch. The possibility of a cricket pitch was tentatively examined, but no firm proposal was taken forward.

There had been a NAG formulation meeting, at which the main local concerns were anti-social behaviour, speeding and litter.

91.Date of the next meeting.

Thursday January 17th at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

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Chairman

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Date

THE PUBLIC WERE NOW ASKED TO LEAVE THE MEETING UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC ADMISSIONS LEGISLATION.

92.The co-option of a Councillor.

West Berkshire Council had confirmed that, as no election had been called, the Council may elect three Councillors by co-option.

Mrs Goodman proposed that Mr R. J. Rodgers be co-opted to the Council.

Mrs Willis seconded the proposal.

The proposal was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

The Clerk would write to Mr Rodgers.

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Chairman

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Date.