

**Minutes of the Shipton under Wychwood Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 16th November at the New Beaconsfield Hall at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Cllr. Malcolm Cochrane (Chairman), Cllr. Joanna Cook, Cllr. Jill Mavin, Cllr. Neil Jagger, Cllr. Robin McConnachie, Cllr. Alan Vickers, Cllr. Mike Watson.

In attendance: Cllr. Hilary Biles (District Councillor), Mrs. Anne Matthews.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** There were no apologies for absence.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Cochrane declared an interest in the planning application for Robin's Acre, which was being made by a former employee.
- 3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th October 2006:**
The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Public Time:** Mrs. Matthews drew attention to the mis-timing of the Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial, so that the two-minute silence was observed before eleven o'clock.
- 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
 - a) **Hedges:** The hedges bordering Station Road and at Fiveways had been trimmed. Action was still needed to deal with the hedges on Milton Road and by the rail bridge.
 - b) **Visit by Ralph Grant, OCC:** The date was now confirmed as 7th December and Cllr. Cochrane asked other Councillors to join the walk round the village to look at the problem highway areas.
 - c) **Tree Surgeon:** A date for the work on the chestnut tree had not been arranged
 - d) **Lengthman:** No information had been received from Cllr. Rose about the decision on a lengthman for Milton.
 - e) **Best Kept Village Award:** The £125.00 prize had not been received. The Clerk would contact ORCC.
 - f) **Gas Works, Fiddlers Hill/Upper End:** Everyone had been notified of the proposed works and they would be undertaken in stages. WODC had promised to look at their waste collection provision in the area.
 - g) **Tree Preservation Orders:** Cllrs. McConnachie and Cook were asked to look at the need for TPOs on specific trees in the Parish. Several suggestions were made: the Scots Pine in the Glebe Field; the group of Wellingtonias in the Cricket Club field. Cllr. Jagger asked about the ownership of the willows at the back of Reynolds Close. They were causing concern to a local resident. The Clerk would try to establish who owned the trees and alert them to the problem.
- 6. County Councillor's Report:** In the absence of Cllr. Rose there was no report.
- 7. District Councillor's Report:**
 - a) **Chipping Norton Clinics:** WODC had stopped the closure of the 4 peripheral clinics at the Hospital. Further discussions were taking place with local GPs and the PCT and ORH would also discuss the matter.
 - b) **WODC Budget:** Discussions were taking place on the budget for next year. Waste collection was being considered carefully and it was likely

that recyclables and food would be collected weekly and residual material fortnightly.

- c) **Leaf Removal:** Bob Lightfoot had enquired about date for leaf removal in Shipton. It was agreed to leave it another week.
- d) **Concrete Path, Old Till Yard:** The Clerk was to raise this matter again with planning enforcement. Cllr. Biles would also follow up the matter.
- e) **Bowerham:** WODC were unhappy with the loss of resident wardens. Cottsway Housing, a private company, who now have total responsibility for Bowerham, has a visiting service. WODC is considering a judicial review. Cllr. Biles attended a recent meeting of Bowerham tenants to present results of a consultation organised by Cottsway. Information given to tenants was inaccurate and they were being asked to vote on issues, such as rent increases, there and then. Cllr. Biles had protested and had now arranged a meeting with the Housing Corporation, which will then have two weeks to discuss matters with Cottsway.

- 8. Planning Matters:**
- a) Decisions:** The rejected planning application from Heritage Ltd. to develop the Costcutters site had gone to appeal. Application 06/1688/P/FP Insertion of window to rear of elevation at Stairways, Lane House Farm, Milton Road – permission granted.
 - b) Applications:**
 - 06/1835/P/FP Planting of beech hedge as screening at Lane House Farm, Milton Road:** No objections
 - 06/1873/P/FP Erection of single storey front extension at Jersey Cottage, 3 Home Farm Close:** No objections.
 - 06/1826/P/FP Erection of detached garage with integral storage at Robins Acre, Swinbrook Road:** No objections.
 - 061962/P/OP Erection of one dwelling, garage and new access at land adjacent to Four Furlongs, Leaffield Road:** Councillors made to following objections.
 - i) Another access point onto a busy road, in the 30 mph zone, leading into the village increased the risk of accidents
 - ii) A four bedroom house with garage is over development in this area
 - iii) The proposed house is similar in character to the one recently built on an adjoining plot and is out of character with the surroundings and over dominates the area.
 - iv) The resulting façade of two houses is not appropriate in an area of loose knit, cottage style housing on the edge of the village.
 - v) It is unlikely that there will be objections from immediate neighbours as the applicants family own Four Furlongs and the newly erected house on the other side is not yet occupied.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Planning Enforcement to request that they check the height of the house being finished on the adjacent plot. Councillors had concerns that it was higher than planned.

- 9. Financial Matters:**
- a) Payments to be agreed:** BDO Stoy Hayward External Audit Fee £ 311.38; Margaret Johnson photocopies £24.67; OPFA Subscription £30.00; Maurice Pratley Mowing £33.50; WODC Tree Survey £117.50; WODC Grass Cutting £752.90; Michael Gorton Notice Boards £1028.12; OCC Street Light Installation £6462.50; Phillip Pratley Swing Repairs £ 60.00; Clerk salary £578.86; Royal British Legion £50.00

b) Charitable Payments: Wychwood Project £100.00; West Oxon Citizens Advice Bureau £150.00; Wychwood Day Centre £360.00; New Beaconsfield Hall £2000.00; Air Ambulance £100.00

The Clerk was instructed Councillors to transfer such funds as necessary to cover these payments and those due for the next four months, from the Money Market Account to the operating accounts. An early VAT claim should also be made.

c) Sale of Tractor and Gang Mower: Councillors decided that these items should be sold. Mr. Charles Barrett had expressed an interest buying the equipment and the Clerk was to establish a price.

d) Precept: Councillors discussed the level of precept for 2007 – 2008. The precept for the parish was one of the lowest in Oxfordshire and had been so for many years. Now that many costs were being passed down to parish level, and there were projects that would require sustained investment, such as the allotment field improvements, Councillors agreed that a significant increase was justified and in the first instance the precept should be raised to £15,000.00. The suggestion of employing a lengthman, in conjunction with Milton, had not been taken any further.

e) External Audit: The external auditor BDO Stoy Hayward had finalised and agreed the account for the year ending 31st March 2006. Cllr. Watson proposed that the accounts be accepted and the auditor's comments noted. This was seconded by Cllr. McConnachie and agreed unanimously.

10. Transport: Cllr. McConnachie had attended a Parish Transport representatives meeting and the following points were noted:

- a) There were changes to the subsidised bus service to Witney and there would be no through services to Oxford.
- b) The Charlbury Rail Bus was safe until 2009.
- c) Further stops were to be withdrawn from Shipton on the Paddington /Hereford rail line.
- d) New traffic lights at Eynsham on the A40 were not working well and were making the situation worse.

11. Allotments: Cllr. Mavin had revised the allotment rules and circulated copies for Councillors to consider. The revisions would be discussed at the next meeting. The wall between Langland Cottages and the allotment field would be considered for renovation. Other improvements such as more water butts; improvements to the roadway; better parking and security would be prioritised.

12. Parish Plan: Cllr. McConnachie continued to investigate Parish Plans. The local government White Paper was expected to devolve more power to Parish Councils and it may be appropriate to decide as to whether the exercise was necessary when there is a clearer view of what the legislation implies. Cllr. McConnachie expressed a concern that in some cases a Parish Plan was more about process than action. Cllr. Watson suggested that Parish Councillors should think about the future of the community in a strategic way. For example was there a need to look at affordable housing; what were the needs of young people and young families in the parish and how could a dialogue be set up between the council and the community? Councillors agreed to bring ideas about the future direction of the parish to the next meeting.

13. Christmas Tree: The tree would be put up at 9.30 am on Saturday 9th December. Cllr. Cochrane asked that any Councillor who was available should come along and help. The charity to benefit from the collection is the Lady

Reade Educational Foundation. Carols round the tree on Christmas Eve would start at 7.00pm. Councillors would be required to give out and collect the Carol Sheets and take round the collection boxes.

14. Parish Council Meeting dates for 2007: The date of the next meeting was agreed as 23rd January. The clerk would circulate a complete list of dates for the rest of the year.

15. Correspondence: A list of correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

16. Other Matters for Discussion:

a). Traffic Survey: Mrs. Walmsley would attend the next meeting to give Councillors an overview of the results of the survey.

b) Bench on Green: Cllr. Vickers put forward a request on behalf of Mr. Black, who wished to put a bench on the Green in memory of his partner. Councillors agreed that this would replace the old bench at the bottom of the Green, which was deteriorating.

c) Station Road: Cllr. Cook asked whether the 30moph limit sign could be moved to the other side of the bridge on Station Road as residents from the Old Prebendal House were finding difficulty in crossing the road to get to the surgery in Meadow Lane.

d) Street Cleaning: Cllr. Biles suggested that she would ask Mr. Lightfoot from Street Scene at WODC to visit the village and look at areas of the village streets that were perceived as being scruffy, and not cleaned effectively.