

WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Wanborough Parish Council held on **27th October 2008** in Wanborough Village Hall, High Street, Wanborough at 19.30.

PRESENT: Mr W Suter (Chairman), Mr G Sumner (Vice-Chairman), Mr C Offer, Mr B Biggs, Mr D Hayward, Mr C Hayes, Mr W J Smith, Mr A Bennett, Mrs L Berry, Mr R Whitfield (arrived at 21.30).

In Attendance Mrs A J Raymond (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies: Mrs A Basevi
2. Declaration of interest: Mr Bill Suter declared a prejudicial interest on item 6.2.4 as this relates to his own property.
3. Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd September 2008 had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Meeting was adjourned for Public Questions

A resident stated that there is due to be a change in bus times, however the time tables on the bus stops have not been updated. Mr Bob Biggs agreed to contact Thamesdown Transport to ensure that the time tables are updated.

4. Report from Ward Councillor
 Mr Andrew Bennett reported that the new library in the centre of Swindon is now open and came in on budget; everyone agreed that it is a valuable asset to the town.
 Mr Andrew Bennett reported that Thames Water is due to carry out the remainder of their surveys at Kimbers Field by the end of the month; the results should then be reported back to Parish Council and residents.
 Mr Andrew Bennett stated that SBC have started receiving noise complaints again in relation to the Redlands' skydiving planes. He reported that the Chief Executive of SBC has responded to the letters stating that the matter is now closed. Some of the issues were also reported in the local paper.
 Mr Gary Sumner stated that he had seen an article in the local paper where Mr R Bluh was quoted stating that he had secured finance for the Eastern Development Infrastructure. Mr Andrew Bennett stated that he was unable to comment as he was not aware of any secured funding. Mr Andrew Bennett stated that there is due to be a Policy meeting at the end of November when the Eastern Development will be discussed, but confirmed that the Eastern Development planning has slowed down due to the economic climate.
 Mr Colin Hayes reported that a couple of weeks ago there was a loud noise at about 1.30am from a "rave" on The Ridgeway. This time the Police managed to stop it within a couple of hours an improvement on previous occasions.

5 PLANNING

- 5.1 To consider Planning Applications received:
S/08/1981 – 1 Chapel Orchard – Erection of two storey side extension.

S/08/2073HECO – 5 Callas Rise – Erection of single storey front/rear and side extensions

Parish Council raised no objection to the above two applications.

5.2 To notify the Schedule to the Permission/Consent received

S/08/1537 – 8 Callas Rise – Erection of a conservatory;

S/08/1750 – 6 Gosling Close – Erection of single storey side and rear extension.

6 COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVES

6.1 Hooper's Field and Recreation

6.1.1 Hooper's Field Sub Committee meeting was held on Monday 29th September, minutes circulated to all Councillors. Main points raised at meeting are as follows: -

- Maintenance of Cricket Square. Cricket Club had arranged for an expert to carry out a report on the condition of the cricket square. This report was discussed and Parish Council agreed that due to the expected cost to improve the cricket square Parish Council will ask Cricket Club to look into possible funding options. The cost will then be discussed further at the Precept/Budget meeting in December. Parish Council to contact White Horse Contractors for a second opinion on the cricket square, and Mr Gary Sumner agreed to contact Shrivenham Parish Council to find out who maintains their cricket square and the costs involved. Parish Council also felt that the Cricket Club needs to actively promote the sport within the village to get more residents, including children, involved.
- The cost to purchase blinds for between the main hall and conservatory is £186. Parish Council unanimously agreed to purchase the blinds.
- It was suggested purchasing some dummy CCTV cameras for Hooper's Field at a cost of £40. Parish Council unanimously agreed to purchase two.
- An action plan point for Hooper's Field Sub Committee – to sort out casual play for the tennis courts.

6.1.2. County Court claim forms have been received from Northampton County Court for the outstanding retention fee payable to Beacon for the tennis courts. Hooper's Field Sub Committee met to discuss and reply has been sent to County Court on the basis that the claim will be defended.

Mr Lee West (LTA Consultant) has now submitted a further update to his report (discussed at Hooper's Field meeting) and as a result Beacon have sent a letter stating that the courts should last for a period of 8 years. If the courts fail during the 8 year period, Beacon have agreed to pay for the cost of the court surface depending on how many years the court has been used for, i.e. after 5 years Beacon will pay 3/8ths of the cost.

Parish Council discussed and agreed that now a letter has been received from Beacon stating that the courts should last for at least eight years, the final instalment would be paid, and it was also agreed to pay the £80 Court fee.

Clerk confirmed that after the final instalment has been paid there will be a balance of £3,406.84 in the Tennis Expansion Account. Parish Council unanimously agreed that this balance should be transferred to the Hooper's Field Maintenance Fund to cover the cost of future maintenance for the courts. Clerk to write to Tennis Club confirming what Parish Council has decided.

6.2 Footpaths, Village Maintenance and Allotments

6.2.1 Two week village maintenance is due to be carried out by Swindon Commercial Services commencing from 17th November 2008. Any minor highway maintenance work that Councillors are aware of that needs doing should be e-mailed to Clerk

before 11th November when pre-meeting will take place. Clerk is unable to attend the pre-meeting, therefore Mr David Hayward agreed to attend in stead; Clerk to e-mail letter listing works to be carried out to him.

- 6.2.2 Clerk has sent an e-mail to Ms S Montgomery chasing for the traffic survey details for Wanborough, but received an automatic reply stating that she is on annual leave until the date of the Parish Council meeting. Clerk will chase again and hopefully this information will be ready by the next meeting.
- 6.2.3. Thames Water have sent an e-mail updating Parish Council on what they are doing in relation to preventing further flooding in the village.
- 6.2.4 Letter received from SBC Arboricultural Officer stating that they have agreed for the Ash Tree at 7 Magdalen Road to be reduced by 30%. Parish Council raised no objection.
- 6.2.5 Cultivation Licence has been submitted to Swindon Borough Council for the planters.
- 6.2.6 Mr David Hayward reported that there still seems to be water leaking from the water trough at the allotment site. Clerk to ask lengthsman to look at this again.
- 6.2.7 Mr Gary Sumner asked if Parish Council could report the lorry that is always parked at the corner of Kite Hill/Rotten Row, blocking Green Lane entrance to SBC. Clerk to contact SBC enforcement.

6.3 Wanborough Village Hall Management Committee

- 6.3.1 Meeting held on 13th October 2008.
- 6.3.2 Village Hall Committee received a letter from SBC fining them for the Farmers' Market signs put up around Swindon. A warning letter was received in August and then a fine letter followed. Mr Andrew Bennett has spoken to SBC and this fine has now been withdrawn.
- 6.3.3. Village Hall was broken into on Friday 17th October 2008. This has been reported to the police.
- 6.3.4 Mr Colin Hayes stated that there is due to be another Village Hall Roof project meeting within the next week.

6.4 Planning and Finance

- 6.4.1 Review of the Lower Wanborough Conservation Character Appraisal. A "drop in" event at the Village Hall was held on Thursday 23rd October 2008 from 4pm–7pm. Parish Council members who attended the meeting were slightly disappointed with it and felt that invites should have gone to all residents and not just those in the Conservation Area.

Parish Council has sent the following comments and proposed changes to the Conservation Character Appraisal to SBC:-

1. The boundary should be extended to include the following areas:
 - Trees along either side of Callas Hill – these trees are very mature and should be protected within the Conservation Area, as they form an important green approach to the village;
 - Lower Recreation Field – there is a "Pound Wall" along the edge of the field next to Chapel Lane, there are also a number of mature trees along the top and bottom of the field;
 - Hooper's Field/Woodland Trust land – a very important open space within the village that should be included within the Conservation Area;
 - Burycroft and The Marsh – there are a number of very old cottages along the Burycroft and The Marsh that should be identified within the Conservation Area;

- Horpit – again there are a number of very old cottages along Horpit, also a number of farms and farm buildings providing important history for the village.
2. Parish Council would like more detail included within the appraisal. A good example of an appraisal that has been compiled is for Fewcott from Cherwell DC. This appraisal is full of detail, maps and photos and it can be seen on www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/1/6/fewcott_landscape-lr.pdf.
Mr Gary Sumner asked Mr Andrew Bennett whether he knew what the next stages of the review will be now Parish Council has sent in their comments. Mr Andrew Bennett stated that Ms Liz Smith (SBC) will send a draft version to Parish Council to comment on before a final report is produced.
 - 6.4.2 Meeting held at Aldbourne Parish Council in relation to the Licence agreements for Warren Farm, Liddington. Aldbourne Parish Council have also submitted an application to SBC requesting a review of both of the licences. If Parish Council wish to add any comments to the review they need to send in their comments to SBC by 15th November 2008.
 - 6.4.3 Freedom of Information Act – New Model Publication Scheme. This new model needs to be adopted by Parish Councils by 31st December 2008 at the latest. Clerk to circulate model scheme to all Councillors before the next meeting.
 - 6.4.4 Emergency Planning – Mr Andrew Bennett has arranged a meeting on Monday 17th November 2008 at Village Hall; all councillors available to attend meeting. Mr Andrew Bennett confirmed that he had invited Liddington and Bishoptone Parish Councils but only to observe.
 - 6.4.5 SBC has sent the Special Expenses form which needs to be completed and returned by 31st October 2008. Clerk confirmed that this is a schedule that SBC ask to be completed which lists all items Parish Council spend their precept on, and which is then used to calculate the precept for the non-parished areas.
 - 6.4.6 Ethical Framework training run by Mr Stephen Taylor (SBC Director of Law and Democratic Services) – this training session is aimed at all new Councillors and Clerks. It is to be held on Thursday 13th November 2008, at Haydon Wick Parish Council Offices starting at 7pm. All three new Councillors are unable to attend this training session, therefore Clerk was asked to see if another one could be arranged in December, closer to Wanborough.

7 FINANCE

7.1 Financial Statement

The monthly statement was circulated. It was proposed by Mr Gary Sumner and seconded by Mr Colin Hayes that “The Financial Statement be accepted, the payment of accounts be endorsed and the bills for payment be accepted and paid, the petty cash expenditure for October 2008 endorsed and the transfers to cover October 2008 expenditure be approved.”

7.2 Monthly Cash Flow Statement

The monthly cash flow statement was circulated. No questions were raised regarding the statement.

8. OTHER

8.1 Transport

- 8.1.1. Kite Hill road closure – no further information has been received from SBC as to when this will happen. Mr Andrew Bennett was asked to look into the issue and report back to Parish Council.

- 8.1.2. E-mail received from resident stating that the bus service is due to change from 27th October as follows:-
- 7.04am bus service has been cancelled on week days
 - 9.04am bus service has been cancelled on Saturdays.
- He has requested that Parish Council ask for these services to be continued. Mr Bob Biggs confirmed that he had spoken to someone at Thamesdown Transport who confirmed that there was an error made and these buses will still run, he was also informed that the bus drivers were supposed to be keeping users up to date about this.
- 8.1.3. There have been eight reply slips returned for the public transport questionnaire sent in the Parish Newsletter. Parish Council agreed that it would have been nice to have received more, but it seems from the responses received that most are asking for similar changes i.e. buses to run later in the evening, and other destinations required.

8.3 **Grants**

- 8.3.1. Cricket Club have made a request for a grant to purchase a cover for the cricket square. This is a one of cost of £597. This cover will mean they will not have to cancel so many home matches due to wet weather conditions.
(Mr Andrew Bennett declared a prejudicial interest as his son plays cricket, and did not take part in the voting).
After a discussion Parish Council proposed to give a grant for the full amount, 4 voted in favour and 2 against. It was therefore agreed to pay a grant of £597 to the Cricket Club.

8.4 **Vacancy – Parish Clerk and RFO**

- 8.4.1 Clerk has received three applications for the above vacancy. It was agreed that the closing date would be at the end of October and that interviews would be arranged at the beginning of November. Interview panel will include Mr Bill Suter, Mr Gary Sumner and Mr Colin Offer, and Clerk will attend to answer any questions. Clerk to send letters to applicants advising them of interview date and time.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence received since the last meeting on 22nd September 2008 was available at the meeting.

Meeting closed at 22.00

Date of next meeting Monday 24th November 2008