

Notice of  
Meeting of the Parish Council on  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

**at 20:00 h**  
in  
**The Village Hall**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest
3. AGM
4. Minutes of previous meeting
5. Matters arising
6. Current tasks
  - Play wall/area
  - RAF
  - State of roads - County Councillor, Tony Crabbe, will attend at 9.30pm
7. Planning
8. District Councillors Reports
9. Correspondence
10. Accounts & administration
11. Any other business
12. Next meeting – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2005 8pm in Reading Room

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could then be asked out to discuss the issues. Specific issues raised were: traffic calming in the High Street, OCC has guidelines obtainable via the web; Clack's Lane, new plans for Grundon's site were thought to include some facility for improving the road surface; Rabbit's Hill, adverse camber and unsuitability for long vehicles; Prospect Lane, use as short cut for unsuitable long vehicles. All these and other issues should be included in the report. All agreed that there was a need to improve communication between Parish and County Councillors, so that our needs were presented clearly and noticed at OCC level.

A County Councillor report mentioned issues including: County Council budget, a new Chief Executive, a good inspection result, rejection of the gravel extraction plan and resulting new plan to be produced, a scheme of improving homes for older people, improving secondary school standards, ongoing concerns about the regional control centre for the Fire Service, increased spending on the library service for next year.

Carol Sawbridge queried rumours about a bypass for Watlington as she was concerned about the knock on effect for Ewelme. Councillor Crabbe was not aware of any firm plans for this and felt that it was unlikely that funds would be available unless there were plans for big housing developments, which there weren't.

## 7. **Planning –**

**Lower Farm (adj to Fields End), Parsons Lane** – Listed building consent. Creation of two new dwellings by conversion of a disused barn and refurbishment of another barn on the same site, and associated landscaping. Application withdrawn.

**Ford's Farm** – Demolition of detached agricultural brick building which is in poor order. Councillors were concerned about the loss of an historic building and therefore considered that permission should be decided at District Council level, indicating refusal on the planning form, dealt with between meetings.

**High House** – Erection of first floor rear extension. Listed building consent. Councillors had no strong views, responded between meetings.

**Dayspring Cottage** – Proposed amendment to the approved erection of a single storey extension. Since amendments were minor councillors had no observations, responded between meetings.

**New property** – Merlins (between Ewelme and Benson) – noted.

**The Little House, High Street** – Demolition of kitchen and erection of single and two storey rear extensions. Planning permission/listed building consent refused by SODC.

**High House** – Erection of first floor rear extension. Planning permission and listed building consent granted by SODC.

## 8. **District Councillors' Reports –**

Felix Bloomfield had submitted a report for the AGM – available from the Clerk.

## 9. **Correspondence -**

- SODC – notice of County Council Election. For info.
- OCC – New County Council electoral boundaries – Boundaries have been rationalised and Ewelme now comes under Benson division.
- DEFRA – quality parishes and parish planning. Councillors agreed that they should behave like a quality council, but did not wish to waste more paper by proving it. NB suggested that a new parish plan be considered.
- SODC - dog hygiene bin emptying contract is being negotiated.
- SODC – statement of persons nominated for County Council elections.
- Grundons – Notice of next meeting + minutes of last. Included

SH

discussions of use of Prospect Lane by lorries (copied to Ewelme Society).

- Ewelme Society – Grundons lorries using Prospect Lane.

Meetings/consultations:

- SODC – statement of community involvement – SH had completed. Councillors had no further comments.
- SODC – review of area forums – BB to complete form.

**BB**

**10. Accounts & Administration –**

NB gave a report of the year's finances. He noted that the P&L showed a significant loss compared with profit in the prior year. However, this was simply because a number of items did not fall conveniently in the reporting period. Income due included £1250 for Common grazing; £2500 VAT refund; SODC recreation grant; and Horse Show recreation area donation. Some costs were carried from the prior year and some have been pre-paid for 2005-06. The balance sheet shows that we have some £22000 on account, which is sufficient to meet all our commitments, with approximately one year's precept as our normal contingency for unanticipated matters. The real achievements have been the prudent implementation of the play area, recreation facilities (and use) and the pavilion refurbishment. Your Councillors and the Clerk have done a great deal to make this all happen and certainly saved considerable money in achieving the results. We will publish a complete account of the entire project when all the figures are finalised, but it looks as if we will have spent about £8K over two years from Parish funds with the majority of the costs met by SODC, TOE, Lottery grant, and village donations.

Councillors thanked Richard Winfield and John Lockyer for taking control of the sports facilities. Councillors agreed that it was good to see the facilities being well used.

Ewelme News was now breaking even. NB suggested that a "letters to the editor" section may be useful.

Invoices paid between meetings: SODC, community charge (£270.08), SODC, dog bins (£114.10), Vernon Miners, bus shelter/pool maintenance (£82), Vernon Miners, advance for pavilion work (£2000), Clerk, annual petty cash/telephone calls reclaim (£210.32).

Invoices paid at meeting: Colourplus (£148.05), Clerk wages (£193.50 including a 3.2% pay rise in line with inflation as agreed by councillors when discussing precept increase), Vernon Miners, extra costs incurred by vandals (£228), Village Hall Management Committee, hire of hall (£55), OALC subscription (£155.72).

Payments into account: Half precept (£5418), footballers hire of common (£55), G Smith, part payment for vandalism (£114), Adverts (£72), Ford's Farm, common rent + water (£1401.33)

Statement of finances – SH provided all with a statement of finances.

VAT return had been sent off, £2558.06 was being reclaimed.

Audit date had been set at 26 August 2005, SH to arrange for auditor to call.

**11. Any other business –**

- The litter pick had been successful with 22 people attending and 14 bags of rubbish collected. It had been decided that since litter was rapidly disappearing under weeds in the hedgerows, Martin Spence and SH would organise an "Odd Job morning" instead of the next litter pick. This would be in June.
- Suzanne Willers, OALC, would give a presentation on the results of the affordable housing survey at the next meeting.

**SH**

**12.** Meeting ended at 9.50pm

**13.** Date of next meeting – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at 8pm in the Village Hall