

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 18TH 2007

Present.

Mr D. Brown.	Chairman
Mr R. Allum.	
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

Three members of the public.

55.Public participation.

There is considerable criticism of the revised traffic arrangements under the bridge on Marlston Road. A resident believes that the present system is deficient and dangerous. It was decided to inspect the area and to make an Agenda item for the November meeting.

A resident asked if the 30mph sign at the top of the Village could be moved. It was decided to inspect the site and place this on the Agenda for the November meeting.

It was requested that the seats and fence in the Pinewood play area be treated with preservative. It was decided to ask Mr Lawrence to look at the equipment and report back.

The older Parish records are stored in the Village Hall. It was decided to inspect these and discuss the matter at the November meeting.

The ditch which runs through the Village and is situated on private property does not seem to have been cleared and it was not known who should do so. It was decided to inspect the ditch and review the matter at the November meeting.

56.Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

57.Minutes of the last meeting held on September 20th 2007.

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

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

Minute 46.

i Village Hall.
WBC have been asked for a decision on the correct usage of S.106 funds.

59. The Report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

Mr Webb mentioned that there is a growing nuisance caused by cars being parked in a way which obstructs waste bin emptying. Mr Webb is examining the problem.

There were no further formal comments, but Mr Webb would be pleased to answer queries which arose during the rest of the meeting.

60. Planning.

Decisions from the Planning Authority.

		Decision
07/01656/HOUSE	Woodside House, Yattendon Road. Conservatory & shed.	Approval
07/01721/HOUSE	Wellhouse Barns, Wellhouse.	Approval
07/01722/LBC	Link between barns	Approval
07/01534/HOUSE	Primrose Cottage, High Street. Extension & demolish conservator	Approval.
07/01835/FULD	Land at the Old Vicarage, Marlston Road. New dwellings	Withdrawn

New planning applications.

07/02045/HOUSE	Kiln Cottage, Ridgeway Close. Rear extension.
07/01988/HOUSE	Bryants Cottage, Yattendon Road. Window & fire escape.
07/02058/FULD	Sandhill House, Hampstead Norreys Road. Flat roofs to pitch & car port to garage.

The Council returned “no objections” to these three applications.

Adjoining Parish application.

07/01811/HOUSE	Fencewood, Drove lane, Cold Ash. Extensions.
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The Council returned “no objections” to this application.

Other matters.

- i WBC Saved Policies extension.
The Council noted the Policies which have been carried over to the new Local Development Framework.
- ii Update on the South East Plan.
The Council noted the update.

61. Highways and Environmental matters.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 49.

- i Footpath map.
WBC have been asked to supply a footpath map of the Village.
- ii Footpath impaired by leaning tree.
The tree has been cleared.

- iii Subsidence by the Village Hall.
This has been rectified.

New matters.

- i Sewer replacement and footpath widening.
Thames Water have asked the Council for a view as to whether the Council have a preference regarding the working of two repair gangs simultaneously in the Village. It was felt that this was a question for WBC Highways to judge because of safety and traffic issues involved. It was decided to refer the matter to WBC and inform Thames Water of this.
- ii Footway along Station Road.
The barbed wire is causing residents' concern, and it was decided to investigate this further and to raise the matter at the November meeting.
The elm trees along the path belong to the landowner and WBC are unable to take any action in this.
Keeping the foul drainage system clear is the responsibility of WBC, and it was decided to ask them to investigate.
- iii M4 noise.
A comprehensive note had been prepared covering all the aspects of recent meetings and the proposed ways forward in conjunction with Boxford and Yattendon Councils particularly. It was decided to take an active role in the process.
- iv WBC Parish bids for inclusion in the Capital programme.
WBC acknowledged the bids submitted. Decisions would be taken during December.
- v Game shooting in Yattendon woods.
A reported incident in the woods has caused concern locally, and it is being looked into by the Estate concerned.

62.Finance.

- i Receipts.

Bank of Scotland.	Interest	September	£89.39
WBC	Precept 50%		£9,500.00
- ii Payments authorized.

Clerk's salary & expenses – October		£358.20
F.C.Lawrence	Maintenance	£364.08
Thames Water Services	Burial ground water	£35.98
- iii Other.
 - i To note the Statement of Receipts & Payments to date.
Funds “ringfenced” have been shown separately in the Bank balance amounts.
 - ii Thank you letters for grants have been received from –
Ist Hermitage cub scouts.
C.A.B.
 - iii Grant applications.
Application forms are available for decisions in December.

63.Burial ground

- i Gully clearance.
No work has been undertaken and it was decided to request WBC to clear the gully.
- ii Headstone application.
There has been an enquiry about placing a headstone in the burial ground.

64.Items to be raised by Councillors.

It was questioned as to whether there should be two notice boards rather than one. It was decided to put this on the Agenda for the November meeting.

Councillors decided that, in order to share Council work, to see if Councillors would be able to undertake specific duties. After a detailed discussion, Mrs Groves and Mrs Ellis undertook to focus on footpaths and highway issues.

It was decided that a Representative to the Village Hall would be considered after the Village Hall Management Committee meeting on November 1st and that a Representative to the School Governors would be considered in conjunction with School.

The car park at the Village Hall seemed originally to be used for Community Youth. It was decided to discuss this at the November meeting.

A risk assessment would be presented to Council at the next meeting as an Agenda item.

It was decided to refer to NAG the question of the apparent number of burglaries in the area.

65.Date of the next meeting.

Thursday November 15th at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

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Chairman

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Date.