

**Minutes of the meeting of Shipton under Wychwood Parish Council held at the  
New Beaconsfield Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007.**

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

- 1.** **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Hilary Biles – illness.
- 2.** **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 3.** **Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007:** 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:**
  - a) New flight path:** A reply to the enquiries about possible effects of the new flight path had been received. Assurances were given that residents were unlikely to be affected in any way.
  - b) Grass Cutting:** The Clerk had met Shane Barnes and had discussed the grass cutting programme with him. A quotation for 2008 would follow.
  - c) Recreation Field:** Cllr. Vickers would attend a meeting with representatives from the Football Club on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Councillors expressed the view that the Parish Council's role was limited to ensuring that the playing field was safe for all users, and this would involve dealing with the mole problem. If the football club required an upgraded surface it would be their responsibility to provide the funding and regular maintenance. The Management Committee of the New Beaconsfield Hall should be kept informed.
  - d) Ascott Road/A361 Junction:** Cllr. Vickers had forwarded photos of suggested road markings to Cllr. Rose and awaited a response.
  - e) Cospatrick Memorial:** The cobbles had been replaced but no water supply had been found. There may be a supply located close to Mr. Avery's house, but no further action was planned at present.
  - f) Trees on Green:** A quotation had been received from Nicholson's for the 4 trees on the Green. The silver birches would cost £73.00 each and the hawthorns £79.00 each. Each tree would need a planting kit costing £25.00 and there would be a delivery charge of £37.50. All prices ex VAT. There would also be a cost of £25 per man-hour that it takes to plant the trees. Cllr. Watson proposed that the quote should be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr. Jagger and agreed unanimously. The Clerk was asked to contact Nicholson's and suggest that volunteers would dig the initial holes thereby reducing the amount of time needed and also to contact the Wychwood Project to ask if they would contribute to the costs as previously suggested.
- 6.** **County Councillor's Report:** In the absence of Cllr. Rose no report was available.
- 7.** **District Councillor's Report:** In the absence of Cllr. Biles no report was available.
- 8.** **Planning Matters:**
  - a) Decisions on Applications:** Erection of dwelling on land adjacent to 26 Courtlands Road – **Granted:** Care Home, Tall Trees, Burford Road – **Granted;** Woodchat Cottage, Fiddlers Hill – **Refused.**

**Old Till Yard:** An acknowledgement of the query about enforcement relating to the concrete path had been received.

**b) Consideration of Planning Applications Received: 1) Erection of dwelling on land adjacent to Four Furlongs, Leafield Road:** Objections on grounds of over development, proximity to neighbouring houses and manipulation of planning legislation.

**2. Alterations to include replacement front window at Shepherd's Cottage, Plum Lane:** No objections

**3. Erection of garage with games room over at Castle Bank, Milton Road:** No objections but concerns expressed about creeping development with garages being integrated into residential accommodation

**4. Internal alterations Flat 1A and 1B Shipton Court –** No objections

**5. Conversion of garage to studio at 4 Dawls Close (Adjoining Parish):** No objections.

Councillors debated the effects of development on the infra- structure of the parish, with particular reference to the recent floods and the increasing drainage/sewage problems. The Clerk was requested to write to Thames Water and ask what their technical opinion was about the maximum number of homes that could be effectively serviced by the existing sewage capacity in the Wychwoods.

- 9. Flooding:** Cllr. Vickers praised the leadership and energy demonstrated by Cllr. Biles during the floods. There was a wish in the community to make an effective contribution to dealing with any future emergency whatever form it took. Cllrs. McConnachie and Jagger stressed that dealing with such emergencies was not a Parish Council responsibility. Cllr. McConnachie suggested looking at which aspects of the official response were not effective – for example the unavailability of road closed signs. Cllr. Cochrane suggested that John Kelly, Head of Emergency Planning at OCC, be contacted and asked what kind of extra help his team would expect from local communities. In the meantime the Chairman suggested that a system of identifying key individuals within the community should be started in conjunction with the New Beaconsfield Hall Committee. Cllr. Jagger raised the point that the flooding in Littlebrook Meadow had probably arisen from lack of maintenance of Littlestock Brook and the drainage ditches in nearby fields. The Environmental Agency had promised action to remove the dead willow across the stream as soon as access restrictions were lifted. Mr. Hannington had also contacted the Parish Council on this matter. Laurence King from WODC had paid a first visit to look at problems with Trots Brook and all residents with properties adjoining the brook had been contacted, by the Clerk, and reminded of their responsibilities to maintain the watercourse. The Clerk was asked to write a similar letter to Mr. Coombes the tenant of the field adjoining Littlebrook Meadow.

- 10. Financial Matters:** Payments were authorised t CPLG £1.00 Membership fee; Michael Gorton Building services £105.75 Repairs to play equipment; Thames Water £16.81 Allotment water supply; WODC £968.28 Grass Cutting; Foxbury Farm £95.00 Spring Lamb rent payment for burial plot to Dr. Scott. The Clerk would follow up with HSBC whether Cllr. McConnachie had been approved to sign cheques.

- 11. Allotments:** Ragwort had been cleared from some of the allotment area and Cllr. Mavin would draw the attention of allotment holders to the need to be vigilant, with the help of Cllr. Cook.  
Mrs. Worker and several other residents (themselves allotment holders) had complained about anti-social noise from equipment being used on the allotments. Cllr. Vickers had replied to her complaint suggesting that allotment holders be asked to limit their use of noisy equipment to certain hours, as far as possible.  
Cllr. Mavin highlighted several problem areas: Blighted potatoes being thrown into adjoining fields; pheasants being shot and the bodies being left in adjoining fields; and compost piles being placed too near field walls. Cllr. Mavin proposed to talk directly with allotment holders concerned about this. In another allotment sucker growth was encroaching on the public footpath and the tenant would be asked to clear it up.
- 12. Transport:** Cllr. McConnachie had attended a further meeting of the Transport Consultation Group, and notified councillors of the following:
- a) Park and Ride:** A study would take place to establish whether a Park and Ride scheme could be established in Witney
  - b) Railways:** In October a report from Network Rail containing recommendations on double tracking of the Cotswold Line will be published. If action is recommended work could be completed by 2011. It is likely that the new timetable will include an early evening train from Shipton to Oxford.
  - c) Bus Passes:** In April 2008 the free bus passes provided for older people will be valid anywhere in the country.
- 13. Shipton Volunteers:** Shipton Volunteers had undertaken their first project, and cleared the footpaths round the High Street/ Milton Road junction, and would work on the Churchyard at the weekend. Twenty people are now on the database. The first few projects would all be community based but the volunteers would consider whether their services would be offered to individuals in need of help. Cllr. McConnachie congratulated the Chairman on the progress his initiative had made so far, and suggested that a thank you event be organised for volunteers in the future.
- 14. Correspondence:** The Clerk had circulated a list of correspondence received.
- 15. Other Matters for Discussion:**
- a) Burials:** There had been two problems about sites for graves, with undertakers being referred to the Parish Council. A meeting should be arranged with representatives of the Parochial Church Council to agree and clarify responsibilities.
  - b) WODC Collection Service:** Cllr. Jagger asked that the Clerk should write to WODC to congratulate them on removing flood-damaged goods from the roadside with speed and efficiency.
  - c) Shipton Fete:** Cllr. Watson had organised display boards for the Parish Council stand.
  - d) Agenda Presentation:** Cllr. McConnachie had received a request that all planning applications to be discussed should be listed on the agenda. The Clerk would ensure that this happened on future agendas.

- e) **Speed Notices at the New Beaconsfield Hall:** Cllr. Cochrane had witnessed dangerous behaviour by a car driver in the vicinity of the Hall, when a child cyclist was knocked off a bike. The Hall Committee was considering the erection of warning signs with a 5mph limit.
- f) **Water Taps:** The covers to water taps in the Ascott Road had become dislodged. The clerk would report this to Thames Water.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.55.