

Minutes of the Meeting of Shipton-under-Wychwood Parish Council
7.30pm on Tuesday 17 February 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 Mike Watson.
Parish Clerk: Angela Barnes**

Members of the Public:

Brian Rigby, Jan Lund, Steven Dean, Philip Croxson
Gordon Halliday representing the Hall Committee

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Neil Jagger, Cllr Jill Mavin and District Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 20 January 2009:** The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

- (a) Oxfordshire County Council Highways; the Clerk gave an update on the outstanding issues. Ongoing
- (b) Ballards Close and St Michael's Close Signs; Ongoing
- (c) WODC; the bridge on Shipton Road. Ongoing

5. **Public Time:**

Charity Commission

Cllr Vickers invited members of the public to speak; Brian Rigby advised the meeting that he had two issues firstly the sale of land adjacent to the recreation field and secondly the de-registration of land for a new Tennis Club pavilion. Cllr Vickers gave a brief overview of the situation regarding the de-registration of the land and reiterated that the Parish Council was looking to the Hall Committee to reach a full and fair Agreement with the Tennis Club, but this had not yet been reached.

Gordon Halliday, the Hall Committee representative gave an update on the position at present;

- (a) He reported that the availability of use for non members did have a workable agreement and that a Notice would be displayed giving four contact names and numbers for the public to contact should they wish to use the courts. The charge of £10 per hour would remain the same, as this seemed a fair price.
- (b) With regard to the de-registration of land a fair exchange or compensation would be in the form of a payment of £5,000 to fund the new play equipment. This would be made in stages with interest on the outstanding amount.

Cllr Cochrane raised concerns regarding the positioning and height of the new building. After mapping this out to scale it was evident that this would be more obtrusive than first thought. It had been suggested that the new building be moved to the far end of the embankment to reduce the impact on the surroundings.

Q: Gordon Halliday requested that, as the Tennis Club felt they had met the requirements described in the earlier letter from the Parish Council, would the Parish Council now be writing to the Charity Commissioners to confirm that their objections to proceeding with the application to de-register land had now been dealt with?

A: Cllr Vickers replied that the Parish Council would not be doing so at this stage as they thought that all questions connected with de-registration should be looked at together. The Parish Council would not support de-registration of the land unless and until both Hall Committees had recorded full agreement with the Tennis Club. In view of the new situation and revised height of the proposed building, the Parish Council wanted to await the outcome of the new planning application which would be required.

Cllr Vickers again repeated that a complete Agreement would need to have been reached by the Hall Committee and the Tennis Club and in turn presented to the Parish Council, together with a valid planning application before this could be undertaken.

Cllr Cochrane pointed out the substantial difference between the original planning application number 06/0060 and the proposed building. The Clerk was asked to write to WODC Planning and request that the new application be sent to the Parish Council. Due to the height and re-location, the Clerk was asked to request that WODC consult with all commoners on this planning application.

Q: Jan Lund asked about the cutting of the hedge adjoining her property?

A: Cllr Vickers asked the Clerk to obtain a quotation from Cotswold Tree Surgery.

Land for sale adjacent the Recreation Field

Cllr Vickers gave a brief summary of informal contacts made relating to this offer of land for sale.

Q: Brian Rigby suggested that all parties talk together.

A: Cllr Vickers answered that the Parish Council would probably not be interested in a particular strip of land, but land for the Village as a whole.

Cllr Watson explained that the Parish Council had neither the funds nor a strong need to acquire additional land. He was of the opinion that if land were to be available then one priority would be to provide a car park for the School and a walk way linking Milton Road with Meadow Lane, but nothing beyond that.

Q: Jan Lund asked the Parish Council if the play area would be extended?

A: Cllr Cochrane thought this unlikely.

6. Grasscutting Contract 2009:

Cllr Vickers reported he had asked Green Scythe to re-quote, which they had done improving their offer in one area. WODC had also quoted, but this was 20% more than Green Scythe. An invitation had also been posted on the Village Website asking for tenders. The revised quotation supplied by Green Scythe for 2009 was £6189.00 + VAT and WODC's quotation was £7360.00 + VAT. Cllr Vickers proposed Green Scythe be given the contract for 2009 including accepting their quotation for a further two years at a fixed price. This proposal was seconded and agreed. The Clerk was asked to write to Green Scythe and confirm.

7. **Sandbag Sites:**

Cllr Vickers and Cllr Cochrane had met with David Austin from WODC to discuss the position and site of a bin to store sand for sandbags in the event of future flooding. The only viable position affording good central vehicular access and not in the area of past floods was within the grounds of the New Beaconsfield Hall. The positioning was agreed, but after discussion Cllr Cochrane agreed to mark out the exact measurements before finally agreeing the delivery date of the sandbin. The Clerk was asked to contact David Austin at WODC and advise.

8. **Open Spaces:**

The Clerk gave information from the WODC Environment Enforcement Officer with regard to dog fouling. It was agreed that the Wychwood Magazine would be asked to point out that WODC would be carrying out surveillance throughout the Village and that dogs should be kept on a lead at all times whilst in the recreation field. The Clerk was asked to obtain the appropriate signage from WODC.

It was reported that the Wild Garden had been locked recently probably due to the increase in dog fouling. Cllr Cook agreed to approach Brian Gorton to discuss and ask if there was anything the Parish Council could do to help, including the possible erection of a dog bin outside the entrance to the Wild Garden drive.

The Clerk was asked to wait for Cllr Cook to report back before new dog bins were ordered. It was likely that two new bins would be ordered, one for Fiddlers Hill and one outside the Wild Garden.

9. **Sale of Land adjacent to the Recreation Field:**

Please refer to Public Time.

10. **County Councillors Report:**

No Report

11. **District Councillors Report:**

No Report.

12. **Planning:**

09/0120/P/FP Erection of single storey rear extension at 16 Littlebrook Meadow

New

08/1875/P/FP Springside Chapel Lane Shipton-under-Wychwood

Granted

08/1897/P/FP Dove Cottage High Street Shipton-under-Wychwood

Ongoing

13. **Financial Matters:**

Payments to be authorised:

£307.63 Clerks Salary and Expenses

£100.00 The Wychwood Day Centre (donation)

14. **Charity Commission:**

Please refer to Public Time.

15. **Allotments:**

Nothing to report.

16. **Correspondence:**

A list of correspondence received was circulated to Councillors to consider.

17. **Other Matters for Discussion:**

Cllr McConnachie reported to the meeting an apparent increase in heavy traffic throughout the Village.

Cllr Watson asked if the Parish Council should be doing anything further as a result of the recent heavy snowfall. Cars had experienced problems in exiting from the Ascott Road onto the A361. He suggested more grit bins. The Clerk was asked to request a further grit bin to be erected on the junction on High Street, just by the Ascott turning.

Cllr Vickers raised the question of the pollarding of the trees along Church Path. He had received a report from Nick Dalby of WODC via Charles Keighley of the Friends of Wychwood. It was suggested that the Volunteers could carry out the removal of the Ivy and epicormic growth on the new burial ground side. The Clerk was asked to request a quotation from Cotswold Tree Surgery to pollard all of the trees.

Cllr Cook reported that the swing seat had been replaced. Cllr Cook and Cllr Cochrane had invested a lot of time in seeking costs and equipment specifications for the proposed improvements to the play area and had managed to complete a bid to WODC on behalf of the Parish Council in order to obtain matched funding. Cllr Cochrane gave a presentation on the equipment available and asked what the Parish Council would be able to provide towards the cost. Cllr Watson confirmed that the Parish Council would be able to provide £11,000 with match funding being available from WODC of £13,974.

Cllr Vickers asked the meeting to extend their thanks to both Cllr Cook and Cllr Cochrane for their time and effort spent on this project so far. The Clerk was asked to add this as an item on the Agenda for March.

There being no further business, Cllr Vickers declared the meeting closed at 10.20pm and confirmed the March meeting would be held on Tuesday 17 March 2009.