

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, 12th February 2009 at 7.30pm

At Wonersh Sports Pavilion

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

09/17 Apologies for absence: were received from Cllr N Goodchild and Cllr L Healy, and Borough Cllr M Goodridge.

09/18 Local Code of Conduct – Disclosure of Interests.

09/31: Pond Clear at Shamley Green: Cllr A Powell Evans and Cllr A Shareef declared a personal interest.

09/19 Open meeting for electors to raise matters with the Council on local issues

a) *Police:* PC Paul Soulsby had written to advise that, as from the 9th February, PCSO Michael Barker would no longer be working on his beat area, as he had been transferred to Farncombe area to work on a project. PC Soulsby expected PSCO Simon Mitchell to join him in the area. Simon, who has been a PSCO for just over 2 years, is currently the PCSO in Cranleigh and, PC Soulsby reports, has done some very good work there.

09/20 Minutes – to approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting held on the 8th January 2009: These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

09/21 Matters arising

08/112: Litter Bins: Cllr Harding advised that the bin outside the Arbutnot hall had been moved to replace the bin that was missing outside the bus shelter, and another one was needed.

Action: Clerk to discuss this with Sarah Henderson.

08/120b: New Councillors working party: comments received from councillors on the proposed leaflet had been incorporated and it was intended to use it at the Shamley Green Village Association Newcomers Party, and also put it on the PC web site.

08/167: Footpath Lighting: Both lights had been vandalised, one has been repaired, but the other has been completely ruined.

Action: arrange for the post to be installed in front of the light, to avoid the possibility of it being hit by backing cars, and look into replacing it.

09/05: Gratuity to former clerk: SCAP&TC had confirmed that the payment made was incorrect, in their view, and Members accepted this decision. The Clerk would ask the external auditor if they would down-grade their report, as it would not be possible to achieve Quality Status with a qualified external auditor's report. However, it was noted that, by the time the Council was ready to apply for Quality Status, this year's Annual Audit would probably have been completed.

09/06:1: Shop at Shamley Green: Cllr Band advised that planning permission had now been granted.

09/22 To endorse comments made by the Planning Committee on current planning applications.

The Comments to Waverley Planning department regarding the following 7 planning applications considered since the last meeting were APPROVED unanimously

WA/2008/2130 Derrysfold, Cranleigh Road, Wonersh

Retention of double garage and bin store

WA/2008/2131 Coaklers, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green

Erection of extensions and alterations (revision of WA/2008/1798)

WA/2008/2151 Pippins, Guildford Road, Shamley Green

Erection of 2 dwellings following demolition of existing bungalow (details pursuant to WA/2006/0964) (follows invalid application WA/2008/1556)

WA/2008/2163 Torneys, Green Lane, Shamley Green

Erection of extensions and alterations

WA/2008/2169 The Lodge, Wintermeadow, Blackheath Lane, Blackheath

Erection of replacement shed

WA/2008/2181 Mulberry Croft, 9 Littleford Lane, Shamley Green

Erection of extensions and an outbuilding

WA/2008/2206 Madgehole, Madgehole Lane, Shamley Green

Erection of a conservatory and ancillary work and excavation to terrace.

09/23 Finance

- a) Members RESOLVED that the current list of Receipt and Payment vouchers be approved. This was PROPOSED by Cllr Powell-Evans, SECONDED by Cllr Band, with all in favour.
- b) Change of cheque signatory: Members agreed that cheque signatories should be as follows: M Harding, L Healy, N Morris and A Powell-Evans. This change removed C Howard as signatory and added A Powell-Evans.
- c) 2009/10 final budget: This was agreed. It was *noted* that WBC's budget increase would be 3.8%, and SCC's budget increase was expected to be 2.9%.
- d) Applications for community grant from Cllr Povey: the following bids had been submitted:
 - i) Village gateways.
 - ii) New recreation ground equipment
 - iii) A litter bin for outside Arbuthnot Hall
- e) Budget statement for year to date: the following was agreed
 - i) the statement should not show the year before last (2007) but show the variance for the year to date. The Clerk would discuss this with the book-keeper.
 - ii) Grants: it might be possible to invite people to submit grants

- through the Annual Assembly and the newsletter.
- iii) Commons Maintenance: the Clerk would obtain quotes to replace the posts near the recreation ground at Wonersh, and those on the Platt.

09/24 Portfolio for Youth: Cllr Goodchild

The database had been circulated, no further report had been received from Cllr Goodchild.

Cllr Band had suggested that Cllr Goodchild liaise with WBC's Leisure Officer, who held a great deal of this information.

Cllr Howard advised that Guildford police had organised a number of youth days in March, and suggested that it might be possible to do this in Wonersh, perhaps in liaison with Bramley, with the help of the new PCSO. Cllr Band acknowledged that one problem was that liaison was so much easier with Guildford, whereas the parish was in Waverley Borough. Cllr Howard suggested that liaison might be easier with Cranleigh, because of the link with Glebelands.

Cllr Harding made some suggestions concerning the spreadsheet: to put the website details next to the facility, put Waverley information on the right, and not include Ewhurst, as being unlikely to be used.

Cllr Howard offered support to Cllr Goodchild, as she had strong links with Guildford and Cranleigh.

Recommendation: that Cllr Goodchild talk to the youth officer at Waverley, and contacts the new PCSO once in office.

09/25 Noticeboard for Village Shop in Wonersh: Having looked into this further, the Clerk submitted that there was little point in changing this board, as it would not be possible to put a larger board in its place. It was agreed that it would be very helpful to have a noticeboard elsewhere in the parish, to display Parish Council meeting minutes, and the wall of the Sports Club was discussed. The Clerk would raise this with the Sports Club.

The Pepperpot was being used as a notice board and it was **agreed** that a small notice should be put up, asking people not to do so.

09/26 Work following tree inspection:

1. Inspection of tree guards: The Clerk had this in hand, and had firstly asked the village handyman to remove the plastic tree guards at Gerald's Wood. A list of the other guards to be removed would be tabled at the March meeting. Cllr Powell Evans offered to store the tree guards.
2. Sarah Henderson and the Clerk were due to meet to discuss trees to be felled, and a list would be tabled at the March meeting. Cllr Harding suggested that the cherry tree on the Platt should be felled.
3. The Clerk would talk to Sarah about re-planting. Cllr Harding would like to see a programme of replacing some of the older trees with native species, for example a sorbus chequer tree.
4. The Clerk had contacted a tree surgeon and was awaiting a quotation to fell the horse chestnut on the common.

09/27 Allotments: notes from allotment meeting and schedule of work to be undertaken: the notes were tabled and comments taken as follows:

5. WBC will not deliver green waste. Cllr Powell-Evans offered to provide manure for collection.
6. Gardening Club: it was not clear whether allotment holders were referring to

Wonersh or Shamley Green Gardening Clubs. The Clerk would give them contact details for both.

7. Hedge: cutting back should be discussed with the owner before any action is taken.
8. Produce swap: agreed to be a very good idea.
9. Notice board adjacent to plot 1b: this was agreed, subject to agreement by the owner.
10. Lag the stand pipe: this was agreed.
11. Shed for gardening tools: members expressed concern regarding responsibility for tools if they were stolen, and the problem of ensuring that the shed was kept locked and the keys remained with the allotment owners. It was agreed that this should not be pursued.
12. Bonfire: concern was expressed about a communal bonfire site.
13. General clear up of site, and levelling of plot 1b to make a communal area: this was agreed.

09/28 Visioning event: it was agreed that this had been very valuable and a good evening. It had been useful to identify past successes and future aspirations. It was **agreed** that, once Anne Bott's report had been received, members would meet to discuss it and then arrange a further meeting with Anne.

09/29 Community Common Land – draft policy for consideration: Cllr Harding was thanked for this valuable document. The following was agreed:

- a) the document should be referred to in the newsletter, with the full version on the website.
- b) Annual Assembly: hand out document and have as discussion item.
- c) The clerk would write a definitive statement on how this Council looked after the common land under its control, for approval at the next meeting.

Letter to residents: It was PROPOSED by Cllr Band, SECONDED by Cllr Bawden, with all in favour, that the pre-circulated letter should be sent to all houses adjacent to parish council common land in Wonersh and Shamley Green.

The Clerk would copy the letter to Cllr Band, who would show it to Peter Maudsley, to suggest that WBC might use it. The Clerk would also inform Sarah Henderson.

09/30 Section 9 Land

The Clerk had received maps from Sarah Henderson which identified Borough and Parish land and Section 9 land in the parish. She had e-mailed the Land Registry, asking for information on how to take ownership of S9 land, but had not yet received a reply.

Agenda item: March meeting.

09/31 Pond Clear: Shamley Green: The Clerk tabled the quotation from Simon James, with a total cost of £4,760.00 + vat. She would clarify whether this included using the silt to bank up the sides of the pond, and whether a liner was needed.

In order to be able to apply for grants for this work, the Clerk would obtain two further quotations.

Agenda item: March meeting.

09/32 Review of the Surrey Rural Strategy: Cllr Morris made the following comments:

1. There was only one reference to the credit crunch in the document. The depression would last for some time, probably for the length of this strategy.
2. there were lots of ideas for encouraging local business, but the document was quite dismissive of local people.
3. There was very little about addressing the problem of traffic. There were some comments about encouraging people to use local transport, but no recognition that this was not feasible in the majority of cases.

Cllr Bawden considered that the strategy was unfocussed: the vision was weak and there was an absence of time scale. It failed to address the need for a sustainable long term policy. There was no acknowledgement of the impact that one part of the strategy would have on another, and no sense of priorities. It was unclear what the benefit would be.

Cllr Morris requested that any further comments should be given to him, and he would collate a response.

09/33 Reports from Councillors:

- a) Wonersh Traffic Calming – Cllr Powell Evans referred to her report and further advised that she had met with PC Andy Crane and they had identified two sites from which a community speed watch could be undertaken: outside Wonersh Park and outside the United Reformed Church. A meeting with volunteers would take place the following Monday. Cllr Shareef advised that the police recommend a minimum of six volunteers are necessary to run the scheme and that someone needs to take on the role of co-ordinator. He offered to pass on his experiences in Shamley Green.
- b) *Carbon neutral projects* – Cllr Powell Evans referred to her report and Cllr Bawden drew Members's attention to the proposed audit of Parish Council emissions. Cllr Band considered that this was a very good idea to generate debate, but might be difficult to introduce to the public in general. Cllr Bawden stated that it needed more than the members around this table to be involved to have any impact. He pointed out that travel would be the major source of CO² emissions arising from Parish Council activities, particularly when contractors were taken into account.
Action: Cllr Bawden to issue a template to all members and the Clerk.
- c) *Blackheath traffic calming* – Cllr Morris advised that he had been due to meet John Hilder but weather conditions had prevented this, and they would now not meet until the beginning of March. The project had received additional funding of £2,000 from the Surrey Hills, which must be spent within this financial year, although Cllr Morris had asked if it could be carried forward to the next.
- d) SCAP&TC – Cllr Howard: her report had been circulated and it was agreed very useful to have this feed-back. This would be a regular agenda item from now on.

09/34 Correspondence:

1. *Village of the Year Competition:* Surrey Community Action had written to invite the parish council to be involved. Applications for entry must be submitted by 17th April 2009.
2. *Hurtwood Control:* had written to ask for a grant to enable them to continue with their work on maintaining public access to the Hurtwood. Their accounts had been circulated and, as money had been set aside in the budget, this would go forward

for approval at the March meeting.

3. *RASP: Rural Access to Service Programme*: a grants programme set up by SEEDA for the next 3 years. The main aim is to help people living and working in rural areas to access services in new and innovative ways, especially where these are not available locally at present. Grants are for amounts between £5,000 and £20,000. SCA are particularly keen to receive applications for communities with populations of less than 5,000. The leaflet had been circulated, an application form could be sent on request or Peter Gooch, Grants officer, would happy to meet to discuss projects. This was *noted*.
4. *Town and Parishes Meeting*: the next meeting would be held on Monday 2nd March. Agenda items were requested by Monday 16th February.
5. *BDO: annual return*: members noted that the annual return must be approved by council by the 30th June 2009.
6. *Planning Applications: Advice from SCAP&TC on discussions between individual councillors and applicants pre- and post-application*: 'a parish councillors is perfectly able to give a personal opinion on a planning application but they must declare that they are a councillor acting in a personal capacity and that their view is not that of the parish council. When the application comes before the parish council the councillor must declare an interest (due to having pre-determined a view) and leave the room. The minutes should record this action clearly. In the case where a consultation is being carried out, prior to any planning application actually being made formally to the planning authority, no individual councillor should express an opinion – after all that is what consultation is about – until the consultation is at an end. Once an application is lodged, then an individual councillor acts as above.'

It was agreed that this advice should be re-written for clarification, which Cllr Shareef undertook to do. The document would then be returned to SCAP&TC for confirmation that our understanding is correct. Cllr Band questioned the need for a councillor to leave the room, as he understood that recent changes in legislation meant that the councillor should speak as a member of the public, but did not have to leave the room. He believed that a councillor was perfectly at liberty to give guidance through an application, without giving an opinion. This was agreed.

09/35 Councillors business for noting or including on a future agenda

- 1) *Local Development Framework Core Strategy*: Cllr Band had advised all councillors on information received from Graham Parrott on the proposed public consultation on the topic papers. Documents as follows:
 - Issues and suggested options under the headings: "Town & Country", "Living and Working" and "Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change".
 - A Topic Paper containing the draft Spatial Portrait, Core Strategy Issues, the draft Vision and draft Core Strategy Objectives
 - The draft Settlement Hierarchy.

The consultation period would run from the 16th February to the 30th March and information would be received on the consultation and how to comment. Parish Councils were advised not to respond individually, but to take part in workshops which would be run specifically for councillors.

09/36 Dates of future meetings

Planning: 19th February, 5th March, 19th March, 2nd April

Full Council: 12th March, 9th April, 14th May.

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.