

WONERSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 11th January 2007 at the Sports Pavilion, Wonersh at 7.30pm

PRESENT.

Mr R Bawden	Chairman
Mr M.Harding	Vice Chairman
Mrs C Howard	Vice Chairman
Mr P Betlem	
Mrs L Healy	
Mr P Neve	
Mr N Morris	
Mr A.Shareef	
Mrs B St.John	

Also present were Mr M Band, Borough Councillor, Mr A Golden and 4 members of the public.

The Chairman explained the reason for the early convening of the meeting. i.e. that several councillors need to attend another meeting this evening. The open session has therefore been moved to Item10 on the agenda to allow for the late arrival of any electors who have not seen the notice giving this information.

07/001 APOLOGIES – Dr Povey, County Councillor and PC Soulsby sent their apologies.

07/002 CODE OF CONDUCT - no declarations

07/003 MINUTES - the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2006 were subject to one grammatical and one typographical error. After corrections, they were approved unanimously and signed as a correct record.

07/004 MATTERS ARISING –

06/79 – Affordable housing. – ERHA have confirmed that they are not, at the moment, pursuing any possible site for affordable housing within the parish. The Chairman wished to note that the Council have now received the details of the questionnaire circulated by some residents with regard to affordable housing and these results have been circulated to councillors.

06/101 – Litter picking – the Clerk has had a phone message from someone who may be interested. She had also attended a meeting with the Clerks of Cranleigh, Bramley, Dunsfold and Ewhurst and there may be a possibility of sharing this task

ACTION – Clerk to pursue with Clerks of Ewhurst and Cranleigh

06/137 – Budget – Mr Morris raised the question of election costs and Clerk directed him to the budget estimate in which there is now £2790 allowed for the election. Mr Neve asked if the PC was liable to pay this amount regardless of how much the election actually costs them.

ACTION - Clerk to enquire if this amount is a flat rate.

06/144 (b) Village Design Statement – the Clerk reported that, sadly, the VDS had not been approved at the committee on 9th Jan. There are some minor amendments required i.e. some environmental and sustainability issues, with a view to it being represented on 6th Feb.

07/005 APPROVAL OF COMMENTS MADE BY WARD PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEES ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS- the comments to the Planning Dept regarding these applications were approved unanimously.

06/2315 – Tall Trees Nursery, East Whitley Lane, Shamley Green
06/2325 – 1, Long Acre Cottages, Firs lane, Shamley Green
06/2380 – Summer Place, Bracken Close, Wonersh
06/2382 – Praslin, Barnett Lane, Wonersh
GU06/02087 – Star Energy, Albury Park, Albury
06/2431 – Greendale, The Street, Wonersh
06/2464 – Tamarisk, The Drive, Wonersh
06/2474 – Little Hollies, The Close, Wonersh
06/2462 - Little Orchard, Stonards Brow, Shamley Green
06/2519 – 2, New Cottages, Stroud Lane, Shamley Green
06/2538 – Theobalds, Blackheath
06/2599 – Chilton House, High Croft, Shamley Green
06/2615/2616 – Plonks Farm, Church Hill, Shamley Green
06/2641 – 2, Firs Lane, Shamley Green
06/2644 – Land at Madgehole Lane, Shamley Green
06/1959 – Great Tangley Manor Farm, Tangley Lane, Wonersh
06/2748 – 1, The Drive, Wonersh
06/2759 – 55, Hullmead, Shamley Green
06/2765/2766/2767 – Land known as Sandhurst Copse, Green Lane, Shamley Green
06/2774 – 2, Sweetwater Lane, Shamley Green
06/2783 – 2, Lordshill Cottages, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green
06/2804 – 59, New Road, Wonersh
06/2805 – Tamarisk, The Drive, Wonersh

07/006 FINANCE – APPROVAL OF CURRENT LISTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS -the Council resolved that Receipt Vouchers Nos C06/27 - 06/ 34 and Payment Vouchers 06/73- 06/85 be approved. An updated budget sheet was circulated.

DECISION - approval of accounts proposed by Mr Betlem, seconded by Mr Shareef and unanimously approved.

07/007 CLERK'S SALARY – to approve an increase for the year 2007/08 in line with the current inflation rate. The Clerk reported that the retail prices index for December 2006 was 2.7%

DECISION – Mr Bawden proposed that the Clerk's salary was increased by this amount from April 2007. This was seconded by Mr Shareef and unanimously approved.

ACTION – the Chairman to report back on Clerk's workload following an appraisal session at the end of January

07/008 BUDGET – to approve the final estimates for the FY 2007/2008 and to approve the precept for 2007/2008 – the Chairman stated that there had been some changes to the draft and that they were explained on the accompanying notes. The main item to note was that the reserves are greater than originally stated but they are still being reduced in line with the auditor's recommendations. The Clerk drew attention to the increase in budget for publicity as the Council may want to consider a bigger newsletter this year. She also informed the Council that Dr Povey had granted £1000 towards the web-site.

DECISION – Mr Neve proposed that the budget and the precept of £26,000 be accepted. This was seconded by Mr Harding and unanimously approved.

07/009 AUDIT – to approve the Annual Return following external audit opinion and to approve the action plan to address issues arising from the audit report – the Clerk reported that the external auditors had made one comment regarding reserves but the Council is continuing to take steps to address this.

DECISION – Mrs Healy proposed that the Annual Return is accepted and that the Council continue to take steps to reduce the reserves. This was seconded by Mr Betlem and approved unanimously.

07/010 MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS – the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman in order to open the floor to the public.

An elector raised the matter of Barnett Hill Conference Centre applying for an increase in the number of weddings to be held at the venue. The Chairman stated that the Planning Committee had discussed this item at that morning's meeting and objected to the rate of increase but recognised the company was a good employer of local people. They had also asked that there should be no fireworks and that there should be a traffic management scheme.

Another elector enquired about the requirements of the Code of Conduct and the Chairman explained about personal and prejudicial interests.

An elector asked about affordable housing news and was told ERHA are not pursuing any sites in the parish at the present time.

The pedestrian crossing near St. Catherine's school was raised by an elector. She was advised that individuals should write independently to SCC Highways. Everyone should all welcome the fact that SCC are looking at this problem

07/011 LOWERING OF THE SPEED LIMIT AT THE STREET, WONERSH – discussion and proposals – Mr Neve asked the Parish Council to consider supporting the request by residents for a 20mph speed limit in The Street. A number of villages around the country have 20mph speed limits. Parking in The Street does slow the traffic down. In the Parish Plan, many people identified speeding as an issue but volunteers are needed to carry out initiatives such as a traffic committee and Speed Watch. SCC has carried out surveys in the village previously. Heavy lorries are causing considerable vibration which is damaging the old buildings. There needs to be some

alteration to the junction at the Pepperpot in collaboration with a decrease in speed limit.

DECISION – Mrs St.John proposed that a formal request is put to SCC highways for a 20mph speed limit . This was seconded by Mr Shareef and approved unanimously.

The issue of a local working group is picked up under the Parish Plan

The support for this proposal is gauged at the Annual Assembly.

ACTION – Clerk to write to SCC Highways.

Wonersh Parish Plan committee to activate this issue

Chairman to raise at Annual Assembly

07/012 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY – to decide upon a format and speaker – it was acknowledged that the “market place” format worked well last year and that the newsletter was very well received.

DECISION – the Council felt it would revert to its previous format this year.

Speakers would be Wonersh United Charities, the Village Shop Committee, the Parish Plan committees, Gerald’s Wood, Speed Watch in Shamley Green.

The Council also decided to ask Sarah Henderson to speak about the commons audit and management plan for the commons.

ACTION – Clerk to invite the above people.

Mr Morris to co-ordinate newsletter.

07/013 PBA TREE ASSESSMENT – for acknowledgement and comments – the Clerk gave a resumé of the report. The only trees identified as needing some attention in the future are 2 chestnuts near Wonersh playground. The Risk Assessment sub-committee has looked at the report.

DECISION – Mr Bawden proposed that the report was accepted. Mr Harding seconded and the proposal was approved unanimously.

07/014 REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES

a) Commons - Mr Shareef reported that the Shamley Green data gathering is complete and has taken the volunteers through it. She will draw up a plan which will include a maintenance schedule for the next 5-10 years. She will report on this at the Annual Assembly and would like to identify volunteers in Wonersh for a commons audit there

b) Parish web-site – Mr Shareef said that tasks have been allocated to working party members. He has an appointment to meet a potential web designer on 15.01.07. The WP thinks they know how they are going to structure the web-site.

c) Gerald’s Wood - Mr Neve had circulated a report. The area at the top of the wood is being cleared the first week-end in Feb and the contractors will access it via Mrs Healy’s field. The Council recorded their thanks for that. The planting filling in the gaps at the bottom of the wood will take place before the top is cleared.

07/015 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a) Parish Plan for Wonersh – Mrs Howard reminded the Council that the Wonersh group had lost their chairman and currently does not have one so she has put together a first draft of the Action Plan.

ACTION – Councillors to let Mrs Howard have their comments after they have read it.

Mrs Howard to call a meeting of the Wonersh group and councillors to let her know if they can think of any non-parish councillors who may want to come on the committee.

Mr Morris will use the same Action Plan format for Blackheath.

b) Town and Parish Council meeting – Mrs Howard had circulated a report. The venue was changed and having the meeting somewhere other than the Council Chamber was well received.

c) Become a Councillor – make a difference – Mrs Howard reminded the councillors that there are elections in May 2007 and she has been working with SCAPTC to raise the profile and try and attract more councillors to come on board. If the Council is going to go for Quality Council status, then we need to attract enough potential councillors to have an election. A pack has been developed including a CD on becoming a councillor and the PC should receive this soon.

The Clerk reported that she had received a list of dates and venues for meetings when councillors can bring along people who may be interested in being councillors but no date has yet been decided for this area.

ACTION – Mrs Howard to discover the date of the meeting for the Wonersh area. It may be too late to get it in the parish magazine.

d) Meeting on telecommunications masts in Waverley – Mr Harding had circulated a report. A map, defining where there are gaps in the coverage, had not been produced and Mr Harding felt this was crucial. The authorities seem to be learning about the need to co-ordinate. Councillor Band felt that the paucity of information that the telecommunications company were able to produce was appalling. Mr Shareef reported that Waverley is going to put a map of where all the current masts are site on their web-site.

07/016 CORRESPONDENCE - The Clerk reported:

Contact from the doctors' surgery regarding the oak posts on the cobbles requesting that they be painted white as the nurses fall over them in the dark. The surgery is looking in to low-level lighting and the Clerk has referred them on to Highways.

DECISION – the Council felt that they would not wish the posts to be white. Mrs Howard suggested that there are white strips that can be put around posts.

ACTION – Wait for surgery to come back to the Council.

There is a general meeting of SCAPTC to be held at Dorking on 17th Jan 2007. Mrs Howard will be attending.

A letter from Jane Bowden saying that she has confirmed with the parks and Landscapes Dept that the hedge between Lordshill play area and Lordshill Cottages has been accepted as SCC responsibility but that Waverley will cut it on the County's behalf and recharge them

An e-mail from PC Soulsby wishing the Council a Happy New Year and saying he will bring Michael Barker, the new PCSO to meet the Council at some time soon.

ACTION – Clerk to ask them both to the Annual Assembly but also ask Michael Barker to a Council meeting.

Bramley Parish Clerk has retired – the new Clerk is Rachel Hill.

Cranleigh Parish Clerk had convened a meeting of 5 Clerks from neighbouring parishes where several possible joint initiatives had been discussed i.e. working together on the Cleaner Neighbourhood's Act, joining together for youth initiatives. It was a worthwhile meeting and there is another one on 7th Feb 2007

Letter from Tony Hodgson, Chairman of Shamley Green Cricket Club saying that he has written to Waverley suggesting that the trees on the western side of the green in Shamley Green are extended.

On 1st Feb at Surrey Community Action, a workshop on Risk Management.

Mr Betlem reported a meeting of the Transport Forum on 16th March at the YMCA in Woking.

07/017 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – none

07/018 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Parish Council meetings: 8th February 2007, 8th March 2007, 12th April 2007
Annual Assembly: 26th April 2007

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm

Signed-----

Dated-----