

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 18 January 2007 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church**

Public Participation

The first 10 minutes are available for the public to express a view or ask a question. The public are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

Present: Mr N Pearson (Chair), Mr K Gover, Mrs P Knightly, Dr J Lawler, Mrs K Willis, Cllr Q Webb, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk) and five members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – from Mrs S Gore and Cllr G Pask were accepted.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting (please refer to the notes at the end of agenda).

None were recorded.

3. **Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 30 November 2006** were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Jan07 Clerk's salary (January)

02/Jan07 F C Lawrence for month of January @ £333.33 (incl. bus shelter)

03/Jan07 Thames Water £5.86

04/Jan07 F C Lawrence (tidying yew tree incl. miniskip) £157.00

December payments (for retrospective approval)

01/Dec06 Clerk's salary (December)

02/Dec06 F C Lawrence for month of December @ £303.33

03/Dec06 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning December) @ £30.00

All agreed the above payments should be made and that December payments were acceptable.

Other

06/Jul05 Release of s106 monies for village hall

Dr Lawler will provide a requested date for release of funds in due course.

05/Jan07 The Parish Councillor's Guide @ £11.60.

It was agreed that 3 copies will be purchased.

06/Jan07 Budget agreement 2007/08. Detailed schedules had been circulated to members prior to the meeting for consultation. The proposals were adopted without amendment.

The only substantial differences between 06/07 and 07/08 were the additions of £1000 for potential election costs and £1000 for burial ground landscaping.

07/Jan07 Setting of precept 2007/08

This was unanimously agreed at £19,000.00.

Proposed: Mr Pearson Seconded: Mrs P Knightley

This was an increase of £1000 on last year's precept, but the cost per household has decreased.

This is because the number of homes in Hermitage has risen significantly in the last year.

6. District Councillors' Report

Cllr Webb provided a written report. Cllr Webb confirmed that he was still pursuing the resurfacing of Pond Lane.

7. Planning

7.1 Cementation Site Development

New road layout – has now been lit by temporary lighting.

On 06 December Mr Pearson and Dr Lawler met with representatives of Miller Homes and Taylor Woodrow.

The purpose of the meeting was primarily to discuss the employment area. The developers are about to submit a planning application to West Berkshire Council for a further 34 dwellings on the employment area. There will be an exhibition of the proposals in Hermitage Village Hall on 27 January. S106 contributions will be determined according to the required formula which unfortunately will make no provision for recreational facilities.

Additionally, a woodland management plan was provided and Dr Lawler discussed the proposals with a West Berkshire Council officer, with a view to determining the best position for the new village hall.

7.2 Arena Site Development

It was noted that the play equipment on the open space at Hermitage Green has still not been provided by Banner Homes.

7.3 Other Planning Matters

10/Sept06 Hermitage Road Safety Improvement Scheme

Although the mini-roundabout at the Yattendon Road junction has been ruled out, there is no alternative traffic calming proposal as yet for this point of the High Street.

- Vehicle Activated (speed) Signs. It is hoped that provision on Yattendon Road could be brought forward and included in the 2007/08 programme.
- Pavement widening at Chapel Lane junction, now seems to be used for car parking rather than for pedestrians.
Cementation P

06/02704/HOUSE The Lilacs, Deacons Lane. No objections (amendments).

06/02883/FULD Land at Hilliers Garden Centre, Priors Court Road. Objections on the following grounds:

- currently landscaped as an attractive entrance to five new homes to the rear;
- unattractive/undesirable impact on the area, particularly detrimental to street scene (Priors Court Road);

- plot too small, house 'cramped' with insufficient amenity space;
- design/style out of keeping with other dwellings in vicinity.

In addition it was noted that there has been no pink notice posted at the site.

07/00006/FULD Faville, Hamstead Norreys Road. Objections on the following grounds:

- style/design considered urbanized and inappropriate for High street of a rural village;
- 4 semi-detached homes not in keeping with neighbouring properties (detached homes);
- 2 ½ storey homes contrary to Hermitage Village Design Statement;
- extra cars/traffic undesirable;
- layout of courtyard parking to front particularly unattractive, will have appearance of a car park;
- visual impact on street scene detrimental for village in AONB, proposal out of character.

06/02956/HOUSE Box Cottage, Eling. No objections.

06/02503/HOUSE The Benhams. No objections (amendments).

7.4 Case Officer's Reports in circulation

06/02378/HOUSE 3 Stretcher Drive. Approval.

06/02554/FULD Land to rear of Polperro. Withdrawn.

8. Correspondence

In circulation

West Berkshire Council

- Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund
- Road Safety newsletter
- Admission Arrangements 2008/09 consultation
- Ground Water Flooding Indicator Boreholes
- Housing Strategy 2005 - 2010

Community Action West Berkshire - Parish Plan news

Mid and West Berkshire Countryside Local Access Forum

The Berkshire Communicator

Local Council Review

Clerk & Council's Direct

Volunteer Centre West Berkshire

Other

Berkshire Association of Local Councils – Being a good councillor (core training) module 3.

Countryside Alliance – keep your Post Office. The Clerk will send a letter according to Councillor comments

West Berkshire Council

- Elections May 2007. Timetable noted.
- Electoral Register 2007. Noted.

9. Representatives' Reports

9.1 Village Hall

Dr Lawler met with West Berkshire Council officers Pete Sulley and Stewart Souden at the cementation site to discuss an appropriate design for the new hall. Points to note are:

- three changing rooms will be required (one for each team plus one for the referee);
- the developers will be expected to provide a pitch according to the relevant standards;
- the plan for the ground layout will be established and hopefully included in the exhibition at the village hall on 27 January;

- a planning application is anticipated within 6 months.

With regard to the existing hall, a door has been damaged by the wind and needs to be replaced.

9.2 Play area

Weekly inspections – no problems to report. A new rota is required following the resignation of Cllr Jane Pearce.

08/Jan07 Annual inspection. Mrs Willis is continuing her investigation to appoint a new inspector.

18/Sept06 Electricity issues/cub hut – no further information at present.

9.3 Footpaths – nothing to report.

9.4 Downland Youth Network.

A new representative will be required to replace Cllr Jane Pearce.

9.5 Hermitage Primary School

Demand for places is soaring with many new homes now being occupied. Building at the school is progressing well.

A mini Ofsted visit this week resulted in a good report.

9.6 Downland Practice Patient Representative Group

The practice is going ahead with the purchase of land to the rear in the hope it will be used for additional car parking. A planning submission is anticipated.

A government project to upload doctors' patient records from GP scale to a national scale is proving controversial – many people are not in favour of this proposal, neither is the Downland Practice. It should be noted however that any individual is entitled to say they do not wish their personal records 'to go national'.

10. Burial Ground

08/Nov06 Preparatory landscaping

The existing beech hedge has gaps that need filling, and the hedge should then be extended into the meadow area.

The ground/grass of the meadow needs levelling.

Dr Lawler will pursue the matter, in particular trying to establish whether the ground has been consecrated.

11. Any Other Business

09/Jan07 Resignation of Councillor Mrs J Pearce

In view of the May 2007 elections, Mrs Pearce cannot be replaced and the seat will remain vacant until then.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Hermitage Parish Council will be held on:

Thursday 15 February 2007 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Thursday 19 April 2007 in the Village Hall. It is proposed to invite a representative of Thames Valley Police to make a presentation on Neighbourhood Policing.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.12pm.


15/2/07.

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 2007/08

YTD Dec 06 £	Forecast Mar 07	Receipts £	Estimate 03/04 £	Estimate 04/05 £	Estimate 05/06 £	Estimate 06/07 £	Proposed Estimate 07/08 £	year on year increase/ decrease
18,000.00	18,000.00	Precept	16,500.00	17,000.00	17,500.00	18,000.00	19,000.00	1,000.00
390.82	540.82	Interest		20.00	50.00	450.00	500.00	50.00
750.00	750.00	Burial Ground Play area grants Insurance refund s106		22,000.00				
19,140.82	19,290.82		39,020.00	17,550.00	18,450.00	19,500.00	1,050.00	
Payments								
2,761.64	3,662.19	General Administration						
463.61	463.61	Salaries	3,300.00	3,560.00	3,600.00	3,900.00	3,900.00	
150.54	150.54	Insurance	1,100.00	600.00	550.00	500.00	500.00	
250.00	250.00	BALC Subscription	170.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	
1,011.89	1,100.00	Audit	200.00	250.00	350.00	250.00	250.00	
		Other admin election fee	606.00	700.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	300.00 (50.00)
125.00	125.00	S137 payments		450.00	300.00	326.00	326.00	admin tct admin est 5,646.34 5,670.00
4,259.20	4,259.20	Other Grants	2,000.00	450.00	4,000.00	4,100.00	4,076.00	increase to 11 members
2,729.97	3,639.96	Running Costs						
67.50	67.50	Grass cutting	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,700.00	3,640.00	3,640.00	(60.00)
327.00	500.00	Play area	35,800.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
233.74	571.96	Play area fund	500.00	500.00	500.00	600.00	600.00	50.00
	515.74	Amenity	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	bus shelter + FCL £52 for lipscomb incl. FCL £125 for trees
2,193.16	2,193.16	Burial ground	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	
		Village Hall Loan						
		Contingency	416.00	500.00	530.00	568.00	568.00	58.00
		Parish Plan	500.00	800.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
		Lap top fund						
		Burial ground landscape						
		Village hall s106 donation						
14,573.25	17,818.86		61,592.00	18,550.00	18,450.00	20,000.00	22,450.00	1,000.00 20,000.00 22,450.00
4,567.57	1,671.96	Excess/deficit for the year		(1,000.00)	0.00	(21,400.00)		
			To be funded by:					
			From s106			20,000.00		
			From reserves			1,400.00		
						0.00		
						0.00		

Division of the precept by the tax base will give a guide to the amount each band D property will pay as a result of the Hermitage Parish Council precept.

Tax base

527.55 641.29

£33.17 £29.63



HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs S L Riordan

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NEWBURY
RG14 9AA



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12 January 2007

PRECEPT/BUDGET NOTES 07/08

Schedules propose an increase to the precept of £1000 but, as predicted last year, the cost to the householder has gone down (more houses in Hermitage).

The cost to a band D household is shown below:

05/06	06/07	07/08
£33.17	£34.59	£29.63

This supports spending as required but only with the use of £1400 from the General Reserve.

The alternative is to increase the precept to £20,400 to cover expenditure without use of reserves and this will increase the cost to Band D to £31.83 – still less than last year.

Payments

There is little control over most payments, but those to consider are:

Salaries – increase based on NALC recommended rates (one SCP increase + inflation) and these are yet to be published

Election costs - £1000 as recommended by WBC, but in view of the increase to the number of members you may feel this is unnecessary?

Burial ground landscape costs – based on anticipated need to improve the existing meadow area, as burial space remaining reduces. A particular need for space for interment of ashes is more urgent.

Grants

All applications received have been listed and a sum suggested. Looking at the larger grants:

Village hall £1500 as requested.

Cubs £1000 as requested – double last year's grant but suggest this is prudent to help with electrical works.

Pre-school – submitted a wish list of £1615 and £1000 contribution is proposed.

Generally

Should any amendments be proposed to the schedule please consider whether changes should be made to the precept or to the use of reserves.

Looking at the balance sheet:

A precept of £19000 and £1400 from reserves is forecast to reduce the general reserve to £11888 by the end of 2007/08. This is still a very healthy position, however, last year it was decided not to deplete the reserves so that more funds could potentially be released to the new village hall project.

Lynne

**HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL
SUMMARY
Year To Date - 31 December 2006**

	£	06/07 Year end forecast	07/08 Year end estimate
SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS			
Opening balance 01 April 2006	39,010.55	39,010.55	40,682.51
Add total receipts	19,140.82	19,290.82	19,500.00
Less total payments	(14,573.25)	(17,618.86)	(41,210.00)
Balance carried forward	43,578.12	40,682.51	18,972.51
RECONCILIATION WITH BANK BALANCES			
These cumulative funds are represented by:			
Bank of Scotland	44,688.42		
Less cheques drawn but not debited to bank account as at close of business on 31 December			
#10577	30.00		
#10581	331.84		
#10583	30.00		
#10572	30.00		
#10546	100.00		
#10368 from 2003/04	335.40		
#10374 from 2003/04	335.40		
Add credit due not yet shown at bank (VAT)	82.34		
Balance at 31 Dec 2006	43,578.12		
FORECAST YEAR END BALANCE		40,682.51	

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT JANUARY 2007

1. Amendments to the 2007/08 Voluntary Sector Small Grants programme have been made. A) The maximum grant obtainable through the programme is reduced to £1,000. B) That priority consideration is given to applications from organisations with an annual income of less than £50,000. C) That grants be awarded for a period of one year. D) Although grant awards are generally made on an All or Nothing basis, this principle can be over-ridden at the discretion of each individual Area Forum and the Cross District Panel. E) The process would be reviewed by the Area Forum Chairs in 2007/08 if requested.
2. Residents living in the eastern part of West Berkshire will benefit from a brand new Council office, giving them local access to a whole range of public services. The location of the new facility will be within the Sainsbury's Calcot building on the second floor, which is served by a lift as well as stairs. Visitors to the new office will be able to enquire about services including planning, housing benefit, travel tokens, and issues that come under the Council's 'Streetcare' scheme. It could also be a first point of contact for enquiries about community care and services for children and young people. It is also being suggested that it could feature the services of a register office. And as well as a reception and enquiry desks, a daytime meeting room there could be used, for example by voluntary groups. The new office is expected to open for business in March.
3. For the second year running, inspectors have awarded West Berkshire Council Social Services the top possible rating for their service-three stars. The Commission for Social Care Inspection stated that West Berkshire Council provides a model for other councils who are still aspiring to achieve a high level of leadership and performance.
4. Newbury has a new register office located within the prestigious halls of the newly-restored Elizabethan mansion, Shaw House. The first weddings have already taken place there, and comments about the new facility have been very complimentary. The Council's registration service for births, deaths and marriages recently moved from Peake House, in Newtown Road and is now very much up and running in its new home. Shaw House is in Church Road, Shaw and the contact number for the registration service is 01635 279230.

Quentin Webb Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT DECEMBER 2006

1. Yattendon village store run by husband and wife team Cliff and Joyce Exton and the White Hart pub in Hampstead Norreys are two of the first businesses to become an internet 'hotspot'.
Fifty free broadband hotspots are up for grabs to community groups, residents or businesses willing to act as hosts. Hotspots Berkshire will become part of the Openzone global network that has more than 8,400 hotspots in the UK, allowing users of laptop computers and personal digital assistants (PDA's) to make a wireless internet connection.
The scheme is a joint initiative by West Berkshire Council, the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and connected Berkshire, a partnership including BT, local authorities and businesses.
2. Nick Carter the Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council formally launched the publication of the Council's first Disability Equality Scheme 2007-2009 on Monday 4th December 2006. The Scheme itself will be published on the Council's website, under equality and diversity. The Scheme will set out how the Council plans to meet the requirements of the new Disability Equality Duty which places a positive duty on all public authorities to actively promote equality of opportunity for disabled people and address illegal discrimination and harassment. The duty is aims to ensure disabled people are considered from the outset in policy development and service planning. It will impact on all aspects of the Council's function, including employment practice and the commissioning and delivery of services.
3. Delegates from Unitary, County, and District Councils across the country met on December 5th 2006 at Newbury Racecourse to learn about parish planning from the leading local authority on the subject. West Berkshire Council has been awarded 'Beacon Council Status' by the Government (I&DeA) for its groundbreaking work on the development of Parish Plans and the conference is an opportunity for other councils to find out how to do it with a full programme of presentations and workshops.
4. The 2007 edition of the West Berkshire Profile has now been published on our website. You can view / download the Profile from our research pages at: <http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8406> Updated from last year, the Profile builds up a picture of the district in a single document, describing key characteristics that make West Berkshire what it is.

Quentin Webb Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council

held on Thursday 15 February 2007 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

Present: Mr N Pearson (Chair), Mrs S Gore (from 20.07hrs), Mrs P Knightly, Dr J Lawler, Mrs K Willis, Cllr Q Webb, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk) and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – from Mr K Gover were accepted.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting (please refer to the notes at the end of agenda).

None were recorded.

3. **Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 18 January 2007** were amended and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Feb07 Clerk's salary & expenses (February)

02/Feb07 F C Lawrence for month of February @ £333.33 (incl. bus shelter)

05/Feb07 SLCC - The Parish Councillor's Guide 3 @ £11.60

04/Feb07 F C Lawrence for pruning cemetery trees £125.00

06/Feb07 BT plc - £49.22

All agreed these payments be made.

Other

06/Jul05 Release of s106 monies for village hall. The village hall will request the agreed funds when required.

03/Feb07 New play equipment at Pinewood Park. Mrs Willis has been successful in obtaining a grant of £9947 from Awards for All (National Lottery) for new play equipment at Pinewood Park. The Parish Council will contribute the remainder of the total cost of £10,472 ie £525.00.

07/Feb07 A form to update bank signatories was signed.

08/Feb07 A letter from the Audit Commission proposing the appointment of UHY Hacker Young as external auditor for a further year was noted.

09/Feb07 The Clerk will advertise the amenity contract on the parish notice board.

6. **District Councillors' Report**

Written report attached.

7. **Planning**

Members were reminded that they should not discuss planning matters outside the Parish Council meeting. Although they may seek/receive information and/or visit a planning site, care should be taken not to express any opinion on the matter whatsoever.

7.1 Cementation Site Development

An exhibition has been held by Miller Homes to display a proposed planning application for further homes on the land originally intended for employment uses. A meeting between the Parish Council and Green Issues is planned late in February.

7.2 Arena Site Development. Nothing to report.

7.3 Other Planning Matters

10/Sept06 Hermitage Road Safety Improvement Scheme

The Parish Council has received three letters on the matter of Marlston Road bridge. The Parish Council has noted the concerns and the residents have been referred to West Berkshire Council Highways.

06/02499/FULMAJ Former cementation site.to vary approved house types. No objection.

07/00006/FULD Faville (amendments for information only). The amendments do not alleviate the concerns of the Parish Council and the previous objection stands.

Land at Coach House Barn. It was noted that enforcement proceedings have been withdrawn.

7.4 Case Officer's Reports in circulation

06/02704/HOUSE The Lilacs. Approval.

8. Correspondence

In circulation

West Berkshire Council

- Homelessness conference 23 February 2007
- Redevelopment of West Berkshire Museum
- West Berkshire Local development Framework. Annual Monitoring Report

Other

Volunteer Centre West Berkshire – noted.

Mid & West Berkshire Countryside Local Access Forum – Rights of Way not included on definitive maps. Noted.

Consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members - circulated for comment and return to the Clerk by 28 February.

9. Representatives' Reports

9.1 Village Hall

A successful Burns Night has been held.

The roof of the Cottage is leaking.

New hall: a planning application is anticipated within a couple of months;
the square footage of the proposed building has been decreased to reduce costs;
total anticipated cost £930k of which ca £120k will be attributed to professional fees.

9.2 Play area

Weekly inspections - up to date. The Clerk will ask Mr Lawrence to spread grass seed as/when appropriate.

08/Jan07 Annual inspection. Subject to approval by the Parish Council insurance company, a new inspector will be appointed.

18/Sept06 Electricity issues/cub hut. Urgent concerns have dissipated and no action by the Parish Council is required.

9.3 Footpaths. Nothing to report.

9.4 Downland Youth Network. Nothing to report.

9.5 Hermitage Primary School. 143 on the roll at present to increase to 175 when building work is finished (still on schedule).

10. Burial Ground

08/Nov06 Preparatory landscaping. Dr Lawler will pursue this matter.

11. Any Other Business

Annual Parish Assembly - The Clerk has requested a presentation by Thames Valley Police on neighbourhood policing but a response has not been forthcoming. Alternatives were discussed and it was agreed to approach West Berkshire Council's Head of Planning and Transport Strategy with regard to a presentation on planning in a village environment. In particular 'Urban Sprawl – the impact of major development on rural villages' and/or 'Village In-fill (back garden development and demolition of single properties to make way for multiple dwellings).

The Annual Parish Assembly leaflet will contain information to promote the need for new members on Hermitage Parish Council.

Forthcoming elections – members were asked to consider the matter of appointing a new chairman.

Highways issues

- a letter has been sent to West Berkshire Council Highways by a resident on the matter of village gateways and a copy was provided to Cllr Webb. The Parish Council will request a sight of the response;
- Additionally the Clerk will point out that Pond Lane is in a deplorable state and Hamstead Norreys Road surface is deteriorating as a result of gas connection works.

Cllr Webb asked whether the Parish Council had been consulted on the potential felling of trees with TPOs at 'Hollybank' and 'Southwood'. The Parish Council has not been consulted but in general the stance would be to support the opinion of the Arboricultural Officer.

Cllr Webb asked whether the Parish Council had received notification of a proposal to instigate mandatory training/formal qualifications for Clerks. No such notification has been received.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Hermitage Parish Council will be held on:

Thursday 22 March 2007 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm.



WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT FEBRUARY 2007

1. Local Government Finance Settlement 2007/08. The final Revenue Grant (RSG) Settlement for 2007/08 was announced in January 2007 by the Secretary of State. According to the national Settlement, authorities received an average increase in grant of 3.8 o/o for 2007/08. However, West Berkshire Council like the vast majority of Councils in the South East are only receiving the floor increase of 2.7 o/o for 2007/08. As a result, the Council will have to exercise prudent financial management in order to maintain, and improve where possible, front-line services to the public in order to avoid excessive Council Tax increases. We propose that a 2.8 o/o increase in Council tax be recommended to the Council.
2. West Berkshire Council's Planning Service is performing in the top 10 o/o of the Planning Departments across the country. Reflecting this, the service has been awarded a £101,000 Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) from the Government as a reward in recognition of the work the Council is doing. The Council's Cleaner and Greener initiative incorporates new planning policies laid down by the authority to achieve the 'Excellent' standard set out by Building Research Establishment's BREEAM scheme. West Berkshire is one of the first Councils in the country to require this standard for all new developments by incorporating a range of building techniques covering energy efficiency, renewable energy and rainwater collection and so on.
3. West Berkshire Council has confirmed that all local plans are in place to counter the threat of avian flu in the district. Details of actions that have been taken and advice for local people can be found via the link on the homepage of the Council's website www.westberks.gov.uk Key messages include the following:
 - The strain of bird flu found in Suffolk is essentially a disease of birds.
 - The Council is working closely with Defra who are leading on the issue.
 - Local poultry and game farmers have been visited and advised on how to reduce risk.
 - The public are being asked to be vigilant and report to the Defra helpline (08459 33 55 77) sightings of unusual bird deaths such as one or more dead swans, ducks or geese, or groups of ten or more dead wild birds of the same species or in the same area. Members of the public should not disturb such finds.
 - Advice to bird owners is also being offered by the Council's animal health team.
4. .

Quentin Webb Joint Bucklebury Ward Member



HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 22 March 2007 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church**

Present: Mr N Pearson (Chair), Mrs S Gore, Mr K Gover, Cllr Q Webb, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk) and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – from Mrs P Knightley, Dr J Lawler and Mrs K Willis were accepted.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting (please refer to the notes at the end of agenda).

None were recorded.

3. **Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 15 February 2007** were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising**

05/Mar07 Election information/nomination papers. Were distributed to those present and the Clerk will deliver to the other members.

06/Mar07 Parish Assembly refreshments. Mr Gover kindly agreed to arrange refreshments for the Annual Parish Assembly.

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Mar07 Clerk's salary & expenses (March)

02/Mar07 F C Lawrence for month of March @ £333.33 (incl. bus shelter)

04/Mar07 West Berkshire Council Non Domestic Rates Demand (burial ground) £22.05 (2007/08)

07/Mar07 Mayprint Services £46.00 (2007/08)

All agreed these payments be made.

Other

03/Feb07 New play equipment at Pinewood Park. Installation is planned in April.

09/Feb07 Amenity contract – will be awarded to Mr Lawrence for 2007/08.

6. **District Councillors' Report**

Written report attached

7. **Planning**

7.1 **Cementation Site Development**

07/Mar07 Green Issues Exhibition report – a copy was provided to each member of Hermitage Parish Council.

7.2 **Arena Site Development**

West Berkshire Council and Banner Homes have agreed the proposed scheme for play equipment and installation will follow in due course.

7.3 Other Planning Matters

10/Sept06 Hermitage Road Safety Improvement Scheme

Surveying of services located under the Hamstead Norreys Road/High St is being undertaken by West Berkshire Council Highways. Widening of the footway outside the Post Office is on schedule for completion early in the new financial year.

7.4 Case Officer's Reports in circulation

06/02499/FULMAJ former cementation site – approved by West Berkshire Council

06/02956/HOUSE Box Cottage, Eling - approved by West Berkshire Council

07/00006/FULD Faville, Hamstead Norreys Road – approved by West Berkshire Council

8. Correspondence

In circulation

West Berkshire Council

- Housing Strategy 2005 – 2010 South East England Regional Assembly
- Regional Housing Strategy Review
- Partial Review of the South East Plan: Revised Apportionment of Primary Land-Won Aggregates.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service – an invitation to engage in consultation 'Fire and Rescue Service Five Year Integrated Risk Management Plan

Jim Fitzpatrick MP – Post Office Network

Publications: Local Council Review, The Clerk, Clerk & Councils Direct, CPRE *Voice*, Berkshire Communicator

Other

Calor Berkshire Village of the Year – Hermitage will not enter.

The Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP – Memorial Safety. Noted.

West Berkshire Council – Tree Protection Order, Faville, Hamstead Norreys Road. Noted.

9. Representatives' Reports

9.1 Village Hall – Dr Lawler was not in attendance.

9.2 Play area

Weekly inspections - no problems reported.

08/Jan07 Annual inspection. The current contract with RoSPA will be terminated and another inspector appointed according to the recommendation of Mrs Willis.

9.3 Footpaths – nothing to report.

9.4 Downland Youth Network – nothing to report.

9.5 Hermitage Primary School

The building scheme is 4/5 days behind schedule but opening of the new classroom is still planned for August.

It has been agreed that there will be one classroom per year group and adverts for new teachers will be placed.

The school has obtained a grant for a travel plan/walking bus.

10. Burial Ground

08/Nov06 Preparatory landscaping

Dr Lawler was not in attendance. The Clerk advised that the need for more burial space was more and more pressing. **Mr Lawrence** will be asked to quote for the preparatory works.

11. Any Other Business

03/Mar07 Village allotments

There has been a request from a village resident for the Parish Council to consider provision of allotments. A single request does not warrant such provision, but the Parish Council will place an advert in the Parish magazine to see if there is any further interest. The availability of land would be a significant problem in providing allotments as the Parish Council does not own any. The short term solution is for residents to apply for allotments in an adjacent village.

Date of next meetings

Hermitage Annual Parish Assembly will be held on

Thursday 19 April at 8.00pm in Hermitage Village Hall

The Annual Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council will be held on

Thursday 17 May 2007 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.02pm.

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT MARCH 2007

1. People making the most of West Berkshire's outstanding countryside will notice some new signs that have recently been put up across the district, advising users of a new designation. 'Restricted Bylaws' are the new class of route, and they can be used by walkers, horse riders, horse and carts, and pedal cycles, but not motorised vehicles. They replace the old designation of 'Road Used as a Public Path' which was introduced in 1949, and has often proved confusing in law as to whether motor vehicles were allowed on them or not. Restricted Byways now join 'Footpaths', 'Bridleways', and 'Byways Open to all Traffic' as one of the four main types of public route that can be used in the countryside.
2. West Berkshire Council has been rewarded for its hard work and drive for efficiency, with an improved '3 Star' rating from the Audit Commission, the national body that measures councils' performance. A '3 Star' rating indicates that the Council is 'performing well-consistently above minimum requirements.' In the past twelve months, residents of West Berkshire will have seen tangible improvements in some key services delivered by the Council-based on measurement criteria laid down by the Audit Commission. In particular, improved scores for environmental services and the 'use of resources' have been achieved, which underlines how effectively and efficiently the Council uses money and staff resources to deliver more value for residents. The 'direction of travel' assessment informing Councils as to whether they are continuously improving their services year on year has sustained its 'improving well' rating for a 2nd year. User satisfaction results for West Berkshire showed the Council to be well above the all England average for service.
3. West Berkshire Council is in negotiations with Parkwood Leisure with a view to making them the preferred leisure supplier for the whole district. Parkwood is one of four companies that responded as part of the tendering process and the decision to enter into negotiations was taken at a recent meeting of the Council's Executive. Parkwood currently manage the Northcroft Leisure Centre in Newbury and the Cotswold Sports Centre in Tilehurst.
4. .

Quentin Webb Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 19 April 2007 at 7.30pm in Hermitage Village Hall**

Present: Mr N Pearson (Chair), Mrs S Gore, Mr K Gover, Mrs P Knightley, Dr J Lawler, Mrs K Willis, Cllr Q Webb, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk) and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – all members were in attendance.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting (please refer to the notes at the end of agenda).

None were recorded.

3. **Planning**

Banner Homes lighting scheme – no objections.

07/00503/HOUSE Elm Tree House, Hamstead Norreys Road- no objections.

07/00391/HOUSE Birchwood, Chapel Lane – no objections.

4. **Finance**

01/Apr07 Accounts for payment

BALC subscription - £170.04

Thames Water Utilities Ltd - £11.32

Clerk's salary & expenses (April) - £360.68

F CLawrence (April) - £348.08

Playground Services - £12,304.60

Hermitage Village Stores (Parish Assembly refreshments)

02/Apr07 Approval of accounts 2006/07

The Clerk has circulated copies of the final accounts for the year April 2006/March 2007. The accounts (including statement of variances and notes to the accounts) and annual return were approved and duly signed by Mr Pearson (Chairman) and Mrs Riordan (Clerk & RFO).

03/Apr07 Quotes from Mr Lawrence have been received and were agreed as follows:

Spreading of grass seed under burial ground yew tree

Spreading of grass seed in Pinewood Park play area.

5. **Resignation of Clerk**

No arrangements from May 2007 were formulated and as such the Clerk will take no action other than to terminate the Parish Council BT line and arranging final payment accordingly. The existing Clerk's duties will cease at close of business on 30 April 2007.

4. **Any Urgent Business**

There being no further business the Chairman concluded the meeting.

Date of next meeting

The Annual Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council will be held on

Thursday 17 May 2007 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON JUNE 21ST 2007.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

Present.

Mr R. Allum.
Mr D. Brown.
Mrs R Cottingham.
Mrs R. Goodman
Mrs F. Groves.

Mr Q Webb.
Mr C.W.Goudge

District Councillor
Clerk.

The meeting was opened by Mr Q. Webb, under an Authority from West Berkshire Council, there being no existing Chairman.

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

It was proposed by Mrs Groves and seconded by Mr Allum that Mr Brown be elected Chairman for the coming year. The proposition was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

Mr Brown then took the Chair.

2. The Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and each Councillor signed their individual Declaration.

3. Co-option of Councillors.

It was proposed by Mrs Goodman and seconded by Mrs Cottingham that

Mr M Frost
Mr K.D. Miller
Mrs K. Willis.

be co-opted to Hermitage Parish Council.

The proposition was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

4. The election of the Vice Chairman for the coming year.

It was proposed by Mr Brown and seconded by Mrs Groves that Mrs Goodman be elected Vice-Chairman for the coming year. The proposition was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

5. The appointment of the Clerk.

Mr Goudge had been acting as Clerk since the beginning of June. It was decided that he should continue to act as Clerk at the same salary as the previous Clerk.

6. The appointment of Parish Council Representatives to Outside Bodies.

It was decided to postpone these appointments until the recently co-opted Councillors would be present at the July meeting.

7. The Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

Councillors had examined the new Code of Conduct and it was decided to adopt it. Notice would be given to West Berkshire Council and the Standard Board of England. The Clerk would research the Standing Orders for presentation at the next meeting.

8. The Bank Mandate.

It was decided to renew the present arrangement with the Bank of Scotland whereby any two Councillors could authorise financial Instruments on behalf of the Council.

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

9. Public participation.

Mr Gilchrist gave a short report from the Village Hall Committee. The design for the new hall had been presented to the Committee and was being considered. Funding initiatives were being pursued but the results were slow in materialising. The sale of the present land would cover part of the cost leaving about £250k to £400k to be funded. The Architect's fee would be paid in instalments.. Planning consent would be applied for once the design had been approved by the Committee. The Chairman reinforced the view that the Council would do anything it could to help, because the project is such a worthwhile asset for the Village.

Mr & Mrs Tattersall voiced their concerns over the proposed extension of the property adjoining them which, in their view, would seriously affect their way of life. The Chairman said that the Council had not yet received the planning application, but this might be due to the unusual Council circumstances. When the application came before the Council they would take the views of Mrs & Mrs Tattersall into consideration. Mr Webb mentioned that, if there were other serious objections it was open for him to call the matter to Committee.

The Chairman of the Horticultural Society suggested that there should be two Council notice boards to help bring the Community together. It would also be a benefit to have an updated website. There have been problems with walkers parking cars at he Village Hall, partly due to West Berkshire Council sanctioning the use of car parks at Village Halls.

10. Minutes of the last meeting held on April 19th 2007.

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

11. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not dealt with elsewhere.



It was noted that a payment of £12,304.60 had been paid for the installation of a single point swing at Pinewood Park.

12. Planning.

- i **Appeal decision.**
06/01255/FULD Land at Oaklands House, Hermitage.
Erection of new house
Appeal dismissed.
- ii **Decision from the Planning Authority.**
07/00391/HOUSE Birchwood, Chapel Lane, Hermitage.
Single storey extension.
Application approved
- iii **New planning applications.**
07/00841/HOUSE Ivy Wood, Westrop Green.
Workshop / Office.
No objections

07/01035/FULD Hermitage garage, Newbury Road.
New three bedroom detached dwelling.
Objections –
1. **Overdevelopment**
2. **Dangerous access.**
3. **Loss of neighbours' privacy**
4. **Intrusive to environment**

07/01076/HOUSE The Yews, Newbury Road.
Conservatory.
No objections
- iv **Other matters.**
 - i S.106 Agreements.
WBC has issued guidance notes on the ways in which S.106 contributions from developers may be spent.

13. Highways.

WBC.

- i S.I.D. usage.
WBC enquired about Insurance cover for Parish Council members operating S.I.D.
Adequate Insurance cover exists under the Council policy.
- ii Footway widening in Hermitage High Street.
Notification of work to commence on widening. The previous Parish Council has had a considerable input into the scheme, and the work is based on that.

14. Finance.

- i Receipts.
To be advised on receipt of Bank statements.
- ii Payments.

None could be authorised until the new Bank Mandate had been registered by the Bank of Scotland.

iii Request for a Grant.

A request had been received from CCB.

It was decided that all grant requests would be dealt with at the November meeting in time for the budget setting the Precept for 2008 / 2009.

15. Burial Ground.

There was no report.

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

Most correspondence had been directed to WBC Legal Department and would be available after the appointment of the Clerk.

17. Items to be raised by Councillors.

There were no items raised.

18. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday July 19th at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

.....


Chairman

.....
12.7.07

Date

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JULY 12TH 2007

Present.

Mr D. Brown. Chairman
Mr R. Allum.
Ms R Cottingham.
Mrs F. Groves.
Mr K.D.Miller.

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

19. Public participation.

There was a discussion about the arrangements for the Village Walk, and a notice has been placed at the Forest Edge location. Details should be put into the Village website. It was also mentioned that the website needs to be brought up to date with Parish Council matters and the Clerk would get in touch with Mr Lawler.

The Village Hall Management Committee reported that there were hopes to launch a new fund raising project. A Lottery grant has been applied for and the results are awaited. West Berkshire Council are of the opinion that the planning application for the Village Hall which has laid dormant since being granted some time ago cannot be renewed. A letter had been received from the Charity Commission regarding the Playing Field.

20. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Frost, Mrs Goodman and Mrs Willis.

21. Minutes of the last meeting held on June 21st 2007.

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

22. The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

The printed report is attached to these minutes.

West Berkshire Council is looking at the ramifications of LDF implications mainly around Newbury and Hungerford. The fact that gardens are "brownfield sites" can be a contentious matter when considering the impact of infilling.

AMS
23/8

23. **Planning.****Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

		Decision
07/00751/HOUSE	10. Pinewood Crescent, Hermitage Conservatory	Approval
07/00813/FULD	Land adjacent to the Old Vicarage. Two dwellings.	Withdrawn

New planning applications.

07/01121/HOUSE Red Roof, Chapel Lane.
Extension to create two storey dwelling.
Amended plans had been submitted which eliminated the carport and extension over.

The Council objected on the following grounds.

1. **The roof line is too high, would be dominant in the area, and be an intrusion into the street scene.**
2. **The extension would overshadow the neighbours and not meet the criteria for extensions set out in the West Berkshire SPG on this subject.**
3. **The extension would represent overdevelopment in a narrow site.**

07/01238/HOUSE	Rivendell, Hampstead Norreys Road Vehicular access.	No objections
07/01250/HOUSE	Mulberry Cottage, Deacons Lane First floor extension.	Support
07/01338/FUL	1 & 2, Concrete Cottages, Wellhouse. Demolish & replace two semi-detached dwellings	Support
07/01152/HOUSE	Woodpeckers, Hampstead Norreys Road. Side extension.	No objections
07/01156/HOUSE	56, Hermitage Green, Hermitage. Conservatory	No objections
07/1400/HOUSE	Meadow Pipit, Manor Lane. Extensions.	No objections
07/1455/FUL	Bridge House, Chapel Lane Section 73 application.	No objections.

The Council commented that -

1. **The solid gate is out of keeping with the vicinity.**
2. **The access is acceptable in principle.**

Adjoining Parish applications.

07/01290/FUL Hilliers Garden Centre, Priors Court Road.
New building in garden centre

The Council objected to the application on the following grounds.

1. **The location of the building is inappropriate.**
2. **The building would be grossly visually intrusive.**
3. **This Council supports the Chieveley Parish council objections.**

07/01140/FUL	Florence Cottage, Bucklebury Alley. Remove sheds and replace.	No objections
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ASMB
23/8

07/1314/HOUSE Fencewood House, Slanting Hill.
Railings and gates.

The Council objected to the application on the following grounds.

1. **The proposed gates are not compatible with the neighbourhood and are not in keeping with the rural area.**

Other matters.

- i S.106 data.
The Council noted the details of amounts raised by WBC from S.106 agreements in the Parish. Further details would be provided at the next meeting.

24. Highways.

WBC

- i Footpath widening in High Street.
The proposals were noted.
- ii Hermitage School pedestrian crossing.
The plans were noted.
- iii West Berkshire Freight Route Network Consultation.
The questionnaire was noted and would be brought forward at the next meeting.
- iv Parish bids for Highways.
The Council noted that WBC will welcome bids from the Council for the allocation of monies raised by S.106 in the Parish. Bids will be asked for in the Autumn.
- v Highways Improvement programme.
The programme was noted. There are no works suggested for the Parish.
- vi Revision of local bus services.
The Passenger Transport Team will be reviewing the local bus services in the Parish. This would be brought forward for comment at the next meeting.

Other.

- i Arena footpath.
It was reported that the footpath is unfinished and has barbed wire on the fence at the side, posing a possible danger to pedestrians. It was decided to ask WBC to look into the matter.

25. Finance.

- i Receipts.
Bank Statements were not yet available.
- ii Payments authorised.

Thames Water	Burial Ground supply.	£1.31
F.C.Lawrence	Grasscutting & tidying	£696.16
B.A.L.C.	Postage on booklets	£7.50
R.F.Gleave	Internal audit to March 2007	£100.00
Zurich Insurance	Premium 07 / 08	£483.90
Hermitage Village Hall.	Hall hire	£29.40
C.C.B	Grant	£25.00
West Berkshire Council	Election costs	£100.00
C.W.Goudge	Salary June / July & postage	£649.28

AMB
23/8

- iii Other.
 - i Internal audit.
The Auditors observations were noted.
 - ii Council computer.
It was decided that the computer should be offered to Mrs Riordan for £50.00
 - iii Parish Council Loan.
The loan, which raised money for the Village Hall some years ago, has some seven years to run. It was decided to look into this and to bring it forward for the next meeting.
 - iv Material damage Insurance.
The playground equipment is not covered under the Council's Policy. It was decided to examine the matter.

26. Burial Ground.

- i It was reported that the brickwork is poor in places and should be assessed to see whether it causes a possible danger to users of the Burial Ground.

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

The correspondence was noted and, where appropriate, placed into circulation.

28. Items to be raised by Councillors.

There were no further items under this heading.

29. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday August 23rd in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church at 7.45pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

SPB
23/8

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT JULY 2007

1. West Berkshire needs to keep its post offices!
That's the message loud and clear from West Berkshire leader Graham Jones, following the government's recent announcement that it intends to go ahead with plans to close up to 2,500 post offices across the country, amid widespread public dismay.
Reacting angrily to the announcement, Councillor Jones said: "Post offices- and particularly village post offices-can be crucial to thousands of people living in West Berkshire. A loss of just one can mean extra hardship, particularly for the elderly, in accessing essential services that the post offices provide. I deplore this announcement. The government has not listened to the public on the issue. This Council has a proven track record of supporting rural post offices. The opening of one in the pub at Chaddleworth and financial support for another at Chapel Row is just two examples of where we have helped maintain this vital service for the village communities."
"We will continue to do all we can to try and prevent closures in West Berkshire because, as a largely rural area, people here are really going to feel the impact."
2. Local business adviser Michael Thorpe from Business Link Berkshire has FREE advice sessions for entrepreneurs wishing to start their own businesses at the West Berkshire Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury. Sessions run by appointment between 9.30am and 2pm every Thursday until October. If the project is successful. It will then be rolled out to Council offices and other venues across the district.
To make an appointment with Michael Thorpe, telephone 0845 600 9006
3. Our new Choice Based Lettings scheme, "Homechoice West Berkshire" has been successfully implemented in West Berkshire. The first bidding round started on 3rd May and, in the first week, nearly 1,000 bids were made for the 17 available properties, 91o/o of bids were made on the internet, 6o/o by postal coupons and 3o/o by telephone. The age range of bidders spanned from age 17 to over 90 years old. The Housing Associations are now letting these properties to applicants who have actually chosen to live in them!
Homechoice West Berkshire is new and is a very different way of allocating social housing. It is transparent and gives control to the applicant regarding what sort of property and where in West Berkshire they would consider living. However, this does not mean that there may be some applicants who do not understand the system or feel they need help. Contact Housing operations on 01635 519603,519959 or website www.homechoicewb.org.uk

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 23RD 2007

Present.

Mr D. Brown. Chairman
Mr R. Allum.
Ms R Cottingham.
Mr M. Frost
Mrs M. Goodman.
Mrs F. Groves.
Mr K.D.Miller.
Mrs K. Willis.

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

30. Thames Water presentation.

Representatives for Thames Water outlined the work which would be undertaken during the next eight months in replacing the foul sewer drain in the Village, necessitated because of the increase in dwellings in the Village. There will be a public meeting on September 18th in the Village hall, and the meeting will be publicised to all residents by leaflet.

Thames Water will liaise with the individual properties which will be affected as the work progresses, and traffic lights will be installed to keep traffic moving, though there might need to be road temporary closures. The road closures would be with agreement from West Berkshire Council, and there would also be liaison with the District Council to tie in the footpath widening work which would be undertaken by Contractors from West Berkshire Council. The Cementation site itself had been adequately catered for by the Developer.

31. Public Forum.

A former Councillor expressed appreciation for the continuation of the Council after the previous Council cessation in April.

Comments were made that the S.106 amounts of money appeared small compared with other Councils. The total contributions paid to WBC by Developers in the Parish was some £ 2 million, of which £120 thousand is earmarked for specific projects in the Parish.

Large potholes were reported in Newbury Road, and it was suggested that potholes and road repairs could usefully be reported to Streetcare at West Berkshire Council at any time by members of the public.

32. Apologies for absence.

An apology for absence had been received from Mr Pask.

33. Minutes of the last meeting held on July 12th 2007.

The minutes had been circulated. An amendment was agreed to include the Council's discussion regarding Bryant Cottage. With this amendment the minutes were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairmen.

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

Minute 19

i Village Hall.

Draft plans have been circulated and the plans are almost ready for submission to the Planning Authority. WBC queried whether the new Hall should be as large and this is being dealt with. The finance and legal Agreements are also in process. The amount of £91k provided to WBC under S.106 Agreements will only be available to the Village Hall some eighteen months after the Developer has completed the outside work, and this could raise a temporary funding problem.

The land on which the Hall stands is to be transferred to the Parish Council.

Minute 25.

ii Parish Council laptop.

A query was raised regarding the laptop age and value at which it should be transferred. This would be investigated.

Minute 29.

i Meeting dates.

The December meeting date was confirmed as Thursday December 13th and the April 2008 date as April 24th

Other.

i Village website.

It was confirmed that the site has been brought up to date with Council data.

ii Village Walk.

A reminder that the Walk will take place this coming Monday starting at 2.00pm with tea at 4.00pm. The walk will cater for every level of participation.

ii Patient User Group.

The Group is based at the Surgery and aims to keep patients and staff in touch with events at the Surgery. A planning application has been submitted for an extended car park which will greatly help patient access.

The suggestion that the Surgery computer is linked to the National system has been turned down by the Practice.

It was confirmed that Mr Gower would attend the next Group meeting on behalf of the Council.

35. The report from the District Councillor.

Mr Webb mentioned the plans made by WBC to review the recent flooding, so as to both understand any causes which could have been mitigated and to plan precautions for the future. There will be a joint meeting with the Environment Agency and other directly affected parties, including Parish Councils, later in the year.

There is a grant of £200 from Government through WBC available to affected households and a notice with a claim form would be placed on the notice board.



36. Planning.**Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

		Decision
07/01035/FULD	Hermitage Garage, Newbury Road. New detached dwelling.	Approved
07/01076/HOUSE	The Yews, Newbury Road. Conservatory	Approved
07/01152/HOUSE	Woodpeckers, Hampstead Noerreys Road. Extension.	Approved
07/01250/HOUSE	Mulberry Cottage, Deacons Lane. Extension and rebuild.	Approved.
07/01338/FUL	1 & 2, Concrete Cottages, Wellhouse. Demolition and replacement of two units.	Approved.
07/01238/HOUSE	Rivendell, Hampstead Norreys Road. Alterations to widen access.	Approval

New planning applications.

07/01534/HOUSE Primrose Cottage, High Street.
Extension & Conservatory.

The Council returned "no objections".

Other matters.

WBC.

- i Provision of Caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers.
Consultation for SEERA was noted.
- ii S.106 contributions towards open spaces in the Parish.
The amount of £4,440 is now available from the contributions paid by the Developer of 06/02883/FULD, a single dwelling at Hillier's Garden Centre. It was decided to accept this and complete the undertaking for WBC.
It was noted that another amount of £24,310 had also been obtained by WBC specifically to improve public open spaces in the Parish, as part of the development at the Arena site. It was decided to ask WBC when this money would be transferred to the Council.

37. Highway matters.**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 24..

- i West Berkshire Freight Route Consultation.
This was noted. It did not appear have any significant effect on this Parish..

Other matters.

- i Long Lane bus shelter.
It was decided to accept the quotation of £960 for repairs to the shelter.
- ii Hermitage Green footpath.
Serious concern was expressed about the lack of surfacing and the proximity of barbed wire on the boundary fence. Discussion is still ongoing with the developer to complete the path. It was decided that Councillors would investigate.

- iii Tree on a footpath.
This would also be investigated by Councillors.
- iv Dog nuisance.
It was reported that some dog walkers did not clear up after their dogs. The matter has been reported to the Police. It was decided to attend the next NAG meeting in September to raise the matter.
- v The following matters which need repair or clearance have been reported to WBC.
 - Newbury Road subsidence at the Village Hall.
 - Marlston Road/ Yattendon Road culvert & footpath..
 - Marlston Road/ Slanting Hill junction blocked ditch.

38. Finance..

- i Receipts.
To be notified.
- ii Payments authorised.

F.C.Lawrence	Grasscutting & shelter maintenance	£363.08
Hacker Young	External audit to March 2007-08-30	£334.88
Falkland Builders	Plumbing repairs	£47.00
C.W.Goudge	Salary & expenses	£342.66
- iii Other matters.
 - i The Annual Return and Accounts had been received from the External Auditors after examination with a clear certificate.
 - ii It was noted that the Precept for the coming year to March 2009 would be fixed at the December meeting.

39. Burial ground.

- i Repairs to walls.
Two estimates had been obtained.
It was decided to accept the estimate for £1,050 with an additional amount of £50 to allow for better bricks than those in the estimate.
- ii Plumbing repairs.
It was noted that the tap had been leaking and that repairs and plumbing work had been carried out. Total cost of both was £55 exc VAT.
- ii Fee schedule.
It was decided to review the fees schedule in December.

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

The correspondence was discussed, and, where appropriate, placed into circulation.

41. Items to be raised by Councillors.

There were no further items raised.

42. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday September 20th at 7.45-pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

W Brown

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20TH 2007

Present.

Mr D. Brown. Chairman
Mr R. Allum.
Ms R Cottingham.
Mrs M. Goodman.
Mrs F. Groves.
Mrs K. Willis.

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

Three members of the public.

43. Public participation.

There was flooding along the road opposite the Post Office in July due possibly to the ditch being unserviceable. It was not known to whom the ditch belonged, though it was believed that WBC had cleared it some time ago. The Council would investigate.

The Village website should be brought up to date. The Village name sign is missing on Priory Court Road and the Council would report this to WBC.

44. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Miller, Mr Frost and Mr Pask.

45. Minutes of the last meeting held on August 23rd 2007.

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

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

Minute 34.

i Village Hall.

Councillors, Mr Webb and representatives from Hermitage Football Club met the Developers at the proposed football field to discuss the layout for pitch use. WBC will take ownership from the developers in due course and, it is understood, would eventually hand over the land to the Village Hall.

ii Village website.

There were no further matters to report.

iii Village Walk.

The annual Walk had been very well supported, and thanks were tendered to all those who had made the organisation possible.

47. The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

There were no further matters to be discussed.



48. **Planning.****Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

		Decision
07/01400/HOUSE	Meadow Pipit, Manor Lane. Extension & garage roof	Approval
07/01455/FUL	Bridge House, Chapel Lane. Section 73 garage to annex	Refusal

Here Mrs Willis declared a Personal Interest and retired from the meeting.

New planning applications.

07/01656/HOUSE Woodside House, Yattendon Road.
Conservatory & Garden shed

The Council returned "no objections".

Here Mrs Willis returned to the meeting.

07/0721/HOUSE Wellhouse barns, Wellhouse.
07/0722/LBC New connection & link to barns

The Council returned "no objections".

07/01835/FUL Land adjacent to Old Vicarage.
Marlston Road, Hermitage.
Two dwellings and garages.

The Council returned "no objections", but asked that the following comments be taken into account.

- 1 There are serious concerns that the upkeep of the ditch should be properly regulated.**
- 2 It is requested that the ditch upkeep be specified in a planning condition attached to any permission.**

Other matters.

- i GOSE.**
Report of the Inspector's Panel on the South East Plan on CD.
The Council noted the report.
- ii WBC**
S.106 funds from 04/02208/RESMAJ
The Council had received £24,310 in June 2005 and was looking into the correct application of these funds.

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

Minute 37.

- i Bus shelter repairs.**
These have been completed.
- ii Hemitage Green footpath**
The state of the footpath continues to cause concern. The surface is uneven and poor and there is barbed wire adjacent to the path posing a possible danger to users. WBC are looking into the matter with the Developers.

- ii Footpath impaired by a leaning tree.
This has not been cleared and it was decided to remind WBC of this.
- iii Flood report for WBC.
This had been submitted.
- iv Subsidence and clearance by the Village Hall.
Some work had been carried out but there was more to do. It was decided to remind WBC of this.

New matters.

- i WBC Highways structure and procedures.
These were noted.
- ii V.A.S.
WBC have confirmed that a speed indicator device is being placed on the Yattendon Road.
- iii Parish bids.
The bids from the Parish for inclusion in the rolling Capital programme have been submitted to WBC.

50. Finance.

- i Receipts since the last meeting.

Bank of Scotland.	Interest	August	£103.50
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- ii Payments authorised.

Grants from last year.

Village Hall	£1,500.00
Pre-School	£1,000.00
Cubs	£1,000.00
CAB	£100.00
Downland Youth	£150.00
Pang Valley Project	£100.00
Air ambulance	£75.00
Community furniture	£75.00

Invoices.

F.C.Lawrence	Grasscutting	August	£318.08
	Bus shelters		£30.00
C. Rumens	Bus shelter		£950.00
	Wall in burial ground		£1,100.00
B.A.L.C.	Seminar Sept 22 nd		£37.00
C.P.R.E.	Subscription		£27.00
Sovereign Housing	Ground rent		£5.00
C.W.Goudge.	September		£336.28

- iii Other.

- i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.

- ii It was noted that the amount of £24,310 from the S.106 agreement for the development at the Arena site had been paid to this Council in June 2005. A further amount of £206.66 from the same agreement is being paid from WBC to the Council shortly. These amounts are part of the balance at the Bank of some £44k, and it was decided to ringfence the amounts..
- iii A loan was undertaken by the Council some time ago to facilitate a grant to the Village Hall of £20,000. The amount of the loan outstanding from the Council is some £11,000, and it was decided to ringfence this amount as well in the funds at the Bank.
- iv The telephone banking authorisation for the Clerk. was completed.

51. Burial Ground.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 39.

- i Wall repairs.
These had been completed.
- ii Gully by the ground.
This has not been cleared and it was decided to urge WBC to assist.

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

The correspondence was reviewed and, where appropriate, placed into circulation.

53. Items to be raised by Councillors.

Mrs Groves had attended the first meeting of the local Neighbourhood Action Group. The intention is to set up a Committee of representatives for the area acting with the Police. The Committee would meet on a regular basis, probably quarterly. This area is considered a low problem area.

54. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday October 18th at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.



Chairman

18.10.07

Date

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 18TH 2007

Present.

Mr D. Brown. Chairman
Mr R. Allum.
Ms R Cottingham.
Mr M. Frost.
Mrs M. Goodman.
Mrs F. Groves.
Mr K.D.Miller.
Mrs K. Willis.

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

Three members of the public.

55. Public participation.

There is considerable criticism of the revised traffic arrangements under the bridge on Marlston Road. A resident believes that the present system is deficient and dangerous. It was decided to inspect the area and to make an Agenda item for the November meeting.

A resident asked if the 30mph sign at the top of the Village could be moved. It was decided to inspect the site and place this on the Agenda for the November meeting.

It was requested that the seats and fence in the Pinewood play area be treated with preservative. It was decided to ask Mr Lawrence to look at the equipment and report back.

The older Parish records are stored in the Village Hall. It was decided to inspect these and discuss the matter at the November meeting.

The ditch which runs through the Village and is situated on private property does not seem to have been cleared and it was not known who should do so. It was decided to inspect the ditch and review the matter at the November meeting.

56. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

57. Minutes of the last meeting held on September 20th 2007.

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

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

Minute 46.

i Village Hall.
WBC have been asked for a decision on the correct usage of S.106 funds.



59. The Report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

Mr Webb mentioned that there is a growing nuisance caused by cars being parked in a way which obstructs waste bin emptying. Mr Webb is examining the problem. There were no further formal comments, but Mr Webb would be pleased to answer queries which arose during the rest of the meeting.

60. Planning.**Decisions from the Planning Authority.**

		Decision
07/01656/HOUSE	Woodside House, Yattendon Road. Conservatory & shed.	Approval
07/01721/HOUSE	Wellhouse Barns, Wellhouse.	Approval
07/01722/LBC	Link between barns	Approval.
07/01534/HOUSE	Primrose Cottage, High Street. Extension & demolish conservator	Approval.
07/01835/FULD	Land at the Old Vicarage, Marlston Road. New dwellings	Withdrawn

New planning applications.

07/02045/HOUSE	Kiln Cottage, Ridgeway Close. Rear extension.
07/01988/HOUSE	Bryants Cottage, Yattendon Road. Window & fire escape.
07/02058/FULD	Sandhill House, Hampstead Norreys Road. Flat roofs to pitch & car port to garage.

The Council returned "no objections" to these three applications.

Adjoining Parish application.

07/01811/HOUSE	Fencewood, Drove lane, Cold Ash. Extensions.
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The Council returned "no objections" to this application.

Other matters.

- i WBC Saved Policies extension.
The Council noted the Policies which have been carried over to the new Local Development Framework.
- ii Update on the South East Plan.
The Council noted the update.

61. Highways and Environmental matters.**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**

Minute 49.

- i Footpath map.
WBC have been asked to supply a footpath map of the Village.
- ii Footpath impaired by leaning tree.
The tree has been cleared.

- iii Subsidence by the Village Hall.
This has been rectified.

New matters.

- i Sewer replacement and footpath widening.
Thames Water have asked the Council for a view as to whether the Council have a preference regarding the working of two repair gangs simultaneously in the Village. It was felt that this was a question for WBC Highways to judge because of safety and traffic issues involved. It was decided to refer the matter to WBC and inform Thames Water of this.
- ii Footway along Station Road.
The barbed wire is causing residents' concern, and it was decided to investigate this further and to raise the matter at the November meeting.
The elm trees along the path belong to the landowner and WBC are unable to take any action in this.
Keeping the foul drainage system clear is the responsibility of WBC, and it was decided to ask them to investigate.
- iii M4 noise.
A comprehensive note had been prepared covering all the aspects of recent meetings and the proposed ways forward in conjunction with Boxford and Yattendon Councils particularly. It was decided to take an active role in the process.
- iv WBC Parish bids for inclusion in the Capital programme.
WBC acknowledged the bids submitted. Decisions would be taken during December.
- v Game shooting in Yattendon woods.
A reported incident in the woods has caused concern locally, and it is being looked into by the Estate concerned.

62. Finance.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| i | Receipts. | | | |
| | Bank of Scotland. | Interest | September | £89.39 |
| | WBC | Precept 50% | | £9,500.00 |
| ii | Payments authorized. | | | |
| | Clerk's salary & expenses – October | | | £358.20 |
| | F.C.Lawrence | Maintenance | | £364.08 |
| | Thames Water Services | Burial ground water | | £35.98 |
| iii | Other. | | | |
| i | To note the Statement of Receipts & Payments to date. | | | |
| | Funds "ringfenced" have been shown separately in the Bank balance amounts. | | | |
| ii | Thank you letters for grants have been received from – | | | |
| | Ist Hermitage cub scouts. | | | |
| | C.A.B. | | | |
| iii | Grant applications. | | | |
| | Application forms are available for decisions in December. | | | |

63. Burial ground

- i Gully clearance.
No work has been undertaken and it was decided to request WBC to clear the gully.
- ii Headstone application.
There has been an enquiry about placing a headstone in the burial ground.

AMB

64. Items to be raised by Councillors.

It was questioned as to whether there should be two notice boards rather than one. It was decided to put this on the Agenda for the November meeting.

Councillors decided that, in order to share Council work, to see if Councillors would be able to undertake specific duties. After a detailed discussion, Mrs Groves and Mrs Ellis undertook to focus on footpaths and highway issues. *Mo Westergaard*

It was decided that a Representative to the Village Hall would be considered after the Village Hall Management Committee meeting on November 1st and that a Representative to the School Governors would be considered in conjunction with School.

The car park at the Village Hall seemed originally to be used for Community Youth. It was decided to discuss this at the November meeting.

A risk assessment would be presented to Council at the next meeting as an Agenda item.

It was decided to refer to NAG the question of the apparent number of burglaries in the area.

65. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday November 15th at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date.



HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 15TH 2007

Present.

Mr D. Brown. Chairman
Ms R Cottingham.
Mr M. Frost.
Mrs M. Goodman.
Mrs F. Groves.
Mr K.D.Miller.
Mrs K. Willis.

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

Seven members of the public.

66. Public participation.

The Chairman welcomed Ally Johnston, the Area Youth Officer for West Berkshire Council, and Dave Dobson the Chairman of Hermitage Youth Club. Hermitage Youth Club has some 81 members and 63 were at last week's meeting. A request was made for funding to assist with providing professional help in relating to the members. It was mentioned that requests for grants would be considered at the December meeting. Mrs Willis mentioned the Downland Youth organisation and their role in Youth affairs.

The agent for the proposed development at The Grange summarised the plans. It was decided that Councillors would make a site visit at the weekend.

In response to a question, a Parishioner was informed that the responsibility for the graveyard overall was that of the Council as a whole, while the Clerk was responsible for the organisation of grave sites.

A Parishioner reported that the High Street opposite the Post Office became very restricted in width when cars were parked on the Post office side, resulting in large vehicles mounting the opposite pavement causing a dangerous situation to pedestrians. It was felt that this situation would be worsened when the footpath is widened. It was decided to ask WBC Highways whether there could be ways of reducing the risk to pedestrians, and whether the placing of bollards might be of help.

67. Apologies for absence.

An apology for absence had been received from Mr Allum.

68. Minutes of the last meeting held on October 18th 2007.

The minutes had been circulated.

An amendment was made in Minute 64.

"Mrs Groves and Mrs Ellis " was altered to read "Mrs Groves and Ms Cottingham".

With this amendment the minutes were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

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

Minute 55.

- i Parish records.
The records at the Village Hall were appraised by the Chairman, Clerk and Mr Marr. It was decided to make a thorough inspection and possible editing at a later date. It is possible that some of the historical records would be of interest to the Berkshire Records Office.

Minute 64.

- i Notice boards
It was decided to bring this forward to the next meeting, and to take a survey of Hermitage Green residents for opinions.
- ii Risk assessment for the play area.
The Council adopted this Summary Statement of the risk assessment as a guiding principle relating to the children's play area.
"Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury."
- iii Representative to the Village Hall Management Committee..
The meeting of the Committee which was to have taken place since the last Council meeting was cancelled. It was decided to appoint Mrs Willis as the Council's Representative to the Committee and to ask for a report to be considered as an Agenda item for the next meeting.
- iv Representative to the School Governors.
This is ongoing with School.

70. Report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

Mr Webb had journeyed round the District observing the present bin emptying routines, and this highlighted the physical problem of emptying bins throughout the District. As a result new practices have been implemented which compliment Government suggested strategies. Contractors have been instructed not to park in front of drives. There is an examination of the way in which affordable housing is provided when exception sites are used. There must be an emphasis on providing for the needs of local people as a first consideration.

71. Planning matters.

Decisions from the Planning Authority

07/02045/FULD	Kiln Cottage, Ridgeway Close. Rear extension.	Decision Approval
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New planning applications.

07/02138/HOUSE	Merrywinds, Pond Lane. Side extension to kitchen. The Council returned "no objections"
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0702155/HOUSE	East Bungalow, Wellhouse. Greenhouse. The Council, by a majority, returned "no objections."
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07/02271/FULD Land adjacent to the Old Rectory
Marlston Road.
Two new dwellings & garages.
**The Council returned “no objections”, but asked that the Council’s
previous comments were considered as applying to this application.**

07/02165/HOUSE 36, Pinewood Crescent, Hermitage.
Conservatory.
The Council returned “no objections”.

07/02226/FULEXT The Gable House, Yattendon Road.
Premises demolition for new apartment blocks
**The Council decided to make a site visit before commenting to West
Berkshire Council. WBC will be asked to extend the return date to allow
discussion at the next meeting of this Council.**

Adjoining Parish application.

07/02109/HOUSE Copse House, New Road Hill.
Extensions to front side & rear.
**This application did not appear to be a consideration for this Council.
Enquiries would be made of Midgham Parish Council.**

Planning applications withdrawn.

06/01512/FULD Wellhouse Barns, Wellhouse
06/01530/LBC Conversion etc

72. Highway matters

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 55.

- i Traffic regulation under Marlston Bridge.
It was decided to ask WBC Highways to have an Officer meet Councillors at the site to look at the points which have been raised over the last three months and to see if the scheme needs modification in the light of experience.
- ii 30mph sign.
It was decided to remind WBC of the request to move the sign.
- iii Sewer replacement.
The working pattern of Thames Water has been referred to WBC Highways.
- iv Footway with barbed wire.
It was decided to approach the landowner directly to see if a solution could be found to the perceived danger from the barbed wire to pedestrians.
- v M4 noise.
There has been no further feedback.

New matters.

- i Bridleway No 21.
There is a temporary prohibition in place to facilitate the sewer replacement works.

73. Environmental matters.**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.****Minute 55.**

- i Seats and fence at Pinewood.
It was decided to accept the estimate from Mr Lawrence for the refurbishment of the seats.
- ii Timber for new post and rails.
It was decided to provide funds of up to £120 for timber to repair the post and rails at the gate to the back entrance of the park.
- iii Ditch through the Village.
The clearance of the ditch is the responsibility of the landowners though whose land the ditch passes, as "riparian owners". If there is an obstruction in the ditch which might lead to flooding, the Environment Agency has the authority to have the landowner remove the obstruction.

Minute 61.

- i Game shooting in Yattendon Woods.
There has been no further report of such shooting.

Minute 64.

- i Open spaces ownership.
It was decided to put a note in the Parish Magazine calling attention to the damage which can be caused by inconsiderate parking.

New matters.

- i WBC Flood heroes.
There were no nominations.

74. Finance.

- i Receipts.

Bank of Scotland	Interest	October	£135.37
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- ii Payments for authorization.

D.Brown.	Travel		£24.55
F.C.Lawrence	Grasscutting		£348.08
C.W.Goudge.	Salary & expenses		£372.81
- iii Other matters.
 - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.
 - ii £40k has been transferred into the Bank of Scotland Deposit account from the Current account.
 - iii Thank you letters for grants 06 / 07 have been received from –
The Community Furniture project.
Downland Youth network.

75. Burial Ground.

- i Gully clearance.
It was decided to remind WBC that the gully needs clearing.
- ii Request for a memorial.
Plans had been submitted for a memorial which appeared to be larger than would be welcomed. It was decided to inform the applicant and see if the design could be modified.

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

The correspondence was noted and, where appropriate, placed into circulation.

77. Items to be raised by Councillors.

The Post Office Stores has been presented with an award for excellence, and it was decided to write to the Owners with congratulations from the Council.

Formal notice had been given to WBC of casual vacancies on the Council. If no election is called then the Council will be able co-opt at the December meeting.

78. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday December 13th at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

.....
Chairman Date.

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 13TH 2007

Present.

Mr D. Brown. Chairman
Ms R Cottingham.
Mrs M. Goodman.
Mrs F. Groves.
Mrs K. Willis.

Mr C.W.Goudge Clerk

Nineteen members of the public.

79. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Allum, Mr Miller, Mr Frost and Mr Pask.

80. Public participation.

It was decided to bring forward the planning application of Gabled House (07/02226/FULEXT) into the area of Public Participation.

There had been 14 letters of objection sent directly to the Planning Department at WBC. The Representative speaking for those objecting to the application made the following comments.

- The proposal is very out of keeping with the rest of the Village vernacular.
- It represents the demolition of a well known Village house.
- The boundary of the Village envelope runs along the other side of Yattendon Road.
- The access would be very difficult situated as it is on a difficult part of the road, and this would pose dangers for both residents and also passing traffic.
- The proposal is not consistent with the Village Design Statement, which has been accepted by WBC as a Planning guide.
- The proposed parking spaces are not adequate and underestimate the needs of residents.

The Agent speaking for the application made the following comments.

- Gabled House is a period property which has reached the end of it's useful life in the present form. The new use for over 55's would meet a perceived need for the Village. A lift would be provided to all floors.
- The building at the moment is quite close to the road, and the application would move the structure back into the grounds. The road noise would be much less.
- Road safety would be much better because sight lines would be improved.
- The trees are protected by a full TPO, and the application will return the property to a mature woodland, and this would help to provide a peaceful environment.
- It is proposed to have a people transport to answer everyday needs of the residents.
- Parking for residents would be limited to one car for each apartment.



Councillors questioned the Agent about the points which had been raised. The Council then decided to object to the application on the following grounds.

- The size of the building would be out of keeping with the Village vernacular and would not accord with the Village Design Statement.
- The increased traffic from the development would be exiting on to a busy road increasing the chance of accidents. The proposed parking and suggested transport arrangements in the development are unrealistic.
- The development would be outside the Village envelope.
- The development would be within 25m of the existing footpath.

The Chairman then thanked both the members of the public and the applicant's Agent for their attendance. This had allowed a wide ranging discussion about the application, considerably helping the Council to reach their decision.

81. Minutes of the last meeting held on November 15th.

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

82. Matters arising from the minutes not referred to elsewhere.

Minute 69.

- i Parish notice boards.
A decision was deferred.
- ii Mr & Mrs Shah.
Mr & Mrs Shah had written to the Council thanking them for their good wishes and support after winning the Asian Trader Award – Spirit of the Community.

83. The report of the West Berkshire Councillor.

Mr Webb reviewed matters at WBC, which is in the process of preparing the draft budget for the coming year. If there are any matters over which the Council needs assistance with WBC Mr Webb would be glad to be of help. } out ✓

84. Planning.

Decisions from the Planning Authority

		Decision
07/01121/HOUSE	Red Roof, Chapel Lane. Extensions & roof raising	Approval.
07/01988/HOUSE	Bryants Cottage, Yattendon Road. West elevation alteration.	Refusal
07/02058/HOUSE	Sandhill House, Hampstead Norreys Road. Flat roofs to pitch & car port to garage	Approval.
07/02138/HOUSE	Merrywinds, Pond Lane. Side extension	Approval

Planning application for consideration from the last meeting.

07/02226/FULEXT The Gable House, Yattendon Road.
This had been discussed fully earlier in the meeting.

New planning applications.

07/02330/HOUSE Fairfield Farm, Red Shute Hill.
Two storey extension & conservatory.
Demolition of porch and store.
The Council returned "no comment"

Other matters.

WBC.

- i Options consultation & request for Housing Land Proposals.
The Council noted the consultation and would consider their comments.

85. Highways.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 72.

- i Traffic under Marlston Bridge.
There had been a meeting with WBC Highways. The Council decided to defer comment until the next meeting.
- ii 30mph sign.
WBC Highways wish to keep the sign where it is.
- iii Footway with barbed wire.
The Council would consider this in January.

New matters.

- i Blocked gully near the burial ground.
This has now been cleared.
- ii Junction of Slanting Hill and Marlston Road.
There are leaves and debris which need to be cleared. WBC would pass this on to the Highways Maintenance Team.
- iii Pond Lane junction with Yattendon Road.
The road is in poor condition but the Maintenance Team believe it not to be at an intervention level.
- iv Station Road culvert.
The culvert is not draining and WBC would investigate whose responsibility it is to keep it clear.
- v M4 noise.
The Highways Agency has supplied some more data which is being analysed.

86. Environmental matters.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 55.

- i Timber for new posts and rails..
The gate has been repaired.
- ii Dog bins.
The Council decided not to purchase a dog waste bin.



87. Finance.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| i | Receipts. | | | |
| | Bank of Scotland. | Interest | November | Not known |
| ii | Payments for authorization. | | | |
| | F.C.Lawrence | Grasscutting etc | | £348.08 |
| | C.W.Goudge | Salary & expenses | | £373.25
.59 |
| iii | Other matters. | | | |
| i | The Council noted the Statement of Receipts & Payments to date. | | | |
| ii | It was decided to make the following grants, which would be paid after the A.P.A. meeting in April 2008. | | | |
| | Home Start | | £50 | |
| | Hermitage Village Hall. | | £1,500 | |
| | Hermitage Cubs | | £800 | |
| | Downland Youth Network | | £150 | |
| | Holy Trinity Church | | £1,000 | |
| | Hermitage Horticultural Society | | £150 | |
| iii | It was decided to set the Precept for 2008 / 2009 at the January meeting. | | | |

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

The correspondence was discussed, and , where appropriate, placed into circulation.

89. Burial Ground.

- i Request for a memorial stone.
The Agent is to visit the Ground before submitting a further request.

90. Items to be raised by Councillors.

It was decided to accept the quotation from Mr Lawrence for maintenance of the grass round the telephone box outside the Fox in the sum of £100.

Mrs Willis had attended a meeting of the Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee. General matters were discussed. The February meeting will focus on funding for the project. The football pitch was also discussed, particularly in relation to the size off the pitch. The possibility of a cricket pitch was tentatively examined, but no firm proposal was taken forward.

There had been a NAG formulation meeting, at which the main local concerns were anti-social behaviour, speeding and litter.

91. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday January 17th at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

W Brown

Chairman

17.1.08

Date

THE PUBLIC WERE NOW ASKED TO LEAVE THE MEETING UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC ADMISSIONS LEGISLATION.

92. The co-option of a Councillor.

West Berkshire Council had confirmed that, as no election had been called, the Council may elect three Councillors by co-option.

Mrs Goodman proposed that Mr R. J. Rodgers be co-opted to the Council.

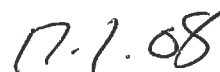
Mrs Willis seconded the proposal.

The proposal was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

The Clerk would write to Mr Rodgers.



.....
Chairman



.....
Date.

