

Minutes of the Meeting of Shipton-under-Wychwood Parish Council
7.30pm on Tuesday 21 October 2008
at the New Beaconsfield Hall

Present: Cllr. Alan Vickers (Chairman), Cllr. Robin McConnachie, Cllr. Jo Cook, Cllr Neil Jagger, Cllr Jill Mavin, Cllr Malcolm Cochrane, Cllr Mike Watson, District Cllr. Hilary Hibbert-Biles.

Parish Clerk: Angela Barnes

Members of the Public: No members of the Public present

1. **Apologies for Absence:** There were no apologies received.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 23 September:** The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Public Time:** There were no members of the public present.
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
 - (a) OCC Highways; the Clerk reported that she had spoken with Paul Wilson who had promised to visit the Village and address the works needed. Unfortunately works have not yet been carried out and in particular the potholes on the road by Tall Trees were some three to four inches in depth. It was agreed that Cllr Cochrane would provide the Clerk with the list of works which was raised with OCC Highways two years ago having revisited the sites identified with Cllr Vickers. The Clerk would then contact Highways again and ask for progress.
 - (b) The Clerk asked Councillors for their approval for Audrey Fincham and Barbara Pearce to continue as Trustees representing the Parish Council. This was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Cook. The proposal was agreed.
 - (c) The Clerk asked Councillors to consider a cause to benefit from the proceeds of Carols round the Tree this year. It was decided that the proceeds would again be given to the Parish Church for the upkeep of the Church building and fabric. Cllr Vickers agreed to contact Bernard West and ask him if he would consider being the accompanist this year.

The Clerk was asked to contact:

- ? Mike Nichol re the amplification and microphones
- ? SEB to organise the electrics for the tree before delivery and erection
- ? Martin Jarrett re the delivery of the Christmas Tree. It was decided that delivery of the tree should be Saturday 13 December with delivery to Cllr Cochrane's yard.
- ? Charlie Barrett would be asked if he would once again erect the tree on the Village Green.

(d) OALC Freedom of Information Act; the Clerk reported on the new model publication which was duly adopted by the Parish Council. Cllr Vickers asked Cllr Mavin to prepare a short note on the Allotments, Cllr Cochrane to prepare one for the burial grounds and Cllr Cook to prepare the same for the recreation ground. Cllr Vickers would then display these on the website and this, with the information already given on the website, would meet the requirements of the Act.

(e) Mirror at Fiveways; this was discussed at length by the Parish Council and it was decided that Cllr Vickers would approach the neighbour and ask if the hedge could be cut back in order to help visibility. The Clerk was asked to contact OCC Highways and ask them to visit Fiveways and advise on possible ways of improving this junction.

(f) Cllr McConnachie reported on transport and a letter he had received on the public transport consultation. This was good news with new contracts due to commence on 14 December 2008, although full timetables were not yet available. The Railbus had survived, but would only be operating during peak hours.

There were plans for a 233 service on Sundays and Bank Holidays and a daily service to Chipping Norton.

6. **County Councillors Report:** No report.

7. **District Councillors Report:** Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles reported that Cottsway Housing had withdrawn their sheltered accommodation service with effect from March. This had concerned the District Council and a meeting was planned at the beginning of November to ask Cottsway to continue the service until October 2009. This would give the Council time to put the contract out to a wider area for tender.

Cllr Hibbert-Biles reported that WODC would be taking over the running of the parking from OCC. Witney Hospital and Abingdon were the only hospitals with complex care with 25 beds. However this number of beds had been ring fenced for the whole area. WODC were in the process of asking for an increase in beds. It was also reported that there was to be a review of the ambulance service. The PCT were concerned that target times were not being met.

Cllr Hibbert-Biles asked if Shipton had sent their flood plan to WODC. Cllr Vickers confirmed that this was done when first requested, but he would send another copy to Bill Oddy. The issue of sandbags was discussed and the points in the Village where sand should be stored. It was felt that there should be two if not three storage points. Cllr Hibbert-Biles suggested the Clerk write and invite Bill Oddy to a future meeting to discuss and advise the Parish Council. The Clerk was also asked to write and invite Martin Brain, the Principle Engineer Contract Management and Bridges, Environment and Economy, to a future meeting to discuss works on the bridge. It was reported that works at various levels throughout other villages had commenced, but the works needed in Shipton, including that of the bridge had yet to be addressed.

8. **Planning:**

New Applications;

08/1533/P/FP 9 Sinnels Field **(New)**

08/1511/P/FP 36 Shipton Road Ascott-under-Wychwood **(New)**

08/1327/P/FP Change of use to Playing Field and Drainage Works at Land adjacent to Cricket Ground

08/1328/P/FP Removal of existing utility room and replace with new single storey side extension at Brooklands, Upper End **(Granted)**

08/1347/P/FP Erection of dwelling and vehicular access at 23 St Michael's Close

08/1367/P/FP Erection of single storey side extension at Hunters Moon, Plum Lane **(Granted)**

08/1292/P/FP Conversion of garage to self contained accommodation and erection of new detached 3 bay garage (part retrospective) at Walnut Tree House, Milton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood **Ongoing**

08/0942/P/FP Erection of dwelling with attached garage and new access at Land at Milton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood

Refused / Appeal Lodged

The Clerk was asked to reply to WODC Planning and confirm there were no objections to the two new planning applications noted above.

9. **Financial Matters:**

Cllr Mike Watson asked Councillors to consider setting the Precept for 2009 and were there any investment projects that would need consideration. The recreation playground equipment was discussed and the possibility of a contribution by the Parish Council. It was hopeful that grants and match funding would cover the main cost of any investment. After discussion it was agreed that the Precept for 2009 would be set at £18,750, this being the same level as last year but with an increase of 4.2% to allow for inflation.

Payments to be authorised:

Green Scythe Grass Cutting £969.24

Clerks Monthly Salary £241.20 and Expenses £116.29

Thames Water £44.85

Payments into current account:

WODC second half of Precept £9,000

11. **Charity Commission:** A letter of acknowledgement had been received from the Charity Commission. Cllr McConnachie reported that a meeting scheduled for the Hall Committee and the Tennis Club to discuss the User Agreement had unfortunately been cancelled. The Tennis Club had decided to seek the advice of Counsel.

12. **Allotments:** Cllr Mavin reported that no progress had been made on the new road surface. There had been an Open Meeting on Monday 20 October, held at the Red Horse. A few tenants were unhappy about the restrictions on sizes of sheds and greenhouses. Cllr Mavin reported that enquiries were still coming in for allotment plots.

13. **Correspondence:** A list of correspondence received had been circulated to Councillors to consider. The Clerk was asked to reply to a letter received from the Wychwood Day Centre requesting a copy of their accounts for the Parish Council to consider before any donation could be made.

17. **Other Matters for Discussion:** Cllr Cook asked how long the temporary driver advisory signs would stay up. According to the instructions issued with the signs, this was recommended to be six to eight weeks to achieve maximum effectiveness. They could then be re-erected later or put up in a different part of the Village. Cllr McConnachie asked if the Parish Council had considered requesting the switching off of street lights. Cllr Watson advised that speed restriction signs had to be lit up in order to comply with Highways. Cllr Vickers asked if Cllr McConnachie would do some more research to ascertain the findings of other villages where street lighting had been cut back.

There being no further business, Cllr.Vickers declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm and confirmed the November meeting would be held on Tuesday 18 November at 7.30pm.