

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 15th 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

Two members of the public.

105. Public participation.

The HVHMC intends to put up a notice board at the Village Hall and dedicate it to a past member.

The Council could have another one for themselves.

It would be useful to have a footpath map of the Parish from WBC, one showing both houses and footpaths.

Some photos had been taken in Forest Edge showing the very bad parking which has become commonplace. There also needs to be a speed limit of 20mph.

The Council took note of the comments and would take the speed limit question to the next NAG meeting. It had been agreed that two new notice boards would be purchased by the Council. The locations were being decided.

106. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

107. Minutes of the last meeting held on December 9th 2008.

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

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

Minute 94.

- i PreSchool storage in the Villlage Hall.
It was reported that this had been resolved by using space outside the Council storage area.
- ii Vacancy for a Councillor.
There had been several expressions of interest.

- iii Low flying helicopters.
The matter had been taken up with RAF Odiham, who expressed sympathy whilst pointing out that sometimes it was necessary to practice low flying over habitations.
- iv Pinewood electricity cable.
S.E.B. have undertaken to inspect this and, if needed, place a metal capping over the cable.

109. The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

The report is attached to these minutes.

110. Planning.

Decisions from the Planning Authority

		Decision
08/01813/HOUSE	Haycroft, High Street Fence replacement.	Approval
08/01999/HOUSE	The Benhams, Yattendon Road. Fence erection.	Refusal
08/02051/HOUSE	30, Pinewood Crescent. Window replacement	Approval
08/02136/FULD	Thistledown, Hampstead Norreys Road. Seven new houses.	Refusal

The Council was disturbed that the application for Haycroft had been approved, as it was felt the fence was not appropriate to the Village scene. The Council was also concerned that the approval might cause a precedent which, it was felt, would be unfortunate. The Village Design Statement is also specific on these points.

Similar comments were expressed regarding the fence at Benhams which also appeared out of place.

New planning applications.

- 08/02283/HOUSE Muirhevna, Hampstead Norreys Road.
Conservatory replacement with sunroom etc.

The Council returned “no objections”.

Other matters.

- i Land at Glengarth, Hampstead Norreys Road.
The Tree preservation Order applies to the walnut tree.
- ii WBC Rural Strategy for West Berkshire.
The Council noted the first draft of the Strategy.
- iii S.106 contributions regarding Open Spaces usage and change of description possibilities.
WBC has provided a full explanation as to the contributions which are taken from Developers under the Open Space provision. WBC do not wish to change the description itself, but experience has shown that Developers are willing to provide funds for specific purposes, such as the £91k contribution for the new Village Hall.. There could be uses for S.106 funds in existing spaces such as Pinewood playground. A footpath to the new football pitch would be put in by the HVHMC, and this will allow Stuart Souden from WBC to chase the Developers.
It was decided to put a note about the new pitch in the Parish Magazine.
- iv Denison Barracks.
This is ongoing.

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

Minute 97.

- i High Street footpath widening.
WBC intends to mark out possible modifications when the weather permits.
- ii Speeding in the Village.
There was nothing further to report.
- iii No parking signs.
It was decided to accept an offer of £35 for the redundant signs.
- iv Marlston Bridge.
It was reported that Cold Ash Parish Council had become concerned with this and it was decided to liaise with them.

New matters.

- i Hampstead Norreys Road works.
WBC have notified that these works would start on January 26th and last until the end of February.
- ii Bridge works – Chapel Lane.
The Contractors repairing the old railway bridge have entered into an Agreement with the Council to safeguard Pinewood Play Area from damage caused by the works.
- iii Ramblers Work Party.
The Party would be starting some pathway remedial work on February 20th though it is not known which paths they will be targeting..

112. Environment.**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 98.

- i Thatcham Outreach.
Outreach have been invited to a meeting.
- ii Football pitch.
There was a meeting on Tuesday this week with Stuart Souden, which covered matters discussed earlier in this meeting.
- iii Trees in Bryant's Piece.
This is in progress.

New matters.

- i WBC District Parish Conferences.
The dates were noted. The locations are to be advised.

113. Finance.

- i Receipts.

Bank of Scotland	Interest	Nov / Dec	£87.55
Small Bone	Interment		£50.00
Yattendon Estates	Signs		£35.00

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| ii | Payments authorized. | | |
| | F.C.Lawrence | Grasscutting & shelters | £360.83 |
| | BALC | Cemeteries CD | £36.00 |
| | | Course | £25.00 |
| | Thames Water | Burial Ground | £5.41 |
| | C.W.Goudge | Salary & exes | £376.63 |
- iii Other matters
- i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.
- ii The Precept for the year to March 31 2010 was set at £26,000, unchanged from the current year.
- iii The following grants totalling £4,125 were approved for payment after the Annual Assembly in April.
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| | Hermitage Village Hall | £1,500 |
| | Hermitage pre-School playgroup | £750 |
| | Hermitage Cubs | £800 |
| | H & C Youth club | £1,000 |
| | Hermitage Horticultural Society | £125 |
- iv Change of Bank.
It was decided to change to Lloyds TSB at the next meeting.

114. Burial Ground.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 100.

- i Grave spaces.
Reports are awaited from Church records. Concern was expressed that there are only two spaces left. If it is necessary to respond to the WBC suggestion that Planning Consent for Change of Use would be needed, the Council would seek outside professional advice.
- ii Cemetery management.
The CD has been obtained.

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

Freedom of Information Act. Information from the Commissioner.
Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society – Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs –February.
Kennet and Avon Canal steering Group- presentations in January.
LCR – newsletter.
Communities & Local Government – recommended practice on local Authority publicity.
Safer Communities Partnership – newsletter.

116. Reports from Parish Council Representatives who had attended meetings of Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council.

There were no reports.

117. Items to be raised by Councillors

The Village entrance white gates should be restored to Yattendon Road. It was decided to request WBC to do this.

BYCAP was publicising their forthcoming event.

118. Date of the next meeting.

Wednesday February 18th at 7.00pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

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Chairman Date