

DRAFT

Notice of
Meeting of the Parish Council on

Wednesday 14th June 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
 - State of roads
 - Housing needs survey
 - Parish plan
 - Health & Safety
6. Planning
7. District/County Councillors Reports
8. Correspondence (details attached for Councillors)
9. Accounts & administration
10. Any other business
11. Next meeting – 12th July 2006 8pm

Parish Clerk (phone 01491 837441

DRAFT

Minutes of a meeting of Parish Councillors
held on Wednesday 10th May 2006

Present Peter Lemaire (PL) Dee Rosier (DR)
Brian Benson (BB) Neil Blake (NB)
Sue Hill (SH) Sue Pryce Jones (SPJ)

	Details	Action
	All stood whilst NB expressed condolences for the recent loss of RAF lives in Iraq.	
1.	Election of Chair/Vice chair Nominations for Chair person – Neil Blake Nominations for Vice Chair – Peter Lemaire <ul style="list-style-type: none">DR proposed that NB be Chair and PL be Vice Chair, BB seconded, all agreed.	
	Apologies – John Lockyer	
2.	Declaration of interests – none aware	
2a.	Police – PC Jessica Rowling introduced herself as our new area beat officer covering the Ewelme-Benson-Berinsfield-to Abingdon area. She outlined the new South Oxon neighbourhood policing strategy. She will email SH with info about the new neighbourhood action group and what's involved. Although she admitted that Ewelme doesn't see much of the police, she mentioned that lack of reporting incidences makes the situation worse as if problems aren't recorded it gives a false impression to the police who then think that there is little need for visiting the village. All problems should be reported so that there is a record of them. Of the 2 community police officers for our area, one has joined the regular police and the other is on long term sick leave. PC Rowling works out of Wallingford police station, whilst her Sergeant (Frazer Weller) is based at Didcot. Anyone wishing to leave her a message should contact the general phone number for the police (0845 8 505505) quoting her shoulder number (819). NB mentioned the letter he was going to write re the "Community Police Officer of the year". NB/SH to create a synopsis of the sort of problems arising in the village as an aid to the neighbourhood action group. PC Rowling was unaware of the SODC Community Safety Officer visiting Ewelme recently. BB raised the issue of disaster planning, but PC Rowling felt that the RAF/police/fire/ambulance services already had one for this area. BB to ask for clarification from the RAF. SH to email PC Rowling with outstanding issues.	NB/SH
3.	Minutes – Agreed	SH
4.	Matters arising – <ul style="list-style-type: none">Village map – ongoing. NB/SH to use 1999 OS map as basis.Councillors discussed how assets, such as maps can be stored/viewed/made publicly available. To be followed up.Emergency services map will use the 1999 OS map with a grid and key to house names.New road signs: SC had kindly gone round the village photographing roads needing signs. SH to compile request to SODC.NB to write to the police re the community police officer of the year	SH/NB SH/NB SH/NB SH

- competition. NB
- PL to impress on the Chiltern Society/Watercress Beds Management Committee that gaps must be left between parked cars on working days. Residents had been complaining. PL
 - Signs for Kings Pool. SH waiting for quotes. SH
5. **Current tasks –**
- RAF – none**
- State of roads –** SH and Tony Crabbe had spent a morning going round the village noting problems and were now producing a report for OCC.
- Affordable Housing –** Article in Ewelme News. DR proposed that there be a special meeting of councillors in June to discuss. SH
- Parish plan –.** NB to resurrect. NB
- Health and safety –** Terry Allsop was working on making safe the fencing and removing nettles in the play area.
6. **Planning –**
- New property named –** Huntinglands House.
- High House –** NB had received a letter from the architect re changes to the plans being made to take into account neighbour's/council's comments.
7. **District/County Councillors' Reports –**
- SC – Scrutiny meeting had covered 2 best value reports (planning and enforcement). Planning had good results within the time requirement. Enforcement had over a 1000 outstanding cases now, but now had 4 people to work on them. Councillors were not happy with the enforcement situation and felt that writing via NALC and direct to the Ministry to complain about using targets to determine planning was a nonsense which needed to be addressed. It was felt that if enforcement didn't matter then there was no point in having any planning regulations, thus a good deal of money could be saved by not having a planning department. SH/NB
8. **Correspondence -**
- Crowmarsh Battle Farms – New permissive footpaths welcomed. SH had responded officially.
 - SODC – Parish/Town Council workshop 16th May. No one to attend.
 - OCC – Funding for Transport schemes.
 - Corn Exchange, Wallingford – request for donation for renovation. DR proposed £100 as many residents use the facility. PL seconded. All in favour.
- Meetings/consultations:
- Office of Deputy Prime Minister – Local Authority Byelaws in England: A discussion paper. DR to read.
9. **Accounts & Administration –**
- Payments in: £180 (ads), £468 (ads).
- Cheques signed at meeting: Millstream Day Centre (£250), clerk's wages (£199.21), Southern Electric (£185.01)
- SH had invoiced footballers for £325. SH had contacted Thames Water who had OK'd use of sprinkler on cricket square. No payment had been received from cricket teams. No bookings had been made by the Wednesday evening cricket team. JL to follow up. JL
- SH to email DR the invoice for odd job work.
- SH had received a quote of £135 + VAT from Paul Wyatt for each cut of the new churchyard. Councillors agreed to cut 5 times again this year. All felt

that, despite the vicar's wish to keep the wild flowers, it should be fully cut to keep it tidy and to reduce council's costs in the long term.

DR asked that the dates for cricket bookings be urgently sent to Barry and Richard (Winfield) so that they know when the area needs to be prepared for.

JL

10. AOB –

- On 4th May the village was without water for most of the day/evening. BB raised with Environmental Health (District Council). Thames Water's response to them bore little resemblance to the truth with many incorrect facts. BB to identify the discrepancies, gather evidence and forward to OFWAT (cc Thames Water and Environmental Health), setting out expectations for the future and requesting a high level response. The inability to get past the call centre, and comments made by the call centre staff to several residents were also a cause for concern. Residents can claim for compensation for the service being off for such a long time. SH to put details on the boards. **BB**
- BB registered thanks to the Chairman for the time and effort spent on trying to get broadband for residents. Some were now able to access it. NB had received responses from BT and Boris Johnson. BT had basically said that they were obligated to provide a telephony service, but that broadband was a "commercial" service and therefore they had no obligation to provide this to residents. NB to respond. **SH**
- A letter had been received from Linda Chalcott re pollarding of the willows by the Chiltern Society. This had been done with discussion, but it was felt that people had not appreciated the level of cutting that would be done. Due to a clash of personalities, the Friends of the Watercress Beds had not been informed. After much discussion it was decided that NB would write to the Chiltern Society to inform that that residents were very unhappy about relations between the various parties involved, to inform them that this reflects badly on the Society and ask that they try and resolve the matter. Mrs Chalcott also raised the issue of security/privacy of the riverbank houses. The Chiltern Society had a bridge with a liftable section to prevent unauthorised access. PL to request that this be used as a priority. Also PL must raise the car parking problem as this was causing obstruction to residents leaving properties on the High Street as well as traffic moving along the road. The situation would be reported to the police if it was not resolved. **NB**
- SH had received a request for a bench in memory of a non-resident. BB proposed that we accept the offer and if other such requests come in then they be judged on their own merit. PL seconded. All agreed. It was suggested that the new bench be put on the side of the road leading to Ewelme Down Farm to replace the remains of the bench overlooking the common. **PL**
PL
- JL had asked that the meeting dates be altered as his work schedule would not allow him to attend the next few meetings. Councillors were unable to find an appropriate date in June, so that next meeting would be June 14th. SH to liaise with JL re dates for July/August. **SH**

- JL had asked that the request for a full sized football goal be raised. JL had raised this before when the pub asked to have an adult team. NB had now been approached by someone in Martyn's Way. After much discussion councillors felt that the facilities available were as planned. Adding further goals would cause complications with other users, scheduling bookings, parking and increased noise as well as having the potential to discourage use of the play equipment. Furthermore, since the pub's request had been turned down, it would be unfair to go with this new request. JL had put them in touch with the Benson United Football Club.

11. Meeting ended at 09.50 pm

12. Dates of next meeting – Wednesday 14th June 2006 at 8pm, village hall