

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th March 2010

Present Peter Lemaire (PL) Chair Vernon Miners (VM)
Theresa Redgewell (TR) Melissa Fletcher (MF) Sue Hill (SH)

188. Apologies – David Cooper (DC)

189. Declarations of interest – none

190. Minutes of last meeting –

RESOLVED – All agreed they were an accurate representation.

191. 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. All noted that work had started. VM

(b) Telephone box land ownership –

RESOLVED – ongoing VM

(d) Swing bolts –

RESOLVED – VM to tighten before Easter Holidays VM

(e) Alternative dog bin emptying –

RESOLVED – SH to look for alternative contractors SH

192. District Councillor/County Councillor reports –

SC reported on:

SODC member Cllr Cooper reported that there would be no increase in the District portion of council tax for the next financial year. This is mostly because of more joint working with the Vale and existing expenditure commitments being trimmed. There will only be £500,000 for grants from the Community Investment Fund this year (because interest rates are low). The new, high, dog bin emptying charges were queried by several parishes (including Ewelme), the result of which is, that the cost will now actually fall to £38.87 (ex vat) per bin per annum rather than rising to £2.35 per week per bin.

RESOLVED – noted. Councillors were pleased by the reduced dog bin emptying costs, but wondered how they could be so dramatically reduced so easily.

Felix Bloomfield had sent in a report which was circulated to councillors and audience.

193. Accounts & Administration –

(a) New income and expenditure reported as per the form attached to minutes.

RESOLVED - All invoices paid to date

(b) Financial Regulations –

RESOLVED – PL proposed financial regulations be accepted, all agreed.

(c) Letter from Hedges Solicitors re contract for hall –

RESOLVED – SH to look at Council's village hall agreement to see who is responsible for paying. SH

(d) SH presented the monthly financial report.

RESOLVED – report noted.

- 194. Church donation –**
Councillors learnt that they cannot legally give money for insurance or general church finances, but only for projects such as improving an unkempt churchyard.
RESOLVED – TR proposed that the donation be withdrawn and kept in the donations budget to be assessed annually. All agreed. SH to inform the Church. **SH**
- 195. RAF –**
TR and Patrick Gossett reported on a recent meeting with the Chief of Staff at the base. Suggestions made by the Council were welcomed and will be considered. Residents were asked to report infringements of over-flying and fuel smell to TR giving date and time.
RESOLVED – noted
- 196. State of roads/bus services –**
SH reported the list of items discussed at a meeting with OCC including ditches, pot holes, damage to verges, weight restrictions, damage to bridge.
RESOLVED – noted, SH to follow up **SH**
Overflow outlet from road into Kings Pool silted up, causing flooding at junction –
RESOLVED – VM to investigate. **VM**
Removal of weed from brook –
RESOLVED – All agreed it needs to be cleared again. SH to ask Ford’s Farm or John Smith about removal from site. **SH**
- 197. Play area/pavilion –**
Repainting needs to be done before bookings start.
RESOLVED – VM to remind PH. **VM**
- 198. Common/car park –**
MF informed Council about stolen lorry breaking through the fence. Council were grateful to Ford’s Farm for offering to repair the broken fencing.
- 199. Village Plan –**
None
- 200. Health & Safety –**
MF asked that the edge of the road opposite the school be resurfaced as it was breaking up.
RESOLVED – SH to follow up with OCC **SH**
- 201. Watercress Beds/brook –**
VM reiterated the need for volunteers and informed Council of school visits scheduled.
- 202. Planning –**
(a) 1 Chaucer Court P10/W0152– Replace existing porch/canopy roof with new monopitch. Construct rear extension to car port. - Councillors didn’t see the purpose of the 2 velux windows in the porch roof and felt they ruined the visual effect. All approved, but had strong views about this issue.
(b) Copper House P10/W0230 – Two storey extension to the rear, first floor extension to the west elevation and detached garage (revision of P05/W1268). All approved.
For info:
Ewelme Down House P09/W1244 – Erection of new pool house. Granted by SODC

203. Correspondence –

Items discussed under relevant sections:

None

Items for discussion at meeting:

Quiz team request for donation – Councillors felt that most villagers were unaware of the Quiz team's existence, that other residents paid for their own entertainment and a donation would set a precedent.

RESOLVED - TR proposed that Council was not in favour, all agreed. SH to inform them.

SH

John Grant (JG), Green Lane – Letter in support for RAF activities.

RESOLVED – PL read out the letter. JG, having heard the discussion in the meeting early about the RAF liaison, felt happier that his views were being taken into account.

Councillors informed ahead of items not for discussion, copied to circulation file:

None

Consultations, Councillors to comment on as they wish:

None

204. Other issues raised for possible future discussion –

(a) Pot hole by no. 10 in Green Lane reported

RESOLVED – SH to report. OCC complaints website address to be sent to John Grant.

SH

(b) John Burbidge's church sign – needs re-varnishing. It was felt to be the Church's responsibility. SH to discuss with Jonathan Meyer.

SH

Signed:

Date:

Date of next meeting – **Wednesday 14th April 2010** at 7.30pm, Village Hall