

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday April 17th 2008 in Hermitage Village Hall.

Present.

Mr D. Brown.	Chairman.
Mr G. Pask.	District Councillor
Mr Q. Webb	District Councillor.

Fifty nine members of the public.

1. Introductions & apologies.

There were apologies from Mrs K. Willis, Mr M. Frost and Mr A. Hayes-Jones.

The Chairman introduced Sarah Orr from the Archaeological Service at West Berkshire Council, who gave a presentation entitled

The Historic Environment of Hermitage.

This presentation was followed by Sarah Ward, who presented and discussed

The refreshment of the existing Parish plan for Hermitage.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday April 19th 2007.

The minutes were circulated to the meeting.

There was a motion from the floor of the meeting that the minutes as circulated should be taken as read. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3. Reports.

Reports were presented from the following bodies.

The Parish Council	David Brown
District Councillors	Graham Pask and Quentin Webb.
Thames Valley Police	PCSO Kelly Neale
Hermitage & Curridge Youth Club	Jo Percy
1 st Hermitage Cubs and Scouts	Martin Brown.
Hermitage Primary School	Neil Pearson.
Hermitage Pre-School Playgroup	Donna Elms.
New Village Hall Committee	John Lawler

4. **Villagers Open Forum.**

When there is a development in the Village what happens to the money.

QW Money raised by S.106 contributions is always used in the locality. WBC Officers assess various priorities such as Education and Open spaces.

Does the money go to the Parish Council.

QW The money does not go to the Parish Council unless there is a specific allocation.

GP Some of the S.106 agreements were not tied up as well as they would be today.

Do we get a say in what the money is spent on.

GP The Parish Council and the District Councillors will decide where the benefit should be.

Is the S.106 money normally spent on items which are not in the Parish Plan.

QW The Officers look at the circumstances and decide priorities.

Could you clarify the footpath issues which is now referred to the Area Forum.

QW When a petition is received it automatically is placed on the Forum Agenda. The Forum will then look at the Officer's recommendations and the Forum Members will make a decision. It is possible that the issue might go to a public meeting which would involve the whole of Hermitage.

GP This would be to get an overall consensus for the proposal.

Has the work on the roundabout at the top of the Village been completed.

QW We believe so.

There are lights and signage lights which don't work.

GP It will be best if we go and have a look.

The siting of the Hermitage Green play area is causing concern because of contracts which were entered into when we bought our houses, so we need to be informed quickly of any proposal which might try to alter that.

GP It looks as if there may be a legal question about the play area siting. The developer made the contract with you and that must be kept. The questionnaire completed by residents has been noted.

The road surface in both Marlston Road and Yattendon Road has deteriorated and has become even worse.

GP Roads are inspected by Officers, and if there is a pothole it will be quickly filled temporarily, to be followed up by a permanent repair. WBC have now given priorities to the whole WBC area, and there is much more money allocated than there used to be.

When engaging with the Parish Council how do we know to whom we should speak.

DB If a matter is to be discussed it is for the Council as a whole.

If Councillors had specific roles we could discuss a particular issue.

DB The Council is working on this. If you speak to an individual it will be as a discussion which does not lead to a decision, because decisions are taken by the Council as a whole.

QW If planning applications are presented it would be possible to discuss these, but the decisions on planning matters are taken by the West Berkshire Council.

The Parish burial ground is adjoined by space which used to be used as allotments and has now been grassed over. These might be called on again.

DB We will come back to you about this. The burial ground is almost full and it is going to be necessary to consider the matter as a whole.

It is a statutory duty to provide allotments.

DB The Council will look at it.

At Marlston Road bridge the traffic is awful since the footpath was put in, and please refer to last year's minutes since which it has got worse. It has become a horrible junction at the entrance to the Village.

DB Do come to a Parish Council meeting with some clear proposals.

5. Any Other Business.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.50hrs.

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Chairman

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Date