

Notice of
Meeting of the Parish Council on

Wednesday 14th February 2007

at 20:00 h

in

The Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest
3. Co-option of a new councillor
4. Minutes of previous meeting
5. Matters arising
6. Current tasks
 - RAF
 - Play area/pavilion
 - State of roads
 - Parish plan
 - Affordable Housing
 - Health & Safety
 - Hampden Way footpath access
7. Planning
8. District/County Councillors' Reports
9. Correspondence
10. Accounts & administration
11. New items of interest
12. Next meeting – 14th March 2007 8pm

Parish Clerk (phone 01491 837441

- Meeting with school to be arranged for January. SH
- SH to follow up with Steve Wood for Green Lane. SH
- DR asked if the black box could also be used in Days Lane as it had been difficult to use SID there and there were often complaints about speeding. SH to ask Steve. SH
- Brian Thompson reported that the ditch by the pub was blocked again. Water overflows into the road and vegetation collects/grows by the bridge. SH to ask the pub to clear the ditch and OCC to clean the road by the bridge. The Benson Road and Green Lane paths also needed clearing. SH had asked OCC to clear drains around the village. SH
- Ian Woods reported that a car had gone into the hedge by the dip on Rabbit's Hill. Councillors asked for a "Slow down, adverse camber" sign. SH to request. SH
- Footpaths – Philip Chamberlain had agreed to put hardcore down to alleviate the problem. NB

Affordable Housing – nothing to report

Parish plan – the adjudication panel felt that there had not been enough consultation with residents. Anton Nath had offered to come and advise. A village plan was important as evidence for funding applications as well as decision making. NB reiterated that residents need to be involved. Volunteers should contact him.

Health and safety –

- New bench - DR proposed a new bench on the council land near the triangle. NB suggested that the idea be carried forward. Carol Sawbridge suggested a war memorial could be placed there. NB suggested the idea be taken to the Parish Plan team. Councillors to look at the site re bench.
- Hampden Way – NB had consulted with SOHA. They had responded to 1 resident complaining. NB advised that the council could claim "adverse possession" to take over the footpath, but this would require court action. Ian Woods suggested that the path was in fact illegal as the fence had been broken down by residents to gain access to the "path", which would possibly affect the case. SOHA had asked for a suggestion to resolve the matter. NB proposed a) SOHA/PC send a questionnaire to all residents affected, b) incorporating a gate into the fence and c) parish council to put a dog bin in the vicinity. DR seconded the proposal and all agreed. NB
Councillors asked that SOHA be asked to remove the old garage doors dumped by the fence.

6. Planning –

Post Office – Change of use to residential. Councillors felt that the following points gave reason to refuse the permission:

- A portion of the lower floor had gradually been converted from commercial to residential use without permission.
- Repeated requests for enforcement from Parish Council had been ignored by District Council
- Until these issues have been sorted out then no other applications should be considered.
- There was strong feeling in the village that a properly run village shop would be well used.
- There had been approaches to council from people interested in being involved in investing money and time in a community shop.
- In Council records there were letters from Post Office Counters supporting the fact that the owners had not been interested in taking over the post office and that the council had offered various ways forward to help the "new" owners. In addition, an extraordinary council meeting held with the owners to discuss a way forward ended with the situation being unresolved.
- The price of the property when put on sale was double that of the District

	Valuers' opinion. The Estate Agents had been concerned at being misled when informed of the commercial rating.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This goes against SODC and government policy to encourage sustainable rural communities. SH to consult ORCC re loss of facilities. 	SH SH
	Councillors unanimously refused the application. SH to attached comments from meeting. NB recommended that residents should independently express their views to SODC. Several residents had already offered to help anyone wishing to do so if necessary. Ewelme Society has already sent in a response. NB to email objections to Councillor Bloomfield.	NB
7.	District/County Councillors' Reports –	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
8.	Correspondence -	
	<u>Letters:</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCC, invite to County hall reception. PL to attend. DR may go. SH to RSVP 	SH
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Laishley, Pangbourne – asking council to look into parking on Days Lane corner. NB to respond. Council understands and is looking into the problem. 	NB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian Benson – resignation. SH had posted co-option notice. SH to identify any conflicts of interest for possible candidates. 	SH
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easily.co.uk - Domain renewal required. Approximately £60. PL proposed payment, DL seconded. All agreed as long as renewal price had not increased by more than 10%. 	NB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedges Solicitors – Confirmation of Land Registry record for Village Hall. 	
	<u>Meetings/Consultations</u>	
	OCC – Statement of Community Involvement Adopted 7 Nov 2006. For info.	
9.	Accounts & Administration –	
	Payments in: £320 (Mrs King to cover cost of bench)	
	Cheques signed at meeting: VHMC (£49.50), clerk's wages (£199.21), SH presented the financial statement. PL queried Ewelme News costs. SH to show PL copies of invoices when sent in January. SH to invoice graziers. Councillors had looked at the financial regulations. DR proposed adopting these, PL seconded. All agreed.	SH/PL SH
	SH presented a list of tasks for Clerk. These needed attaching to an amended version of the NALC job description for the clerk. All agreed that task list was fine. SH to amend job description, check with OALC and bring for approval at next meeting.	SH
10.	Other issues raised and for possible future discussion –	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPJ reported overfilling of bottle banks in the area over Christmas. SC to find out policy for emptying. If becoming more popular what plans do they have for future emptying? 	SC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NB reported that the police had responded to his letter re residents' lack of interest in reporting crimes. They are concerned about council's comments and are anxious to be proactive, but need the public's help to do this. 	SH
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cynthia Winfield reported a broken style on the common. SH to arrange mending. Also rubbish still on pavilion roof, Barry Rosier to remove. 	SH BR TA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPJ reported broken fence at bottom of path from Eyres Close to High St. SH to ask Terry Allsop to repair as owner was unknown. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carol Sawbridge, on behalf of the Chiltern Rights of Way Group, reported trouble with motor bikes on rights of ways and footpaths. All incidences should be reported to the police who were clamping down on this illegal use. SH had written an article for Ewelme News. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melissa Fletcher asked if the dog bin in Benson Road could be moved to Green (by notice board) as it would be more usable there. SH to look into. 	SH
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian Thompson thanked NB for all his work on broadband. A few people were now being connected. BT Openreach plan to have all 100 new lines available by the end of the month. He also mentioned: a news article about grants by SODC helping to put broadband into villages; the litter bin at top 	

of Rabbit's Hill needs attention when weather is better; High House – wall cracking, SH to mention to the Lees; burnt out mini on Swan's Way had been reported.

- SPJ left the meeting at 10.00pm
- Ian Woods asked how broadband lines were allocated. NB told him on a first come first served basis and suggested mid-February would be a good time to apply.

11. Meeting ended at 10.05 pm

12. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 14th February 2007 at 8pm, village hall