

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 13TH 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 B. Jennings	
Mr R Rodgers	
Mrs K. Willis.	
Mr G. Pask.	District Councillor
Mr C.W.Goudge	Clerk

Twenty four members of the public.

113.Public Forum.

The Chairman welcomed Jon Winstanley from WBC Highways Department. Mr Winstanley reviewed the way in which the programme for widening the footpath in High Street had evolved and the position under the present proposed scheme.

A number of comments were then made by the Public.

- There are difficulties at present in vehicles passing each other in High Street and the scheme would only make matters worse.
- Traffic calming measures would be of positive help.
- The increase in Hermitage population means there are more vehicles using the High Street adding to the problem.
- Widening the footpath would not prevent vehicles parking on the pavement, thus preventing pedestrians using the footpath safely. There are vehicles which mount the pavement in order to pass even when there are pedestrians using the footpath.
- Whilst there could be support for the scheme from pedestrians, particularly those using the footpath to go to and from School, there should be an overall traffic study to see if the perceived problems could be alleviated.
- Is there another comparable Village where a scheme has been instituted, as this might provide guidance in handling the traffic.

Mr Winstanley suggested that strategically placed bollards might help, and, although it would be given thought, there did not appear to be a comparable Village scheme of which he was aware. Ward Members would now need to be consulted as to the next steps.

It was decided to place the matter on the Agenda for the next meeting when the Council would formally table their views.

114. Apologies for absence.

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

115. Minutes of the last meeting held on February 21st 2008.

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

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

Minute 111.

- i Resolution to accept the summons to a meeting by email.
It was decided to accept such a means.
- ii Council meetings in an emergency.
It was decided that Standing Orders covered this.
- iii Location of Council meetings.
It was debated as to whether a larger hall would be preferable. It was decided for the moment to meet as at present, but to investigate the suitability and availability of the Village Hall and School.
- iv Parish Plan.
This would be discussed at the forthcoming A.P.A.
- v Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
It was decided to adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- vi Allocation of Councillor's roles.
It was decided to review these at the next meeting. In the meantime the roles which had been adopted by Councillors forming the previous Council would be circulated for information.

117. The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

Mr Pask outlined the budget process for WBC, and reported that Council Tax would rise by 3.9% in the coming year. The increase was significantly due to Government grant figures for WBC being disappointing.

There has been a review of the costs from the July flooding, and WBC are presently seriously out of pocket. Government is being tackled about this.

WBC is concerned generally about the way in which emergencies can be handled, as it has become apparent from the experience of the July floods, because of the facilities which are needed and also the inherent cost of alleviating problems.

Mr Pask was asked whether there is to be legislation to prevent the ground in front of a house being hard-surfaced. Legislation is mooted, but it has not yet on the Statute Book.

118. Planning.**Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

		Decision
08/00026/HOUSE	Bryants Cottage, Yattendon Road. Amendment to west elevation.	Approval

New planning applications.

07/02463/HOUSE	The Corner House, 1, Brick Walk, Hermitage. Completion of picket fence.
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The Council returned "no objections"

Other matters.

- i Lawrence Tractor site.
This was noted as a potential development site.
- ii Chieveley small hall – 07/02585/FUL
The Council had not been informed of this development in a neighbouring Parish. It was felt that the development would not significantly affect Hermitage.
- iii Denison Barracks.
The Chairman welcomed Mr R Crispin, Chairman of Chieveley Parish Council. Mr Crispin reviewed the steps which Chieveley Parish Council had taken since the discovery by Mr Benyon in Parliament of the proposed shut down of the facility. The Council decided to write in support of any action which would mitigate or prevent the closure of the Barracks.

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

Minute 99.

- i Marlston bridge traffic.
A report is awaited from WBC.
- ii Footway with barbed wire.
It was decided to see if the wire could be moved from the top to the side of the fence.
- iii VAS sign.
A reply is awaited from WBC to the suggestion of moving the sign from the proposed position.
- iv Parish bids for the Capital programme.
There has been no feedback from WBC.
- v Traffic lights at School.
This has been dealt with by School.

New matters.

- i Doctors Lane.
There have been differing views reported in deciding the best surface for the road. The Council noted the situation.

120.Environmental.**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 107.

- i Dog waste bin.
It was decided to leave it as it is.
- ii Hermitage Green play area.
The discussions are ongoing.

121.Finance.

Receipts.	Bank of Scotland	Interest	February	£118.30
Payments authorised.				
F.C.Lawrence	Grasscutting & Shelters			£348.08
R.F.Gleave	Internal audit 07 / 08			£100.00
C.W.Goudge	Salary & expenses			£372.81

Other matters.

- i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.
- ii The Chairman read the Internal Auditor's report to the Council.

122.Burial Ground.

- i Water supply.
Thames Water have not yet responded.
- ii Request for a memorial.
It was decided to accede to the request for a ledger stone to be placed over the grave of Frances Early with the condition that the stone must be at or slightly below ground level to allow for mowing, and to conform to the measurements given to the Council.

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

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

124.Items to be raised by Councillors.

Mrs Willis raised the question of the annual play equipment inspection, and it was decided to ask for this to be carried out. It was also decided to have minor repairs carried out to the equipment at an estimated cost not exceeding £250.

125.Date of the next meeting.

Thursday April 24th at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

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Chairman

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Date