

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 15TH 2007

Present.

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

Seven members of the public.

66.Public participation.

The Chairman welcomed Ally Johnston, the Area Youth Officer for West Berkshire Council, and Dave Dobson the Chairman of Hermitage Youth Club. Hermitage Youth Club has some 81 members and 63 were at last week's meeting. A request was made for funding to assist with providing professional help in relating to the members. It was mentioned that requests for grants would be considered at the December meeting. Mrs Willis mentioned the Downland Youth organisation and their role in Youth affairs.

The agent for the proposed development at The Grange summarised the plans. It was decided that Councillors would make a site visit at the weekend.

In response to a question, a Parishioner was informed that the responsibility for the graveyard overall was that of the Council as a whole, while the Clerk was responsible for the organisation of grave sites.

A Parishioner reported that the High Street opposite the Post Office became very restricted in width when cars were parked on the Post office side, resulting in large vehicles mounting the opposite pavement causing a dangerous situation to pedestrians. It was felt that this situation would be worsened when the footpath is widened. It was decided to ask WBC Highways whether there could be ways of reducing the risk to pedestrians, and whether the placing of bollards might be of help.

67.Apologies for absence.

An apology for absence had been received from Mr Allum.

68.Minutes of the last meeting held on October 18th 2007.

The minutes had been circulated.
An amendment was made in Minute 64.
"Mrs Groves and Mrs Ellis " was altered to read "Mrs Groves and Ms Cottingham".
With this amendment the minutes were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

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

Minute 55.

i Parish records.

The records at the Village Hall were appraised by the Chairman, Clerk and Mr Marr. It was decided to make a thorough inspection and possible editing at a later date. It is possible that some of the historical records would be of interest to the Berkshire Records Office.

Minute 64.

i Notice boards

It was decided to bring this forward to the next meeting, and to take a survey of Hermitage Green residents for opinions.

ii Risk assessment for the play area.

The Council adopted this Summary Statement of the risk assessment as a guiding principle relating to the children's play area.

“Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury.”

iii Representative to the Village Hall Management Committee..

The meeting of the Committee which was to have taken place since the last Council meeting was cancelled. It was decided to appoint Mrs Willis as the Council's Representative to the Committee and to ask for a report to be considered as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

iv Representative to the School Governors.

This is ongoing with School.

70. Report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

Mr Webb had journeyed round the District observing the present bin emptying routines, and this highlighted the physical problem of emptying bins throughout the District. As a result new practices have been implemented which compliment Government suggested strategies. Contractors have been instructed not to park in front of drives.

There is an examination of the way in which affordable housing is provided when exception sites are used. There must be an emphasis on providing for the needs of local people as a first consideration.

71. Planning matters.**Decisions from the Planning Authority**

07/02045/FULD

Kiln Cottage, Ridgeway Close.
Rear extension.

Decision**Approval****New planning applications.**

07/02138/HOUSE

Merrywinds, Pond Lane.
Side extension to kitchen.

The Council returned “no objections”

0702155/HOUSE

East Bungalow, Wellhouse.
Greenhouse.

The Council, by a majority, returned “no objections.”

07/02271/FULD Land adjacent to the Old Rectory
Marlston Road.
Two new dwellings & garages.
The Council returned “no objections”, but asked that the Council’s previous comments were considered as applying to this application.

07/02165/HOUSE 36, Pinewood Crescent, Hermitage.
Conservatory.
The Council returned “no objections”.

07/02226/FULEXT The Gable House, Yattendon Road.
Premises demolition for new apartment blocks
The Council decided to make a site visit before commenting to West Berkshire Council. WBC will be asked to extend the return date to allow discussion at the next meeting of this Council.

Adjoining Parish application.

07/02109/HOUSE Copse House, New Road Hill.
Extensions to front side & rear.
This application did not appear to be a consideration for this Council. Enquiries would be made of Midgham Parish Council.

Planning applications withdrawn.

06/01512/FULD Wellhouse Barns, Wellhouse
06/01530/LBC Conversion etc

72.Highway matters

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 55.

- i Traffic regulation under Marlston Bridge.
It was decided to ask WBC Highways to have an Officer meet Councillors at the site to look at the points which have been raised over the last three months and to see if the scheme needs modification in the light of experience.
- ii 30mph sign.
It was decided to remind WBC of the request to move the sign.
- iii Sewer replacement.
The working pattern of Thames Water has been referred to WBC Highways.
- iv Footway with barbed wire.
It was decided to approach the landowner directly to see if a solution could be found to the perceived danger from the barbed wire to pedestrians.
- v M4 noise.
There has been no further feedback.

New matters.

- i Bridleway No 21.
There is a temporary prohibition in place to facilitate the sewer replacement works.

73.Environmental matters.**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 55.

- i Seats and fence at Pinewood.
It was decided to accept the estimate from Mr Lawrence for the refurbishment of the seats.
- ii Timber for new post and rails.
It was decided to provide funds of up to £120 for timber to repair the post and rails at the gate to the back entrance of the park.
- iii Ditch through the Village.
The clearance of the ditch is the responsibility of the landowners though whose land the ditch passes, as “riparian owners”. If there is an obstruction in the ditch which might lead to flooding, the Environment Agency has the authority to have the landowner remove the obstruction.

Minute 61.

- i Game shooting in Yattendon Woods.
There has been no further report of such shooting.

Minute 64.

- i Open spaces ownership.
It was decided to put a note in the Parish Magazine calling attention to the damage which can be caused by inconsiderate parking.

New matters.

- i WBC Flood heroes.
There were no nominations.

74.Finance.

- i Receipts.
Bank of Scotland Interest October £135.37
- ii Payments for authorization.
D.Brown. Travel £24.55
F.C.Lawrence Grasscutting £348.08
C.W.Goudge. Salary & expenses £372.81
- iii Other matters.
 - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.
 - ii £40k has been transferred into the Bank of Scotland Deposit account from the Current account.
 - iii Thank you letters for grants 06 / 07 have been received from –
The Community Furniture project.
Downland Youth network.

75.Burial Ground.

- i Gully clearance.
It was decided to remind WBC that the gully needs clearing.
- ii Request for a memorial.
Plans had been submitted for a memorial which appeared to be larger than would be welcomed. It was decided to inform the applicant and see if the design could be modified.

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

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

77. Items to be raised by Councillors.

The Post Office Stores has been presented with an award for excellence, and it was decided to write to the Owners with congratulations from the Council.

Formal notice had been given to WBC of casual vacancies on the Council. If no election is called then the Council will be able co-opt at the December meeting.

78. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday December 13th at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

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Chairman Date.