

WONERSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 12th July 2007 at the Sports Pavilion, Wonersh at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr M.Harding Vice Chairman
Mrs C.Howard Vice Chairman
Mr M Band Borough Councillor
Dr N Goodchild
Mrs L Healy
Mr N Morris
Mr A Shareef

Also present were Borough Councillor M Goodridge, Mr A Golden, Surrey Advertiser and 3 members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Harding, Vice-Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman.

07/119 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from Cllrs R Bawden and P Neve, PC Soulsby and PCSO Barker

07/120 CODE OF CONDUCT - Cllr M Harding declared a personal interest in Item 14(a) as he is a member of CPRE

07/121 MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS – Cllr Harding adjourned the meeting for this session. Mr C Tabor of Nursery Hill raised the issue of excessive speeding along the B2128 with particular concern regarding the stretch of road by the First School in Shamley Green. He suggested that speed bumps might be an effective deterrent. Cllr Shareef gave information about an increase in the Community Speedwatch campaign to another 3 sites in Shamley Green. Cllr Howard outlined all the attempts to reduce the speed limits in the parish in the past and updated the meeting on the progress on the current traffic committee in the village of Wonersh. The Chairman suggested that Mr Tabor and other like-minded residents write to SCC Highways as, whilst the council is supportive, SCC have the delivery of the solution. Mr Tabor is hoping to organise a petition about the problem.

Christian Bird, one of the four or five young people using the mountain bike track at Gerald's Wood, spoke on their behalf. They appreciate there are health and safety issues in their use of the land and he suggested several ways of overcoming this. Cllr Healy explained that the parish's insurance will not cover what they are doing or cover public liability. The Chairman told Mr Bird that the council admired their initiative and are sympathetic but there is an insurance problem which they hope to resolve. This could be done by taking the track under the council's wing but the area will need to be closed until this matter is resolved. Mr Bird agreed to give names of the other young people who use it. Cllr Band suggested the Parish Council Risk Assessment Committee contacts people at Hurtwood Control who have had the same problem.

The Open Session was closed.

07/122 MINUTES – TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ON 14th JUNE 2007 – these minutes were subject to one amendment and then APPROVED

07/123 MATTERS ARISING –

07/011 – the lowering of the speed limit in The Street. The Clerk drew attention to Simon Hall's e-mail. This matter is connected to Item 14(c) on the agenda

07/016 – the hedge at Lordshill playground. The Clerk has spoken to Sarah Henderson and there are currently no staff to finish cutting this. Cllr Band asked if he could be copied in on problems such as this.

07/111 – Common land at Shamley Green - the Clerk has met with the tree surgeon who is going to give an estimate for the Tudor oak and the willow tree on the corner of Cranleigh Road, Shamley Green.

07/114 – Reports from working parties – c) Shamley Green shop - the Clerk reported that she had spoken to Ann Bott who stated that each of the councillors on the Shamley Green shop working party would need to declare a personal interest were it discussed in a Parish Council

meeting or Parish Planning Committee meeting. They would need to be guided by the perception of a member of the public of their part in the working party. Ann Bott's view was that the public's perception might be that the councillors were biased. Ann Bott had then gone on to say that, under the new Code of Conduct, if a member of the public is speaking at a meeting about this particular subject, even though there is a prejudicial interest amongst any of the councillors, they still have a right to speak and put their point of view but have to leave for any vote.

DECISION – Cllr Band would like to take this matter up with Ann Bott and will report back.

07/115 – Reports from Councillors – b)Shamley Green pond - Cllr Shareef has met with Sarah Henderson who is optimistic that she might get funding for this project. The Commons Audit is completed.

DECISION – Cllr Band asked for a list of activities that involve Sarah Henderson so that he can bring attention to her lack of staff.

07/124 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

07/1085 – Land at Tall Trees Nursery, East Whitley Lane, Shamley Green

07/1135 – The Lodge, Great Tangle, Wonersh

07/1194/1195 – Watts Cottage, Guildford Road, Shamley Green

07/1240 – 43, New Road, Wonersh

07/1248/1249 – Hillside Cottage, Northcote Lane, Shamley Green

07/1269 – Derrysfold, Cranleigh Road, Wonersh

07/125 FINANCE – APPROVAL OF CURRENT LISTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - the Council resolved that Receipt Vouchers Nos C27 – C29 and Payment Vouchers 07/60-07/64 be APPROVED

07/126 GRANTS – DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF GRANTS TO –

The Hoppa Bus Service

DECISION – Cllr Howard proposed a grant of £250 to the Hoppa service. This was seconded by Cllr Healy and APPROVED unanimously.

Waverley Youth Centre

DECISION – Cllr Howard proposed a grant of £100. This was seconded by Cllr Goodchild and APPROVED unanimously.

Crime-stoppers

DECISION - it was decided that this is not of particular benefit to local electors and does not comply with the rules of Sec. 137 money. It may be more appropriate at Borough level.

07/127 NEW CLERK – UPDATE ON THE CURRENT POSITION AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSED WORKING ARRANGEMENTS - a report had been circulated regarding a possible job share between the new Clerk and the retiring Clerk. It was felt to be helpful to have someone who could cover in times of leave or illness. The Council needs to be quite clear that the new Clerk is the responsible legal officer.

DECISION – the Council decided that the arrangement should not be too prescriptive but that Option 2(a) in the report would be the preferred route. This arrangement should be reviewed in six months

ACTION – New Clerk, Anne Powell-Evans and Chairman to confirm the actual working arrangements and bring back to the Council for review in six months.

07/128 VILLAGE GATEWAYS – DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURE FOR ACTIVATING THIS ITEM –

funds were put aside for this project in this year's budget. From Cllr Morris's experience at Blackheath, he feels that electors will need to raise some of the money themselves. SCC has more serious traffic priorities but they are keen to amalgamate road signs on one site such as a village gateway. Cllr Band is not sure that there is a demand for village gateways in Shamley Green.

Cllr Morris feels the individual Council members have a great deal of knowledge regarding highways matters and that this should be co-ordinated.

DECISION – there needs to be more investigation into the requirements for these items and it would appear to be of greater priority in Wonersh.

ACTION – Clerk to write to Highways with a copy to Dr Povey to ask why the village gateway has not been re-instated at the entrance to Wonersh by Gerald's Wood

Clerk to find out about the highways specification for gateways. These can be found on the Dept of Transport web-site.

Cllr Howard will take this issue to the Traffic Committee and bring back to the Sept Parish Council meeting.

Councillors in Womersley and Shamley Green to canvass their electors regarding this matter.

07/129 COUNCILLOR WITH PORTFOLIO FOR YOUTH – DISCUSSION OF NEED FOR THIS ROLE

WITHIN THE PARISH COUNCIL – the Vice-Chairman drew the Council's attention to the fact that the Clerk had reported that several parish councils have a councillor with special responsibility for youth. He also reported that a youth club had been set up in Shamley Green and 42 youngsters attended the first meeting.

DECISION – It was felt that this would be a valuable role within the Parish Council as the Parish Council needs to recognise that the young people are a viable part of the community and needs to be taking their interests on board.

Mrs Howard proposed that Cllr Goodchild should be the councillor with portfolio for youth. This was seconded by Cllr Shareef and unanimously APPROVED.

ACTION - Cllr Goodchild to report back to next council meeting on his suggestions for this role and councillors to feed any ideas to him

07/130 BLACKHEATH VILLAGE HALL'S APPLICATION TO SITA – CLLR MORRIS – REPORT CIRCULATED

– Blackheath Village hall are making an application for a grant to SITA and require the endorsement of a third party organisation such as a local council. The Parish Council does use it occasionally

DECISION – It was proposed by Cllr Howard that the Clerk would write a letter of support, seconded by Cllr Shareef and APPROVED unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk to write

07/131 REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES

a) Gerald's Wood – Cllr Healy had circulated a report. The Parish Council's insurance is not valid for the mountain bike track and Cllr Healy suggested various proposals to resolve this. Cllr Band suggested that those dealing with the mountain bikers on the Hurtwood are contacted to see how they have resolved the problem. Cllr Healy pointed out that money has been put aside for pic-nic benches at the top but Gerald's Wood is obviously not extensively used by walkers. It is a large area to fence to keep the mountain bikers separate from walkers. Maybe the land could be rented to the bikers for a peppercorn rent

DECISION – The Council AGREED that the Clerk should speak to the insurers to find out exactly what the range of options are in order to get insurance.

Cllr Howard proposed that the wood should be closed temporarily. This was seconded by Cllr Band and APPROVED temporarily.

If a short-term solution is appropriate and available, the Council AGREED that the Chairman and Clerk should make a decision on spending any money on extra insurance premiums.

ACTION – Cllr Band will give the Clerk the contact numbers for the warden on the Hurtwood.

The Clerk will erect a notice at the entrance to Gerald's Wood closing it to public access temporarily

The Clerk to ask the Clerk of Cranleigh how they insure their skateboard park.

Cllr Healy to make enquiries of the Hurtwood Committee.

b) Parish web-site – Cllr Shareef reported that, by the end of the month, all unknown issues will be cleared. Other organisations have been putting their links on the site. The minutes are being put on as pdf files and there is a page for getting people involved in local projects. Councillors are welcome to contribute to this. Cllr Goodchild suggested that the Gerald's Wood situation could be put on the web-site.

Cllr Morris suggested the font should be Arial and reports should not use jargon.

DECISION - it was AGREED that a party to launch the web-site, as suggested at the last Parish Council meeting, is not appropriate.

An ad for the web-site will go to the parish magazines to take the place of the current ad for a couple of months.

Mr Harding thanked the working party for all their hard work

07/132 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a) Waverley Community Strategy meeting – Cllr Harding had circulated a report. The Parish Council will be involved in making some comments about the Community Strategy and the strategy that WBC draws up will have implications as to how the Govt White paper is applied within the Borough.

b) Clerk's Cluster meeting – the Clerk had circulated a report

c) Highways – meeting with Dr Povey. Cllr Morris reported it had been clarified how the parish could feed in to the Local Committee. Dr Povey suggested 2 ways of getting action on highway projects, one of which is through the Local Committee to which the Council would need to submit a written question and would receive a written reply. Bids can also be made to the Cranleigh and Rural Villages Task Group – bids should go to Dr Povey by the end of Sept. The Task Group looks at all the bids and then can forward bids to the Local Transport Planning Task Group which looks at the bids from the 4 Task Groups in Waverley. They then recommend to the Local Area Committee for all of Waverley. Cllr Harding reported that the SCC Executive member for Highways, Cllr Munro has indicated he would be willing to attend Parish Council meetings.

DECISION – Cllr Munro to be asked to the Annual Assembly

07/133 CORRESPONDENCE - Cllr Harding reported:

The SCAPTC communication regarding their constitution. No comments from any councillors so Cllr Harding took it as being acceptable.

The document on the Planning White Paper

ACTION – Councillors to let the Clerk have their comments

The Clerk reported:

A letter from David Moore asking for a representative of town and parish councils on one of the 4 task groups that reports to the Committee's Local Transportation Plan Task Group on funding priorities.

DECISION – The Council AGREED that Cllr Morris should be nominated.

A letter from St John's Ambulance with advice on health and safety regulations for local businesses.

A letter from the senior licensing officer regarding a review of WBC's statement of licensing policy.

In Sept 2005, the Council had contacted the Enforcement officers regarding the patio at The Villagers public house. Despite contacting them regularly there has been no action. Cllr Band suggested that the Borough Councillors are copied in on such communications so they can take appropriate action

For information, the Scouts did not use the Sports field for their camping week-end as requested.

07/134 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Cllr Harding drew attention to the Blackheath Village News.

Cllr Band drew attention to the visit to Shamley Green of the new Chief Executive for Waverley, Mrs Mary Orton – 13th August 2007 and will circulate details soon.

07/135 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Parish Council meeting: - Thursday 13th September 2007.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

Signed-----

Dated-----