

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 15TH 2011.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman
Mr D. Brown.
Mrs F. Groves.
Dr M. Kerry.
Dr J. Lawler.
Mr R. Marr.
Mr T. Robinson.

Mr C.W.Goudge Clerk

There was one member of the public present.

103 Public participation.

The question of participating in the West Berkshire Council project for generally faster broadband has been mentioned in the Council's minutes.

The local exchange will be upgraded shortly and this will automatically speed up broadband speeds, but it will not address the "weak link" of connection from the BT cabinet to a subscriber. There are a number of people who work from home who would benefit from a faster speed, but not everyone is interested in paying to achieve this.

There is an agenda item to determine the Council's view on broadband participation with WBC later on in the meeting.

104 Apologies for absence.

Mr Burgess, Mrs Goodman, Mrs Willis, Mr Willis, Mr Pask & Mr Webb had presented apologies for absence.

105 Minutes of the last meeting held on November 17th 2011.

The minutes had been circulated.

There was a motion expressing disagreement with minute 96.6. The proposer believed that no decision had been taken.

After discussion it was agreed to table this item for the next meeting to reach a formal decision.

The minutes were otherwise agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

It was proposed by Dr Lawler and seconded by Mr Brown that minutes should be posted on the notice boards as Draft Minutes, as well as on the website, instead of the present policy of only posting agreed minutes.

The proposal was put to the vote and passed by a majority.

106 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 93.

- i Housing needs survey.
It was decided to ask Arlene when the forms for Hermitage would be ready for distribution.
- ii Village website.
It was decided that the draft policies for Health & Safety and Equality & Diversity should be accepted as formal Council policies, placed on the website and included in Standing Orders.
- iii Notice Boards.
The new notice board is waiting installation. A budget of up to £200 was agreed for installation.
- iv Village Vision.
This is ongoing.
- v Broadband – participation with WBC.
It was proposed by Dr Lawler and seconded by Mr Brown that the Council should not contribute to Berkshire Broadband Improvement programme outlined by Mr Carter in his letter of November 2nd. The proposal was put to the vote and carried by a majority.
WBC would be informed.

107 Planning.**Decision from the Planning Authority.**

11/01325/FUL	Yasmine, Yattendon Road. Dwelling replacement.	Refusal
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New planning applications.

11/02313/LBC2	Threshers barn, Wellhouse farm. New Velux window.	The Council objected to the application on the grounds that the new Velux window would be a detraction from the roof of this listed building.
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11/02406/FUL	Apple Tree Cottage, Yattendon Road. S.73 Construction material variations.	No objections
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108 Highways.**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 95.

- i Cycle track.
It was suggested that WBC should be approached to allocate some of the S.106 funds accruing to the Parish to fund part of the costs of the track.

109 Environment.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

- i Christmas tree.
The tree was placed and switched on last week.
It was decided to write to Volker Highways to thank them for their tremendous help.
- ii Playground area.
This is ongoing.
- iii Proposed new Village Hall.
Negotiations are in hand between the HVHMC and WBC for the tenure of the proposed site.
Greenham Common Trust have confirmed their match funding support for the Hall but there is a constraint whereby construction should be started within some eighteen months hence.
- iv Allotments.
This is ongoing.
- v Tennis courts.
Planning consent is needed. If the Council presents the application the fee is halved.
- vi Football pitch.
The entrance gate needs replacing. Seats and a litter bin have been put in by WBC.
- vii Litter bin.
To be installed.
- viii Dog bins.
The collection by WBC contractors is not being carried out weekly. It was decided to ask WBC to remedy this.
- ix Bus shelter.
A simple repair which was needed and had arisen since the last meeting was carried out as an emergency matter.

110 Finance.

i	Receipts.		
	Camp Hopson	Burial fees	£275.00
ii	Payments for consideration.		
	F.C.Lawrence	Grass & sundry.	£457.00
	Mrs F. Groves	Christmas tree costs	£13.50
	BALC	Finance Seminar	£50.00
	Glasdon	Litter bin	£555.13
	Thames Water	Burial usage Sept qtr	£12.54
	Playground Services	Playground repairs	£1,404.00
	HMRC	PAYE	£71.00
	West Berkshire Council	Dog bin emptying	£167.06
	C.W.Goudge	Salaries & exes	£310.84

- iii Other matters.
 - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.
 - ii Grant applications received.
 - Small grant scheme.
 - Village Hall. £500.00
 - Hermitage H.S £250.00
 - Hermitage Scouts £500.00
 - Community grant scheme
 - Holy Trinity Church £1,000.00
 - Pre-School £1,235.40
 - iii Budget for 2012 – 2013.
The FWP would look at the figures for the next meeting.

111 Burial ground.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 98.

- i Water usage.
Thames Water have issued a revised bill.
- ii Grave space layout.
A plan of the new area has been drawn up and grave spaces numbered.
- iii Tidying work.
It was decided to ask Mr Lawrence to quote for removing the old compost heaps and, if needed, trimming the trees.
- iv Gate.
Quotes are being obtained for a new gate.

112 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.

LCR / NALC – newsmag.

NALC – e-bulletin for Councils. There are notes about new localism powers.

BALC AGM report.

NHS Health Network Newsletter.

Royal Berkshire Fire Authority – drawing attention to the Authority action Plan for 2012 / 2013.

The Correspondence was discussed and where appropriate placed into circulation.

113 Reports from Parish Council Representatives who had attended meetings of Outside Bodies on behalf of the Parish Council.

Dr Lawler had meetings to discuss the broadband issues, and the subject has been covered earlier in the meeting.

The Chairman had been involved in NALC matters in the Executive.
Councillor roles will be brought up for approval at the next meeting.

114 Items to be raised by Councillors.

Mrs Groves suggested that the August and the December meetings of the Council should be for Planning and Finance matters only. This met with general approval.

Mr Marr asked that the Council should be looking at a part in any Jubilee celebrations put forward by the Village.

Dr Kerry reported that there will be a planning application to WBC in January for the Chieveley incinerator.

115 Date of the next meeting.

Thursday January 19th at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room Holy Trinity Church.



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Chairman

19.01.12
Date