

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 18TH 2009.

Present.

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

Three members of the public.

119. Public participation.

At Hermitage Green there seem to be plans to erect a very tall climbing frame in the playground outside my house.

The Council is not able to comment as the sales brochure shows the location of planned play equipment and it is now a legal matter. The Council might be able to comment about the height of the equipment.

The Parish website needs to be brought up to date.

This is noted.

WBC Council tax is to increase by 3.9% and parking charges are to be raised from 50p to £1 per hour, which will be a serious additional burden.

120. Apologies for absence.

There were apologies for absence from Mr Webb and Mr Pask.

121. Minutes of the last meeting held on January 15th 2009.

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

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

Minute 105.

- i Parish Council notice boards.
It was decided to put a notice board at the School and at the Pinewood play area.
- ii District Parish Conference.
This is to be held in Newbury at the WBC offices on March 17th.
- iii Parish Walk.
This is in hand.
- iv A.P.A. Speaker.
It was decided to ask David Appleton, Head of WBC Cultural Services, to be the guest speaker.

123. The report of the District Councillor.

The report is attached to these minutes.

124. Planning.**Appeal.**

08/02136/FULD Thistledown etc.
 Seven new houses.

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State which will be decided by written statements +and a site visit by the Inspector.

Decisions from the Planning Authority.

		Decision
08/02165/HOUSE	Morinda, Hampstead Norreys Road. Extension and porch	Approval
08/02283/HOUSE	Muirhevna, Hampstead Norreys Road. Conservatory replacement.	Approval

New planning applications.

08/02203/FUL Oak Tree House, Rowlock Gardens.
 Boundary demarcation.

The Council objected to the application on the grounds that this would change the vernacular of the area and reduce the green area.

09/00113/HOUSE High Oak, Deacons Lane.
 Extension.

The Council returned “no objections”.

Adjoining Parish application.

08/002274/FUL The Cottage, Fifield Farm, Marlston Hermitage.
 Retrospective alterations.

The Council returned “no objections”.

Other matters.

- i Dennison Barracks.
 Mr Benyon put a question in the House and the Council noted the answer from Hansard. It was decided to put this forward as an item for discussion at the A.P.A.
- ii S.106 funding and open space development.
 The Council feels strongly that the priorities are to get the football pitch seeded and the changing rooms built as soon as possible. An action plan would be compiled for consideration at the next meeting.
 Some S.106 funding should be kept back to provide for a disability survey at Pinewood play area together with possible improvements at Pinewood.
 A new path at the Burial Ground might also be needed.
 It was decided to compile a questionnaire for the APA to get a feeling for things on which the Village would prefer to spend S.106 funds.

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

Minute 105.

- i Footpath map.
 The Council now has a copy of the Definitive Map.

- ii Speed limits in the Village.
A private survey was completed in early December. The data shows that the average speed through the Village was between twenty nine and thirty two mph.
It was decided to look further at the information and to bring this forward for the next meeting.

Minute 111.

- i Footpath widening.
There has been no further action from WBC and it was decided to monitor the situation for the next two months.
- ii Marlston bridge.
There is nothing further to report. Cold Ash Parish Council have been contacted to allow liaison between the two Councils.
- iii Bridge works at Chapel Lane.
The ruts and surface damage to Pinewood were noted. It was decided to write to the Contractors and ask that the damage is repaired. The Council is annoyed that the fence which has been erected by the bridge has been placed on Council land without consent. It was decided to make sure that the land in question belongs to the Council before taking this further with the Contractors.

126. Environment.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 112.

- i Thatcham Outreach.
There had been no response from Outreach to an invitation to talk to the Council.

New matters

- i Allotments.
It was decided to investigate the availability of ground for possible allotment use.
- ii Risk assessment at Pinewood play area.
It was decided to ask for an assessment from a competent Inspector.

127. Finance.

- i Receipts.

Bank of Scotland	Interest	January	£5.21
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- ii Payments authorised.

F.C.Lawrence	Grass and shelters		£360.83
BALC	Seminar balance		£25.00
PWLB	Village Hall loan		£11,698.72
C.W.Goudge	Salary & Expenses		£353.99
- iii Other matters.
 - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.
 - ii It was decided to obtain quotations for ground maintenance.

128. Burial Ground.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 114.

- i Burial spaces
It was decided to ask for professional assistance in evaluating any planning application requirement.

New matters.

- i Headstone.
A request is to be made for permission to place a headstone. This will be brought forward for the next meeting.

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

SLCC - Regional Conference March 24th
British Waterways – Towpath tidy.
Safer Communities Partnership Team Letter.
WBC – Annual Monitoring report on the WBC website.
Downland Practice Patient’s Representative Group – short report on the last meeting.
The correspondence was noted and, where appropriate, placed into circulation.

130. Reports from Parish Council Representatives who have attended meetings of Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman had attended a recent NAG meeting.

- The Parking at Forest Edge has now been looked at by the Police.
- The Police intend to visit Forest Edge on a door to door basis to enquire about parking and any other matters which might be disturbing the public generally.
- The meeting alternates between the three Parishes and the next meeting may be either at Chieveley or Hermitage.

Mrs Groves had attended the recent meeting of the Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee.

- The meeting had been called mainly to seek help in moving forward plans for the proposed new Village Hall. The Chairman of the Committee stressed that new people would be very welcome to join the present Committee.

131. Items to be raised by Councillors.

There has been a complaint that a green Land Rover has been parked in the vicinity of the Fox and is not licenced. It was decided to ask Streetcare to have it moved.

It was noted that the Council has adopted the Model Code applicable to the Freedom of Information Act.

132. Date of the next meeting.

Tuesday March 17th at 7.00pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

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Chairman Date

