

Notice of
Meeting of the Parish Council on

Wednesday 13th December 2006

at 20:00 h

in

The Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Matters arising
5. Current tasks
 - RAF
 - Play area/pavilion – decision about play shelter completion, re-gravel path onto common
 - State of roads – traffic flow, SID trial, heavy vehicles, Hampden Way fencing, footpaths
 - Parish plan
 - Affordable Housing
 - Health & Safety
6. Planning – Ewelme School
7. District/County Councillors Reports
8. Correspondence
9. Accounts & administration
10. New items of interest
11. Next meeting – 10th January 2007 8pm

Parish Clerk (phone 01491 837441

Play area/pavilion –

- Pod seats had been fitted.
- Cricket – despite discussions with both teams, no payment had been received. SH was awaiting a quote for preparation of the wicket.
- Use of the pavilion – the lock had been changed. JL, SH and Barry Rosier had keys. Andrew Markham (Head Teacher, Ewelme School) felt that the school would like to use the pavilion for one or two annual events and agreed to discuss terms of use with parish council. SH to arrange a meeting. **SH**
- Pavilion insurance had been changed. All insurances were now included in the one policy. **SH**
- SH reported that pavilion was rather untidy. Pavilion terms of use to be prepared. **SH**
- SH awaiting invoice from Vernon Miners before applying for insurance claim for water leak in pavilion. **SH**
- SH had received a second quote for the shelter/small goal area, but awaiting a further one. **SH**
SH
- Cynthia Winfield asked that the rubbish be removed from the pavilion roof.
- NB had suggested having a new sign for play area stating responsibility, ownership and contact details. SH to find costs. **SH**
SH
- **Health and safety** – DR asked that the nettles be removed around edge of play area. There was a discussion about dog walkers using the sports area. Dog mess was the issue and a new sign is in place to discourage this. There had been some problems with damaged cars and houses egged over Halloween. None had been reported to the police as residents felt there was no point. BB had drafted a letter to the police asking them to reverse the lack of confidence in the police. Councillors felt that the sentiment was right, but that the letter needed redrafting. NB to do and send. A discussion about the neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) left councillors feeling that that money was being spend with no purpose and that these would not benefit small villages. **NB**
- **Thames Water** – DR now has registration forms to be given out to people with special needs. Some compensation had been paid out. BB working towards an agreed site for emergency water delivery. NB acknowledged that it was an important issue and BB should pursue. BB thanked SODC Environmental Health for their help. **BB**

6. Planning –

The Hyde - Demolition of tennis hut and two sheds. Erection of garden shed and a greenhouse. Approved by SODC

Ewelme Manor - Provision of new fencing and vehicular entrance gates on the main driveway. Application withdrawn

Ewelme Manor – Demolition of redundant/derelict outbuilding. Application withdrawn

Ewelme Manor – Internal alterations to form en-suite sanitary facilities. Application withdrawn.

Little House – New summer house in garden. Granted by SODC.

7. District/County Councillors' Reports –

- Sue Cooper – Concessionary fares. SODC no longer to issue tokens, to use National Transport tokens. Clerks to be consulted re distributing forms. Car parking policy had not changed. Housing site allocations being discussed. BB queried a rumour about toilets in Benson being maintained by Benson PC. SC responded that low usage and lack of disabled facilities were problems. Benson PC were discussing taking over toilets whilst looking into possibility of upgrading/replacing.
- Tony Crabbe – X39 proving popular with 42% increase in usage. Had

suggested liaison meetings with Hazel & Jefferies re activity/traffic use. Requested comments on Government White Paper. BB queried whether changes to the hospital services would cause difficulties in access. It was felt that this would not have an effect as bus passes were usable to all hospitals.

8. Correspondence -

- Minutes of Grundons liaison meeting. They had offered to supply local villages with daffodil bulbs. SH to thank them. DR to speak to school gardeners re planting bulbs along school bank. Bulbs to go on triangle, and by pool. DR
- Summary by NALC of key points of Government White Paper. NB summarised. It was felt that it would substantially increase work load of parish councils. NB advised councillors to read and consider. SH to send round by email. ALL
SH
- Completed annual audit. The audit was presented to the council. NB proposed that the annual return be approved and accepted, DR seconded. All in favour. BB expressed concern that if issues could not be raised under AOB then it would make payment terms 60 days and there may be a need for fortnightly meetings. All agreed that if such an issue arose it would be acceptable to have an extraordinary meeting. Anyone with issues to put on the agenda should do so at least a week before a meeting. NB noted that a risk assessment had not been identified and that there should be a annual agenda item for it. Also council should adopt financial regulations. SH to consult NALC for a model and put on the January agenda. SH had started a job description for the clerk as well as a list of procedures. These needed to be completed. SH
SH
SH
SH

Meetings/consultations:

- None

9. Accounts & Administration –

Payments in: £288 (Ads)

Cheques signed at meeting: SEB (£61.97), clerk’s wages (£199.21), Terry Allsop (£36), Bonner Locksmith (£146.88), Red Box (£243.88), BDO external Auditor (£141), Insurance (£1351.72), Marmax (bench VAT) (£56)

Quotes received: thatching the Reading Room (£3240 + VAT), Play area tidyup (£275 + VAT), Churchyard cutting throughout the year (£140/cut)

Councillors discussed the budget and precept for next year. All agreed that despite healthy current assets there was a need to ring-fence some money for likely expenses: £10,000 legal costs for the village hall; a grant for re-thatching the reading room roof; running costs had increased; village hall plan expenditure (£500-£1000); implications of government rulings e.g. increased (quality council) training for clerk/councillors (£3000-4000 or £2000 per year for 2 years); raise in clerk’s salary. BB proposed a £7000 rise in precept. Councillors were concerned that such a large increase would be unfavourable to residents. DR proposed a 5% rise in precept BB proposed an amendment to £11,500 for precept. PL seconded and all agreed. SH to inform SODC. SH

10. Other issues raised and for possible future discussion –

- PL queried ownership of the Village Hall and Reading Room on behalf on the Village Hall Management Committee. Old parish council minutes had included reference to an annual sum paid by the council into a maintenance fund. DR suggested a working group (SH to arrange) to be responsible for producing an approved legal document to clarify the situation for the future. All agreed and NB requested that it be completed by March and ready for a new council to take over. SH to look out land registry documents and any OALC books on village hall ownership. The re-thatching of Reading Room to be discussed when the ownership was sorted out. SH
SH

- BB reported that the Bensington Society was working with Watlington PC on extending the weight limit restriction towards Benson to control the heavy vehicle problems on the local roads. He suggested that we should be supporting their work. SH to add to agenda for next meeting.
- Broadband. NB had met with BT in the village and had successfully arranged for another 50 circuits to be put into Ewelme. NB to produce a notice for the boards.

SH

NB

11. Meeting ended at 10.30 pm

12. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 13th December 2006 at 8pm, village hall