

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday April 15th 2010 in Hermitage Village Hall.

Present.

Ms R. Cottingham	Chairman.
Mr G. Pask.	District Councillor
Mr Q. Webb	District Councillor.

Thirty nine members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

An apology for absence had been received from Mr Pask.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly held on April 16th 2009.

There was a proposition from the floor that the minutes be taken as read. This proposition was put to the vote and carried. The minutes were signed as correct by the Chairman.

3. Guest Speaker.

The Chairman introduced Mr Simon Carter, who was Show Chairman for Newbury and District Agricultural Society in 2009.

Mr Carter said that the Show had now celebrated 100 years from its inception. The Society is a Charity whose aims are to promote activities in the countryside. There is an Education officer who visits Schools to take the Society to as wide an audience as possible. There are plans for the future to provide a permanent building for showing livestock. This would allow the public better access for viewing and also satisfy Health & Safety requirements. At the moment horse classes can find it difficult because the ground is drained and can be very hard. A new building would allow more ring facilities, particularly for horses. It would also provide much needed security for the show dates and not make the event so vulnerable to cancellation, bearing in mind that there can be some 65,000 to 75,000 visitors over the show weekend. Mr Carter invited questions from the floor.

Would the number of events increase.

No, but there might be some through the week rather than at the weekend.

There is some noise pollution but this is acceptable at the show weekend.

The Society has had a noise assessment carried out. There was not a clear cut result, though the Society does try and make sure the licence tents keep their noise level down. There are also proposals from noise containment Companies and this study is going forward.

Will the building been seen from the other side.

It will to some extent.

What is the size of the building.

About 75m by 40m long – a good size for horse events.

What are the direct benefits for the local people.

There can be a lot of new riding facilities, and there are strong ties with local Schools. For Berkshire as a wider Community the benefits are wide reaching.

Why not use the building for seven days a week.

It might be possible, but there are practical difficulties. However, the Society does have a number of diverse ways to integrate with Schools, and there is an objective to give children from city backgrounds the benefit of being in the countryside. For instance, in the recent potato challenge some 350 children took part.

How far has the Society got with a planning application.

This is in the final stages and should be presented in the next month or so.

The Chairman thanked Mr Carter for his presentation.

4. Reports.

The Parish Council.

The report is attached.

The District Councillor.

Mr Webb said that care is needed at the moment to preclude any political comment.

The football pitch is still ongoing, but is in sight of a final take over from the Developers.

The Council tax increase for the year to March 2011 has been kept to a low level of 1.9%

Planning Department in WBC is very aware of the concerns of residents to some of the planned new developments, and tries to be open and fair to everyone.

Mr Webb does try to get to Parish Council meetings, and this looks as though it will be more consistent in the future.

Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee.

The report is attached.

Hermitage and Curridge Youth Club.

The report is attached.

Hermitage Cubs and Scouts.

The report is attached.

Hermitage Horticultural Society.

The Spring Show this year was very good indeed, and the Society is looking forward to a good result for the next Show on May 20th. There are two other Shows in July and September. The next meeting of the Society itself is on April 22nd.

There are two or three outings a year which are very welcomed and successful. The Society has launched a new website which also carries Village news.

NAG Liaison

The Parish Councillors for NAG are Mrs Groves and Mrs Cunningham. The NAG Group meets every six weeks or so. The non emergency phone numbers have been distributed and should be used, because the Police cannot act without information. The main priority for Hermitage still is speeding traffic, and the Police have undertaken to target some of the hot spots. When the Police visit the Village in the mobile Station they very much welcome people to come and talk to them, so that relationships can be firmly established. Our local Officer does come into the Village regularly and welcomes contact with Villagers.

Hermitage Primary School Governing Body.

The Headteacher reported that there are now 127 children in School, with waiting lists for most years as well.
There have been silver ECO awards this year.
Sporting activities continue to do well.
Extra curricular activities are run by Parents and helpers.
The School Hall is now being hired out for events.
In the holidays School is involved with the Domino organisation.
Unfortunately there is a degree of vandalism in the grounds and ways are being sought to minimise if not eradicate this.

Hermitage Pre-School playgroup.

The report is attached.

Hermitage Village Vision,

the report is attached.

5. Open Forum.

The High Street widening – please justify your position

The Council took a decision based on all the issues involved.

The District Councillors agreed with that decision.

The roundabout at the end of Yattendon Road was not required by residents.

There always has to be compromise between the developing needs of everyone.

The NAG speed survey has recently been completed.

Speed limits have been completed in Curridge – why not in Hermitage.

The District Councillor did not have an immediate answer.

The mobile type flashing signs come and go – they should always be there.

It might be useful to have it placed just before School.

The surface of Yattendon road is disgraceful.

The District Councillor agreed, and pointed out that he is trying to get the road surfacing priorities changed.

There are a lot of loose stones in Yattendon road.

Please contact Streetcare because they will remedy any loose materials which could be a danger.

*Why cannot Pre-School have a speed limit zone as School does.
These zones can only be placed outside defined School premises.*

*There is a 30mph sign in Forest Edge which is weird – it should be 20mph.
It is unlikely that could be changed.*

*Previous S.106 agreements carried the promise of CCTV cameras for the Village Hall
and they have not appeared.*

*There is an opinion that there are already too many.
If it is specified then they should be installed.
Perhaps on the new Village Hall.*

In the Winter WBC let the Village down badly and it was irresponsible.

*The District Councillor commented that WBC did grit all the routes that were
shown as gritting routes in the Winter Operation Schedule, and did not run out of grit.
WBC is presently scrutinising the whole Winter operation of this year and will be
making any recommendations which come out of that – taking into account all the
helpful suggestions such as reverting to using snow ploughs operated by local
farmers.*

There is a suggestion for an Emergency Plan.

any This is being looked at by Council, and Volunteers would be needed to implement
Plan.

Forest Edge Residents Association is now up and running – please join us.

6. Any Other Business.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.33hrs.



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Chairman

21.04.11
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Date