

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in the Function Room, Village Hall, Woodcote
Wednesday 2nd September 2015 commencing 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Mr. R. Peirce
	Mr. M. Smith
	Mr. B. Williams
	Mr. A. Crockett.
	Mr. B. Lewin
	Dr. P. Sudbury
	Mrs. S. McGurk
Parish Clerk	Ms. Jenny Welham

1. To receive apologies for absence.
Mrs. D. Hadaway, Mr. G. Botting.

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.
Mrs. Jo Lillywhite to for Agenda Item 9.
Mrs. C. Vickery to talk about more activities for the older people in the village.

The Chairman invited Mrs. Vickery to speak and she requested if a Community Bus could be provided for Woodcote? She had some information about the community bus service that ran in Sonning Common where she had previously lived. Mrs. Vickery was previously a resident in Woodcote and had moved back, her mother used to run the Laurels which was a group for the older villagers, sadly this had closed as people seemed to stop attending, all the reasons for the closure are not clear.

The Chairman replied that the PC would need to carry out a lot of research into such a proposal for a community bus as the cost implications need to be fully understood. He also stated that the “older group” would need to be involved and apart from using the service should it become available but also work as a group to run it. Clerk took the details from Mrs. Vickery and will report back.

4. To approve Minutes Parish Council Meeting held on 1st July 2015.
Approved as a true record.

5. Matters arising from those Minutes not on the agenda elsewhere.
None.

6. District Councillors Report

None as DC absent.

The chairman with agreement from the Council brought forward agenda Item 9.

9. Woodcote Festival – insurance disclosures, review, agree actions.

Cllr. Smith advised that the event this year is much larger than previous years with approximately 60 different stalls/activities taking place on the Green.

The competitions held in the Village Hall have also grown and there are now 60 different categories. Cllr. Smith is working with the group on careful space planning to fit everything.

The agreed deadline of 1st August for anymore stands is closed. The communication is now important to publicise the event in the village. A large banner will be placed on the gate by the Village Hall and posters are already out around the village.

Risk Assessment forms are required from each stall/stand holder on the green. Some have been returned to Cllr. McGurk, she needs to Jo to help identify who they are. Jo advised that she has sent the RA forms out with the invoices so is expecting more to be returned and she has sent reminders today to the trade stand holders. She has copies from the commercial stands insurances so she is comfortable with them. The cut of deadline was 10th August. A lot of forms are still outstanding. It was agreed that any outstanding non commercial stands will need to sign a form on the day at set up.

The event is open at 1pm to the public, the Chairman proposed that the organisers advise stand holders they can set up from 11am to allow the volunteers to get round with the RA forms for signatures in good time. Public parking is in the Bookers field opposite the VH car park, volunteer Marshalls will be required, Cllr. Botting and Williams offered their services for some of the day, more will be required.

Following this overview the PC agreed to adopt responsibility for Festival event on 12th September so the PC public liability insurance will cover the event on the Green.

The Chairman and the PC passed their thanks to Jo for all of her hard work and asked her to pass the thanks to everyone involved on the festival committee and set up.

7. Planning Applications

P15/S2714/HH (Householder) Proposal: Garage conversion to create a new kitchen, a new link between the garage conversion and the existing house, internal alterations at ground floor level. At first floor level create a side extension and an extension to the rear in order to create a corridor to a new bedroom and bathroom.

Address: Kate's Cottage South Stoke Road Woodcote RG8 0PL

The Parish Council recommend Approval.

7.1 Applications Granted by SODC:

P15/S2332/FUL Erection of timber clad biomass fuel store

Site Location : Langtree Secondary School Reading Road Woodcote RG8 0RA

7.2 Applications Refused by SODC:

None.

7.3 Other Planning Matters

The Clerk had some planning drawings for a proposed rear extension to Neil MacDougalls property. He had asked the PC to look at these before he paid a lot of money to an architect. The Clerk had made it clear to him that the PC could not offer specific advice and that SODC determine the planning decisions. The PC did review the drawings and asked the Clerk to advise him to seek a pre planning application meeting with SODC.

The Chairman gave an update on the position with the Chiltern Rise development. A further meeting with Paula Fox SODC Planning, himself, Cllr. Botting to discuss the links between the Chiltern Rise site and the Garden Centre site. The owner of the garden centre has already instructed an architect and has provisional plans for 9 proposed dwellings which are of an interesting and distinctive design. SODC officers encourage that the owner puts in an outline planning application first so certain items such as the footpath and the roadway from the Chiltern Rise site do not become reserve matters.

A further meeting with the Oratory School re the Chiltern Rise site is to be arranged. The site needs to be addressed in two phases. The issue of the access into the site has to be resolved first, phase one, then phase 2 the site can be reviewed and its issues addressed. The Chairman advised that the meeting had been very productive.

The planning application for the Old Reservoir site has been sent in and the application and drawings will be in the public domain on the SODC website shortly. Cllr. Smith asked how the PC propose to communicate to residents about this application. It was agreed residents in the near vicinity will be delivered a flyer with detail.

The Clerk was instructed to ask for an extension to reply, so this application can be discussed at the first meeting in October which allows time to inform residents. Also to request a meeting with the Planning Officer Tom Wyatt who is handling this application, certain NHP policies need to be met before this application can be determined in regard to the aquifer survey, which the application states is commissioned, but the actual survey is required.

8. Finance

Payments for Approval.

01/09/2015 Community Centre ELECTRONIC	£20.00 Room bkng 10/9 & 22/9
02/09/2015 Woodcote Conservation Group	£300.00 Annual grant from PC
Total	£320.00

Approved.

Receipts noted.

2nd half year precept from SODC £28,144.00

8.1 Quotations / Grants received for review/approval.

The Clerk had received the renewal request for the PC insurance due Oct 1st. £1077.90.

The PC are in a 3 year contract to receive discount so approved this renewal.

8.2 Reserve Funds – propose small projects that will enhance village, review & agree.

Projects proposed, flower tubs for triangle island crossroads Reading Rd, South Stoke Rd.

Flower planting alongside roadways.

Weed spraying in certain areas.

Flashing speed signs.

These in principle were agreed and Clerk to obtain some quotations. However it was agreed to wait for the outcome of the meeting with OCC Highways next week to ascertain outcomes of proposals by the Traffic Group for traffic calming and understand possible costs of these before any other projects were auctioned.

10. Other Committee Reports

Village Hall Management Committee

Next meeting 14th September.

Village Green Committee

Have obtained a quotation for replacement fencing along the back of the allotment field.

The 2 youths who vandalised the allotments have been spoken to, one is banned from the village and is not a resident. The other youth is now helping to clear the football pitch on the VG.

Traffic Group

Meeting with OCC Highways next week.

Youth Club

The re launch and opening after the refurbishment is Tuesday 8th September, all are welcome.

11. Other Matters for Chairman

Letter received from SODC about next financial year CTRS grant, this is under review and parish councils may not receive this next year. This grant makes up the precept amount so the PC will need to review this when budgeting for next year's precept request.

12. Correspondence

The Clerk had received a copy of an email sent by Richard Farmer to OCC in response to the proposals to close Household Waste Recycling centres. This was noted.

Cllr. Crockett had concerns about a property in Bridle Path that had been up for sale for a long period of time and was empty. Large piles of rubbish in black bags are accumulating in the front garden. The Clerk advised that he contact Environmental Health to report this.

13. To note date of the next PC meeting: Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 16 September 2015.

Signed..... Date

Meeting closed at 9.20pm