

## Minutes of Parish Council meeting

held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**Present** Peter Lemaire (PL),Chair Vernon Miners (VM)  
Melissa Fletcher (MF) David Cooper (DC) Sue Hill (SH)

- 85. Apologies** – Paul Humphrey (PH); Theresa Redgewell (TR)
- 86. Declarations of interest** – VM – car park, DC – Watercress Beds
- 87. Minutes of last meeting** –  
RESOLVED – All agreed they were an accurate representation.
- 88. Matters arising** – to be reported under relevant sections.
- (a) New step by the village hall play area is a possible trip hazard.  
RESOLVED – VM to put a banister rail at both sides of it. **VM**
- (b) Bank interest –  
RESOLVED – Ongoing, although difficult in this financial period **SH**
- (c) Telephone box land ownership –  
RESOLVED – ongoing **VM**
- (d) Volunteers for watercress beds –  
RESOLVED – Anne Truesdale to write text for next Ewelme News **SH**
- (e) Trim trees on sports area –  
RESOLVED – all agreed if SH could find someone to do for less than £150, then go ahead. **SH**
- 89. Car parking on the sports area** –  
After a great deal of discussion it was proposed that visitors to the flower show and the annual fete would be allowed to park on the sports area. For other events visitors would not be allowed to park there.  
RESOLVED – 3 councillors voted in favour, 1 against.
- 90. District Councillor/County Councillor reports** –  
Sue Cooper – DC, on behalf of SC, invited parish councillors to drinks in Benson Parish Hall after the RAF Home Coming
- 91. Accounts & Administration** –
- (a) New income and expenditure reported as per the form attached to minutes.  
RESOLVED - All invoices paid to date.
- (b) SH presented the monthly financial report.  
RESOLVED – report noted.
- (c) Hog roast – £250 does not cover the cost of the hog roast so councillors felt this should be increased in next year's budget.  
RESOLVED – noted
- (d) Insurance renewal – SH to get quote from Came & Co. brokers **SH**  
RESOLVED – agreed
- (e) SH reminded councillors that they should bring suggestions for 2010/11 budget to the next meeting. **ALL**  
RESOLVED – noted
- (f) SH informed council that Brian Rollerson, last year's internal auditor, had retired. New auditor, Philip Hood, had been recommended, SH had been sent his CV for council to see. SH recommended he be used.  
RESOLVED – all agreed

- 92. RAF –**  
Home Coming on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>. Riders Skills Day had been very noisy as it was closer to residents than usual. Residents had not received a warning. DC proposed that if it needs to be held in the future, that it be re-sited further away from houses. Councillors agreed and also queried why it needed to be held.  
RESOLVED – councillors expressed dismay at the lack of communication and of sensitivity to the local community. TR
- 93. State of roads/bus services –**  
(a) DC reported: Public transport reps meeting – budget cut of 2.4%; Bus stops in Queens St have been resited to St Aldates, but this doesn't affect any services to Benson/Ewelme; electrification of rail line from Oxford to London; no cross country trains stop at Didcot; car free day is 22<sup>nd</sup> September.  
RESOLVED - noted  
(b) DC proposed that council support the plans for a Wallingford to Oxford cycle route off the main road.  
RESOLVED – agreed, DC to write. DC  
(c) Hazell & Jefferies – DC summarised the events to date. Awaiting response from OCC. If this is not acceptable, then DC suggested going to the Ombudsman.  
RESOLVED – all agreed.
- 94. Play area/pavilion –**  
(a) Water meters being put in place. Second hand gang mowers – VM recommended that they are not suitable for the council. Suggested a service engineer. SH to book service for the end of the season. SH  
RESOLVED – all agreed.  
(b) SH queried what had become of the idea of a cover for the mowers.  
RESOLVED – agreed to man handle them into the container over the winter. SH to purchase a new tarpaulin ASAP. SH
- 95. Watercress Beds/brook –**  
Annual meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September.  
RESOLVED – noted  
VM left the meeting
- 96. Common car park & stiles –**  
(a) Notice board – ongoing  
(b) Car park – Three quotes had been received. Councillors felt that all were not effective use of finances when only a few spaces would be gained. Pot holes needed filling urgently. SH  
RESOLVED – all agreed, SH to ask Grundons to see if they would donated some gravel for the pot holes. SH
- 97. Village Plan –**  
None
- 98. Health & Safety –**  
None
- 99. Correspondence –**  
*Items discussed under relevant sections:*  
Brian Rollerson – retirement of internal auditor  
Philip Hood – CV and terms for internal audit work.  
*Items for discussion at meeting:*  
None  
*Councillors informed ahead of items not for discussion:*  
Grundons - Liaison meeting  
DEFRA – response to nuisance lorries press release  
Rob Dance, OCC - response to nuisance lorries press release  
Planning Inspectorate – High House appeal visit on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.  
*Consultations, Councillors to comment on as they wish:*  
None

**100. Planning –**

(a) 3, The Bank P09/W0671 - Erection of single storey extension. PC approved.

(b) Grundons P09/W0727 - Removal of conditions to secure improvements to Clack's Lane and to provide new access (conditions 16 and 17 of P04/W1169). Retention of existing access. New information. SH to write to SODC to state that before PC can consider withdrawing their objection they need to see the definition of improvement and know that continued maintenance will be assured.

(c) 18 Green Lane P09/W0808 – garage conversion to living accommodation. PC had no objection providing there were satisfactory car parking arrangements.

(d) SOHA had informed PC that they had withdrawn the application for Hampden Way. DC proposed that council approach SOHA to make the point that they are keen to have affordable housing in the village.

RESOLVED – all agreed. PL to follow up.

**PL**

**101. Other issues raised for possible future discussion –**

Wall behind the hall – SH to ask Andy Glasson if he'll do it.

Signed:

Date:

**SH**

Date of next meeting – **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009** at 7.30pm, Village Hall