

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in the Function Room, Village Hall, Woodcote
Wednesday 21st October 2015 commencing 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Mr. R. Peirce
Vice Chairman
Mr. M. Smith
Mr. B. Williams
Mr. A. Crockett.
Mr. R. Lewin
Mrs. S. McGurk

Parish Clerk Ms. Jenny Welham

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Mrs. D. Hadaway, Mr. G. Botting, Mr. D. Booth, Dr. P. Sudbury

2. To Receive declarations of interest.

None.

3. **Public Forum**: Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council, the public may also speak about specific items of business as they arise, with the permission of the Chairman.

Mr & Mrs. Tom Booker to speak about their planning application Agenda Item 6.

4. To approve Minutes Parish Council Meeting held on 7th October 2015.

Approved as a true record after correcting 2 typing corrections.

5. Matters arising from those Minutes not on the agenda elsewhere.

Cllr. Crockett advised that Mr. Lillywhite had not contacted him regarding his meeting with BT concerning the fourth BT high speed broadband box location. However the box is now installed.

Cllr. Smith advised that in regard to the planning application for the old Reservior Site, the access road to the side is in fact a private road and is marked as such on the entrance gate. It is a Bridleway and as such no vehicle access will be possible to the new site from this road.

County Councillors Report

Cllr. Kevin Bulmer gave an update regarding the upcoming OCC Budget Planning consultation.

Every area of service will be examined to see where the necessary budget cuts can be made.

OCC cannot use capital receipts to offset the cuts such as revenue from sale of buildings.

The amount of cuts is not yet known as the Government Revenue Support Grant amount is not yet known, likely to be nearer to Christmas before this is known.

The overall budget has to be agreed and finalised by 16 February 2016 following the public consultation.

Highways figure of £16 million has restriction that the funds can only be spent on new capital projects and not for repairs or general maintenance. The amount of people suing OCC for damages has reduced by 50% so progress on pot hole repairs has and is improving.

Social Services, no cuts will be made from services for the most needy. It is highly likely that bus subsidies will be removed. Some Councils have expressed their interest in trying to cover this for their parishes and are talking to Readi Bus.

When the public consultation opens the services and areas will all be listed.

The Chairman expressed his concerns about 3 areas;

1. Closing of Household Waste Recycling Centres – if Oakley Wood closes there will be an increase in fly tipping. The parish Council are strongly opposing this.

Cllr. Bulmer advised he had raised a motion to make a small charge to people visiting the centres which was more or less unanimously agreed. However Central Government legislation currently stops OCC from doing this.

2. Motorists who park on or partly on pedestrian pavements and walkways. The Chairman advised that Devon CC place a strong message on a leaflet under windscreens of cars who park like this, which is placed there by their PCSOs and some Councillors.

Cllr. Bulmer advised that Enforcement is an issue and Thames Valley Police do not have the resource. For OCC to take this over it would have to be decriminalised which was suggested before but SODC did not wish to take this up. Therefore until parking is decriminalised in the District this area falls under Thames Valley Police.

3. Bus Service. Woodcote is served by the X40 & X39 buses. The X39 does not come into the village, its route is along the A4074 with 2 stops a long walk away at Ipsden. The PC are strongly campaigning to get the X39 to come into Woodcote and stop once, some progress has been made, and it has been raised with local MP John Howell. The Chairman asked Cllr. Bulmer to take this matter up with the necessary Officers at OCC. Clerk to email him the details of the contact at Thames Travel.

Cllr. Bulmer then left the meeting.

6. Planning Applications

P15/S3201/FUL (Minor) Erection of a three bedroom agricultural workers dwelling/cottage. Church Farm, Reading Rd, Woodcote.

The Chairman gave background on the application and the report submitted, as if granted this application will be subject to an agricultural tie, as the dwelling is for the worker/manager of the farm to be able to live on site to attend the cattle.

Mr. Booker spoke advising that they had designed the building with similar materials to the surrounding buildings and the positioning of the dwelling will be as unobtrusive as possible from the Reading Rd, additional hedging and an orchard will be planted to provide screening.

The dwelling will be one and a half storeys but the height is 1.5 metres lower than the existing Farmhouse.

The Parish Council recommend Approval of this application.

6.1. Applications Granted by SODC

6.2 Applications Refused by SODC

None.

6.3 Other Planning Matters

Cllr. Smith gave an update concerning his meeting with David Chandler on the woodland to be gifted to the PC to the rear of the bus depot Long Toll. He had circulated an email with the major points. A few trees will need work and the Leylandii trees planted by a resident will have to be removed as they are not native to the area.

He also had concerns about the footpath that has been laid. The first part is finished with tarmac and concrete kerb stones, which is not the “rural” footpath that was requested.

The second part past the Greenmore Ponds woodland area has had drainage laid but the top surface is not yet made as the telegraph pole has to be moved by SSE. Clerk to write a letter to Millgate regarding this and check the planning application conditions regarding this footpath.

7. Finance

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Detail
21/10/2015	Mr. K. Smallbone	490	£30.00	War Memorial Garden October
21/10/2015	J. Welham	491	£68.44	Expenses
21/10/2015	Mark Harrod Ltd	492	£2,371.20	Goal Package (Sec 106)
21/10/2015	Berinsfield Community Business	493	£2,528.40	Hedge Cutting
28/10/2015	A.Crockett	SO	£200.00	Litter picking Oct
28/10/2015	J. Welham	SO	£782.00	Oct Salary
29/10/2015	British Telecom	DD	£28.48	Monthly line rental
		Total	£6,008.52	

APPROVED

7.1 Quotations / Grants received for review/approval.

Quote from Arrow Accounting for Internal Audit for FY 2015/16 £377.00 PC Agreed.

Conservation Group are requesting a £500 contribution towards the cost of some of the management of the woodland recently obtained under license around Greenmore Ponds by the PC from Thames Water.

As the PC will be paying the legal fees for the license and undertook this at the request of the Conservation Group they agreed that to a maximum of £500, any over spend the Conservation Group will have to find.

ARD Quote for new fencing to the rear of the Allotments. The Clerk gave details total cost of fencing and installation is £7900.

The PC Financial Regulations will mean that further quotations will need to be obtained.

The Goal posts for football matches are stored inside the fence in the Allotments so the type of gate will need to be considered which could increase the cost. The PC felt that as Trustees of the Allotment Land the goal posts storage needed to be outside of the allotments removing the gate issue Clerk to look into this with Allotment Stewardship Committee.

7.2 Budget Review

The Clerk ran through the report, there are not areas of concern.

The Village Hall Capital Maintenance currently at £8125 however the capital grant from SODC was received towards the new fire alarm system making the actual spend by the PC £4212.00.

Playground Maintenance showing zero budget, this is a new tab set up so the PC can track what is spend to be able to Budget realistically for next year.

Receipts under Miscellaneous Income show any grants received and any Section 106 funds. The Chairman asked the Clerk if she could separate these out under their own headings. Clerk to action.

8. Section 106 – Review next potential projects for submission.

The clerk had received a completed form from the VHMC David Booth for an Awning outside the Pavilion in the Village Hall. The quote was for £4335.00. Further quotations will be required for this.

PC agreed that new projects to be discussed at a future meeting when full council was present.

9. Other Committee Reports

Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr. Smith reported on the last meeting, the main new item being the request for an Awning outside the Pavilion. One quotation had been obtained, this had been discussed under Agenda Item 8 as a section 106 application had been completed. Further quotes will need to be sourced.

Village Green Committee
No new report

Education Group
Next meeting 22 October.

Traffic Group
Next meeting 22 October.

Police
Cllr Williams reported that Woodcote have a new PCSO Joshua Hall he is yet to meet him.

Youth Club
Next meeting 12 November.

Woodland Group
Cllr Smith is into the process of setting up the new group to look into management of the woodland area that is to be gifted to the PC to the rear of the new development on Long Toll. He has some interested parties and has invited Anna Bartlett who is a Governor of the primary School and will also be inviting the resident of The Chapel Long Toll to join this group.

10. Other Matters for the Chairman

The SODC Town and Council meeting is to be held on 4th November, the PC need to send a representative, however the date clashes with the next PC meeting.

The Chairman agreed to attend and the PC agreed to for this occasion move the next PC meeting to Tuesday 3rd of November as a one off as the Vice Chairman is still on holiday. Clerk to issue change of date for the website and also to issue agenda with venue, as needs to check that the Function Room is available on that evening.

The Clerk updated the PC with the details of what she had discussed with the Fish Charity regarding a Community Bus. Fish cannot bring their buses out to Woodcote. The management of Fish also advised that if the PC where to set up a Community Bus for Woodcote it takes a large amount of organisation, as you need at least 6 volunteer drivers who all have to attend the training. The cost of their last bus was £49,000.00 and there would be further costing for training, insurance etc.

They advised that if Woodcote already have a volunteer service it would be better to look at expanding this. The PC agreed that the setting up and cost of running a Community Bus in Woodcote would be at the current time logistically and financially beyond the capacity of the PC.

However the Clerk will be investigating the options with Readi Bus and report back.

Cllr. Smith had created a draft “business card” for the Councillors to use, all thought this a good idea. Clerk to check with OALC if there are any restrictions before producing the cards.

11. Correspondence

None.

12. To note date of the Next PC Meeting : Tuesday 3rd November. Venue to be confirmed with Agenda.

Meeting Closed at 9.50pm

Signed.....Date.....