

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on
Thursday April 21st 2011 in Hermitage Village Hall.

Present.

Ms R. Cottingham
Mr G. Pask.
Mr Q. Webb

Chairman.
District Councillor
District Councillor.

Forty six members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

An apology for absence had been received from Mr Gilchrist and Mrs Hanning.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly held on April 15th 2010.

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. Presentations.

Stephanie Holmes-Anderson gave a quick overview of WBAGI, the Group campaigning against the expansion of the quarry and proposed installation of a waste incinerator in Chieveley.

There are serious objections to the gravel extraction itself, whilst the incinerator would be a monstrous blot in an AONB. There is a Group website which gives all the up to date information about both proposals.

4. The Parish Council.

The report is attached to these minutes.

5. The West Berkshire Councillor.

The report is attached to these minutes.

Mr Pask felt that credit should be given to WBC for the way in which snow clearing was tackled this year, showing that the District does listen to it's Parishioners.

Mr Pask also said that he and Mr Webb would be in a position to object to both Curridge applications should they go to Committee at WBC.

6. The Village Hall Management Committee.

The report is attached to these minutes.

Dr Lawler also reviewed funding for the new Village Hall. Dr Lawler strongly believed that the funding needed for building the changing rooms at the same time as the Village Hall was both sensible and practical, and something which the Parish Council should provide, through an increase in the Precept. The Parish Council cost would be some £360k which could be met

from a loan by the Public Works Loan Board for a 30 year period and would cost each Band D Council Tax payer some £30 a year on their Council Tax for the 30 year term. The Committee was very disappointed that the Parish Council felt it could not support this project.

7. Hermitage and Curridge Youth Club.

Forty children used to attend the Club each Friday, but, because of the lack of parental support the Club has had to disband. Helpers are desperately needed to look after the children and re-invigorate the Club.

8. Hermitage Cubs and Scouts.

There are fourteen active Scouts and twenty six active Cubs, bearing in mind that in Scouting there are both girls and boys. The Cubs have visited Rushell Farm and the London Zoo. There have been a Halloween evening and a cooking competition, plus singing round the Christmas tree in the Village.

Scouts have been active in the outdoors including wildlife appreciation. Seventeen Scouts went to the Trooping of the Colour and were particularly well turned out.

There is to be a camp in Belgium.

There is to be a refurbishment of the Hut, particularly the kitchen, and thanks are expressed to everyone who helps all the year round.

9. Hermitage Horticultural Society.

There are several meetings in the year, and everyone is welcome to come, even if just to listen. There are two outings a year.

Although there are some 170 members, there is no one from Forest Edge, which worries the Committee.

Shows are well attended by Society members, but not many public come through the doors to look at the shows.

10. NAG Liaison Group.

There was no formal report, mainly because the PCSO is at the Curridge APA tonight.

11. Pre-School play group.

The report is attached to these minutes.

12. Trinity Church.

The Church has enjoyed a good year – there have been a hog roast, a big Harvest lunch and lots of other activities. The Pathfinder magazine has been very successful as a way of communicating with everyone – some 510 copies a month are circulated.

13. Village Vision.

The report is attached to these minutes.



14. Open Forum.

A £20k mortgage was obtained some 20 years ago to buy the property adjacent to the Hall and a similar loan should be arranged for the Hall now.

This would not work and future generations would be lumbered with an unnecessary debt burden.

The interest on a loan would be fixed for the term.

It is only by strict housekeeping that the previous loan has been paid off recently by the Parish Council.

Clearly the moneys from Miller Homes can only be used for the changing rooms.

Is the football field now owned by WBC.

The field has been taken over by WBC and in eighteen months the Parish Council would have the option to take over the maintenance if that was practical.

Has the remainder of the estate been taken over by WBC.

The Parish Council would make enquiries.

School buildings will have to have fire extinguishers – will such buildings have facilities to become greener.

Mr Webb said that WBC has got this in review at the moment. WBC has to go to a public consultation for an issue like this, and is striving to become greener in all it's undertakings.

The football pitch is ludicrous – WBC should be asked to get it right.

Flytipping is a problem becoming more so in the Parish. How much is the additional income accruing to WBC as a result of WBC charging for picking up large items such as fridges.

Mr Pask said that on private land WBC cannot help, but he would let the questioner know what the figure might be. There are now some miniature CCTV cameras and it might be possible to take action with evidence from the cameras.

15. Any Other Business.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.30.



Chairman

03.05.12

Date