

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup> 2012..

Present.

Ms R Cottingham.	Chairman
Mr D. Brown.	
Mr R. Burgess	
Mrs M. Goodman.	
Mrs F. Groves.	
Dr M. Kerry.	
Dr J. Lawler,	
Mr R. Marr.	
Mr T. Robinson.	
Mr B. Willis.	
Mrs K. Willis.	
Mr Q. Webb	District Councillor.
Mr C.W. Goudge	Clerk

There were nine members of the public present.

### 116 Public participation.

Two members of the public presented objections to the planning application for an incinerator in the AONB adjoining the Parish.

Seven members of the public requested the Council to note that they were strongly in favour of the proposals for a new Hermitage Village Hall, including requisite funding from the Council.

Here Dr Lawler and Mr Marr declared Prejudicial Interests in the matter of the proposed new Hermitage Village Hall. The Chairman noted the Interests and reminded Dr Lawler and Mr Marr that, because the Council had elected in 2008 to allow Members with Interests to speak in the Public Forum, they were both free to speak at this stage. Both members would leave the meeting when the agenda item for the proposed new Village hall was reached.

### 117 Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

### 118 Minutes of the meetings held on November 17th and December 15<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Meeting November 17<sup>th</sup>.

There was a disagreement with minute 96.6 for the November meeting, which, it was suggested, was incorrect. The Chairman put the matter to the Council. It was proposed by Mrs Willis and seconded by Mrs Goodman that the minute should stand and be confirmed as correct. The proposition was put to the Council and passed by a majority.

Minutes of the meeting December 15<sup>th</sup> 2011.

The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**119 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 106.

- i Housing needs survey.  
Papers had not been received for the Parish and it was decided to ask Arlene when these would be available.
- ii Village website.  
There were no further comments.
- iii Notice boards.  
The second notice board is on order.
- iv Village Vision.  
There was a meeting recently to put together a final draft.

**120 The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.**

Mr Webb did not have a formal report, and was ready to answer any questions which might be raised during the meeting.

WBC was in the throghs of budget matters and this would take some time. Mr Webb was confident that , even though there was to be no increase in Council Tax, the level of WBC essential services would be maintained.

**121 Planning.**

**Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

11/02096/HOUSE	6, Stretcher Drive, Hermitage. Conservatory	<b>Approval</b>
11/02323/HOUSE	2, Oare View, Hermitage. Extension	<b>Approval</b>

**New applications.**

11/02690/CERTE	Flats 1 & 2, Fifield farm. Certificate application to confirm separate residential units.
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**The Council had no factual observations for this application.**

**Adjoining Parish.**

11/02644/COMIND	Grundon plc, Grange lane, Beenham. Chieveley incinerator. CD containing the full application available.
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**This application would be considered by a dedicated Council meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> in the Village Hall.**

**Other matters**

- i CPRE - Planning explained.  
The Council noted the booklet,

**122 Highways.**

**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 108.

- i Proposed cycle track.  
This is progressing.

**123 Environment.**

**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 109.

- i Pinewood play area.  
The recent inspection had been satisfactory, and it was decided to continue with the present playground Inspectors with a small increase in cost.  
**Here Dr Lawler and Mr Marr, having declared Prejudicial Interests, left the meeting.**

- ii Hermitage New Village Hall.  
There were comments that -  
It was beneficial to have the public express their views at this meeting.  
The concept is covered in the Parish Plan.  
It was noted that the land for a new Hall is not yet owned or leased, and negotiations are in progress.  
It was suggested that the Council has to show responsibility for using public money and that the detail of the project needed to be examined closely.  
It was proposed by Mr Robinson and seconded by Mrs Groves that there should be a referendum taken of all the Parish. This was passed by a majority.  
It was decided that the referendum details should be worked out by three Councillors and presented for action at the next meeting.  
It was proposed by Mr Willis and seconded by Mr Robinson that discussions should be opened with WBC with the object of seeing if it is feasible for the Council to acquire the ownership of the whole of the land. This was passed by a majority.

**Here Dr Lawler and Mr Marr rejoined the meeting.**

- iii Hermitage Village Hall.  
The minutes of the last Management Committee meeting had been circulated.
- iv Allotments.  
The land that seemed possible for allotments has become unavailable. It was decided to contact Chieveley PC to see if any land is available in the neighbouring Parish.

- v Tennis Courts.  
The preparatory work is complete, and the project is now waiting for the ownership of the land to be decided.
- vi Football pitch.  
The entry gate had been broken but is now repaired. The rabbit netting is down, and it was decided to ask WBC about putting in a stile.
- vii Litter bin.  
The bin is awaiting installation.
- viii Dog and litter bins.  
It was decided to check with WBC to see what days these should be emptied.

**124 Finance.**

- i Receipts.
 

Lloyds TSB	Interest qtr	£74.99
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- ii Payments authorised.
 

F.C.Lawrence	Grass,bus & inspection	£422.00
Ms R.Cottingham	Travel	£48.68
	Mince pies	£8.57
		£57.25
HMRC	PAYE	£71.00
C.W.Goudge	Salary & exes	£311.16
  
- iii Other matters.
  - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.
  - ii Mr Lawrence's quotations for the coming year were discussed.  
It was decided to accept the quotations.
  - iii It was proposed by Mrs Goodman and seconded by Mrs Groves that the Precept for the year to March 31 2013 be fixed at £26,000, unchanged from the present year. The proposition was approved.
  - iv The report from the FWP.  
The WP approved the accounts to date.  
The WP had looked at the grant applications. It was decided to make the following grants to be paid after the APA in April.
 

Small grants scheme.	
Hermitage Village Hall.	£500.00
Hermitage Hort Soc.	£250.00
Community grant scheme.	
PreSchool	£1,235.00

 It was suggested that Holy Trinity Church and hermitage Scouts & Cubs resubmit their applications.

**125 Burial Ground.**

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.



Minute 111.

- i Grave spaces.

- The plan will be distributed to local Undertakers.
- ii Burial ground work.  
It was proposed by Mr Marr and seconded by Mrs Willis that the following quotations from Mr Lawrence be accepted.  
To remove the mounds and reseed. £185.  
To trim the trees as needed. £104.

**126 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

Clerks & Councils Direct – newsletter.  
BALC/NALC - planning & localism seminars.  
If you need details about these don't wait for the meeting.  
NALC e-bulletin - newsletter  
The correspondence was discussed and where appropriate placed into circulation.

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

There were no reports.


**128 Items to be raised by Councillors.**

Mr Marr reported that there are a number of footways which are in a bad state of repair, particularly from the Fox upwards. It was decided to inform WBC.

The Chairman reported that a resident felt that the speed at which vehicles travel from Marlston Bridge is a danger and an extra 30mph roundel should be installed between the Bridge and High Street.  
There has been a request for lighting in Colyer Close. It was decided to contact Sovereign Housing to progress this.

**129 Date of the next meeting.**

**Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room Holy Trinity Church.**

.....  
  
Chairman

16.02.12  
.....  
Date

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup> 2012..

Present.

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman  
Mr D. Brown.  
Mr R. Burgess  
Dr J. Lawler.  
Mr R. Marr.  
Mr B. Willis.  
Mrs K. Willis.

Mr C.W.Goudge Clerk

There were thirty four members of the public present.

### 130 Public Forum.

*WBAGI presented their opposition to the proposed Grundon development in Chieveley.*

The printed presentation is attached.

*Mrs Linda Waller objected to the proposed application.*

The notes are attached.

*Mr Mullholand objected to the proposed application on the grounds that it would infringe the AONB and it was not needed for the amount of waste available locally. There are alternative sites, and this would lead to further industrialisation of Hermitage.*

The Chairman asked if there were any supporters for the application, but there appeared to be none.

### 131 Apologies for absence.

Mrs Goodman, Mrs Groves, Dr Kerry, Mr Robinson and Mr Webb had tendered apologies for absence.

### 132 Planning.

#### **New planning applications.**

11/02644/COMIND Grundon plc.  
Incinerator at Chieveley.

The Council discussed the proposal in detail, and Councillors presented reasoned objections to the siting in the AONB, the obtrusive design which would be visible in Hermitage, and, although Councillors have met Grundon, no positive reasons for placing the plant at the suggested site were given.

It was unanimously decided to object to the proposal on grounds which are attached to these minutes.

**133 Date of the next meeting.**

**Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room Holy Trinity Church.**



Chairman

16.02.12

Date

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL.  
Objections to application 11/02644/COMIND

AONB	<p>The application site is in the protected landscape North Wessex Downs AONB.</p> <p>The area occupied by the proposed site is similar to the combined area of the other facilities at the M4 junction. This would be an approximate doubling of the land used in this part of the AONB</p> <p>If granted the application could be used as the thin end of the wedge for further development in the AONB</p>	<p>Planning policies should seek to protect and enhance the character, quality and amenity value of the country side</p>	PPS1
<p>Visual environment and landscape effects</p>	<p>The proposed building is 45m, or 15 storeys high. Disproportionately large in comparison with other buildings in the Newbury area.</p> <p>The chimney will only be 10m shorter than the aero generator at Green Park, M4 junction 12</p> <p>When the leaves are off the trees the building will be visible from the higher parts of Hermitage, as is the motorway and the service area now. The buildings in the service area are much lower than the EfW proposal</p> <p>The report does not provide comprehensive information about properties effected. It merely provides examples, by saying 'including'</p>	<p>A high level of protection should be given to the most valued landscapes.</p> <p>All development in rural areas should be in keeping and in scale with it's location.</p> <p>In nationally designated areas conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape should be given great weight.</p>	PPS1  PPS7  PPS7



Flora and fauna.	If planning permission is granted the access route for the new electricity supply should not be routed through the semi - natural ancient woodland to the south and west of the site.		
Air	The applicant asserts that there will be not be a pollution problem, but also dismisses alternative sites because of the cumulative air pollution effect that there will be air pollution, with the prevailing wind from the south west air pollution will reach Hermitage, which is to the north east of the application site.		
Water pollution	The application site is above an important ground water aquifer. The flood risk section of the report assumes that all flood prevention measures will be affective. It does not take into account the heavy rainfall which caused flooding, including the A34 underpass in 2005. The rainfall was about 50% more than the plant is designed for. The application is concerned with the effect of flooding on the proposed development and not the effects on the ground water aquifer.		
Socio-economic effects	When operating the site will only provide 35, or is it 40 -50 jobs? There is a mismatch between sections of the application.		
Need	West Berkshire neither needs the site nor imported residual waste from neighbouring counties.		

RC

Alternative sites	<p>The applicant has chosen a site which came third on its list of possible sites, saying that the top 2 had planning issues. There are no industrial buildings on this site, unlike some of the others studied. It is proposed to spoil this site in preference to using already down graded applications. If one large building is put at Chieveley the area will be considered fair game for other large buildings.</p>	<p>In considering planning applications for waste management facilities WPAs should consider the likely effect on the local environment.</p>	PPS10
Site technology	<p>Alternative technologies are more efficient than this proposal.</p>		
Transport	<p>The Environmental Statement does not include detailed information about energy efficiency or the potential use of waste heat produced. The Lakeside plant does not yet have users for its waste heat.</p>		
	<p>Materials transfer takes place between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm. This window includes the morning (8.00 - 9.00 am) and evening (5.15 - 6.15 pm) traffic peaks. Large lorries could contribute to congestion which could cause difficulties for Hermitage residents when entering or leaving the M4 and the A34.</p>		
	<p>The existing junction is very complex. It is inappropriate to use the service roads for the motorway service area for large HGVs.</p>		
	<p>The proposal states that dustcarts could also be used to transfer waste to the site. Such vehicles travelling through Hermitage rather than being on duty there would increase the volume of traffic.</p>		

## **West Berkshire Against Grundon Incinerator (WBAGI) Objection Points.**

Dear Hermitage Parish Council

I set out below objections on behalf of WBAGI to the current planning application by Grundon.

The proposed development is located within the AONB. The Application does not comply with planning policy for the AONB, and within that, if the submitted Environmental Statement (ES) deals with all the elements of the proposed development adequately and as required by national policy for the AONB.

If this were to occur it would be the thin edge of the wedge and would set national precedence for large scale industrial planning within an UK AONB's.

### **National Policy**

The Planning Statement submitted with the application sets out the applicants' consideration of the relevance and impact of national policies. We do not propose to address all of those submissions, but I will address areas where the Planning Statement, and supporting documents, either ignore the obligations, or do not adequately reflect the obligations of national policy, including the draft National Planning Policy Framework.

### ***PPS22***

We would however, first wish to draw attention to the reference by the applicant in the Planning Statement to provisions within PPS22 (Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy, 2004) and the Companion Guide. The conclusions in the Planning Statement (para 6.26 – 6.27) are that the development would comply with PPS22, including impact on the AONB.

However, the introduction to PPS22 states clearly that the guidance note covers energy from various technologies “(but not energy from mass incineration of domestic waste)”. Therefore, for the purposes of this application, PPS22 is not relevant and any representations by the applicant in relation to the relevance of PPS22 should be discounted.

### ***PPS7***

PPS7 sets out in paragraphs 21 and 22 the current national policy for development in an AONB. AONBs are defined as having the highest status of protection from development and further that the conservation of the natural beauty of an AONB should be given great weight.

The level of protection is enhanced in relation to “major development” (para 22 of PPS7). The proposed development is clearly major development. PPS7 states that major development should not take place in an AONB except “in exceptional circumstances”, and that any application for such development must be subject to “the most rigorous examination” and must be shown to be “in the public interest”, if it is to be allowed to proceed. Various factors are defined as being relevant to the “rigorous examination” and the consideration of “national interest”. Those most relevant to this application are:

1. The need for the development, which must consider national considerations.
2. The cost and scope of undertaking the development outside the designated area.

The Planning Statement does not address, and is totally silent on, the requirement to (i) demonstrate that the proposed development is in the public interest, (ii) demonstrate the extent to which it is needed in terms of national considerations, and (iii) demonstrate the extent to which the development could be located outside the designated area. We accept that the Planning Statement makes reference to the Alternative Sites Assessment (ASA), and that such assessment is included in the ES. The problem is that the ASA does not itself incorporate or reflect the “rigorous examination” test required for development in an AONB and is fatally flawed and irrelevant.

The Planning Statement does not actually conclude that the development is, or is not, in compliance with relevant national policy on development in an AONB. It is that the applicant did not make such a conclusion, nor did it undertake any assessment (in either the Planning Statement or the ES) to indicate compliance or not, precisely because it is self-evident that the development is in total contradiction to national policy for the AONB.

### ***NPPF***

The proposals in the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are a ‘material consideration’ in the determination of any planning application. The NPPF clearly states that the planning system must continue to conserve and enhance the environment by protecting valued landscapes. Indeed, it might be seen to strengthen that protection in so far as it states that “permission should be refused for major developments in designated areas except in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that they are in the public interest”. That is a strong and clear statement of the obligations laid on a developer who wishes to undertake development in an AONB. It defines the test that should apply here.

### ***Conclusions on Policy***

Neither the Planning Statement, nor the ES, properly respond to the primary policy obligations that need to be satisfied for this major development in the AONB. The development does not comply with AONB policy.

The failure to address those policy obligations probably reflects the conclusion of the applicant that they are irresolvable conflicts of policy. The failure to address those policy obligations might suggest that the Local Planning Authority should require the applicant to address them before any further work on the application, or determination, by the LPA is undertaken.

However, given the substantial and fundamental nature of that conflict of policy, it is unlikely that they are resolvable. In that circumstance, We believe the LPA should not waste time, but should refuse the application now on the primary grounds that the application is totally in conflict with AONB policy and that the applicant has not demonstrated why it is in the national interest for the proposed development to take place in the AONB, and neither has the applicant demonstrated that all other locations outside the AONB are unsuitable.

### ***Other Considerations***

A number of other non-policy considerations indicate that the application should be refused and we identify some below.

### ***Arising and Alternative Site Assessment***

The suggested catchment area for the arisings to be incinerated extends beyond the AONB and the West Berkshire Area to include major urban conurbations. The basis for the

Alternative Site Assessment (ASA) undertaken by the applicant is to assess alternatives on the concept that the application site is the centre of the requirement for waste treatment. That is, of course, entirely an erroneous basis. That basis would, for example, indicate that the site was the ideal location for treating waste from Bristol and London.

The proper basis for considering the location of a waste treatment plant would be assess facilities near the waste arising's in those major urban conurbations. Not only would that properly assess need, but development near such locations would clearly be more sustainable, due to shorter traffic movements. As it stands the ASA is misleading and does not justify development of this site regardless of the AONB designation.

### ***Cumulative impact***

The other application is mentioned. Stated it says "the two proposals are both capable of determination on their own merits, as well as also being mutually compatible. The ES assessment should have assessed the applications as part of cumulative impact assessment.

### ***Traffic movements***

The study indicates that the application of 250,000 tonnes is the bottom end of the range for predicted waste this site can handle. The foot print of the building has the capacity to handle circa 450,000 tonnes. Traffic assessments have only been done for 250,000.

### ***Sense of Place***

Newbury has put a significant investment into its development to retain the look, feel and culture of a market town. This development severely impacts on this impression. Once precedence is set, it would be hard to defend any other industrial developments in the Greenfield land (which has less protection than an AONB) that exists between this proposed development and the Vodafone site. This would lead to the unacceptable industrialisation of the north side of Newbury.

### **Conclusions**

As stated earlier, the proposed development does not comply with AONB policy and should be refused. In addition, the application does not demonstrate (i) a need to be located at the application site, (ii) Address the need for a cumulative impact assessment (iii) Take into consideration a true traffic assessment (iv) Take into consideration the cultural effect it would have on the area.

RC

## Hermitage Village Plan and the Grundon (Newbury) Incinerator

In 2000, Hermitage started a major consultation process with its parishioners to "Ensure that local people have a voice in their future" and to create a "Comprehensive vision of how the Community sees itself developing over the next few years."

This led to the adoption of the Village Vision including the Village Design Statement which was accepted by WBC in July 2004.

In it Hermitage residents stated that the location of our village within an AONB is fundamental to its character and future development. Many references to the preservation of the surrounding countryside and rural environment are made in the Village Plan. I would like to read key extracts from that statement. All this is available on the Hermitage Village web site.

- 1) "The Parish of Hermitage lies in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - which implies planning status similar to that of a national park. We are most fortunate in our geographical location within an AONB." Fact: The Incinerator would be located within the AONB – and would have the distinction of being the first ever to have such a uniquely inappropriate location.
- 2) From almost anywhere within the village there are outward views, providing a visual link with wooded skylines to the surrounding AONB. Fact: Plumes of emissions would be visible stretching across the sky over Hermitage. From elevated positions in and around the village it would be possible to see the chimney stack/ incinerator.
- 3) The general introduction of street lighting in the village would be unwelcome. Where it may be necessary for safety reasons we would like to avoid obtrusive street furniture and seek to reduce light levels and pollution as much as possible. Fact: The Chimney stack at 75m is almost two and a half times higher than the much reviled Telephone Exchange building in Newbury – so high that the MOD has requested new aeronautical charts so that helicopters and fast jets can avoid it. It will require red lights flashing 60 times per minute with a 360 degree range. The MOD has said that it requires "Full intensity in the vertical path (so lighting up the night sky)
- 4) Any unsightly structures (such as additional radio masts) which impact on the visual amenities of the AONB or local residents should be resisted. We will object to proposals for new radio/telephone masts. Fact: The Incinerator is 45m high and 200 m long. The Telephone Exchange would fit into it 4 or 5 times. It would engulf most of Northbrook St.

RC

- 5) We need to manage development in the context of Hermitage sitting in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The aim is to develop the village in ways that make us a healthier, safer, a more prosperous, greener and stronger community.

Fact: 180 large lorries will be bringing refuse significant distances to the Incinerator – a Grondon Director mentioned Birmingham and Coventry not a green solution. No one has explained how a massive Incinerator will make Hermitage more prosperous or healthier.

### **Summary**

The information above has been taken in context from the Hermitage Village Plan which resulted from a substantial and formal consultation process.. There are councillors and parishioners here tonight who were involved in the development of that plan.

I understand that a key role of the Parish Councillor is to "Represent the views and concerns of Residents through the Parish Council to the District Council". And on that basis it is inconceivable and would be in complete contradiction to the Village plan and therefore wishes of the Hermitage residents if members of the Parish Council – were not to record our village's opposition to the construction of a waste incinerator within an AONB.

*\*(The Parish Council Tool kit )*

Linda Waller, Honey Oak Cottage, Hermitage, 19.01.12



TUE 31/1/12

**Planning Application No. 11/02644/comind**

I write with reference to the above planning application regarding the development at Old Kiln Farm in Chieveley by Grundon Sand and Gravel Ltd and wish to formally record my objection on the following grounds:

- The proposal would harm the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is contrary to strict Government guidelines. No energy from waste facility has yet received approval on an AONB and to do so would set an all-together undesirable precedent.
- If permitted, the development would open the door to other smaller plans and would swamp the area.
- \* If the proposal is adjudged as necessary, and this is denied, such proposal should take place on a suitable brownfield site, such as the shortly to be vacated Didcot Power Station.
- \* Burning waste is now perceived as out-dated technology and has been overtaken by local and far more environmentally-friendly methods. The proposal appears speculative in nature and the proposer in undue haste to try to secure approval for a money-making scheme from contracts to incinerate waste from a wide area of Southern England and beyond. All of this at great harm to the environment and huge inconvenience to local inhabitants.
- \* The prevailing wind is from the South West and the village of Hermitage and its environs would be significantly affected by air pollution from the site.
- The site is located above a significant aquifer. In the event of major flooding, such as that experienced in ~~2007~~ <sup>2005</sup>, serious pollution of the aquifer is likely to occur.
- \* West Berkshire Council have indicated no need <sup>for</sup> of the services of such a site. The proposals indicate that waste would be transported from a large area of Southern England and beyond to the site, placing a large and unnecessary burden on both the national roads network, local roads and infrastructure and damage to the environment through ~~major~~ lorry movements.

we are told 180 per day  
up to

RC



## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> 2012.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham.	Chairman
Mr D. Brown.	
Mr R. Burgess	
Mrs M. Goodman.	
Mrs F. Groves.	
Dr M. Kerry.	
Dr J. Lawler,	
Mr R. Marr,	
Mr T. Robinson.	
Mr B. Willis.	
Mrs K. Willis.	
Mr Q. Webb	District Councillor.
Mr C.W. Goudge	Clerk

There were four members of the public present.

### 130 Public Forum.

*Two Representatives from the Cold Ash Communication Group presented a case for the Council to participate in the WBC broadband initiative. The Group was disappointed at the Council's decision not to contribute.*

It was felt that Hermitage speeds were acceptable, and the exchange would be upgraded next year. The District Councillor suggested that Council might look at it in the future.

*PCSO Amelia Sergeant would be glad to answer any queries.*

Door knockers and window breakers are a problem.

*Some culprits have had low level warnings. We do work with the local authority on causes of such behaviour.*

What happens if they reoffend.

*Culprits are taken into a more serious regime.*

*PC Mathew Allen introduced himself to the Council and asked that Parishioners let him know of any problems which would benefit by working with the police. It would be possible to work as a NAG with one Parish. PC Allen suggested keeping in touch through the Chairman and the Clerk.*

There are two Councillors who are NAG members and feel it works very well as a communication tool, though Parish meetings might be preferable. It was agreed this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

**131 Apologies for absence.**

All Councillors were present.

**132 Minutes of the last meeting held on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

The minutes had been circulated.

Amendments to 124 and 128 had been requested, and, with these amendments the minutes were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**133 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

Minute 119.

i Housing needs survey.

The papers from Arlene had been circulated.

It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mrs Goodman that –

- The questionnaires would be delivered by hand in the Village and by post to outlying Parishioners.
- There would be a freepost return envelope in each set of papers delivered or posted and a ballot box at the Village store.
- The ballot box would be taken to the APA.

The proposition was carried by a majority.

ii Website.

There were no further comments.

iii Notice board.

The second notice board had arrived. WBC have agreed the location.

iv Village Vision.

The notes accompanying the draft Vision had been circulated.

There was a suggestion that playground equipment for fourteen to eighteen year old Youth might be included in the wish list.

It was decided that the draft should be submitted to WBC for overall comment, after which it would come to the Council for approval and formal submission to WBC .

**134 The report from the District Councillor.**

The District Conference is proving a popular form of meeting.

Planning Department has had a struggle to return to the efficiency levels needed, but the problems were being overcome.

There had been an unannounced visit to a senior care home which had shown that the care in that home was of a high standard.

There are continuing efforts to keep spending within the lower limits set by the budget for the current year.

**135 Planning.**

**Decisions from the Planning Authority**

11/02313/LBC2	Threshers Barn, Wellhouse farm. Velux conservation window.	Refusal
11/02406/FUL	Apple Tree Cottage, Yattendon Road.	

	S.73 variation of conditions.	<b>Approval</b>
11/02487/HOUSE	15, Pinewood Crescent, Hermitage. Conservatory.	<b>Approval</b>

**New planning applications.**

11/02690/CERTE	Flat 1 and Flat 2, Fifield Farm. Separate residential units.	<b>No further comments</b>
11/02714/HOUSE	4, Rowlock Gardens, Hermitage Conservatory – retrospective	<b>No objections</b>
12/00156/FUL	Boars Hole Farm, Marlston Hermitage. Installation of solar panels.	<b>No objections</b>
12/00207/NONMAT	Wyldwood, High Street. Minor changes to 126329/FULL	<b>No objections</b>
12/00208/HOUSE	Mayflower barn, Wellhouse Farm. Roof light in garage.	<b>No objections</b>
12/00230/HOUSE	4, Faville Oaks, Hermitage. Extension.	<b>No objections</b>
12/00106/FULD	Caravan, Land at Stable View. Change of use to gypsy site.	

The Council objected to this application on the following grounds, referred to in Spatial Strategy.

1. The need for sites does not outweigh the significant harm which this site would cause to the AONB.
2. The visual harm which the applicant has already created is too great to justify any temporary planning consent.

**Other matters**

- |     |   |                   |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| i   | Land at Clairwood, Hampstead Norreys Road.<br>Tree preservation Order.                                  | <b>Confirmed.</b> |
| ii  | CPRE.<br>Guide to neighbourhood planning – booklet - noted.   |                   |
| iii | Land at Two Cedars & Hermitage House.<br>Savill's would be free to attend a pre-application discussion. |                   |

**136 Highways.****Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

## Minute 122.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| i | Cycle track.<br>Some notes will be drafted for submission to Mark Edwards. It is believed there is a contractual commitment to the track in the S.106 agreement from Miller Homes, for a cycleway along Yattendon Road between the Fox and Deacons Lane. |
|---|--|

**137 Environment.****Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of January 19th.**

## Minute 123.

- i Hermitage New Village Hall.  
A possible Village vote was discussed.  
It was proposed by Mr Brown and seconded by Dr Lawler that –
- Council should consult WBC with a view to WBC arranging a Village Vote, to gauge the acceptability of raising the Precept in future years in order to make a grant to the Village Hall.
- The Proposition was carried by a majority.  
A budget figure of £2,000 was set for the cost.  
It was also agreed that there should be an extraordinary meeting of Council to discuss funding.
- ii Land acquisition.  
It was proposed by Mrs Goodman and seconded by Dr Lawler that the Council should now consult a Solicitor on the ramifications of acquiring the whole of the land and the arrangements which would be needed to manage the facility.  
The proposition was approved by a majority.
- iii Pinewood play area.  
There was nothing further to report.
- iv Allotments.  
The land search has temporarily stalled. It was decided to ask Chieveley Parish Council whether there is any land available for allotments in their Parish.
- v Tennis Courts.  
This is now waiting for the land title to be agreed.
- vi Football pitch.  
There are no current comments.
- vii Litter bins.  
Awaiting installation.
- viii Dog bins.  
No further developments,

**138 Finance.**

- i Receipts.  
None
- ii Payments authorised.
- |                         |                                   |         |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| F.C.Lawrence            | Grass, bus shelters & inspections | £422.00 |
| Hermitage Village Hall. | Hall hire – planning.             | £17.55  |
| Mrs F. Groves           | Seminar mileage                   | £19.28  |
| HMRC                    | PAYE                              | £71.00  |
| C.W.Goudge              | Salary & exes                     | £348.80 |

*RC* 15.03.12

- iii Other matters.
  - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.
  - ii Grant applications resubmitted.
    - Community grants.
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Hermitage Scout Group £750
    - Holy Trinity Church £1,000
    - These two grants were approved.
  - iii Financial matters seminar.
    - It was decided to invest £35k in a three month fixed interest deposit account with LloydsTSB
  - iv Grant application procedures.
    - It was felt that not enough background information was provided by applicants – as required by the application forms. In view of experience this year, it was decided to bring a suggestion for amendments to the forms and conditions to the next meeting.

**139 Burial Ground.**

**Matters arising from the meeting of January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Minute 125.

- i Burial ground work.
  - Mr Lawrence’s quotes for the removal of the mounds and trimming of trees have been accepted.

**140 Correspondence received since the meeting of January 19<sup>th</sup> not referred to elsewhere.**

WBC – Mobile library service schedule – for notice boards.

**141 Reports from Parish Council Representatives who have attended meetings of Outside Bodies on behalf of the Parish Council.**

Mrs Goodman had attended the Chieveley Stay and Play event which was both enlightening and enjoyable.

**142 Items to be raised by Councillors.**

It was felt that the work which Mr Robinson had put into the proposal for a Village Vote should be formally recognised in these minutes.


**143 Dates for the coming meetings.**

**Council - March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.**

**Council – April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.**

**APA – May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Village Hall.**

**Council – May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.**

.....  
  
 Chairman

.....  
 15.03.12  
 Date

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> 2012.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman  
Mr D. Brown, Mr R. Burgess, Mrs M. Goodman, Mrs F. Groves,  
Dr M. Kerry, Dr J. Lawler, Mr R. Marr, Mr T. Robinson, Mr B. Willis,  
Mrs K. Willis.

Mr Q. Webb District Councillor.  
Mr C.W.Goudge Clerk

There were two members of the public present.

**144 Public forum.**

*The plans for the Two Cedars development are not clear in some aspects, and the proposed houses are on the southern bend of the road. There is a great deal of concern for the cedars themselves.*

The Council will be considering the plans later and note the comments.

**145 Apologies for absence.**

All the Councillors were present.

**146 Minutes of the last meeting held on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**147 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

Minute 133.

i Housing needs survey.

A comment was made that there are a number of elderly people in the Parish who would like to downsize and stay in the Village. It was decided to ask Arlene to cover this in the survey.

It would be best to distribute the survey following the next meeting.

ii Notice boards.

These are in place and are starting to be used by local people.

iii Village Vision.

The Aspirations have been given to WBC and further data is also being sent to WBC shortly.

iv The APA will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Village Hall.

There are two or perhaps three potential speakers.

It was decided to ask the same local caterers as last year to provide the food.

**148 The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.**

Mr Webb felt that there were no further significant matters to report.

**149 Planning.****Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

10/00247/FUL	Eling Estate buildings. Storage to B(1) use.	Approval
11/02683/CERTP	High Oak, Deacons Lane. Extension replacement	Lawful
11/02714/HOUSE	4, Rowlock Gardens, Hermitage Conservatory	Approval

**HERE MS COTTINGHAM DECLARED A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST AND LEFT THE MEETING.  
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN TOOK THE MEETING ON AS CHAIRMAN.**

**New planning applications.**

12/00357/FULD	Two Cedars, Newbury Road. Demolition and four new dwellings. The grounds for objection are attached.	Objections
---------------	--	------------

**HERE MS COTTINGHAM REJOINED THE MEETING AND RESUMED AS CHAIRMAN.**

12/00240/FULDMAJ	Land off Pinewood Crescent. Twenty eight new dwellings The grounds for objection are attached.	Objections
------------------	--	------------

**Other matters.**

12/00494/FULD	Land at Stable View, Oare. Retrospective application. It was decided to defer consideration of this application until the next meeting,	
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**150 Highways.****Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 136.

- i Proposed cycle track.  
The track would run from the Ridgeway to Newbury.  
It was decided to ask WBC for an estimated cost for the project.
- ii Bridge closure – Priors Court Road over the M4.  
The closure will start on Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> and end Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**151 Environment.****Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 137.

- i New Hermitage Village Hall.
  - i Village Vote.  
The date of the vote will follow the public Village meeting to decide the question to be put to the Parish. The vote will be regulated by WBC.

- ii Funding.  
A group from the Council will work with the HVHMC to provide the financial information asked for in a series of questions from the Council, so that the ground for a possible loan application could be established.
- iii Land acquisition.  
It was proposed by Mrs Goodman and seconded by Mr Robinson that the Council should work to acquire the land shown as white on the plan supplied by WBC, this to exclude the wooded area.  
The proposition was passed by a majority.  
The Council would work with the HVHMC to deal with the leasing of land to the HVHMC and the operating details which would allow the HVHMC to run the football pitch.
- ii Pinewood play area.  
The repairs to the equipment seem to be fine.  
The waste bin will be put out with the Scout rubbish.  
There is a proposed Jubilee celebration in the park, with a suggested date of June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- iii Village Hall.  
The boiler continues to be a problem.
- iv Allotments.  
There is a faint possibility of a small piece of local land which could be used for allotments.
- v Tennis courts.  
Tennis court provision will depend on the land details being worked out – iii above.
- vi Football pitch.  
A large amount of litter was reported to WBC and cleared the next day.
- vii Litter bins.  
These are now installed.
- viii Dog bins and waste.  
Mr Lawrence has cleared the accumulated waste by the footpath. It was decided to order a dog waste bin from WBC to be placed by the path.
- ix NAG.  
Ms Cottingham and Mrs Groves will represent the Council at NAG which will meet quarterly in the Adelaide Room.

## 152 Finance.

- i Receipts.
 

Dignity Funerals	Burial fees	£196.00
Camp Hopson	Burial fees	£200.00
- ii Payments authorised.
 

F.C.Lawrence	Grass, bus shelters & inspections	£556.00
FitzPatrick Woolmer	Notice board	£1,417.20
Mrs F. Groves	Conference mileage & park	£8.81
HMRC	PAYE	£71.00
Hugh Rawlingson	Litter bin & notice board install	£320.00
C.W.Goudge	Salary & exes	£330.21
- iii Other matters.
  - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.



**153 Burial Ground.**

**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 125.

- i Burial ground work.  
It was decided to plant a beech hedge on the new ground.
- ii There is an application to engrave a line on an existing headstone. The illustration had not been received and this was deferred.
- iii Flowers by an ashes placement.  
It was decided that flowers could not be permitted. Perhaps a memorial tree could be planted in a suitable place.

**154 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

Clerks & Councils Direct – newsmag  
NALC – legal Prayer briefing.

**155 Reports from Parish Council Representatives who have attended meetings of Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council.**

The notes from the District Parish Conference are available.

**156 Items to be raised by Councillors.**


No items were raised.

**157 Dates of the next meetings.**

**Council – April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.**

**APA - May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Village hall.**

**Council - May 17<sup>th</sup> in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.**

  
.....  
Chairman

12.03.12  
.....  
Date

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON MAY 17<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Present.

Mr R. Burgess.  
Mr D. Brown.  
Ms R Cottingham.  
Mrs F. Groves.  
Mr R. Marr  
Mr T. Robinson

Mr Q. Webb                      District Councillor.  
Mr C.W.Goudge                Clerk

One member of the public.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

Ms R.Cottingham opened the meeting.

**1. The Election of the Chairman for the coming year.**

It was proposed by Mr Marr and seconded by Mr Burgess that Mr Brown be elected Chairman.

It was proposed by Mrs Groves that Ms Cottingham be elected Chairman.

There was no seconder for this proposal which therefore failed.

A vote of those present was taken on the proposal by Mr Marr. The result of the vote was a tie and Ms Cottingham, as existing Chairman of the meeting, exercised the Chairman's casting vote against the proposal.

It was proposed by Mrs Groves and seconded by Mr Robinson that Ms Cottingham be elected Chairman for the coming year. This proposal was approved by a majority and Ms Cottingham was therefore elected Chairman for the coming year.

Ms Cottingham signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**2. Apologies for absence.**

There were apologies for absence from Mrs Goodman, Dr Kerry, Dr Lawler, Mr & Mrs Willis and Mr Pask.

**3. The election of the Vice Chairman for the coming year.**

It was proposed by Mrs Groves and seconded by Ms Cottingham that Mrs Goodman be elected Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

The proposition was passed by a majority.

**4. The Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies.**

The following appointments were made.

Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee.  
Hermitage Pre School  
Neighbourhood Action Group

BAYCP

Dr Kerry  
Mrs Goodman  
Mrs Groves.  
Ms Cottingham  
Mrs Willis

Village Vision Group

Mrs Goodman

5. **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.**  
The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were approved in their present form.
6. **Registers of Member's Interests.**  
Members are reminded to make sure their Register is up to date.

### THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

- 7 **Public Forum.**  
*Any out of date notices around the Village should be taken down by the people responsible.*  
Council concurred.
- 8 **Minutes of the last meeting held on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2012.**  
The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.
- 9 **Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**  
Minute 161.
- i Village Vision.  
There had been a recent meeting and comments are awaited.
  - ii Website.  
It was emphasised that the site is a Village site and not a dedicated Parish Council site. It was also felt that comments must not appear to emanate from the Council unless they are part of the specific Council part of the site.
  - iii Footpath 18.  
There is waste being dumped on the footpath. It was decided to set up an Environment Working Party in the Autumn.
- 10 **The report from the West Berkshire Councillor.**  
The complaints coming from the Lawrence site operation are being investigated by WBC Enforcement.
- 11 **Planning.**  
**Decisions from the Planning Authority.**
- |                                   |   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 12/00231/FUL                      | Southwood, Yattendon Road.<br>Extension.                | <b>Approval</b>      |
| 12/00240/FULD                     | Land off Pinewood Crescent, Hermitage<br>New housing.   | <b>Approval</b>      |
| 12/00357/FULD                     | Land at Two cedars, Hermitage<br>New housing            | <b>Approval</b>      |
| 12/00455/HOUSE                    | Holly Lodge, Pond lane.<br>Conservatory.                | <b>Approval</b>      |
| <b>New Planning applications.</b> |   |                      |
| 12/00691/HOUSE                    | Meadow Pipit, Oare.<br>Extension & porch.               | <b>No objections</b> |
| 12/00775/FUL                      | 12, Dines way, Hermitage.<br>S.73 variation condition 2 | <b>No objections</b> |

12/00900/HOUSE

Simons Plough  
Roof changes

No objections

**Other matters.**

- i Lawrence Farm Equipment site.  
Mr Webb has referred to the Enforcement action.

**12 Highways.****Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

- i Minute 164.  
Cycle track. WBC are to provide a costing.

**13 Environment.****Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 165.

- i New Hermitage Village Hall.  
The Village vote is being taken this evening. The result will be an agenda item for the next meeting.  
The FWP is in consultation with the VHMC over finance questions.  
WBC are agreeable to transfer the title of the land comprising that shown with a red border to the Council. The matter is now passed to the AMG who have been asked for an early meeting. Plan attached.
- ii Pinewood play area.  
Small vandalism has been reported. A tree has been bark stripped. The Scouts are not able to empty the bin and it was decided to ask WBC to do this.
- iii Jubilee celebrations.  
A request for a Community grant had been received through the Village Hall and it was decided to make a grant of £500.
- iv Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee.  
There was nothing further to report.
- v Allotments.  
Enquiries for land are ongoing.
- vi Football pitch.  
The area round the goalposts has been reseeded. The fence has been damaged and WBC are in the process of repairing it. The grass area could do with hollow tining in the Autumn.
- vii Dog bins.  
WBC are to be chased.

**14 Finance.**

i	Receipts.		
	WBC	Precept 50%	£13,000.00
	G. Church & Co	Burial	£150.00
ii	Payments authorised		
	Ground Contractors	Maintenance	£637.50
	Jane Staunton	APA catering	£270.00
	West Berkshire Council	Salt bin	£230.40
	Zurich Insurance	Premium 12 / 13	£1,038.53
	Hermitage Village Hall	Jubilee celebrations grant	£500.00

	Ms R Cottingham	APA costs	£81.85
	HMRC	PAYE	£71.60
	C.W.Goudge	Salary & exes	£309.78
iii	Other matters.		
	i	Grant application forms. Recommendations – this will be an item for the next meeting..	
	ii	Three month deposit with Lloyds TSB matures on May 29 <sup>th</sup> . It was decided to deposit £50k on a three month term.	

**15 Burial Ground.****Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 167.

- i Ground clearance and general work.  
Mr Lawrence had completed the removal of the grass mound.  
It was decided to place dividing strips between the normal grave spaces and the area for interment of ashes.
- ii New gate.  
It was decided to accept the quote from Mr Baker for the gate repairs.
- iii Burial  
There was a burial in a reserved grave.

**16 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

Newbury Spring festival – posters.

CPRE – Field Work newsmag

The correspondence was discussed and where appropriate placed into circulation.

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

There were no reports.

**18 Items to be raised by Councillors.**

Mr Marr reported that Footpath No 16 is overfilled with rubbish and will be liable to flooding. It was decided to ask WBC to clear the footpath.

**19 Date of the next meeting.**Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room Holy Trinity Church.

.....  
  
 Chairman

.....  
 21.06.12  
 Date

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> 2012.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman  
Mr D. Brown, Mr R. Burgess, Mrs M. Goodman, Mrs F. Groves, Dr M. Kerry,  
Dr J. Lawler, Mr T. Robinson, Mr B. Willis, Mrs K. Willis.

Mr Q. Webb District Councillor.  
Mr C.W. Goudge Clerk

There were four members of the public present.

### 20 Public participation.

*PC Mathew Allen, the Neighbourhood Officer for Cold Ash, Hermitage and Downland neighbourhoods, introduced himself and two colleagues, a PCSO and a Special Constable. Generally crime is less than it has been, and the last year has seen a reduction of some 20%. Is there any particular crime area which is down. Not really, but this is a country area and statistics spread between recognised burglary, shed break in and vehicle crime. There is some anti-social behaviour at the football pitch – how was that approached. By sensitively handling the Youth – if there are photographs they should be given to a senior person and not put on Facebook, for instance. Would an Officer be able to talk to the Parents. There is regular work with Schools and there are two School officers who could help, with the emphasis on Youth rather than on Parents.*

The Chairman thanked Mr Allen and his colleagues for talking to Council, and hoped that this would become a regular session.

*The Council has been asked to look at broadband again – there is a WBC meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup> at Newbury which might be of help in seeing if the Council change their decision. It is also hoped that the Council can now go ahead with their contribution to a new Village Hall after the recent Village vote.*

### 21 Apologies for absence.

Mr Marr and Mr Pask had presented apologies for absence.

### 22 The minutes of the last meetings held on May 17<sup>th</sup> 2012.

The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

### 23 Matters arising from the minutes not referred to elsewhere.

Minute 9.

- i Village Vision.  
There have been discussions about taking the Plan objectives forward.
- ii Village website.  
There is nothing further.

- 24 **The report from the West Berkshire Councillor.**  
There was no further comment.

25 **Planning.  
Appeal.**

11/01325/FUL Yasmine, Yattendon Road.  
Demolition & replacement

**An Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State, to be decided by written statements and a site visit. Any further comments by July 5<sup>th</sup> to the Inspectorate.**

**Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

12/00240/FULEXT	Land off Pinewood Crescent, Hermitage. Twenty eight new dwellings	<b>Approval</b>
12/00775/FUL	12, Dines Way, Hermitage S.73 variation for bedroom window and door.	<b>Approval</b>

**New planning applications.**

12/01067/HOUSE	36, Pinewood Crescent, Hermitage. Shed & climbing frame.	<b>No objections</b>
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26 **Highways.**

**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 12.

- i Cycle track.  
There are ongoing discussions with WBC.
- ii WBC Highways resurfacing programme 2012 / 2013  
The programme was noted. There is work planned on the "unnamed" road from Marlston Road to Slanting Hill.

27 **Environment.**

**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 13.

- i Hermitage new Village Hall.
  - i Village vote.  
There was a vote on May 17<sup>th</sup> on the question "Do you agree to the Parish Council increasing the Precept (and therefore your total Council Tax payable) to fund a grant towards a new Village Hall".  
The voting was 159 in favour of the question and 122 against

**DR LAWLER HERE DECLARED A PRJUDICIAL INTEREST.**

**It was decided to ask Dr Lawler to stay in the meeting to answer questions from Councillors and stay until, and if, a vote was called.**

- ii Funding.  
Before Dr Lawler left the meeting there was a detailed question and answer session which is recorded on a separate page attached to these minutes. Mr Brown proposed that the Parish Council award the sum of £250,000 to the Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee to help build a new Village Hall. The proposition was not seconded and therefore was not put to the vote.

**HERE DR LAWLER WITHDREW FROM THE MEETING.**

The Council discussed conditions which should be a prerequisite of a possible grant to the HVHMC, and after amending the drafts, agreed the conditions which should be attached to any grant.

Mrs Goodman proposed that, subject to the agreed conditions attached to these minutes, the Parish Council offer a grant of £250,000 to the Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee to help in building a new Village Hall.

Mrs Willis seconded the proposition which was put to the vote and approved by a majority of Councillors.

**HERE DR LAWLER REJOINED THE COUNCIL.**

## iii Land acquisition.

Mr Webb was asked to urge an early meeting of the WBC Asset Management Group to move this forward. It was also decided to ask WBC whether there is a possibility that the present waste area No 7, which houses a rare butterfly, could be transferred or altered so that space for a tennis court could be found.

## ii Pinewood play area.

## i Bin.

The bin is not being emptied and ways are being sought to remedy this.

## iii Litter bin emptying.

It was decided to press WBC for an up to date list of bin emptying times.

## iv Hermitage Village Hall.

There is a report from the March meeting.

## v Allotments.

Enquiries for land are ongoing.

## vi Football pitch.

There has been a new team of under 16's formed in the Parish.

There is some doubt as to how WBC manage the pitch bookings and it was decided that Mr Burgess would arrange a meeting with Mr Souden to ask for a clear statement.

## vii Dog bins.

WBC have been given a location map for a new bin and have ordered a bin.

**New matters.**

## i Underground cables in the AONB.

The North Wessex Downs initiative was noted, and any likely sites would be mentioned at the next meeting.

## ii Youth Club.

The proper set up requirements for a restart of the Youth Club are being investigated.

## iii WBC flood leaflets.

It was decided to distribute the leaflets to possible Riparian Owners with a letter from the Council.

**28 Finance.**

## i Receipts.

R.Cook	Grave space	£200.00
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## ii Payments authorised.

HMRC	PAYE	£6.98
Thames Water	Burial Ground	£13.24
Gardner Leader	Legal fees re land	£237.50



- |  |                        |                     |         |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|---------|
|  | WBC                    | Parish Vote fees    | £578.03 |
|  | Hermitage Village hall | Hall hire           | £58.50  |
|  | Contractors            | Grass & bus shelter | £432.50 |
|  | C.W.Goudge             | Sal & exes          | £349.32 |
- iii Items which have not been minuted or need amendment in 2011 / 2012, from the Internal Auditor's report.
- |  |    |   |        |
|--|----|---|--------|
|  | i  | Mortimer West End Parish Council. Stationery.           | £92.67 |
|  | ii | WBC rates rebate – minuted as £10.56 – should be £10.65 |        |
- iv Other matters.
- |  |    |   |  |
|--|----|---|--|
|  | i  | The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted. |  |
|  | ii | The Annual Return of the Council was approved.          |  |
- 29 Burial Ground.**
- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | i | Headstone application.   |  |
|  |   | There has been an application for a headstone on an existing interment plot. |  |
- 30 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**
- WBC - Councillor seminar about the new Code of Conduct from WBC.  
July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm in Newbury.
- West Berkshire Heritage Forum – local listing of heritage subjects.  
WBC – seeking nominations for the Standards Committee and also the Advisory panel
- LCR - Newsmag
- 31 Reports from Councillors who have attended meetings of Outside Bodies on behalf of the Parish Council.**
- There were no reports.
- 32 Items raised by Councillors.**
- The Chairman suggested that Arlene Kersley should be formally thanked for her work with the Housing needs survey and Council agreed.
- Mr Burgess commented that, although correct and legal, he would have preferred the election of the Chairman at the Annual meeting of the Council to have reflected a vote from a larger group of Councillors.
- 33 Date of the next meeting.**
- Thursday July 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy trinity Church.

  
.....  
Chairman

19.07.12  
.....  
Date

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> 2012.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman  
Mr D. Brown, Mr R. Burgess, Mrs M. Goodman, Mrs F. Groves, Dr M. Kerry,  
Dr J. Lawler, Mr R. Marr, Mrs K. Willis.

Mr G. Pask District Councillor  
Mr Q. Webb District Councillor.  
Mr C.W.Goudge Clerk

There were twenty four members of the public present.

**34 Public Forum.**

Councillors and the public examined in detail the West Berkshire Council initiative to provide superfast broadband to the Parish.

There was a detailed discussion about the accessibility of broadband and the benefits to Parishioners in Hermitage. The decision on financial support would be taken later in the meeting.

**35 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence had been tendered by Mr Robinson and Mr Willis.

**36 Minutes of the last meeting held on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2012.**

The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**37 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

Minute 23.

i Village Vision.

The discussions for taking the Plan objectives forward are progressing.

ii Broadband.

It was noted that the Vision itself was not specific about the need for broadband, but it was felt that any initiative should be pursued.

Faster broadband was strongly supported by the Parish Plan survey. Brockhurst had offered to fund some 50% of the cost of the WBC initiative over three years, and there was a possibility that Downe House would also financially support the proposal.

It was proposed by Dr Kerry and seconded by Mrs Groves that the Council joins the scheme suggested by WBC with a contribution of £8,300 over three years. The proposal was passed unanimously.

iii Code of Conduct & Register of Member's Interests.

It was decided to adopt the Code of Conduct set out by West Berkshire Council and the Registers provided by WBC. It was noted that members need to return their registers within 28 days to be eligible to sit as Councillors.

**38 The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.**

There is a change in Government funding parameters which mean that each primary Council will be responsible for some of their own expenditure, and therefore it is possible in some areas of Council Tax benefit WBC funding from Government will be reduced considerably.

The Local Development Framework has been agreed by the Inspector and relates specifically to the NPPF.

The number of houses to be built in West Berkshire seems to be set at some 10,500 over the period of the LDF, though there is provision to look at the figures in three years' time. The next steps will be the allocation of strategic and specific sites.

*Will the Council benefit from the new CIL regime.*

There is a lot of doubt as to how this will work.

**39 Planning.****Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

12/00494/FULD	Land at Stable View, Hermitage Change of use to Gypsy site.	<b>Refusal</b>
12/00691/HOUSE	Meadow Pipit, Hermitage. Extension & porch	<b>Approval</b>
12/00900/HOUSE	Simonds Plough, Hermitage Roof & loft conversion	<b>Approval</b>
<b>New matters.</b>		
12/01592/CERTE	Fifield farm, Hermitage Building materials storage	<b>No comment</b>
12/01629/FUL	Land to the rear of Pinewood crescent. House no's 14 – 30. Garden land acquisition.	<b>Objections</b>
12/01502/CERTE	Old Stores, High Street. Use of house for three flats	<b>Comments</b>
12/001671/TPW	Land by Briant's Cottage, Hermitage Tree maintenance	<b>Comments</b>

Note: The objections and comments  
for the new applications are attached.

**40 Burial Ground.**

- i New gates.  
The gates have been made and will be installed shortly.
- ii Grave space.  
There has been an application for a space.

**41 Finance.**

- i Receipts.  
None.
- ii Payments authorised.
 

Contractors	Maintenance	£472.50
Mrs F. Groves	Mileage	£10.22
Mr T Stares	Internal audit	£220.00
BALC	Seminar	£100.00

C.W. Goudge	Salary & exes	£312.58
HMRC	PAYE	£71.60

- iv Other matters.
  - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.
  - iii Grant forms and routines.  
It was decided to revisit the existing system, and there would be proposals on the agenda for the September meeting.

#### 42 Highways.

##### Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 26.

- i Cycle track.  
WBC have been given the map showing the stretch of track which it is suggested should be the first priority and asked for advice as to how to span the Highway land at the South of the M4. WBC have also been asked for an outline cost to implement this stretch.
- ii Marlston Road drainage.  
It was decided to mail WBC pointing out the drainage problem.
- iii Hampstead Norreys recreational route.  
The proposal was noted.

#### 43 Environment.

##### Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 27.

- i New Village hall.
  - i Funding.  
There is a written statement from HVHMC responding to the Council's conditions for making a grant which is being considered.
  - ii Land acquisition.  
There is a AMG meeting at WBC on September 17<sup>th</sup> where the proposed acquisition by the Council of land at Furze Hill will be considered. The area and extent of an acquisition will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- ii Pinewood play area.  
Nothing further.
- iii Parish Council room.  
Arrangements for storage are being discussed with the HVHMC.
- iv Allotments.  
Ongoing.
- v Football pitch.  
Football teams are starting to use the pitch, though the turf is in poor condition. The goal posts need replacing.  
Pitch maintenance and management will be part of the land acquisition decision.
- vi Dog bins.  
To be installed shortly.
- vii Underground cables in the AONB.  
Ongoing, but the scope appears limited.

**44 Reports from Parish Council Representatives who have attended meetings of Outside Bodies on behalf of the Parish Council.**

There were no reports.


**45 Items to be raised by Councillors.**

There were no further items.

**46 Date of the next meeting.**

**Thursday August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room Holy Trinity Church.**

**It has been suggested that there is a limited agenda for the meeting.**

  
.....  
Chairman

16.08.12  
.....  
Date

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup> 2012.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman  
Mr D. Brown, Mr R. Burgess, Mrs F. Groves, Dr M. Kerry, Dr J. Lawler,  
Mr R. Marr, Mrs K. Willis, Mr B. Willis.

Mr Q. Webb District Councillor.  
Mr C.W. Goudge Clerk

There were no members of the public present.

**47 Public Forum.**

There were no members of the public present.

**48 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Goodman, Mr Robinson and Mr Pask.

**49 Minutes of the last meeting held on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**50 Planning.**

There were no planning applications, on which the Council was due to be consulted, to be considered.

There was a Tree Preservation Order application on which the Council decided to comment. It was also suggested that the Council should have a policy as to Tree Preservation Order routines.

**51 Environment.**

**i Land acquisition at Furze Hill.**

There is to be meeting with the WBC Asset Management Group on September 17<sup>th</sup>, when the Council's request for land transfer at Furze Hill will be considered.

The Council confirmed the decision, taken at a previous meeting, to request the transfer from WBC of the land which includes the football pitch, access areas and other land up to the boundary of the woods, as shown on the plan produced by WBC.

There was discussion as to whether the Council should also request the wooded areas to be transferred to the Council. It was decided to make the AMG aware of the Council's interest in acquiring this area, and that this could well come forward at the next meeting of the AMG.

In the meantime Council intended to weigh up the responsibilities involved and produce a sensible scheme to manage such an asset.



- ii Village Walk and tea.  
The Walk, which will be undertaken by Volunteers, is planned for August 27<sup>th</sup> and teas will be provided afterwards in the Village Hall.

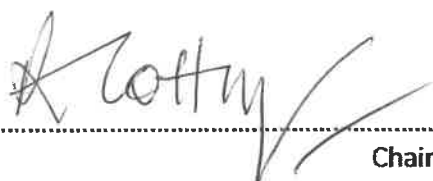
**52 Finance.**

Payments authorised.

Contractors		£452.50
HMRC	PAYE	£71.60
Bradfield Parish Council	Photocopy hire	£82.50
Mortimer West End Parish Council	Storage, stationery & computer	£119.30
R.Cottingham	Travel, cabinet & keys	£43.79
C.W.Goudge	Salary & exes	£328.64

**53 Date of the next meeting.**

Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.



Chairman

20.9.12  
Date

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 2012.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman  
Mr D. Brown, Mr R. Burgess, Mrs M. Goodman, Mrs F. Groves, Dr M. Kerry,  
Dr J. Lawler, Mr R. Marr, Mr T. Robinson, Mrs K. Willis, Mr B. Willis.

Mr Q. Webb District Councillor.  
Mr C.W. Goudge Clerk

There was one member of the public present.

**54 Public participation.**

There were no comments from the public.

**55 Apologies for absence.**

Mr Pask had presented an apology for absence.

**56 Minutes of the last meeting held on August 16<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**57 Matters arising from the minutes of the meetings held on July 19<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup> not referred to elsewhere.**

Minute 37.

- i Village Vision.  
There is to be a progress meeting next week.
- ii Website.  
There were no comments.
- iii Broadband.  
There had been no further information from WBC.

**58 The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.**

Mr Webb mentioned that WBC is putting a lot of time and effort into seeing what WBC can do to help mitigate domestic abuse and to help victims. People are abused mentally as well as physically. WBC works with both Juvenile and Police Agencies in this regard.

**59 Planning.  
Appeal.**

12/00494/FULD Stable View, Hermitage.  
Change of use to Gypsy site

**The Appeal will be decided by an exchange of written statements and a site visit by the Inspector. Any further comments to the Inspectorate by October 3<sup>rd</sup>.**



**Decisions from the Planning Authority**

12/01629/FUL

Land at rear of Pinewood Crescent.

Garden extensions

**Refusal****Other matters.**

- i S.106 annual report.  
This has been received from WBC and will be reviewed.
- ii Scout Hut.  
The Council noted the ongoing debate about the use and future of the hut.

**60 Burial Ground.**

Minute 40.

- i Burial ground work.  
The new gates and post have been received and will be installed shortly.
- ii Headstone request.  
A request had been received for an inscription on a headstone which was approved.

**61 Finance.**

- i Receipts.
 

VAT reclaim		£2,074.76
Interest	Three months	£127.29
- ii Payments for consideration.
 

Contractors	Maintenance	£452.50
Barlow and Sons	Gates and post	£314.23
Mazars	External audit	£342.00
C.W. Goudge	Salary & exes	£308.68
HMRC	PAYE	£71.60
- iii Other matters.
  - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted..
  - ii The completion of the audit with a clear report was noted.
  - iii Grant forms & routines.  
A revised format for the grant application form was discussed. It was proposed by Mrs Goodman and seconded by Mrs Groves that the revised form be adopted for any applications for grants from now on. The proposition was carried by a majority.
  - iv Investment for the next three months.  
It was agreed to place £35k on deposit for three months with Lloyds TSB.
  - v Broadband funding.  
It was decided to confirm the contribution to WBC for broadband funding.

**62 Highways.****Matters arising from a previous meeting.**

Minute 42.

- i Cycle track.  
Mr Willis would meet with Elaine Cox of WBC to pursue this. It was noted that an amount of £10k had been obtained as a Developer contribution specifically towards the cost of the track.

**New matters**

- i Forest edge road name.  
Three names were suggested – in preference order –  
Old Sidings.  
Beeching end.  
Sand Martin Road.  
These would be submitted to WBC.
- ii Chapel lane.  
Trees and shrub foliage was reported as overhanging the pavement or highway. Remedial work would be investigated locally.

**63 Environment.**

**Matters arising from a previous meeting.**

Minute 43.

- i New Village Hall.
  - i Land acquisition.  
It was proposed by Mrs Goodman and seconded by Mrs Groves that the Council pursue with WBC the options available for possible acquisition of the football pitch and woodland, and to report back to or before the next meeting.. The proposition was passed by a majority.
  - ii Funding.  
Preliminary enquiries have been made with BALC about the way in which funding from PWLB will be approached.
- ii Pinewood play area.  
There is a problem having the bin inside the ground emptied. Enquiries would be made of Contractors.
- iii Hermitage Village Hall.  
A report of the last meeting has been circulated.
- iv Allotments.  
There has been no progress yet.
- v Football pitch.  
The pitch is reported being in poor condition. Mr Souden is aware of the fence problem and the missing gate is to be replaced.
- vi Dog bins.  
WBC has confirmed that enough bin requests have been received for bins to be ordered.
- vii Christmas tree.  
A group of Councillors will discuss the practicalities. The date for lighting is provisionally agreed as December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**New matters.**

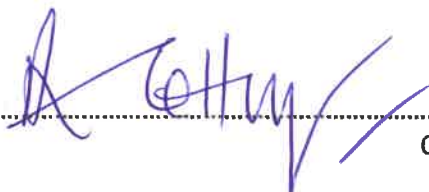
- i Youth Club.  
Discussions are ongoing.
- ii Poppy wreath.  
It was decided to make a donation of £50, as last year, towards a poppy wreath for the Council to place at the memorial on Remembrance Sunday.




- 64 **Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**  
Clerks & Councils Direct – newsmag  
WBC Junior Citizen of the Year award  
CCB invitation to the AGM on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Spencer’s Wood.  
LCR/ NALC newsmag
- 65 **Reports from Parish Council Representatives who had attended meetings of Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council.**  
There were no reports.
- 66 **Items to be raised by Councillors.**  
There were no items raised.
- 67 **Date of the next meeting.**

**Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.**

**It was decided to change the date of the December meeting from Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup> to Thursday December 13<sup>th</sup>.**

  
.....  
Chairman

  
.....  
Date

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2012.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman  
Mr D. Brown, Mr R. Burgess, Mrs M. Goodman, Mrs F. Groves, Mr R. Marr,  
Mr T. Robinson, Mrs K. Willis, Mr B. Willis.

Mr C.W.Goudge Clerk

There were four members of the public present.

**68 Public participation.**

*The traffic along Priors Court Road is flouting the 30 mph speed limit. WBC have monitored the actual speeds and some 30 motorists were caught speeding. The Police have been notified of our deep concerns. In a number of Parishes there are flashing warning signs and we should have them as well.*

The Village Vision responses identified the concerns felt about traffic speeding through the Village as a whole, and it is an issue which the Implementation Group will be considering shortly.

**69 Apologies for absence.**

Dr Lawler, Dr Kerry, Mr Webb and Mr Pask had presented apologies for absence.

**70 Minutes of the last meeting held on September 20<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**71 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

Minute 57.

i Village Vision.

The Group Aspirations have been circulated and comments will be welcome. The Council needs to sign off the final version before it goes to WBC.

It was proposed by Mrs Willis and seconded by Mr Marr that the Village Vision plan as presented is approved by the Council. The proposal was carried unanimously.

ii Village website.

This is ongoing.

iii Broadband.

It is now up to people to register their need for broadband.

**72 The report from the West Berkshire Councillor.**

Mr Webb had presented an apology for absence.

**73 Planning.**

**New planning applications.**

12/02020/HOUSE 2, Stretcher Drive, Hermitage.  
Conservatory.

**No objections.**

RC

**Other matters.**

- i WBC S.106 report.  
This is being analysed. It was suggested that Mr Webb should be asked to facilitate transfers of any funds applicable to the Parish from Open Space S.106 funds.

**74 Burial Ground.****Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 60.

- i Burial ground work.  
The stone separations should be completed this week.  
On November 10<sup>th</sup> Hermitage Horticultural Society will be putting in a hedge and also rabbit proofing.  
There is some grass growing in the path and this will be sprayed.

**75 Finance.**

- i Receipts.  
West Berkshire Council.                      Precept 50%                      £13,000.00
- ii Payments authorised.  
Contractors                                      Maintenance                      £452.50  
C.W. Goudge                                      Salary & exes                      £340.23  
HMRC    PAYE                                      £71.60
- iii Other matters.
  - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.

**76 Highways.****Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 62.

- i Proposed cycle track.  
Discussions are taking place with WBC.
- ii Chapel Lane.  
Overgrown vegetation will be dealt with shortly.

**77 Environment.****Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 63.

- i Hermitage new Village Hall.
  - i Land acquisition.  
It was proposed by Mr Willis and seconded by Mr Robinson that the Council seek to acquire from WBC the area at Furze Hill comprising the football pitch, Area 7 and all the wooded area.  
The proposition was passed by a majority of five votes to four.  
It was decided to pass the decision to Mr Souden .  
It was also decided to set up a Steering Group to prepare for the next AMG meeting. A budget was agreed of £2,000 to take care of any professional or other fees which needed to be incurred in that process.
  - ii Funding.  
It was decided to make enquiries of the PWLB as to funding.

- ii Pinewood play area.
  - i Flytipping.  
It was decided to ask the Contractors for an estimate to clear this up and to tidy up the play area. The rubbish bin cannot be collected from inside the area and it was decided to ask WBC to provide a large black bin which would be positioned inside the area and taken outside for emptying.
- iii Hermitage Village Hall.  
The minutes of the last HVHMC meeting had been circulated.
- iv Allotments.  
This is in abeyance for the moment.
- v Football pitch.  
The pitch is in slightly better condition than was thought, but still needs to be brought up to a good standard.
- vi Dog bins.  
WBC have now ordered bins and should install them soon.
- vii Christmas tree.  
Arrangements are going ahead for installation and lighting.
- viii Youth Club.  
The present situation was noted.

**78 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

West Berkshire Countryside Society.  
Newsmag – Upstream.  
Green Gym – Cold Ash Community Orchard on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Information from Oonagh Keeleher 856 8959.  
West Berkshire Green Conference – November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sheepdrove.  
The correspondence was discussed and where appropriate placed into circulation.

**79 Reports from Parish Council Representatives who have attended meetings of Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council.**

There were no reports.

**80 Items raised by Councillors.**

The Chairman felt that it might be opportune to review Councillor's roles and possibly expand them. This would be taken forward to the next meeting.  
Mrs Goodman reported that the new grant forms and procedure would be given publicity to encourage grant submissions by the end of November.

**81 Date of the next meeting.**

**Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room Holy trinity Church.**



Chairman

15. 11. 12

Date

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 2012.

**Present.**

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman  
 Mr D. Brown, Mr R. Burgess, Mrs M. Goodman, Mrs F. Groves,  
 Dr M. Kerry, Dr J. Lawler, Mr R. Marr, Mrs K. Willis, Mr B. Willis.

Mr Q. Webb District Councillor.  
 Mr C.W.Goudge Clerk

There were no members of the public present.

**82 Public participation.**

There were no members of the public present.

**83 Apologies for absence.**

Mr Robinson had presented an apology for absence.

**84 Minutes of the last meeting held on October 18<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**85 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.  
 Minute 71.**

- i Village Vision.  
 The Plan is with WBC for final acceptance, having been approved by this Council.
- ii Village website.  
 There were no further comments.
- iii Superfast broadband.  
 The report showing broadband interest registrations in West Berkshire was circulated. Hermitage registrations are recorded as some 10%. Fliers are to be distributed to houses in the Parish to urge registration.

**86 The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.**

Work is intensifying in measures to meet the budget for the year. Zero budget discipline is being adopted.  
 The apprentice training scheme in WBC is well under way, leading apprentices to an NBQ qualification.

**87 Planning.**

**Appeal decision.**

11/01325/FUL Yasmine, Yattendon Road.  
 Demolition of house & replacement. **Allowed**

**Decisions from the Planning Authority**

12/01502/CERTE Old Stores, High Street.  
 Use of house as three flats **Lawful**

**New matters**

- i Chapel Lane.  
The vegetation has not been cut back sufficiently and the traffic warning signs are becoming obscured. This has been reported to WBC.

**91 Environment.**  
**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 77.

- i New Hermitage Village Hall.
  - i Land acquisition.  
There is to be an AMG meeting in Newbury on November 19<sup>th</sup> to consider this Council's request to acquire land. Council approved an approach to a firm of Solicitors to act on behalf of the Council, should this be necessary before the next meeting in December.
  - ii Funding.  
Providing that the AMG approved the land transfer request, Council would approach BALC and thence the Department of Communities and Local Government for consent to raise a loan from PWLB of £250k in order to be in a position to make a grant to the Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee. It was noted that such a consent would be valid for six months from the date of DCLG giving consent.
  - ii Pinewood play area.
    - i Bins.  
A black bin has been requested from WBC for placing outside the park.  
The estimate for £120 from Contractors for work in the play area was accepted.
  - iii Hermitage Village Hall.  
The minutes of the last Management Committee meeting have been circulated.
  - iv Allotments  
This is in abeyance at the moment.
  - v Football pitch.  
The pitch will be tackled if the land acquisition is approved.
  - vi Dog bins.  
WBC have now obtained bins and will be urged to install them.
  - vii Christmas tree.  
Arrangements for placing the tree have been completed. Switch on will be on December 8<sup>th</sup>. A budget of £200 was agreed to put the lights in good order and to employ an electrician if necessary to ensure public safety.
  - ix Youth Club.  
There had been no reports to the Council.

**92 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

Clerks &amp; Council Direct – newsmag

DALC – Meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> at 19.00 in Newbury.

The correspondence was noted and where applicable placed into circulation.



## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 2012.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman  
Mr D. Brown, Dr M. Kerry, Dr J. Lawler, Mr R. Marr, Mrs K. Willis, Mr B. Willis.

Mr C.W.Goudge Clerk

There was no member of the public present.

**96 Public Forum.**

There was no member of the public present.

**97 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Burgess, Mrs Goodman, Mrs Groves, Mr Robinson, Mr Pask and Mr Webb

**98 Minutes of the last meeting held on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**99 Planning.**

12/02893/HOUSE	High Oak, Deacon's Lane. Garage alteration and workshop.	<b>No objections.</b>
<b>Adjoining Parish</b>		
12/02655/COMIND	Red Shute Hill Industrial estate Skip waste recycling	<b>Objections</b>
12/02790/HOUSE	Woodhill House, Cold Ash. Two new outbuildings	<b>No objections</b>
12/02695/FULD	Fifield Farm, Marlston Hermitage. New house in place of barns.	<b>No objections.</b>

**100 Finance**

i	Receipts.		
	Nil.		
ii	Payments authorised		
	Contractors	Maintenance	£452.50
	Murray McClean	Trees for Burial Ground	£107.40
	C.W. Goudge	Salary & exes	£329.79
	HMRC	PAYE	£71.60
iii	Grant applications.		
	These will be dealt with in January.		
iv	Other matters.		
	The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.		
v	Precept dispensations.		
	Dispensations have not been received from WBC.		

*RC*

**101 Environment**

**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 91.

i Hermitage new Village Hall.

i Land acquisition.

The AMG Group has agreed, in principle, to transfer all the land requested to the Council.

WBC have been asked for the relevant Heads of Agreement.

The Chairman has met Mr Souden to explain the steps Council has taken to obtain professional advice on managing the woodlands and pitch.

ii Funding.

It was decided to draft a proposal for funding to the DCLG through BALC.

The period of grace between funding approval and taking down a loan is twelve months.

**102 Items to be raised by Councillors.**

Mr Willis reported on the progress made towards establishing the track. WBC are very supportive.

The vegetation in Chapel Lane needs severe trimming, and it was decided to notify the Landowner and ask the Contractors for a quote, to be considered at the next meeting.

Mrs Willis expressed the general feeling that the Christmas tree lights and celebration has been a big success.

Mr Marr reported that the rules for the Burial Ground need altering to make clearer the provisions for the ashes interment area. It was decided to draft a set of amendments for consideration at the next meeting. A notice board to mark the entrance might be advantageous.

**103 Date of the next meeting.**

**Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.**

.....  
  
Chairman

17.01.13  
.....  
Date