

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 12th OCTOBER 2006
AT 8.00 PM. IN THE CHURCH ROOM, WEST WYCOMBE

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs Mrs V. Smith, Chairman, Mr R. Seymour, Mr D. Callaghan,
Mrs C. Dakin, Mr F. Downes, Mrs S. Henson, Clerk
Mr N. Phillips – The National Trust, Dist Cllr Mrs J. Teesdale

6 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE ACCEPTED FROM:

Cllrs Mrs A. Harris and Mr N. Timberlake

CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING

These were agreed by those Councillors present and signed by the Chairman

TO DECLARE ANY PECUNIARY, NON-PECUNIARY, PERSONAL OR
PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

None declared.

REPORT ON PROGRESS ON ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. The Rider on Call meeting will be held at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Monday 16th October.
2. The Clerk attended the Southern Bucks Policy Development Workshop at Beaconsfield. A lot of useful information on how Wycombe and the surrounding area figures in employment, housing, crime, transport, enterprise. The biggest issues are the cost of housing which creates commuter villages and does not allow people to live in the area of birth, supply of health services, with crime coming next. There were an awful lot of questions which did not seem to have easy or any answers. Clerk did meet with John Callaghan an officer from WDC who said that if we could try to create a cycle path between Piddington and Chapel Lane there was money available and it could be a way of developing the footway between Piddington and West Wycombe. He also said that the Parish Council and the National Trust should forcefully and with evidence highlight the damage that lorries are causing to properties in the High Street.
3. Cllr Callaghan attended the Thames Valley Police meeting. They admitted that they were not meeting the Neighbourhood Policing. There are 400 ABO's, 200 will become specialised. There is a budget for 417 PCSO's. Thames Valley PCSO of the Year gave a very encouraging presentation. They want another 200 paid for through co-funding. A PCSO costs around £30,000. If parishes want officers, then Thames Valley Police are asking if 50% of this funding could come from a parish or parishes.
4. Cllr Mr Seymour, the Clerk and Mrs E. Carter attended this event where all issues of gaining access to shopping, healthcare, bus services etc were discussed. People worked in groups making lists of priorities. BCC said that there would probably a 10 point wish list of which only 3 items could be addressed or afforded. We supplied a lot of information to BCC but not sure how much the parishes got out of the event.
5. Cllr Mrs Smith and the Clerk attended the Rural Forum where climate change, farm diversification, rural broadband services and stewardship schemes were all discussed.

6. Cllr Downes reported on the County and Parish Liaison meeting where budget cuts were discussed - reduction in salting routes, future of Rider on Call and major reductions mainly highways.
7. The Clerk attended the WDC/BCC Clerks Meeting where changes in BCC Highways structure were explained; the WDC web site and the extreme difficulty for Clerks to use it for updating; devolving BCC powers through Quality Parishes – good as long we are not paying twice.
8. With the recent different meetings, it is becoming very confusing with all the different groupings which do not always cover the same areas e.g.GC2C/NAG/Local Committee.

MEETING CLOSED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS
MEETING REOPENED

122.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM 14th September – 5th October 2006

1. Letter from BCC re Vehicle Activated Signs – they are still working out the best way of moving forward on this issue.
2. BCC School Travel Plan Newsletter
3. WDC Rural Forum Newsletter
4. BCC document on Getting Closer to Communities (GC2C) and clustering – West Wycombe PC has been put in the Marlow area – the Clerk will write stating that it may tie up with NAG but as that doesn't exist and we hardly ever see a policeman as well as being unable to get to Marlow easily it seems a very tenuous connection for being included in the Marlow group and where does this put us in relation to the Local Committee,.
5. Matters Arising Newsletter from BALC – circulate
6. Leaflet about Crimestoppers – circulate
7. WDC Planning letter stating that Electronic Planning has been delayed until the end of the year as they are waiting for new software.
8. Local Area Committee Agenda – Tuesday 17th October
9. Rider on Call Agenda – Monday 16th October, 7.30pm at Bledlow Ridge VH
10. WDC notification to allow for elections when setting the precept.
11. Email from Mr Edward Staines re Wycombe Air Park at the restriction which apply to homes/businesses within the 2 mile zone – Councillors have no concerns are these would be normal safety regulations for all areas close to airfields.
12. Letter advising us that Mrs Si Khan is our new BCC Local Area Co-ordinator
13. BCC Notification that permits will not be needed by residents using Waste Sites; they will still be needed by commercial vehicles, large trailers and people entering on foot.
14. Copy of email sent to BCC by Cllr Timberlake with a suggested bus timetable.
15. Copy letter from Penny Pears stating her objections to 473 West Wycombe Road
16. Copy letter from Mrs Major with her objections to 473 West Wycombe Road
17. Copy letter from Mr & Mrs Harris stating their objections to 473 West Wycombe Road
18. Copy letter from Mr & Mrs Rye stating their objections to 473 West Wycombe Road
19. Request for financial support for the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.
20. Letter from David Shufflebotham, Acting Chairman, Lane End Helicopter Noise Reduction Group asking this parish if we have problems with

helicopters based at WAP – we do but also from other bases and our concerns are the lack of controls over helicopter activity.

21. Letter from WDC advising us to include the cost of Parish Elections in the precept - £400 - £600.
22. Email from Mr Dehn of Cookshall Lane raising 'parish housekeeping issues' as he feels this is a pretty area ruined by issues such as litter, parked cars on verges and pavements, weeds on pavements, traffic light control boxes, West Wycombe Estate's poster trailer, signs on the Pedestal Roundabout and the quality of hedge trimming, lights in the speed signs not working. Clerk has given an interim response and will give a fuller response after the meeting. Copy issued to all Councillors.
23. Annual Chilterns Forum – 9th November, Kenton Theatre, Henley.
24. Poster from BCC advertising Librarian posts for the Mobile Library when it is based at West Wycombe.
25. Parish Councils and Wildlife a new legal duty leaflet – passed to Mr Phillips.
26. Chalk & Trees
27. What's on in the Chilterns
28. In Focus – Bucks Community Action Newsletter.
29. WDALC – 31st October training session for Councillors to be held from 7 - 10pm in West Wycombe Village Hall – Cllrs Mrs Smith, Mrs Dakin and Mr Timberlake will attend. Cllrs Mrs Smith is trying to negotiate a reduction in fee.
30. BALC – Chairman' training and Councillors correspondence course.

122.2 PLANNING

Decisions

SDN/06/06841/ADV – 355 West Wycombe Road - Display of double sided pole mounted non- illuminated sign (retrospective) – permit

SDN/06/06816/FUL – Plot 28 Copperfields Site – erection of detached 4 bed dwelling (amendment to house type and garaging to plot 28 of pp 03/05441/REM – permit.

Applications

MJD/06/07177/FUL – 473 West Wycombe Road – demolition of existing dwelling & construction of 9 x 2 bed flats with associated parking – we strongly object as the bulk, mass and height will create a significant building next to West Wycombe Park, it is an overdevelopment of the site and West Wycombe Road; it will change the character of the entrance to village and it will cause serious highways/safety issues. The National Trust has already sent in its response.

DBL/06/07181/FUL – Pound Cottage, Church Lane – construction of garden shed (retrospective) – no objection.

Cllr Mrs Teesdale reported that Banner Homes are in dialogue with the existing residents of Copperfields and have put certain procedures in place to make life a little easier for them. If there are further issues then another meeting will be called with them.

122.3 TO REPORT ON HIGHWAYS ISSUES INCLUDING LIGHTING

The Clerk spent an afternoon with Mrs Si Khan the new BCC Local Area Coordinator showing her the parish and highlighting highways issues. She has advised the Clerk that gully emptying and weed killing are scheduled for this year. However if they mean by next March this is all too late. Clerk has spoken to Elizabeth Ross about weed killer on the pavements but she advised that this was too late in the season as it needs to be sprayed when the plants are active. Clerk wondered if they could be 'burnt' away. Miss Ross will supply a price for carrying out the spraying next year. Clerk will contact

BCC and Mr Phillips said he would ask if NT volunteers might be prepared to clear the section from the Pedestal to the village.

Cllr Downes reported that due to the increase in electricity costs BCC may be switching some lights off.

The lighting scheme is nearly complete with the High Street lights due to be installed at the end of October with a site meeting on 23rd October, they then have to complete Bradenham Road.

The Clerk will write to BCC stating are very strong concerns about lack of gully emptying and jetting as the next heavy rain will cause flooding in the village as all the drains are full with water and debris, to ensure a thorough jetting is carried out we will bid to the Local Area Committee for the work to be done

122.4 TO RESOLVE TO PURCHASE LIGHTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREES

It was resolved to order all blue lights for the village tree and all white for the Chorley Road junction tree from Festive Lighting at a total cost of £1192. Mr Phillips has said that The National Trust would help with decorating the trees. Sir Edward is going to provide both of the trees around 23rd November. The Clerk will advise the Festive Fayre Committee that we are dealing with Christmas trees.

122.5 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BCC'S PLANS FOR WEST WYCOMBE LIBRARY

No decision has as yet been made by BCC. BCC are due to make the announcement in the week beginning 16th October. The mobile library service will start at the end of November. The Clerk will put up the poster inviting applicants to train for working locally on the mobile library.

122.6 TO DISCUSS THE COMMUNITY SAFETY SELF HELP PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THE CIVIL CONTINGENCY ACT 2004.

The Clerk refreshed everyone's memories on the creation of this document which now has to be available for inspection by the end of 2006. The Clerk will create a first draft for Mr Phillips to look at and then will ask Councillors and residents to make comments.

122.7 TO RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR OCTOBER 2006 AND SIGNING OF CHEQUES AND TO START CONSIDERING NEXT YEAR'S PRECEPT

Cheques and standing orders for Mrs S. Henson, Bucks County Council Crossing Patrol and cheques for Southern Electric(energy) Southern Electric Contracting (maintenance and repairs) and Lawrence Landscapes – third of annual fee plus scarifying lawns, Festive Lighting for the sample lights (this will be deducted off any order we place or refunded if we return them. It was resolved to approve the monthly accounts.

The Chairman asked Councillors to start considering whether there were certain projects which should be considered for next year. Due to current concerns relating the weight of coffins and the need, in some cases to wheel the coffin to the graveside, we will have to seriously consider making the paths in the burial ground smoother.

122.8 MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Councillors and members of the public wanted to express very strong concerns about the general standard of cottage maintenance and decoration carried out by The National Trust, some of this is due to the type of material – lime wash - which is no longer suitable for the current situations. The Clerk will write both locally and to national management about the lack of funding to create a good impression of this very valuable piece of history.

Cllr Callaghan asked what happened with any extra income created by the Council Tax when new houses were built and occupied within a financial year. Cllr Mrs Teesdale will ask WDC. We will have over 60 new dwelling in our parish in the next financial year.

Cllr Seymour reported as faulty, the 5th light along from the brow of the hill on Chorley Road and 2 belisha beacons not working on the zebra crossing.

122.9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 9th November in the Church Room at 8pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm