

Minutes of the Meeting of Shipton under Wychwood Parish Council
7.30pm on Tuesday 21 April 2009,
at the New Beaconsfield Hall.

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

Acting Clerk: Alice Burns

Members of the Public: Gerald Simper (Voluntary Cotswold Warden), Stuart Williamson.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** There were no apologies for absence
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Vickers recorded an interest in the planning application by FWP Matthews.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 17 March 2009:** Cllr. Vickers clarified that in Agenda Item 13b – the website expenses listed related to the costs for the domain name. Agenda item 17: The first sentence should read ‘had received a request **from** James Walmsely. With these amendments the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Public Time:**
 - a) Mr. Simper reported on the education programme being run by the Cotswold Wardens at the Wychwood Primary School for a week in early June. This would encourage children to become more involved in caring for their local environment and would be reflected in all aspects of the curriculum. Councillors expressed support for the project.
 - b) Mr. Williamson drew the attention of the Council to the problems of water flooding across his garden and along the driveway. There had been a build up of dumped material by the fence backing on to Coombes Close and there was a question as to whether a culvert had been blocked. The land around the British Telecom site was also affected. Mr. Williamson had written to OCC and the Parish Council agreed to support any investigation. Cllrs. Vickers and Cochrane would take photographs of the build up of debris.

5. **Play Equipment:** Cllrs. Cook and Cochrane had now secured funding of £20,000 from WODC towards the cost of new play equipment. £13,000 would be raised independently and £11,111 was requested from the Parish Council. A resolution that this amount should be granted was proposed by Cllr. Watson and seconded by Cllr. Mavin. The resolution was approved unanimously by the Council.

6. **Sand Bin Sites:** Photos of the suggested site in Coombes Close had been circulated, and WODC were attempting to establish who owned the land. The Hall Committee were not in favour of siting the bunker on the recreation field mainly because of current consideration of ground source heating project and because of the loss of amenity. Cllr. Jagger expressed the view that the Coombes Close location was too far from the parts of the village threatened by flooding, and in a residential area would create major problems. Cllr. McConnachie reminded the Council of the use of inflatable water tubes barriers and it was agreed to discuss both issues at the May meeting.

7. **Matters Arising:** **a) Simons Lane:** Investigation of the complaint about the cutting down of the hedge had discovered that Mr. Bob Coombes had given permission for the hedge to be cut but it was argued that the cutting had been excessive. There had been several instances in the village of people taking action like this which was resulting in gradual erosion of habitat and the Parish Council needed to respond to these actions.

b) Hedge between Elmdene and Recreation Field: It was too late for the hedge to be cut this season. Cllr. Vickers had asked Mr. Taylor to discuss the matter with Ms. Lund and agree a suitable time for cutting.

c) Hedge at Fiveways: This had still not been cut back and was increasingly dangerous for traffic. OCC had been requested to take action.

d) Posts outside Post Office: One had now been knocked down. In all other parishes wooden post had been used at sites like this. Paul Watts at OCC was to be contacted and wooden post replacements requested.

e) Tennis Club: An informal meeting was held with representatives from the Hall and the Tennis Club. The new planning application would be submitted for the Pavilion and the Parish council would then take appropriate action to ensure that villagers were fully consulted about the necessary application to de-register the common land. The questions of insurance against non-completion of any works that might be commenced, realistic costings for the project and the costs of reparations to the play area would need to be agreed by the Club and the Hall Committee. Cllr. Cochrane indicated that full restitution had been promised and this would be covered in a comprehensive legal agreement should the project go ahead. There was some concern that the new proposal included fencing which would increase the footprint

f) Tall Trees: Cllr. Vickers had received reassurance that the verges would be fully restored and any further work needed in the lane would also be undertaken.. The direction sign sites suggested were on the wall by the sharp left hand bend entering the village on the A361 from the south, and suspended below the Burford direction sign when leaving the village. Cllr. Cook asked whether the signs could refer to Tall Trees rather than to Tall Trees Care Centre, Cllr. Vickers would enquire.

g) Good Neighbours: Cllr. Cochrane had met Ms. Alured and had suggested initially any such scheme should be developed in conjunction with the surgery. However he hoped that the proposals would lead to benefit for the village.

h) Highways: There were still matters outstanding with OCC about repairs and a full list should be drawn up and submitted to Paul Wilson.

8. **Core Strategy Consultation:** There was uncertainty about whether comments had been submitted. The Clerk was to be consulted on her return.
9. **County Councillor's Report:** Because of the change in election dates action at OCC was limited. An application was being considered to put 40 units of extra care housing on the Green Lane site in Milton owned by the County. This is one of several sites being considered, but access problems were a consideration.
10. **District Councillor's Report:** No report was available.
11. **Planning: 09/0245/P/FP erection of free range poultry house, feed silos and associated works at Four Winds Farm, Burford Road** – Objections had been sent to WODC. Copies of objection letters from two local residents had been received.
09/0323/P/AC Affix non-illuminated fascia sign to side elevation at FWP Matthews, Station Road No objections.
09/0420/P/FP Erection of two storey front extension and conversion of loft to include new rooflights and dormer window at Four Furlongs, Leafield Road Objections were recorded.
Decisions: 09/0163/P/FP Land at Station Road to erect a post and rail fence: Refused.
12. **Financial Matters: a) Report on Accounts for the year end 2008/09:** Cllr. Watson gave details of the pre audit summary. The significant changes were that the cost of administration had been over estimated ; the VAT claim for 2008 had not yet been received and would be made quarterly in future; the allotment costs were £600 exceeding income from rents and wayleave payments by £350; costs of Shipton Volunteers were £395. A surplus of £5569 would be added to reserves and a further surplus was forecast for the year 2008/09. The burial fees were higher than expected because of a catch up from previous years.

13. **b) Authorisation of payments:** Thames Water Allotment taps: £14.73; Green Scythe Grass Cutting £258.75; OALC subscription £237.30. The first instalment of the precept had been received. The renewal request from insurers Allianz had been received and had increased by 15%. Cllr Watson would look at possible alternatives and report back to the May meeting.
14. **Lady Reade Educational Foundation:** Cllr. Watson proposed that the Parish Council should make a regular donation to the foundation to help with the increase in applications for funding from young people embarking on further education. It was agreed that the PC would donate £300 per year for three years and then review the position.
15. **Rental Agreement Hall/Office:** The Council thanked Mr. Halliday for his detail report on behalf of the NBH, and were pleased to see that several activities for young people had been supported through the donation from the PC. There was concern that the Day Centre was receiving a double subsidy and discussions should be held with the Day centre to establish whether the direct donation was still needed. The use of the office and other Hall facilities had been reduced as the Clerk now worked mainly from home.
16. **Allotments:** No progress had been made on the roadway. A meeting of the Allotment sub-committee meeting would be held next month plus a short talk on plants that grow well with a question and answer session. A swapping day would be organised in the summer.
16. **Annual Parish Meeting:** Cllrs. Cook and Mavin agreed to provide refreshments after the meeting. Councillors were asked to arrive at 6.45 to help set out chairs.
17. **Other Matters for Discussion:**
 - a) **Wild Garden:** Cllr. Watson raised the question of the future of the Wild Garden. Cllr. Cochrane would ask Mr. John Hartley to discuss with Mr. Gorton any role the Parish Council might play in planning for the future.
 - b) **Maternity Payments:** Cllrs. Cochrane and Vickers would establish the correct procedure for maternity payment to the Clerk with Jan Gosset.
 - c) **Burial Ground:** Cllr. Cochrane reminded the Council that the burial ground was filling up rapidly. With the presence of two care homes for the elderly in the village this rate may well accelerate and attention needed to be paid to finding a new site.
 - d) **Pavement by Shaven Crown:** The footpath had been repaired but then damaged again by heavy lorries crossing it before the surface had set, creating an unsafe and uneven surface. This problem should be included with others in the report to Paul Wilson at OCC.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

