

Minutes of the Meeting of Shipton under Wychwood Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th January 2008 at the New Beaconsfield Hall.

Present: Cllr. A. Vickers (Chairman), Cllr. J. Cook, Cllr. J. Mavin, Cllr. N. Jagger, Cllr. R. McConnachie, Cllr. M. Watson, District Cllr. H. Hibbert-Biles.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. M. Cochrane (holiday), County Cllr. R. Rose (away on business)
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were made.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th November 2007:** The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Public Time:** No members of the public were present
- 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
 - a) **Carols Round the Tree:** The event had gone well and £467.83 was raised for St. Mary's Church repair fund. The clerk was asked to thank Messrs. Croxson, Walmsley, Barrett and Nicol for their help. Cllr. Vickers also thanked all Parish Councillors who helped with the tree and the collection.
 - b) **Trees on the Green:** All planted and thriving.
 - c) **Car Parking on Glebe Field:** Cllr. Cook had talked to Mr. Fletcher about the use of the Glebe Field for overflow parking for Church functions. Mr. Fletcher had agreed that the field could be used if needed. There were some concerns about the suitability of some parts of the field for parking vehicles.
 - d) **Post Office:** The report on closures in the area would be published on 5th February 2008 and depending on the findings further action would be considered. ORCC were holding a special seminar on closures in early February and Cllr. Vickers would attend.
 - e) **Meadow Lane and Littlestock Brook:** There was a dangerous area where the fallen willow tree had been removed near the bridge over Littlestock Brook. The Clerk was asked to contact OCC urgently to bring this to their attention.
 - f) **Langston House:** Cottsway Housing had written to the Parish Council about the future of Langston House and Bowerham. Parish Councillors expressed concern about the promise made in 2004 that extra care housing would be provided in the Wychwoods was not being honoured in the proposals outlined. Another consultation was proposed before the time limit had run out for use of the previous one, and the problems of care for older people in the parishes were not being dealt with. The Clerk was asked to write expressing the concerns of the Council.
- 6. County Councillor's Report:** In the absence of Cllr. Rose no report was available.
- 7. District Councillor's Report:** Cllr. Biles reported the following:
 - a) **Flood Report:** The interim report of the summer floods had been published and contained recommendations or agencies to work more closely together. The full report was available on the website. The current wet weather had shown up continuing problems for Ascott at Gypsy Lane and Shipton Road. WODC engineers and the Environment

Agency were meeting on 16th January to look at the problem. WODC has now mapped all drainage ditches and defined responsibilities for clearance. All owners would be contacted and reminded of action they needed to take.

- b) Council Tax: The rate would be under 5% which would make budgets difficult for WODC as it started from a low base.

8. Planning Matters: a) WODC Decisions on Applications: Maitland, Swinbrook Road; Erection of detached double garage with games room above; **Granted.** 25 Littlebrook Meadow; Erection of single storey side extension; **Granted.** 12 Court Close; Construction of chimney to side elevation. Extension to garage and creation of first floor studio; **Granted.** The Old Chapel, Chapel Lane; erection of single storey side extension; **Granted.** Langley Ridge Farm, Leafield Road; Erection of tack room/office; **Granted.** Staddlestones, Milton Road; Erection of single storey side extension; **Refused.** 14 Ballard Close; Erection of shed (retrospective); **Refused.**

b) Reponses to applications: 35 Littlebrook Meadow; erection of single storey side extension – **No objections.**

Tithings, Prebendal Drive, Station Road; erection of single storey extension – **No objections provided neighbours approve.**

9. Financial Matters: a) Payments to be authorised: Thames Water Allotment supply £42.93; Southern Electric Christmas Tree Lights £84.52; Nicholson Nurseries Trees and Labour £619.15; RJ Bradley repairs to play equipment £ 94.00; WODC Grass Cutting £1107.17; New Beaconsfield Hall room rent & photocopying £408.40; WODC ROSPA Inspection £51.70; A. M. Consultancy installation of computer £120.00; NHT sound system for carols £50.00; Carol Collection for St. Mary's Church £467.86. The payments were approved and cheques signed by Councillors.

b) Subsidy for New Beaconsfield Hall: Mr. Gordon Halliday, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Shipton RF & VH Charity had submitted details of subsidies provided to groups using the Hall who needed assistance with meeting hire charges. Councillors agreed that a grant of £2500.00 per year should be made to the hall for hire subsidy. The Parish Council would recommend to the Hall Committee that these funds should be directed towards community groups, particularly those dealing with young people and the elderly and that each group should be encouraged, where possible, to become financially independent. The Parish Council should be supplied with an annual breakdown of the use of the subsidy. The anomaly of the Wychwood Day Centre direct rent subsidy should be resolved and Councillors agreed that, whilst they would continue to support the work of the Day Centre, application for rent subsidy should be resolved with the Hall Committee. The Clerk to write and inform all parties about the decision. The Parish Council would continue to pay for room hire and photocopying charges and would also propose a fee of £1000.00 per year to cover use of equipment, utilities and storage for the Parish Office at the Hall.

10. Grass Mowing: Tenders had now been received from three potential contractors Mr. Shane Barnes, WODC and Green Scythe, and there was a significant difference between quotes. Cllrs. Vickers, McConnachie and Cook were authorised to discuss the quotes with the contractors to provide final information for a decision to be made at the February meeting. Councillors

would bear in mind the possibility of asking Oxfordshire County Council to undertake the mowing of the verges and contracting out the remainder of the mowing.

11. Allotments: Cllr. Mavin informed the Council that a meeting of the allotment Committee would be held in early February. Members would discuss priorities for expenditure. The road was in need of work and proposals and costings would be brought back to the Parish Council for discussion. The large greenhouse had been removed as requested. Letters about rent increases would go out in February.

12. Letter to H. M. Government requesting a referendum of EU Constitution: At the request of a resident Parish Councillors discussed whether such a letter should be sent and decided that they felt it was outside the remit of the Parish Council.

13. Letter to Arts Council re Chipping Norton Theatre Grant: Cllr. Vickers had written to the Arts Council protesting about the removal of the grant to Chipping Norton Theatre, and stressing the outreach work the theatre undertook in rural areas around its base.

14. First Draft Shipton under Wychwood Emergency Plan: Cllr. Vickers had circulated a first draft of the plan and asked all Councillors to look at the proposals and make and additions or comments they wished. The timetable would be to have the plan finalised in time to present it to the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

15. Play Area ROSPA Report: Cllr. Cook had received a copy of the report and there were no urgent matters to deal with. However since the inspection one of the uprights on the multi-play area had been damaged by fire and would need to be replaced. Trevor Stewart had been asked to inspect the damage.

16. Correspondence: Councillors noted the list of correspondence received.

17. Other Matters for Discussion:

- a) **Tree at junction Ascott Road and High Street:** Cllr. Cook reported that some of the lower branches were obscuring road signs. The Shipton Volunteers would be asked to prune them.
- b) **Cricket Ground Seat:** The seat had been removed by the Shipton Volunteers for repair, but it was too badly rotted. Councillors suggested that Caring Homes be approached to provide a new one.
- c) **Weight Limit Sign:** The sign at Fiveways had been knocked down again. The Clerk would contact OCC.
- d) **Cricket Club Wall:** Councillors were concerned about bulges in the retaining wall round the Cricket Field. The Clerk was asked to contact the Club to ask if any action was in hand to deal with potential problems.
- e) **Pipe Markers:** The concrete pipe markers at Tothill had been uprooted and were lying on the ground. The Clerk should contact Thames Water and ask that they be replaced.
- f) **Priorities and Strategies:** Cllr. Watson asked for the consolidated response to be circulated to Councillors. The Clerk should also enquire if places were available at the WODC Rural Strategies meeting to be held on 22nd January at the New Beaconsfield Hall. Cllrs. Vickers and Watson were able to attend.
- g) **Burford School:** Cllr. Jagger informed Councillors that Burford School would be looking for funds for a new mini bus. Burford Scholl

is the main secondary school for the village children and it was likely that the school authorities would approach parish councils. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55 pm