

# WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held in the Function Room, Village Hall, Woodcote  
Wednesday 22nd July 2015 commencing 7.30pm.

## **PRESENT**

Chairman	Mr. R. Peirce
Vice Chairman	Mr. G. Botting
	Mr. M. Smith
	Mr. B. Williams
	Mr. A. Crockett.
	Mrs. D. Hadaway
	Mr. B. Lewin
Parish Clerk	Ms. Jenny Welham

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Dr. P. Sudbury, Mrs. S. McGurk.

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.

None.

4. To approve Minutes Parish Council Meeting held on 1st July 2015.

Spelling mistake on page 30 corrected.

Approved as a true record.

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

Cllr. Smith raised the point of voting for a candidate for the Chiltern Conservation Board. There are 3 candidates and the Chairman felt that the candidate who is the Chairman of Kidmore End PC would be the one to vote for, being the most local and likely to support and represent the Chiltern area of AONB, the PC agreed.

*District Councillor David Nimmo-Smith joined the meeting to listen to the Planning items.*

## **6. Planning Applications**

P15/S1974/HH (Householder) Proposal: Erection of Oak framed car port. Address: The Old Chapel Long Toll Woodcote RG8 0RR.

The Parish Council recommend Approval.

### **6.1 Applications Granted by SODC:**

P15/S1444/HH Application proposal, including any amendments :

Single storey conservatory to rear elevation. Site Location : 95 Whitehouse Road Woodcote RG8 0SA

### **7.2 Applications Refused by SODC:**

None.

### **7.3 Other Planning Matters**

The PC reviewed the Appeal decision of Dismissed for the Land at Goats Gambol outline Planning for 10 dwellings. Cllr. Botting felt that the dismissal was not a ringing endorsement of the Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan but overall it was agreed this was not a problem.

The Chairman's comments were that the Inspector had stuck strictly to the issues of the plan only, but he had strongly endorsed the Chilterns AONB. The Inspector had recognised that the site was not in the WNHP. He had referred to the NHP being silent on policy HS1 site allocation and issues of other sites being developed. However this was a policy that the NHP had tried to cover stating no other sites could be developed other than those within the NHP but it was removed by SODC and the Examiner when the NHP was submitted. This policy will be reviewed again in the revised NHP that will be required to meet SODC Revised Core Strategy up to 2031.

Cllr. Botting asked District Councillor David Nimmo Smith if he knew who at SODC would pay for revised plans, as all existing Neighbourhood plans would need to be revised and this will incur costs. Cllr. Nimmo-Smith agreed to raise this question at SODC.

Application P15/S1009/FUL Development at Chiltern Rise.

The chairman and Vice chairman had attended a meeting at SODC Planning with Officers, Paula Fox, Tom Wyatt and Katherine Pearce to discuss the PC concerns, objectors concerns and SODC concerns regarding this application and Amendment 1.

This application did highlight that when sites were selected for the NHP, the level of detailed required per site was not fully understood and taken into account. It was difficult at that time to know the level of detail required.

The matters discussed covered;

Trees, Hedges, Conservation of Wildlife. Density will need to be looked at to try to conserve some trees.

Bus laybys need to be included which is an extension to the site.

Explore with OCC Highways if the access entrance can be at the bottom of Tidmore Lane and if some restricted byway regulations can be legally overcome. This would avoid the need to remove any hedging.

The Chairman advised he is in active dialogue with Mr/Mrs Hill at the Garden Centre regarding the footpath and will meet with them in the next few weeks after their holiday in Greece.

The meeting proved very productive and it was agreed that this application will take longer to determine. The applicant will be asked to withdraw the current application and resubmit a new application to include the amended site area to include the bus laybys and this cannot be done by an Amendment, it has to be submitted on a new application. SODC are positive about this site and are working with the developer to find solutions to the issues and progress the development of this site.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman to draft a brief statement outlining the position, and check the content detail with Paula Fox at SODC before sending to the residents/objectors.

The Chairman asked District Councillor David Nimmo-Smith with his OCC Traffic "hat" if he could talk to the relevant Officers at OCC Highways to progress the restricted byway issue. He agreed to speak to the County Officers.

The Chairman advised Cllr Nimmo-Smith of the appalling service from Thames Travel with buses X39 and X40. Certain buses just do not run leaving people waiting over an hour for the next bus. This is not a subsidised service but is run commercially. The PC will be requesting a meeting with the Commercial Manager to discuss the matter and also look at the recently issued new timetable submitted. This timetable contains some timings that will incur long waits between buses. He asked for Cllr Nimmo-Smith's support on this matter.

Sections 106 projects need to be submitted as a test to see if funding will be made available, the projects to be submitted are Outdoor Table Tennis equipment and Playground Equipment Maintenance.

Cllr. Booth has the forms and will complete them as he has costing details and then send to The Clerk to complete and submit.

## **7. Finance**

Date Paid	Payee Name	Ref	Amount Paid	£'s	Transaction Detail
22/07/2015	SG Creative solutions Ltd	463	152.00		Web 1/4-30/6 Host 2/5-1/11/15
22/07/2015	K. Smallbone	465	30.00		War Memorial garden July
22/07/2015	Hags-SMP Ltd	466	54.72		Playground equip repairs
22/07/2015	BDO LLP	467	360.00		External Audit
22/07/2015	Berinsfield Com Business	468	1,011.60		June grass cutting
22/07/2015	Higgs Printing	470	121.94		Banner for Traffic Group
22/07/2015	Local Authorities				
	Property Fund		469	30,000.00	Investment Fund
22/07/2015	BerinsfieldComBusiness	471	1,044.00		May Grass Cut 1st cheque lost
29/07/2015	British Telecom	DD	26.73		Monthly line rental

**Total Payments £32,800.99.**

Noted no receipts.

### **8.1 Quotations / Grants** received for review/approval.

Blandy&Blandy PC solicitors had sent a letter with a cost estimate for the work on the License Agreement with Thames Water for woodland beside Greenmore Pond. Estimate is £420. The PC Agreed this.

### **7.2 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Review** – update and review.

The Clerk had circulated the report prior to the meeting. There were no questions arising. All categories are on or below budget, but to be expected as this in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report.

The Clerk pointed out that the way transactions are managed for the Playground maintenance between the PC and the Village Green Committee needs to be reviewed. This matter to be discussed as an agenda item at a future meeting.

### **8. Thames Water License Agreement** – review draft from Blandy&Blandy,

The Clerk had circulated the draft agreement. There were some small changes, mostly clarifying points. The Clerk to check with the PC insurance broker if any additional premium will need to be paid to cover the public liability of this area. The PC agreed this draft. Clerk to forward a copy to Chairman of the Conservation Group and then reply to solicitors.

### **9. Traffic Working Group** – report and update following consultation.

Cllr. Smith updated the PC on the results from the public consultation, he had circulated his report showing the responses and conclusions. The issues raised were as expected, with Greenmore issues coming out higher than expectation. Many responses stated that they felt enforcement was poor.

**Comment:**

Cllr. Smith asked that the PC endorse the list of next steps. It was agreed that tackling the many issues on Reading Road would take a lot of time as many different authorities and organisations will be involved and impacted. The Goring Road is less complex and some of the speeding issues can be looked into relatively quickly to ascertain costs and possible solutions.

The Chairman read a letter received from Mrs. Woods about her accident at the Reading Rd crossroads.

It highlighted that the hedges need cutting back as they reduce visibility at this busy crossroads. The TWG to speak to Tom Booker who is in the Group as it referred to the hedges bordering his Mother's property.

The letter also highlighted the difficulty for mobility scooter users getting around the village. This issue will need to be added and looked into at some point.

It was agreed that improvements to visibility where hedges are overgrown could be made by the Councillors inspection around the village for overgrown hedging and overhanging tree boughs. This matter to be brought to the Agenda for another meeting.

### **10. Other Committee Reports**

Village Hall Management Committee  
Minutes circulated.

Village Green Committee  
Meeting next Monday.

Cllr. Crockett had reported a damaged bin on the Green appeared to have been vandalised. Sam Peates had been sent an email, Cllr Booth to discuss at the next VGC meeting.

Education Committee

Cllr Lewin advised that it has been successful having a stand at the Traffic Group consultation although the majority of responders were now older so no longer had children in education. Currently in Summer recess, so will be talking to people early Autumn. The Chairman suggested he speak to Cllr Lewin about Langtree School and how they do not communicate well outside of parents with children at the school and this could be greatly improved to the wider residents of the village.

Youth Club

Cllr Williams reported

The Youth Club refurbishment is complete. An open evening will be held at 7.15 on Monday 7th September and members of the Parish Council are invited to attend.

A drive to recruit new members (particularly girls) is to be launched.

The Youth Club Committee has requested that the Parish Council make a transfer of £1500 from the current Youth Club provision in its budget of £8000 to help defray the cost of refurbishment (over £3000).

The Chairman advised that more detail of the costs would be required and this needs to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Police

Next planned PCSO meeting is next week (subject to confirmation).

Woodcote crime stats remain low but there are sporadic burglary events in the main concerning garden sheds/outbuildings although the most recent event was the theft of silver candlesticks from a property in Lackmore Gardens.

### **11. Other Matters for Chairman**

Cllr. Botting raised the question of the PC holding an email mailing list, this already exists from the software purchased by the NHP Group and has approx. 400 names on it. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Mark Lillywhite about this at the Traffic consultation.

The PC agreed that a list should be held to communicate with the village on important matters especially planning. The Clerk also suggested the PC have their own Facebook page. Agreed that for the September Correspondent the PC put in an article about this and its purpose asking people to submit their emails for inclusion on the list. All agreed.

It was with sadness that the Pc heard about the passing of Christopher Quinton. A member of the PC had been informed by Sam Peates. PC to write to Carol Quinton.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact SOHA regarding their trees on Folly Orchard Rd, the boughs are so low that pedestrians cannot get past without leaving the pathway.

The Clerk had received a letter from SODC about an Audit being carried out on Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities, they have commissioned a Company called Nortoft. For the next agenda.

**12. Correspondence**

None.

**13.To note date of the next PC meeting: Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 5th August 2015.**

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

*Meeting closed at 9.45pm*