

Wonersh Parish Council

BLACKHEATH • SHAMLEY GREEN • WONERSH

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PARISH OF WONERSH NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Wonersh Parish Council held on

Thursday, 9th April 2009 at 7.30pm

At Wonersh Sports Pavilion

Present: Cllr N Morris (in the chair)
Cllr R Bawden
Cllr M Band
Cllr N Goodchild
Cllr M Harding
Cllr A Powell-Evans
Cllr A Shareef
Borough Cllr M Goodridge

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

09/56 Apologies for absence were received from Parish Cllr L Healy and County Cllr A Povey

09/57 Local Code of Conduct – disclosures of interests

09/62c: Quotations for replacing posts: Cllr Powell Evans declared an interest as the contractor is related.

09/62d: Finance: noticeboard on pavilion wall: Cllr Bawden declared an interest as Chairman of the Sports Club.

09/64: Shamley Green Pond: Cllr Shareef declared a personal interest as a close neighbour.

09/58 Open Meeting for electors

No members of the public were present.

09/59 Minutes of the meeting held 12th March 2009

These were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman, after the following amendments:

09/38: Cllr Harding declared an interest as a Friend of the Hurtwood Trust.

09/43d: Add Cllr Harding abstained.

09/60 Matters Arising

09/21: Litter Bin outside Arbuthnot Hall: The Clerk had sourced a wall mounted bin from Glasdon, but Members were concerned about potential vandalism. The Clerk would discuss this with Sarah Henderson, who had expressed the preference for a wall mounted, bin, and the Trustees of Arbuthnot Hall.

09/43c: Resurfacing Pavilion approach road: The Clerk had written to the sports club and the residents/businesses to ask for a contribution of £80 from each for this work. Cllr Bawden advised that the Sports Club were happy to make their contribution.

09/44: Annual Assembly arrangements: Cllr Morris would produce posters. Cllr Powell Evans

advised that the Shamley Green Gardening Club did not plan to attend, and the allotment holders would come and circulate informally rather than giving a presentation. She had not heard from the Wonersh Garden Club. The Clerk requested help in setting up from 6.30pm onwards.

09/49: Section 9 land: Cllr Harding had drafted wording for a letter to Hedleys, Solicitors, requesting help with applying with a Caution against First Registration. The Clerk would e-mail this letter to all members, who would respond with comments, before the letter was sent. The map of S9 land in Shamley Green was tabled.

09/52c: Carbon neutral report: Cllr Bawden advised that his first assessment of the Council's carbon footprint was indicative at present but showed that, because the Council owned no vehicles or premises, the footprint was 1/10th of that of his personal household. Travel was probably controllable through car sharing, lighting and heating was unlikely to be able to be changed. He proposed to discuss contractors' carbon footprint with the Clerk and would prefer to have more information before publicising his findings. It was **agreed**, however, that he would give a provisional presentation at the Annual Assembly, and would bring brochures with the web site address of the Energy Saving Trust, so that people were able to calculate their own footprint. Cllr Bawden advised that there were only two other councils looking at the council's own footprint at present, although there were a number measuring that of their locality.

09/52d: Village Gateways: Cllr Powell-Evans advised that she and Cllr Morris had inspected the gateways and discussed how to adapt the existing signs to fit. She had e-mailed John Hilder in this respect, and he had asked that the Council liaise with Nick Heany, who intends to co-ordinate this with the traffic calming scheme. Cllr Band advised that Surrey Hills hoped to obtain SCC's agreement to uniformity of signs.

09/53: Gaston Gate Burial Site: Cllr Band advised that there was very little that WBC could do: the original application was approved some time before work started, so time had now expired for enforcement action. It was hoped to arrange a meeting between SWT, the owner and WBC with the aim of reaching an agreement on the way forward. Cllr Band advised that SWT should receive a payment for each burial, but this had not happened.

09/61 Current Planning Applications:

The Comments made to Waverley Planning department regarding the following 7 planning applications and 1 advice considered since the last meeting was APPROVED unanimously.

AG/2009/0001 Land known as Sandhurst Copse at Green Lane, Shamley Green

GPDO Parts 6 and 7, erection of open barn for forestry purposes.

WA/2009/0226 Grove Cottage, The Drive, Wonersh

Erection of two storey extension

WA/2009/0231 Lane End, Blackheath Lane, Wonersh

Erection of extensions and alterations together with replacement garage

WA/2009/0247 Squash Court, Reel Hall, Woodhill Lane, Shamley Green

Application for Certificate of Lawfulness under Section 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for conversion of squash court to mixed recreational uses consisting of gym, table tennis, pool table, changing room and store.

WA/2009/0332 Mulberry Croft, 9 Littleford Lane, Shamley Green

Erection of extension and alteration to roof

WA/2009/0348 Wintersweet, The Close, Wonersh

Erection of a two storey and rear extension

WA/2009/0350 Little Dene, East Whitley Lane, Shamley Green

Erection of two storey extension

WA/2009/0353 Barnett Hill Conference Centre, Blackheath Lane, Wonersh

Change of use of existing conference centre from Class D1 (non residential institutions) to mixed use D1

and C1 (hotels)

It was noted that the planning committee always commented when a Design and Access statement was not included with the plans and Cllr Harding advised that Matthew Evans had confirmed that plans should not be produced without one. Cllr Shareef considered that it would be helpful if there was a document listing what this statement should include.

09/62 Finance

- a) Members RESOLVED that the current list of Receipt and Payment vouchers be approved. This was PROPOSED by Cllr Bawden, SECONDED by Cllr Shareef, with all in favour.
- b) Members received the budget statement to 31st March 2009. It was noted that there was an underspend of £2339, compared to one of in the region of £8,000 for 2008. However, income had increased by £4,000 more than projected, due to grants received. It was also noted that the Parish Council had given out few grants last year, and agreed that more publicity should be given to advising local organisations that these were available. Thanks were recorded to Mary Tatlow for producing the detailed information.
- c) *Quotations from Simon James:* to replace the posts near the recreation ground at a cost of £1140 plus VAT and on the Platt at £1020 plus VAT. Acceptance of these quotations was PROPOSED by Cllr Bawden, SECONDED by Cllr Shareef, 5 members in favour, Cllr Morris and Cllr Powell Evans abstained.
- d) *Noticeboard on pavilion wall:* Cllr Bawden advised that the Sports Club had approved this in principle, and had discussed siting. The Clerk circulated details of a Harry Stebbing English Oak wall hung notice board with glazed front, which was agreed to be suitable, subject to agreement by the Sports Club.

Agenda item: May meeting.

09/63 Tree work

The Clerk tabled a report on work required to trees on Parish Council land. The following was agreed:

1. Removal of Horse Chestnut, Cherry, stump and 2 tree guards on Wonersh Common:
Agenda item: May meeting for approval of expense.
2. List the remaining work in order of necessity and cost: **Agenda item:** May meeting.

09/64 Shamley Green Pond

The Clerk explained the difficulty she was experiencing in finding companies who would undertake this work. Members agreed to advise her of any that they knew and she would continue to pursue the ones who had expressed an interest.

Agenda item: May meeting.

09/65 Common Land: statement on its upkeep and care

This statement, drawn up by the Clerk and circulated prior to the meeting, was adopted by the Council, being PROPOSED by Cllr Powell-Evans, SECONDED by Cllr Goodchild, with all in favour.

The problem of cars parked on common land was discussed, particularly with reference to the damage caused to the ground. Cllr Shareef recalled that WBC had indicated that they would produce a notice that could be placed on car windscreens and the Clerk would ask Sarah Henderson about this. If this was not available, the Council would devise one, mentioning the substantial amount spent on maintenance by WBC, and print it on bright paper, to be used for persistent offenders.

09/66 Wonersh Litter Pick

Members agreed that there should be a twice yearly litter pick in Wonersh and Shamley Green, and that they should be mentioned at the Annual Assembly and in the newsletter. The next litter picks would be arranged for late September or early October, a date to be arranged by e-mail.

09/67 Youth Portfolio

Cllr Goodchild tabled a paper on his work to date on the youth activity matrix. Cllr Band commented that the biggest issue would be transport, and this council had to consider whether there was anything it could do to support this, perhaps in conjunction with other organisations. Cllr Goodchild was advised to contact Nick Harrison, who ran the Colts team, and also speak to Cranleigh Arts Centre, who run a lot of youth activities. In the past this Council had given money to their FLY project which had now finished, although it was understood that another one was due to start, and the biggest problem had been how to get there.

Cllr Goodchild was advised that it would be helpful if his matrix contained contact addresses for the various clubs and activities, as having to find out where to access them would create another barrier.

Cllr Goodchild advised that his next step was, having obtained information about Shamley Green from Cllr Harding, to discuss Wonersh with a Wonersh Councillor. He would then discuss the matrix with WBC, following which he would talk to Cllr Shareef about how this could be put on the web site to be most user friendly. Cllr Harding suggested that he liaised with the Youth Club, who might be able to advise him on how best to set this up.

Agenda item: May meeting. Members were asked to consider how to define the objectives sought, and the other work that could be done in this area.

09/68 Visioning Session 2nd April

Cllr Morris was thanked for his paper circulated following this session. He believed that it had been very useful to define what members believed the Parish Council is for. However, it had been difficult to look forward 5 years, and he was sure that most parish councils would find the same problem, as it was not clear what position parish councils would hold in the future. He was reluctant to set an agenda for a future council.

Cllr Shareef agreed that it had not been possible to do 'visioning' in the strictest sense of the word, but what had been achieved was a crystallisation of what the council is here for, which helped to define the future.

Cllr Bawden believed that it was possible to define and support longer term projects, such as the carbon footprint project.

Cllr Band believed that this council should look towards taking on some of the roles that are undertaken at Borough level at present, as it was likely that, with local knowledge, the council could do them better. He also pointed out that the Parish Council has the requirement to consult with local opinion, and should be seen as the voice of local opinion. This is a long term aspiration. He was concerned that this present government aimed to by-pass local government and consult directly with the people, which negates what a parish council does.

Cllr Morris pointed out that the last newsletter indicated that, rather than set the whole agenda, this council wanted local people to help to do so. This council had also undertaken a design statement, a parish plan and an update on the parish plan, evidence of consultation.

Next step: it was agreed to formalise a framework and decide what activities fit into which area.

The Council should ask parishioners what they would like to see the council do, by means of a questionnaire. The questionnaire could also find out what parishioners think the council does well, and perhaps what they think it should not do. However, it was agreed that firstly the council should devise a clear statement incorporating the totality of what could be done, and the capability of the council. This strategy would be announced at the Annual Assembly.

Cllr Morris advised that his intention at the Annual Assembly was to put a written statement of the Council's activities over the last year on each chair and then touch on one or two areas in his opening statement.

Cllr Harding believed that this council is at its most experienced at present, with a number of people who understand the system and work to the best of their ability. This is what the council should be doing and it should also recognise the limitations on people's time to give to council work on top of family and work. Cllr Morris agreed that it might be necessary to look very carefully at

some of the areas that the council was involved in at present, which it might not be able to do if it took on bigger issues in the future. He agreed to circulate dates for a meeting.

09/69 Reports from Councillors:

a) *Surrey Heathland Project*: Cllr Morris attended a number of presentations on 23rd March to celebrate the successful completion of the project. The final outcomes of the project are impressive and all the targets for heathland reclamation identified in the original bid have been exceeded. Christina Smith, the Project Officer with particular responsibility for education has completed her contract. Rob McGibbon has decided that he will be leaving Surrey to return full-time to Dorset. Although the HLF project has now finished, future funding for heathland reclamation on the majority of the project's sites is secure for at least the next 10 years. These are now under the new agri-environmental scheme 'Higher Level Stewardship'.

Staffing of the Surrey Heathland Project is not yet finalised and will not be known for several weeks. It is anticipated that the team will take on a broader role of project management and providing expertise for reclamation work funded by the HLS scheme, channelled through organisations such as Surrey Wildlife Trust and the Defence Estates section of the MoD. Partnership core-funding will continue to be essential so that the experience gained through the HLF project is not lost.

09/70 Correspondence

a) *Arbuthnot Hall AGM*: a letter of invitation had been received for the AGM, to be held on Thursday 30th April. The Secretary had advised that, as well as reporting on the last year, the committee would be presenting plans for maintaining and improving the hall in future years.

09/71 Councillors Business

1. *Closure of footpath that leads from Wonerish Mill*: Cllr Harding observed that the public notice announcing this closure had been very poorly worded and, in addition, this council had received no notification that the footpath was going to be closed for four months. The council had previously been advised that a temporary road was to be laid to the mill to enable people to use the footpath.
Cllr Harding understood that the dam was to be reinforced in some way, which might indicate the need for the footpath to be closed, but four months was a considerable time. Cllr Band advised that SCC intended to change the notice, as it had been agreed that it made no sense. He pointed out that the length of time that the closure notice covered might well be longer than the actual closure period.
Action: The Clerk to write to James Taylor, SCC Rights of Way Officer, for clarification.
2. *Northcott Farm*: Cllr Harding advised that a lot of rubble had been dumped there and there had recently been some machinery working there until late at night, and large tanks blocking the road. Cllr Band advised that he had e-mailed WBC concerning this, and copied his e-mail to the Clerk.
3. *Planning issues*: Cllr Band thanked Cllr Goodridge for intervening on his behalf concerning planning applications which the Council had requested should go to committee, whilst he was away on holiday. In this way it had been possible to overturn two out of three applications, which made encouraging people to object worthwhile.

09/72 Dates of future meetings

Planning: there would be no meeting on the 16th April: next meeting 30th April

Full Council: 14th May

Annual Assembly: 23rd April at Arbuthnot Hall, Shamley Green

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.48pm.

