

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 16TH 2009.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham
Mrs M. Goodman.
Mrs F. Groves.
Mrs K. Willis.

Chairman
Vice-Chairman.

Mr Q Webb.
Mr C.W.Goudge

District Councillor.
Clerk

Five members of the public.

133. Public participation.

Is there a possibility of providing allotments in the Parish, perhaps if there is spare space at the Village Hall There is also a buffer zone by Station Road which might be used.

The Council would keep this in mind, and would see if there are other possibilities in the Parish or surrounding district.

There is a planning application being presented for Thornton House which would vary the agreed landscape planting. The original scheme shows thirteen trees. The original scheme should not be changed because a change would result in severe loss of amenity to the neighbourhood

The Council would bear this in mind when discussing the application later in the meeting.

The Village Post Office is applying for pinhole shutters to protect the shop from vandals. The Council can be assured that these will be in keeping with the shop.

The Council will be considering the application later in the meeting.

134. Apologies for absence.

There was an apology for absence from Mr Allum.

135. Minutes of the last meeting held on February 18th 2009.

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

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

Co-option to the Council.

It was proposed by Mrs Goodman and seconded by Mrs Willis that Mark Kerry be co-opted to the Council. The proposition was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

It was proposed by Ms Cottingham and seconded by Mrs Groves that Mrs Judith Cunningham be co-opted to the Council. The proposition was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

Mr Kerry and Mrs Cunningham then signed their declarations of Acceptance as Hermitage Parish Councillors.

The Chairman warmly welcomed both new Councillors to the Council.

Minute 119.

- i Parish website.
This has been brought up to date.
- ii Parish Council Notice boards.
Quotations had been received from three suppliers, and it was decided to purchase two notice boards at a cost of approximately £2,732.
- iii Parish Walk.
The arrangements are in place.
- iv A.P.A. arrangements.
David Appleton from WBC has accepted the invitation to be the Guest speaker.
It was decided that refreshments would be provided by Jane Staunton.
- v Green Land Rover.
Streetcare have been informed.

137. Report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

Mr Webb mentioned that Council Tax would increase for the coming year by 3.9%, and there would be increases as well in parking charges. WBC recognised the severe economic problems facing everyone. There is a rising population of older people who have to be catered for, and it was with great regret that the token scheme has had to be abandoned, except for disabled people. The Government takes a major part of the local revenues and gives back only a small proportion. WBC have tried not to restrict Council services.

138. Planning.

New planning applications.

HERE MS COTTINGHAM DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AND RETIRED FROM THE MEETING.

09/00014/FUL Thornton House, Priors Court Road.
Section 73 – variation to landscaping scheme.

The Council objected to the application on the following grounds.

1. **The planning conditions imposed on acceptance of the original application should be adhered to, as otherwise there will be a considerable and unfair impact on the neighbours and the amenity.**

HERE MS COTTINGHAM RETURNED TO THE MEETING.

09/00175/FUL Post Office, High Street.
Pin hole shutters.

The Council returned “no objections”.

Other matters.

- i Thistledown.
WBC have asked for what purpose any S.106 contribution from this application would be used. It was decided to apply any funds towards the football pitch area as being of most Community use.
- ii Benhams, Yattendon Road.
It was decided to inspect the site before taking the matter further.

- iii Pinewood Play area.
The Contractors have stated that the fence is placed on land belonging to the British railways Board, as owners of the old railway bridges and land underneath them. It was decided to investigate the possibility of growing a screen at the fence and to ask for a contribution from the Contractors. The ruts would be repaired and seeded by the Contractors.
- iv Denison Barracks.
Mr Benyon's questions in the House were discussed and it was decided to investigate the possibility of getting in touch directly with the M.O.D. advisers as the matter appeared to be drifting.. Chieveley P.C. would be contacted.
- v JSPU letter.
This was noted.

139. Highways.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 125.

- i Speed limits in the Village.
The data from the surveys has been analysed and charts produced. It was decided to arrange for further speed checks in another part of the Village.
- ii Marlston Bridge.
Cold Ash P.C. were contacted. Cold Ash have been in touch with WBC.
Jon Winstanley has also been contacted by the Council and has reported that the matter is being considered again.

New matters.

- i White gates on Yattendon Road.
It was decided to contact WBC regarding reinstatement.
- ii Kerbstones at the School.
The recent works have resulted in the kerbstones not being dropped back to their previous positions at the Northern gate of the School. This also affects the present pavement between the top of Dines Way and Chapel Lane.
It was decided to look at the sites in question before taking it further with WBC Highways.

140. Environment.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 126.

- i Allotments.
There does not appear to be land available in the Parish. It was decided to liaise with Cold Ash and Chieveley P.C's to ask if they have any land or allotments.
A suggestion was made that the "buffer zone" by Station Road could be used when the Management Company take it over and it was decided to keep the matter on the Agenda whilst enquiries are being made.
- ii Risk assessment at the Pinewood play area.
This is ongoing.
- iii Football pitch.
The progress appears to be slow. The matter is ongoing between Messrs Souden and Ingram. It was decided to put together a Steering Group to move it along. Mr Webb will contact Mrs Alexander in the meantime.

- iv Tree work in the Parish.
It was decided to accept the quotation from Mr Perry for work which would cost some £615.

141. Financial.

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| i | Receipts. | | | |
| | Bank of Scotland | Interest | February | £3.81 |
| ii | Payments authorized. | | | |
| | F.C.Lawrence. | Grasscutting | | £353.99 |
| | R.F.Gleave | Internal audit 08 / 09 | | £125.00 |
| | MWE P.C. | Stationery & computer | | £42.87 |
| | Bradfield P.C. | Photocopy | | £55.00 |
| | C.W.Goudge. | Salary & exes | | £400.49 |
| | Ms R. Cottingham | Expenses 08 / 09 | | £51.81 |
| | Thames Water | Burial ground | | £6.23 |
| | WBC | Burial ground rates | | £24.05 |
| | B.A.L.C. | Subscription 09/ 10 | | £242.63 |
| | WBC | Dog bin emptying | | £32.95 |
| iii | Other matters. | | | |
| | i | The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted. | | |
| | ii | The Internal Auditor's report was noted and the following actions have been taken. | | |
| | | i | It was decided not to insure the playground equipment for material damage. | |
| | | ii | The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been brought up to date. | |
| | | iii | Quotations have been received for grounds maintenance. | |
| | iii | Ground maintenance.
It was decided that as Mr Lawrence provides a responsible and effective service, the contract for 2009 / 2010 was confirmed with Mr Lawrence at the rates which he has quoted. | | |

142. Burial Ground.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 128.

- i It was decided to appoint Mr Arthur Hedges to present the case to WBC stating that planning consent is not needed to use the piece of the burial ground which has not been consecrated for additional grave spaces, at a fee of £300.
- ii Headstone request.
The Council agreed to the proposal presented for a headstone.

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

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

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

Mrs Groves had attended a meeting of the Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee, which discussed the progress made in taking forward the plans for a new Village Hall.

Mrs Groves had also met the new PCSO for this Parish and surrounding Parishes. There have been oil thefts in the Parish by a professional setup and tank owners need to be vigilant. The PCSO also recognised that speeding through the Village was top of the “wish list” for Parishioners.

On March 26th the NAG Group would be touring Forest Edge knocking on doors to ask residents about any items of general concern, including car parking problems.

The present PCSO is to move on shortly and a new PCSO appointed.

The next NAG meeting is on March 25th.

145. Items to be raised by Councillors.

Mrs Willis reviewed the circumstances which led to the Youth Network missing out on a grant for 2008 / 2009. The Council discussed whether the circumstance warranted making a grant in the coming financial year, and Mrs Willis would talk to the Youth Network about this.

Mrs Goodman noted that the West Berkshire Council District Parish Conference would be held in Newbury tomorrow evening.

146. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday April 23rd at 7.00pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

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Chairman

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Date