

WHITCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Whitchurch Parish Council held in The Church Hall,
Whitchurch on Monday 16th February 2009 at 7.30pm

Attendees: Cllr Pain (Chairman), Cllr Bond, Cllr Newman, Cllr Meijer, Cllr Leggett, Cllr Foot, Cllr Shepherd, Sue Mordue – Clerk, no members of the public attended.

886. Receive Apologies: none.

887. Open Forum for Parishioners: none.

888. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda: Cllr Bond declared his interest in planning applications due to his role as District Cllr sitting on the AVDC Development Control Committee as he will review his decision at Committee based on the additional information available at the time.

889. The minutes of the last meetings held on Monday 12th January 2009 were confirmed as a true record.

890. To discuss any matters arising from those minutes not covered by the agenda – Cllr Pain updated the meeting on the progress of the Affordable Housing project. A proposed site had now been agreed by all parties behind the Roses house next to Ashgrove Gardens and opposite the school. The next stage would be to hold a village consultation in the week of 20th April 2009 when the plans would be available for comment in the Legion Hall, following which a Planning Application would be submitted for 8 affordable houses by Hastoe Housing Trust. An article will be placed in the Whitchurch News to update villagers on the plans and the village consultation.

891. Planning: To discuss planning applications and make recommendations:

- a. 08/02906/APP – Old Quarry Barn Bushmead Road – erection of link extension and insertion of roof lights to provide ancillary living accommodation over garage – the Council resolved it OPPOSED this application as it was considered the barn conversion should be maintained in the manner approved in the first place so that the footprint is not extended further. If the link is allowed then the garages would join the existing barn to make a substantial building. It would result in a loss of the original character of the building not preserving its original form. It is considered to be overdevelopment of the site and especially of a barn conversion. It is not in character with the existing building or in keeping with the open surrounding area. 5 Cllrs opposed the application and 2 abstained.
- b. 09/00067/ALB – Fairings 2 Castle Lane – conversion of garage to living room, including replacement windows and doors and internal alterations the Council resolved it had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.
- c. The Diocese had withdrawn the Planning Application at the Vicarage again. As the Council had met with the Diocese before plans were submitted and were in support of the plan, the Council resolved that the Clerk should write to gain an understanding of why this has been done as it will further delay the return of the Vicar to the Vicarage.

892. Finance:

- a. The accounts for the year to date end December 2008 were agreed as reviewed.
- b. The Council resolved to issue the following payments:

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|-----------------------|----------|
| Mr Radwell | £72.00 |
| Clerks Pay & Expenses | £326.01 |
| PRA Randles | £79.00 |
| Forde & McHugh | £2272.38 |
| Otto UK Ltd | £40.20 |
- c. The new bank mandate adding Dianne Shepherd to the list of signatories was signed.
- d. Information required for audit (risk Assessment and asset register) the Council resolved that Cllr Foot and Cllr Meijer would pass the information they have to date to the Clerk and Cllr Pain and who would assist completion of this information for the audit.

893. Highways:

- a. Issues and repairs – pot hole outside Beachmoor Farm had caused problems to numerous vehicles. BCC are aware. Blocked drains at the top of Oving Hill where the water leak was and in Weir Lane - both drains still need unblocking.
- b. Salt Bin – request to purchase a salt bin for Hawleys Lane – it was decided that due to the cost of bins and the fact that there is no where to site one on Hawley Lane that a bin would not be purchased. Salt would however continue to be placed there by BCC upon request to Highways on Call.
- c. Update from Clerk re Land outside Whistlers View – Clerk had met with David Hedley BCC who advised the area would not be resurfaced due to cost but it could be put on next year's delegated budget request.

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However the fact that vehicles are parking so close to the exit from Whistlers View is a concern. The PCSO has been advised and will take action to ensure cars park further up and not at the exit point in order that the visibility splay can be maintained. If the cars continue to park there then they may consider putting bollards but we need to take the Police route first.

- d. Update from Clerk re Bushmead Road – site visit with BCC who have advised that digging out the ditch may not be possible because of the narrowness of the verge. Therefore they would now consider piping the ditch at this point and then taking the water to the wider ditch further down. This should then stop the water flowing over the road and would hopefully be done in the next financial year. There was a report of several more cars having accidents on this stretch of road.

894. Footpaths & Footways: The Council resolved to proceed with the application for a definitive map modification order to claim the footpath that runs along the back of the gardens at Paddock House and Spencer House Little London. Clerk to complete documentation and provide 'other evidence forms' to Cllr Bond and those who have already written in confirming they have walked the path for over 20 years.

895. Street Lighting:

- a. Swan Close reported in January – the clerk could not find a light which was not working.
- b. 2 Lights are not working on the roundabout – Clerk will report to BCC.
- c. The 7 new replacement street light have been installed by Forde and McHugh along the High Street. This now completes the High Street and the Council agreed that no further lights would be replaced as part of this renewal project at this stage.

896. Recreation Ground:

- a. The Council had obtained as much information as possible from various sources including RoSPA, AVDC and based on all the information and advice given the Council resolved to proceed with the pond project – 6 were in favour and 1 abstained.
- b. Trees – Robin Moor is waiting for the supply of stakes and guards before they can proceed with any more planting. Article had been placed in the BCC Winslow Area Newsletter.
- c. Inspection rota – Cllr Foot agreed to undertake the weekly inspection of the play area as required by our Insurer.
- d. Security Lights – to consider whether security light should be erected at play area – the Council resolved not to do this as it was felt that the light would be triggered on and off by animals and it also might encourage the youths to congregate more on the Play Area.
- e. Seats – the Council resolved to ask the WCCA for sleepers to be provided as bench at the recreation ground. Cllr Pain would send the information to WCCA and request for as many as funds allow to be provided.
- f. Grass Cutting – The Council resolved that the area to be cut would be the area around the play equipment and car park and the newly drained large field area. The part to the side through to the Meadows would not be cut on a regular basis. Clerk to obtain tenders for this for agreement at the next meeting.
- g. Dog Fouling – people are still letting their dogs off the lead around the recreation field and not picking up fouling. The dogs are also running into the gardens of the bungalows as there is no back fence. Clerk to contact VAHT to request fencing is erected and also to put an article in the magazine about fouling of dogs and requesting they are kept under control around the field. If this persists the Council will need to reconsider whether dogs are allowed on the recreation field.

897. To discuss any correspondence and other communications received: Cllr Pain had forwarded the information on the Village of the Year competition to the WCCA to progress.

898. Communications: Web Site – Cllr Pain advised that he could now put pdf files on the website.

899. Police:

- a. Complete Police Community Feedback Form – youths continue to drink alcohol and leave bottles at the recreation ground. Report of the MOD old bunker next to the Drs Surgery has collapsed and is a hazard in case anyone falls in. Clerk to contact Police and report it.
- b. Ken Watson had attended the NAG meeting - the SW and SE NAG have joined to form one group. Police have been undertaking speeding and other offences checks. Speedwatch – insurance would have to be paid for by individual Councils estimated at around £25.00 and Farm watch are trying to create a database of farms. Also there was lengthy discussion about the Youth Event in April.

900. The date of next meeting was agreed as Monday 9th March 2009 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm. Signed.....Date.....