

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Shipton under Wychwood Parish Council held at
7.30 pm on Tuesday 18th April 2008 at the New Beaconsfield Hall.**

Present: Cllr. Alan Vickers (Chairman), Cllr. Jo Cook, Cllr. Jill Mavin, Cllr. Malcolm Cochrane, Cllr. Neil Jagger, Cllr. Robin McConnachie, Cllr. Mike Watson, Cllr. Rodney Rose (County Councillor).

Member of the Public Present: Mr. David Gostling

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Hilary Biles
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Jagger declared an interest in agenda item 13c –as co-ordinator of fundraising for Burford School Mini Bus; Cllr. Rose declared an interest in Agenda Item 13c as Governor of Burford Trust.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 18th March:** Agenda Item 8, Paragraph 2: Cllr. McConnachie had raised the subject of the weight restriction sign in Milton not Cllr. Cook as recorded. With this amendment the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Public Time:** Mr. Gostling raised his concerns about the potential for building on the land between the Surgery and the A361 along Meadow Lane, in view of last year's flooding. The chairman assured Mr. Gostling that the land had not been suggested as a potential site in the consultation over the Local Development Framework. Cllr. McConnachie expressed the view that Parish Councils had limited influence, particularly with the high targets set for new house building in the area.
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** Caring Homes Tall Trees Site: The Cricket Club and Caring Homes representatives had discussed the use of the land at the rear of the building. The Cricket Club would use all the land and would agree a lease with Caring Homes. Cllr. McConnachie asked whether some of the area could be available for any other purpose. Cllr. Cochrane agreed to discuss the matter with Mr. Barrett and report back.
6. **County Councillor's Report:** Cllr Rose reported on the possibility that the retained fire Station in Burford would close and a new Station be established in Carterton. In view of the exemplary record of the station and the need for a proper service for the Wychwoods Cllr. Rose requested the support of the Parish Council in opposing the closure of the station. Cllr. Cook proposed that a letter be sent to Mr. John Parry, Head of Emergency Services and this was agreed unanimously.
7. **District Councillor's Report:** In the absence of Cllr. Biles no report was available.
8. **Annual Parish Meeting:** Cllr. Vickers thanked all Councillors for their contributions to the meeting. There were four matters arising from the meeting to consider;
 - a. **Crossing Railway Line:** Mr. Gittings had raised the question of safety using the road bridge at night. This problem had been raised previously and there appeared to be little that could be done practically at a reasonable cost. The Cotswold Line Group had investigated a scheme to provide a rail line crossing but the proposal had been rejected and in view of the recent accident at Tackley there would be little support for this suggestion. Cllr. McConnachie would investigate further but Councillors felt that the cost to the general taxpayer would be prohibitive.

- b. **Chipping Norton Fire Crew:** The Clerk had written to thank the fire crew for their assistance during the floods as requested by those attending the meeting.
- c. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting:** In order that people could see the minutes before the meeting they would be published on the website in unapproved form and put on the notice boards at the same time as the notice of the Annual Meeting. Cllr. McConnachie asked whether a section of the Wychwood Magazine could be reserved for reports from the Parish Council. This was not thought likely as all three parishes would need to be invited to submit material, but occasional items of wider interest could be submitted.
- d. **Amplification in the Hall:** The request for microphones and a working audio loop had been passed on to the Management Committee of the New Beaconsfield Hall.

9. Planning Matters:

- a) **Application:** The Lamb Inn Erection of new fence and expansion of garden /patio area.– no objections
- b) **Local Development Framework:** Final consultation documents had been circulated. Cllr. Rose reported that there had been a high public attendance at the Milton Annual Parish Meeting and there were objections to the sites suggested in that parish.

10. Financial Matters:

- a) **Payments to be authorised;** Thames Water Allotment Taps £31.69, Allianz Insurance £485.20
 - b) **Annual Audit:** The first papers relating to the Annual Audit had been received from BDO Stoy Hayward. The clerk would contact Mr. Barry Way in May for the internal audit to take place.
 - c) **Faculty Fee:** Mr. Peter Hills would be applying for a Faculty to the Diocesan Authorities to enable cremated ashes to be strewed in the Closed Churchyard. The Clerk was authorised to pay the fee for this up to a total of £200.00.
 - d) **Burford School Mini Bus Application for Support:** The Burford School association was raising £15,000.00 for a replacement mini bus. The vehicle was an essential tool for a rural school to ensure that pupils could take part in sporting, cultural and other inter-school activities. Cllr. Cook proposed that £200.00 be sent to the fund, seconded by Cllr. Mavin and agreed unanimously. The Clerk was requested to establish the number of pupils from Shipton currently attending Burford School.
11. **Allotments:** Cllr. Mavin reported that work would begin on the new water troughs this week. The roadway improvements were still under discussion and a representative from WODC would visit the site and meet Cllr. Mavin and Mr. Benfield. Cllr. Watson suggested some method be found to engage young people in using some allotment land. Cllr. Mavin had received a request for a pond to be dug on one allotment. Councillors rejected this request as allotments are not gardens and the installation of a pond, although

environmentally acceptable, increased the risk factor on the site to an unacceptable level.

12. **Transport: a) Transport Survey:** Completed forms are being returned. The Clerk had received approximately 50. Cllr. McConnachie would look through them before sending them on to ORCC for analysis. The closing date was 27th April.
 - b) **Bus strategy:** Cllr. McConnachie had been invited to participate in the OCC consultation on who should have subsidised bus fares and on what basis.
13. **Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council:** The next meeting is the AGM. There were no specific requests for agenda items.
14. **Recruitment of Clerk:** Advertisements had been placed and distributed in the Parish and the surrounding area. The interview panel would be Cllrs. Vickers and Cochrane plus the current Clerk. And interviews should take place in mid to late May.
15. **Correspondence:** A lit of correspondence had been circulated to Councillors.
16. **Other Matters for Discussion:**
 - a) **Caring Homes Signage:** Cllr. Cook was concerned about the works signage on the A361. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr. Gant at Caring Homes about the matter.
 - b) **Verges:** Cllr. Cook had been unable to find anyone willing to plough the wildflower areas. The clerk was asked to contact Green Scythe and ask for their opinion on the sites at New Road junction and the verge below the railway bridge.
 - c) **Ballards Close:** Cllr. Mavin asked if a new street sign could be provided at the far end of Ballards Close, and whether the houses currently numbered as part of St. Michaels Close, but in reality forming part of Milton Road could be re-allocated and re-numbered. There had been a recent incident when an emergency vehicle crew could not find the address they were called out to. The Clerk was asked to investigate the possibilities
 - d) **Alternative Energy:** Cllr. Cochrane reported that the Hall committee were considering installing alternative energy sources, and would take advantage of funds that had become available for this type of project.
 - e) **Junction at the Red Horse Corner:** Cllr. Cochrane suggested that OCC were approached to establish whether the installation of proper road markings for traffic turning right into Milton Road would be possible.
 - f) **Walls:** Cllr. Vickers had been approached by a resident concerned about the state of the collapsed wall opposite Grove Farm. The Clerk was asked to establish who owns the wall and suggest repairs are made. The Clerk was also asked to contact OCC and enquire about the progress on repairing and replacing the walls on Station Road damaged during the floods .

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25