

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 22 January 2004 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church

Present: Mr H Overeynder (Chair), Mr K Gover, Mr J Lawler, Mr N Pearson, Mr J Walters, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), seven members of the public and Councillor Q Webb.

1. **Apologies** – Mrs V Coombs.

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).

Mr Gover and Mr Pearson expressed an interest in the Oare common woodland.

3. **Minutes of a Meeting held on 20 November 2003** were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

06Jul03 High St footway. Cllr Webb had no further information available but will continue to pursue the matter.

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Jan04 Clerk's salary (December & January)

03/Jan04 Garden Culture (December) - £285.45 + £49.95 VAT

04/Jan04 Thames Water - £4.32

All agreed these payments should be made.

02/Jan04 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning December & January) - £25.00 x 2

It is thought that the shelters may not have been cleaned, payment to be withheld until confirmation received.

Other

05/Jan04 Newbury Town centre/cinema development contribution. All Councillors were firmly of the opinion that this commercial venture should be self-financing. No contribution will be forthcoming from Hermitage Parish Council.

06/Jan04 Setting of Precept 2004/05. Finance schedules prepared by the Clerk were discussed and the precept for 2004/05 agreed to be £17,000.00 (seventeen thousand pounds only). The level of reserves held were questioned – justification was given that the Parish Council is required to maintain a balance of 50% of the precept as good accounting practice as the precept is paid in two instalments.

6. **District Councillors' Report**

Written report attached.

7. **Villagers' Open Forum**

Standing water on the roads of Hermitage village was raised as a matter of concern, in particular by the entrance to the village hall and on the junction of Priors Court Road. The Clerk will write to Highways to request that attention be paid to these matters and to request drain cleaning generally.

The recent spate of planning applications for Doctors Lane was raised, in view of the extra traffic anticipated and the urbanisation of the area. Mr Overeynder stressed the importance of residents writing to West Berkshire Council to express their concerns and he confirmed that Hermitage Parish Council has expressed reservations about potential over-development of this area. **Cllr Webb** agreed to talk to the planning officers involved.

The section 106 obligations of the Barlow Industrial Estate development at Red Shute Hill were discussed - 'scalping' of the hill versus the Long Lane footpath proposals. This is not within the remit of Hermitage Parish Council and members not familiar with details of the negotiations felt unable to comment. Likewise, Cllr Webb was unable to comment as this matter is not in his ward.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

It is thought that the Youth Club may move to new premises at the Primary School. Investigations into possible cinema use are being made. Burns night is over-subscribed – village hall too small! Watermill Theatre is performing in April.

8.2 Recreation Ground/play area

Play area inspections- weekly inspections are now established. The slide is out of action having been cordoned off and notices displayed.

10/Jul03 Hermitage Cubs/Krafty Raft/abandoned trailer. Mrs Willis will ask the contractor supplying the new equipment to quote for removal.

03/Sept03 New play area equipment. Grants of £20,000 from WREN and £5000 from 'Awards for All' (Lottery) have been achieved. Mrs Willis requested that £102 towards basketball equipment and £2200 for WREN third party funding be released and this was approved.

Hermitage Parish Council is holding £4772 in reserve for this purpose and the balance of a total £6000 commitment will be available next financial year.

8.3 Footpaths

A tree has fallen on the path beyond the corner of Delph House, in the field to the rear of the cementation site. **Mr Gover** agreed to contact Eling estates.

8.4 Village website

The 'prototype' is still in circulation for comment. It is hoped to be able to include Parish Council minutes, maybe on the back of the West Berkshire Council website.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan)

Minor changes incorporated have been returned to West Berkshire Council, consultation almost completed with the exception of Highways. Formal consultation will be undertaken next with a view to adopting the plan as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

Royal Berkshire Fire Authority – Consultation 'A Safer Berkshire'

WBC – Community Education Fund Round 7

Berkshire Association of Clubs for Young People

Berkshire Communicator

Local Council Review

Clerk & Councils Direct

SEPCO plc – Solar street lighting information



defra – Equine Issues
Berkshire Structure Plan 2001-2016
West Berkshire Community Hospital
Other

07/Jan04 Trees at Lipscomb Close bus shelter. The resident of the adjacent property has suggested the trees need maintenance and that this may be a Parish Council responsibility. Mr Overeynder will investigate and obtain a quote for carrying out the works if appropriate.

08/Jan04 WBC – Annual District/Parish Conference. **Mr Overeynder, Mrs Willis and Mr Lawler** hope to attend.

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development

There is to be a meeting of West Berkshire Council on 28 January to discuss the appropriation of the developer contribution. In attendance will be representatives of Education, Countryside, Highways, Legal and Planning plus Cllr French (Chieveley) and Cllr Webb (Hermitage). West Berkshire Council has considered legal obligations and the meeting will prioritise – Cllrs Webb and French have delegated authority for the final decision.

It was noted that a ‘Bryant Homes’ hoarding has been displayed at the site.

10.2 Arena Site Development

Nothing to report officially, but it is believed that agreement has been reached over the use of Station Road.

10.3 Other Planning Matters.

09/Jan04 Oare Common. The anticipated correspondence has not been received.
Mr Overeynder will pursue the matter.

Gary Lugg of West Berkshire Council has asked if Hermitage Parish Council would be interested in participating in a road show to include a presentation explaining planning procedures, in particular the implications of new government guidance. The Clerk will confirm keen interest and suggest that joining with Chieveley and Cold Ash parishes may be appropriate.

11. Burial Ground

10/Jan04 Push Tester. **Mr Lawler** will pursue this matter if appropriate.

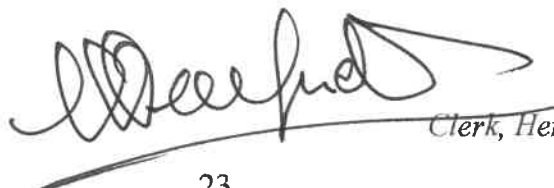
11/Jan04 Kerbstones in Hermitage Cemetery. Rev John Coombs has questioned whether kerbstones are permitted by Hermitage Parish Council Burial ground regulations. **Mr Lawler** will pursue the matter, liaising with Rev Coombs as necessary.

12. Any Other Business

Schedule of meetings 2004. **Mr Lawler** will seek confirmation of the date for the Annual Parish Meeting. The date of the July meeting was brought forward to 15 July. **The Clerk** will publicise the dates including the village notice board.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 19 February 2004.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.42pm.



Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
06-Jun	03/01034	LBC	Wellhouse Barns	Alterations to facilitate change of use to 5 residential units (see 02/00993/FUL)	No objection	Approved
13-Sep	03/01838	OUT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Erection of 9 No two storey dwelling houses with associated access (matters of siting and access to be considered; all other matters reserved)	No objection	
28-Oct	03/01689 amended	FULL	White Horse, Newbury Road	Internal alterations and refurbishments with 2 No single storey extensions to include 24 No proposed parking spaces and creation of new access.	No objection	
	03/01479 amended	HOUSE	Rose Cottage, Hampstead Norreys Road	Two storey extension		Approved
04-Nov	03/02190	HOUSE	Dove Wood, Chapel Lane	Conservatory	No objection	Approved
04-Nov	03/02195	HOUSE	8 Lipscomb Close	Car Port	No objection	RDDP - approval
04-Nov	03/02175	HOUSE	Norton, Long Lane	First floor rear extension and ground floor side extension.	No comment (adjacent Parish)	
04-Nov	03/02192	FULL	Little Orchard, Doctors Lane	New dwelling with separate double garage (revised application) addition of family room	No objection	Approved
11-Nov	03/02293	HOUSE	Morinda, Hampstead Norreys Road	Extension over existing garage to form a new bedroom and en-suite bathroom, new glazed lantern and doors to existing television room, new ballustrading to existing north-west balcony and new entrance porch.	No objection	Approved
14-Nov	03/02208	FULL	Spring Plantation, Eling	Redevelopment of existing O2 Telecom site to include 27m lattice tower, relocation of existing O2 equipment and addition of new T Mobile and "3" equipment on replacement tower	No objection	

19-Nov	03/02350	FULL	Hermitage Primary School	Extension/refurbishment of Hermitage Primary School. Additional classrooms. Extend existing parking facilities.	No objection	
02-Dec	03/01689 amended	FULL	White Horse, Newbury Road	Internal alterations and refurbishments with 2 No single storey extensions to include 20 No proposed parking spaces and creation of new access.	No objection	
04-Dec	03/02350 amended	FULL	Hermitage Primary School	Extension/refurbishment of Hermitage Primary School. Addition of classrooms. Extend existing parking facilities.	No objection	
05-Dec	03/02588	FULL	Land to the rear of Tile Barn and Cornish Cottage, Priors Court Road	To construct 2 No. detached houses with garages/carports to the rear of Tile Barn and Cottage accessed off an existing improved private drive.	Object - 5 bed house will dominate existing dwellings, 2 car garage & studio increases building density, precedent for other properties in area - application pending.	
12-Dec	02/01448	OUTMAJ	Former cementation Site	Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment for 165 residential dwellings, 4000 sqm of Class B1 (Business) employment floorspace, public open space, internal service roads, car parking and alterations to the public highway and access.		Section 106 agreement
15-Dec	03/02594	OUT	Land to rear of bridleways and Ha-Vale, Doctors Lane	2No. new bungalows at land to rear of bridleways and Ha-Vale.	No objection but overdevelopment of this area should be considered.	
17-Dec	03/02616	HOUSE	Beech Drive, Doctors lane	Roof conversion and dormer windows	No objection	
09-Jan	03/01593		Land at Red Shute Hill	Notification of appeal against refusal		

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

17-Jan-04

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT January 2004

- 1) A review of Area Forums has been sent as a consultation paper to all Parish Councils.
- 2) The changes in the Local Licensing Policy, has been taking up a large amount of time. Kennet and Pang Valley Area Forum recently had a presentation and a special Council meeting to discuss was on 21 January
- 3) The Audit Commission 2003 report and Annual Letter was discussed at the Executive Meeting on 15 January-the CPA has still be assessed as fair.
- 4) The Executive approved the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the year 2004/2005
- 5) The executive approved the Concessionary Fares report and action plan.

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 19 February 2004 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church**

Present: Mr H Overeynder (Chair), Mr K Gover, Mrs V Coombs, Mr J Lawler, Mr N Pearson, Mr J Walters, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Mr P Gavin (Newbury Weekly News), Councillor Q Webb and eight members of the public.

1. 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).

Mr Gover and Mr Pearson expressed an interest in the Oare common woodland.

2. Minutes of a Meeting held on 22 January 2004 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

06Jul03 High St footway Cllr Webb had no further information available and suggested this item be closed. Mr Overeynder, however, asked that Cllr Webb continue to pursue the matter.

07/Jan04 Trees at Lipscomb Close bus shelter. Mr Overeynder reported that he had asked Garden Culture to quote a price for the works.

12/Jan04 Standing water/drains. The Clerk had contacted Highways who agreed to look into the matter. It appears that works have been undertaken.

5. Finance

Accounts for Payment

01/Feb04 Clerk's salary

02/Feb04 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning – December, January, February). Mrs Carter has confirmed that she did indeed clean the bus shelters in each of these months.

03/Feb04 Garden Culture (January) - £285.45 + £49.95 VAT

04/Feb04 BT plc £32.37

09/Feb04 Hacker Young (audit fees 2002/03) - £160.00 + £28.00 VAT

All agreed that these payments be made.

Other

05/Feb04 Village maintenance contract 2004/05. The contract is to be retained by Garden Culture at an annual cost of £3682.80 + VAT to include two cuts of the burial ground hedge.

6. District Councillors' Report

Written report attached.

7. Villagers' Open Forum

Consternation by Parish Councillors and villagers alike was expressed at the proposed 13% increase in Council Tax in comparison with many other authorities increasing by around 7 or 8%.

Cllr Webb was formally requested to report this extreme dissatisfaction to the leader of West Berkshire Council.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

A community lap-top computer course is being advertised in the parish magazine.

Mr Lawler reported the bureaucratic difficulties encountered in pursuit of cinema use of the village hall. Cllr Webb was asked to investigate who ultimately benefits from the £600 licence fee (initially payable to West Berkshire Council).

8.2 Recreation Ground/play area

Play area inspections- no problems to report.

10/Jul03 Hermitage Cubs/Krafty Raft/abandoned trailer. Mrs Willis continues to pursue the matter with Hermitage cubs.

03/Sept03 New play area equipment. It is hoped that work to install the new equipment will start within 6-8 weeks. A post-installation inspection is to be negotiated.

8.3 Footpaths

The fallen tree has not been removed – Mr Gover will follow this up.

8.4 Village website

The initial design has been circulated and returned to Mr Lawler with very positive comments.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan)

The recommendation of West Berkshire Council is that the VDS be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance and final consultation is underway.

Mr Overender expressed thanks to Mr Gover for all his effort so far.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

WBC – Homelessness Review and Strategy

Other

06/Feb04 WBC - Area Forum Communication. Members agreed that the Clerk should provide e-mail details for electronic communication.

07/Feb04 Downland Youth Network - AGM. Noted.

08/Feb04 WBC – Area Forum 07 April 2004. Noted.

10/Feb04 The Englefield Estate – ragwort. Information on ragwort infestation is requested – Mr Lawler will publish a notice in the Parish magazine.

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development

Mr Overender expressed extreme disappointment that following the meeting of 28 January no information has been forthcoming to the Parish Council. Cllr Webb failed to feedback after the meeting and was unavailable for comment until 04 February when only limited information was divulged. The Clerk had written to Gary Lugg, Head of Planning & Transport Strategy at West Berkshire Council requesting a full briefing for tonight's PC meeting and inviting Mr Lugg (or an appropriate representative) to attend – both requests were turned down. Mr Lugg did advise however, that he was waiting to speak with Cllr Pask who had been unavailable due to holidays.

Cllr Webb advised that the £1.1 million developer contribution has been allocated as follows:

Education	£613k
Highways	£218k
Recreation ground	£137k
Village hall	£ 91k
Chieveley Surgery	£ 39k

Hermitage Parish Council commissioned a document by a professional planning consultant which seems to have been disregarded by West Berkshire Council - both in terms of the total s106 requirement (£2+ million) and the allocation of funds being prioritised contrary to the wishes of the Parish Council. Members expressed extreme dissatisfaction that Cllrs Webb and Pask acting on behalf of Hermitage Parish Council failed to secure a satisfactory outcome – it was felt that the agreement should not be signed.

Further detail was pursued from Cllr Webb on what the £137k allocated to recreation would provide. It seems that an area will be set aside, but the surface will not be finished to the standard required for sports, nor will it be marked out, goal posts and changing facilities will not be provided. A proportion of the £137k will be retained by West Berkshire Council for ongoing maintenance over future years. In summary, for £137k Hermitage will be provided with a grassy area!

Hermitage Parish Council will seek the following:

1. An official report with an opportunity for representation;
2. A meeting with West Berkshire Council officers – if they are not willing to attend a PC meeting then the PC will go to them!
3. A detailed breakdown of how funds have been appropriated within the five categories;
4. Information on the highways scheme being proposed.

It is imperative that West Berkshire Council understand that Hermitage Parish Council:

- is not happy with £1.1m and would have preferred the matter to have concluded with the appeal sought by the developer (yet West Berkshire Council backed away);
- considers recreation is paramount to prevent unrest amongst the youth of the village;
- considers that a 'field' is insufficient without a sports standard surface and appropriate facilities;
- does not wish s106 funds to be allocated to the Chieveley surgery which is considered to be a private enterprise.

It seems that the crux of the matter is as quoted by Cllr Webb:

“This £1.1million is totally ring-fenced for Hermitage”

yet

“Hermitage Parish Council has no say whatsoever in the allocation of the s106 contribution”.

10.2 Arena Site Development

Although official notification is yet to be received, it seems that this development could commence before the cementation site development.

Cllr Webb agreed to seek information re the s106 agreement and if possible to provide a copy of the contract.

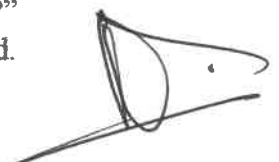
10.3 Other Planning Matters.

White Horse – as the land at the White Horse is much higher than that of some of the adjacent properties, 2m high fencing will be installed and lighting will be at low level to prevent intrusion. Concern was raised again at the proposed move for the yew tree as it is believed the tree will not survive.

The Fox – change of licensee was noted.

09/Jan04 Oare Common. A letter dated 28 January from Wasing Estate was received by Mr Overeynder re the proposed sale of Oare Common. Mr Overeynder posed the question – “Would Hermitage Parish Council be interested in purchasing this land if the price is right?”

Mr Overeynder will seek further information to enable this matter to be discussed.



11. Burial Ground

11/Jan04 Kerbstones in Hermitage Cemetery. The matter was discussed and it was considered inappropriate to request removal of kerbstones already installed. Mr Lawler will give further thought to the future situation.

11/Feb04 Push tester. Mr Lawler has made investigations into the need for push testing memorials. It seems equipment and training is needed and Mr Lawler will seek someone with both who is willing to undertake the exercise for Hermitage.

12. Any Other Business

A new room for use by the Youth group is to be provided by the extension to Hermitage Primary School in replacement of the existing room which will be consumed within the proposed development.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 18 March 2004.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.02pm.



*Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council*

Notes on declaration of interest:

- (i) any Member arriving after the start of the meeting is asked to declare personal interests as necessary as soon as practicable after their arrival even if the item in question has been considered;*
- (ii) with the exception of the circumstances listed in paragraph 9(2) of the Local Code of Conduct for Members, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest. In such circumstances, the Member must withdraw from the meeting room, and should inform the Chairman accordingly;*
- (iii) it is not practical to offer detailed advice during the meeting on whether or not a personal interest should be declared, or whether a personal interest should also be regarded as prejudicial.*

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT February 2004

- 1) A Scrutiny Training course was held for members of Council this was given by Sir Michael Lyons (Director of the Institute of Local Government Studies and was to ensure that we understood that any of the decisions taken by members and other agency partnerships can be investigated if we wish to.
- 2) A Draft Report has been issued to members for comment relating to the IDEA peer review "Local Government Improvement Programme."
- 3) The Executive have decided to retain the four planning area committees, the pressure will be to ensure that the new Licensing Committee will have sufficient members available to sit on it.
- 4) The Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police made a presentation to members on 3rd February and was to brief members on the Police Strategy and Policing Plan.

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
13-Sep	03/01838	OUT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Erection of 9 No two storey dwelling houses with associated access (matters of siting and access to be considered; all other matters reserved)	No objection	
28-Oct	03/01689 amended	FULL	White Horse, Newbury Road	Internal alterations and refurbishments with 2 No single storey extensions to include 24 No proposed parking spaces and creation of new access.	No objection	
14-Nov	03/02208	FULL	Spring Plantation, Eling	Redevelopment of existing O2 Telecom site to include 27m lattice tower, relocation of existing O2 equipment and addition of new T Mobile and "3" equipment on replacement tower	No objection	
19-Nov	03/02350	FULL	Hermitage Primary School	Extension/refurbishment of Hermitage Primary School. Additional classrooms. Extend existing parking facilities.	No objection	
02-Dec	03/01689 amended	FULL	White Horse, Newbury Road	Internal alterations and refurbishments with 2 No single storey extensions to include 20 No proposed parking spaces and creation of new access.	No objection	
04-Dec	03/02350 amended	FULL	Hermitage Primary School	Extension/refurbishment of Hermitage Primary School. Addition of classrooms. Extend existing parking facilities.	No objection	

05-Dec	03/02/588	FULL	Land to the rear of Tile Barn and Cornish Cottage, Priors Court Road	To construct 2 No. detached houses with garages/carports to the rear of Tile Barn and Cottage accessed off an existing improved private drive.	Object - 5 bed house will dominate existing dwellings, 2 car garage & studio increases building density, precedent for other properties in area - application pending.	
15-Dec	03/02/594	OUT	Land to rear of bridleways and Va Hale, Doctors Lane	2No. new bungalows at land to rear of bridleways and Ha-Vale.	No objection but overdevelopment of this area should be considered.	RDDP - refusal
17-Dec	03/02/616	HOUSE	Beech Drive, Doctors lane	Roof conversion and dormer windows	No objection	Subject to Member request for committee
09-Jan	03/01/593		Land at Red Shute Hill	Notification of appeal against refusal		
30-Jan	04/00/100	HOUSE	8 Kiln Close	Single storey in-fill extension and conservatory		
11-Feb	04/00/037	TEMP	Charlotte House	Change of use from private house to residential accommodation providing care		

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

19-Feb-04

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 18 March 2004 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church**

Present: Mr H Overeynder (Chair), Mr K Gover, Mrs V Coombs, Mr J Lawler, Mr N Pearson, Mr J Walters, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Councillor Q Webb (part of meeting) and five members of the public.

1. Apologies

The requirement to make apologies in writing with statement of reason was noted.

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).

Mr Gover and Mr Pearson expressed an interest in the Oare common woodland.

Mrs Willis declared an interest in agenda item 06/Mar04.

3. **Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 19 February 2004** were agreed and signed as a correct record. Mrs Coombs commented that the minutes accurately reflected the strong sentiments of members.

4. Matters Arising

07/Jan04 Trees at Lipscomb Close bus shelter. A quote has been received from Garden Culture in respect of the removal of these trees. The Clerk will accept this quote of £90.00 + VAT.

5. Finance

Accounts for Payment

01/Mar04 Clerk's salary + £56.69 expenses.

03/Mar04 Garden Culture (February and March) @ £285.45 + £49.95 VAT

04/Mar04 WREN (Pinewood Park Play Area) £2200.00

11/Mar04 Hermitage Village Hall (AGM hall fee) - £27.00

12/Mar04 West Berkshire Council (rates for burial ground) - £45.60

All agreed that these payments be made.

02/Mar04 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning). The Clerk was instructed not to make payment until a timesheet is received, also to request that the timesheet is correctly dated and returned promptly after cleaning has been undertaken.

Other

05/ Mar04 Appointment of internal auditor 2003/04. It was agreed that the Clerk ask Mrs Ager if she would undertake the task for a fee to be negotiated.

06/Mar04 Donation to Downland Youth Group. A request for a donation was made prior to the Parish Council annual discussion of all S137 grants. It was agreed to grant funds of £100.00 to be paid promptly on 01 April;

07/Mar04 April payments. All agreed that the Clerk make payments as necessary throughout April and report at the May meeting.

6. District Councillors' Report

Written report attached.

Cllr Webb also reported that a survey of Yattendon Road is being undertaken with a view to constructing a footway.



7. Villagers' Open Forum

A report on progress with proposed development at the White Horse public house was requested. Greene King anticipates the start of building in April/May, to be finished in early autumn with plans to be ready for business before Christmas. It was noted that the Greene King website indicates that the proposed restaurant will take 100 covers indoors with an additional 100 covers in outside seating. This contravenes the planning application/conditions and will be brought to the attention of West Berkshire Council at the meeting of 19 March.

Consternation was expressed at the height of the new house being constructed in Doctors lane.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

The AGM will be held next week when new volunteers for the committee will be sought. Painting of the ceiling and replacement lighting are currently under review. Tickets for the Watermill theatre visit are now on sale.

8.2 Recreation Ground/play area

Play area inspections – no equipment problems to report, but Mrs Willis requested a site visit with **Mr Overeynder** to review fencing. The recent storms brought down a branch of considerable size and **Mr Overeynder** will ask Garden Culture to remove it. The land under the railway bridge is rented by the Parish Council from Railtrack and it was agreed that this rental should continue but the land should be cleared/maintained.

10/Jul03 Hermitage Cubs/Krafty Raft/abandoned trailer. Ongoing.

03/Sept03 New play area equipment. Mrs Willis was delighted to report that an additional £5000.00 grant had been received from the Englefield Trust towards the project. It is hoped that works will start on the project in the very near future.

8.3 Footpaths

The tree fallen on footpath 18 near Chapel Lane has been removed.

8.4 Village website

Progressing well but still awaiting input from village organisations – Primary School, pre-school, youth club, church. The long term maintenance issues of each contributor need to be addressed. The site has been reviewed by the webmaster at Vodafone and the text needs to be broken down to become more 'screen friendly'. Finally, a domain name needs to be found.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan)

Currently affordable housing provided in rural villages is often allocated to those at the top of the housing register for the whole district. There is a need to identify local need to ensure that Hermitage housing is offered to Hermitage people.

8.6 Youth Group

Committee meet next week.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

South East Broadband forum – 23 April 2004

WBC – Community Care

Countryside Agency - Vital Villages Update

Clerk & Councils direct

Local Council review



South East England Regional Assembly – Regional Minerals Strategy
South East England Regional Assembly – Regional Waste management Strategy
Standards Board for England – Local Investigation Allegations of Misconduct

Other

08/Mar04 West Berkshire Council – Public Entertainment Licensing – Consultation.

More information was requested.

09/Mar04 Lambourn Parish Council – WBC Annual District Parish Conference.

Concern was expressed by Lambourn PC that Parish Council concerns were not addressed by West Berkshire Council as they were deemed too specific. The Clerk will reply as follows:

- presentations were one-sided which does not foster dialogue;
- we agree with WBC that this is not the appropriate forum time for ‘specifics’, but when is?
- the conference should allow time to confer and not be a series of presentations;
- discussion of topics of mutual concern and interest should be discussed and topics could be sought prior to the conference.

10/Mar04 Berkshire Records Centre – Wildlife Heritage Site survey. With **Mr Overeynder**.

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development & 10.2 Arena Site Development. In view of tomorrow’s meeting with WBC, discussion tonight was deferred.

10.3 Other Planning Matters.

09/Jan04 Oare Common. On the basis of high purchase price, considerable ongoing maintenance costs with public liability implications it was agreed that Hermitage Parish Council will not purchase this land.

It was however, also agreed that Hermitage PC will ask WBC (at tomorrow’s meeting) about planning implications and the possibility of any development on the common.

11. Burial Ground

Newbury Town Council does not have any ‘push-testing’ equipment. **Mr Lawler** will undertake a manual test in due course.

12. Any Other Business

Cars are parking on the Parish Council owned grassy areas 1) in front of the Fox pub and 2) on the corner of Deacons Lane/Chapel Lane. If the names and addresses of drivers doing this can be supplied, the PC will write to request that they cease to do so.

It was noted that an elderly couple have been deeply concerned and affected by building works on an adjacent property.

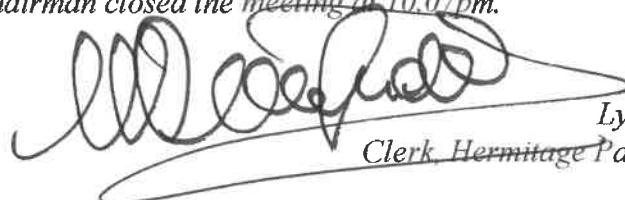
Ownership of the sign outside the Fox pub was discussed. It was agreed that a sign advertising the Fox pub was undoubtedly owned by the Fox pub!

Date of next meetings:

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 15 April at 8.00pm in Hermitage Village Hall

Annual Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council – Thursday 20 May at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.07pm.



Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
13-Sep	03/01838	OUT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Erection of 9 No two storey dwelling houses with associated access (matters of siting and access to be considered; all other matters reserved)	No objection	
14-Nov	03/02208	FULL	Spring Plantation, Eling	Redevelopment of existing O2 Telecom site to include 27m lattice tower, relocation of existing O2 equipment and addition of new T Mobile and "3" equipment on replacement tower	No objection	
02-Dec	03/01689 amended	FULL	White Horse, Newbury Road	Internal alterations and refurbishments with 2 No single storey extensions to include 20 No proposed parking spaces and creation of new access.	No objection	Approval. Conditions - 5yrs, plans, materials, hrs of work, highways, tree protection, method statement, no side windows, fencing, external lighting, hard surface, signage
04-Dec	03/02350 amended	FULL	Hermitage Primary School	Extension/refurbishment of Hermitage Primary School. Addition of classrooms. Extend existing parking facilities.	No objection	
05-Dec	03/02588	FULL	Land to the rear of Tile Barn and Cornish Cottage, Priors Court Road	To construct 2 No. detached houses with garages/carports to the rear of Tile Barn and Cottage accessed off an existing improved private drive.	Object - 5 bed house will dominate existing dwellings, 2 car garage & studio increases building density, precedent for other properties in area - application pending.	Refused. Over development, design bulk siting. WITHDRAWN
15-Dec	03/02594	OUT	Land to rear of bridleways and Va Hale, Doctors Lane	2 No. new bungalows at land to rear of bridleways and Ha-Vale.	No objection but overdevelopment of this area should be considered.	Refused. Cramped over-development.

09-Jan	03/01593		Land at Red Shute Hill	Notification of appeal against refusal		
30-Jan	02/01194	HOUSE	8 Klin Close	Single storey in-fill extension and conservatory	No objection	RDDP -approval
11-Feb	04/00037	TEMP	Charlotte House	Change of use from private house to residential accommodation providing care		
17-Feb	04/00296	FULL	Derwen, Hampstead Norreys Road	Detached dwelling with garage		
12-Mar	04/00498	HOUSE	Chapel Farm, Pond Lane	Replacement double garage and porch with new double garage and utility room and separate entrance porch at side		
12-Mar	04/00403	HOUSE	Brackenveid, Hampstead Norreys Road	Demolition of existing single garage and replace with double length garage		
12-Mar	04/00389	HOUSE	Cherry Cottage, Bucklebury Alley, Cold Ash	Two storey side and rear extension	Adjacent Parish	

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

12-Mar-04

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT March 2004

- 1) The Council Budget and the Council tax has been the primary concern for members last month on the 1st March full council met and the ruling group has set a revised budget following the Leader of Council, officers and the Secretary of State discussing the 12.9% proposed increase at a meeting on 24 February and the advice that it should re consider. The budget and Council tax will be increased by 7.9%. The opposing group proposed an alternative budget of 4.9% but this was defeated.
- 2) The Council have appointed Waste Management Consultants to give specialist technical advice on its collection and disposal of its municipal waste (household waste) an outline business case has been prepared and the Intergrated Waste Management Policy has been submitted this resulted in £23M credit against the capital costs of £200-300M over 25 Years.
- 3) The Area Forum Review still has not been agreed by the Executive the proposal is for 5 Area forums with Thatcham and Newbury being separate from the rural areas.
- 4) The Annual District Parish Conference on 2nd March discussed Community Safety, Parish Councils and Strategic Partnerships, Parish Plans and S106 Agreements.

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Annual Parish Assembly of Hermitage held on
Thursday 15 April 2004 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Mr H Overeynder (Chair), Mrs V Coombs, Mr K Gover, Mr J Lawler, Mr N Pearson, Mr J Walters, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Mr G Pask (District Councillor) and 39 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Mr Q Webb (District Councillor).
2. **Opening Address** - Mr Overeynder welcomed everyone to the meeting.
3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 24 April 2003** were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. Reports made by Village Representatives

The Chairman of the Parish Council – *Mr H Overeynder*

District Councillor – *Mr G Pask*

Hermitage & Curridge Youth Club – *Mrs Arden-Hunt*

The Village Hall Committee – *Mr J Lawler*

The Board of Trustees, Hermitage & Hampstead Norreys Charities – *Rev J Coombs*

1st Hermitage Cubs – *Mr R Axten*

Hermitage School Governing Body – *Mr N Pearson*

Hermitage Pre-school Playgroup – *Mrs W Young*

5. Hermitage Parish Plan & Village Website – *Mr K Gover and Mr J Lawler*

Notice of the Hermitage Parish Plan appeared today in the Newbury Weekly news as part of the public consultation required for the plan to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance. It is also available on the West Berkshire Council website. Hopefully the plan will be completed and published later this year.

The village website is under construction and hopefully will be published by the end of summer. Content is still required so a request for information was made. Vodafone web masters are willing to develop this village website.

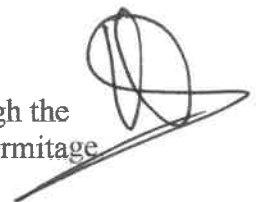
6. **Parish Walk** – 2.00pm Monday 30th August 2004. A cream tea will be served afterwards.

7. Villagers' Open Forum

Fairfield (Hilliers Garden centre) site – the Newbury Weekly News today reported that Rivar developers are prepared to commit £350k to providing a suitable infrastructure for the 5 homes it hops to build on the site. Why then is such a paltry sum (£1.1m) being offered for 165 homes on the cementation site?

Mr Overeynder agreed that the amounts are illogical but reiterated that the £1.1m was agreed between WBC and the land agent. It is hoped that further negotiations with the cementation site developer (once appointed) may be more fruitful.

Cllr Pask stated that members have instructed officers that they must maximise s106 contributions. The money must be used where impact is greatest so technically although the development is just within Chieveley Parish, the money will go to improvements in Hermitage



Traffic – has there been a traffic census in Hermitage to determine why people travel through Hermitage (it may be possible to re-route them!)?

No! It is thought that traffic volume is currently higher than normal due to the junction 13 improvements. Cllr Pask agreed to request a traffic survey from the WBC traffic officers and also to make a site visit with Mark Edwards (Head of Highways) to the North End of the village.

Any news on the future of the barracks?

None at all.

Please may we have repairs to roads and pavements? In wet weather the path from Fox Hill to the Primary School is treacherous.

Cllr Pask agreed to relay this request to the Highways Officer.

What can we do about cars parked on pavements which forces pedestrians into the road?

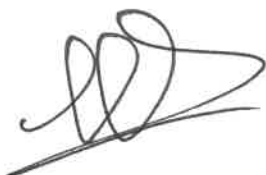
A polite request is often all that is required if we know who the owner/driver of the vehicle is.

The kerb outside the Fox Inn has dropped away into the drain.

Cllr Pask agreed to deal with this urgent and dangerous matter.

The Yattendon Road cross over point is dangerous – could we have more warning signs please?

Cllr Pask will further this request.



There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Lynne Riordan, Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting 15 April 2004

Chairmans Report

As reported last year, this year has also been dominated by the future developments of the Cementation site to the North of the village and the Arena site to the South. Your Council has been particularly concerned about the lack of Liason between WBC planning dept. ref the Cementation site. Considerable efforts have been made by the Parish Council to extract more regular information from WBC, particularly since we (i.e. Hermitage) are the principle players in this development. Our concerns came to a head when an important meeting at WBC between WBC and Agents for the Developers on 28 Jan. was not reported to Herm PC until 19 Feb and than only verbally through our councillor. After considerable pressure from Herm PC a meeting was convened between the Chief planning officer of WBC, Councillors and Herm PC on Fri 19 March, to express our concerns. The planning officer did concede a lack of communication did exist. However monies made available for social amenities such as sportsfields, changing facilities etc. are completely inadequate. As reported last year, No developer has been reported appointed so far and until such time negotiations will continue.

(Parish Magazine)

Arene Site

A dispute arose over the use of Station Road ref the development of the Arena Site. The developers applied on 2 occasions for a new Road to the South of the present Station Rd., on both occasions planning was refused and opposed by Herm PC. However after lengthy negotiations agreement has now been reached between the owner of Station Rd. and the developers. We expect a detailed planning application to be submitted shortly.

The White Horse

The White Horse Pub has been of concern to everyone in the village Planning permission has been granted for a conversion to a Pub/Dining facility. New parking will also be available in the front as well as the rear of the pub. It is expected the conversion will commence shortly.

The Fox Pub is now under new management (since March)

Oare Common

The owners of Oare Common have expressed a desire to sell the Common approx 35 acres. Residents bordering the Common have been offered the opportunity to purchase the land bordering their property. Herm PC has also considered purchasing the the Common. However price, as in all purchases, is all important, access to the site for the general public must be maintained at all times. Insurance must be obtained in case someone meets with an accident, also maitainance is of concern. On making further inquiries from the Chief Planning Officer no future developments can ever take place. If purchased by Herm PC on behalve of the village adoubling or more of the present precept will occur. Your Council has therefor decided not to proceed any further.

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

New Councillors

Elected in May last year:

Councillor ~~Quinton Webb~~

" Graham Pask

New Parish Councillors

Two resignation occurred last year, co-opted on the council are:

John Lawler (Village Hall) and
Kay Willis

Playground Area Chapel Lane

Kay Willis our new councillor responsible for the play area has work hard to obtain monies to replace the old equipment at present on the site. A grant has been made available through WREN of 20k, also 5k from lottery funds. Also we received a cheque for 5k from Englefield Estates to further help our funds.

+ 2000 Gerald Palmer Trust. also Parish Council 4.500.
Refreshments after the meeting

Waste Recycling Environmental
(had fill tax)
Dive within 10 mile of landfill site

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Pask opened by thanking everyone for voting for him and Cllr Webb.

“Having attended several Annual Parish Assemblies already, it seems that the same issues are arising in many villages and I feel sure that Hermitage is no different - concerns predominantly centre on traffic (speeding) and developmental pressures.

I have recently been trained in the use of the SIDs (Speed Indicator Device) and I intend to put this to good use throughout my ward – to include Hermitage.

Footpaths – Yattendon Road will gain a footway in the very near future.

Planning officers – although planning department is improving, I am saddened that there are still communication problems for Parish Councils and the public.

More globally, the new hospital in Newbury is now open with two digital X-ray machines. The Primary Care trust is to join forces with the District Council in an attempt to provide a cohesive team effort.

The next phase of the Local Plan is being implemented and protection for villages is to be included. The Supplementary Planning Guidance within the Hermitage Village Design Statement should be listened to and is a very valuable document. Hermitage has had a huge hit in respect of development sites (Cementation and Arena) but hopefully that will be all for quite some time. However, the current concern is that of ‘creeping’ development in the ‘back garden’.”

Cllr Pask ended his report but stated that he would happily take questions within Villagers' Open Forum.

Hermitage & Curridge Youth Club

Hermitage and Curridge Youth Club has been running for 7 years and began its current year with a membership of over 70 young people, catering for those mainly living within the villages of Hermitage and Curridge.

The club has undergone massive change in the past two terms, with the previous committee, having served since 1997, resigned and a completely new committee take over.

We meet on a bi-weekly basis here in the hall, and our regular club nights have included snooker, table football, air hockey, table tennis, volleyball as well as a place just to 'hang out.' We also organise away days like swimming, ice-skating and are presently organising our annual theatre trip to see 'Footloose' in Oxford. We are also lucky to be able to use the school field once again for our annual Parents V Youth Club rounders match.

We often use other venues and this year we looking forward to a games night at the camp, our annual parents V youth rounders match and being taught circus skills.

Currently with membership at such a high level, we will not be taking in Year 6 from the local schools until September when they move to their secondary schools. This is indicative of the provision that we are trying to provide in the village. Bearing that in mind, in the 1960's a Youth Room was built by the villagers on to the school, known as the Enever Room, and has a current lease left on it for 72 years. In careful consultation with the Trustees of the Enever Room, the school, and West Berks Council and the Youth Club, we have drawn up a new agreement, which will let the youth of the village use the school hall as a formal Youth Club, whilst enabling the school to enlarge and accommodate the Enever room into their new plans.

To this end, I have also served as the Youth Leader for the past 7 years, and also for 3 years in the 80's and have resigned as Youth Leader, taking effect from the end of this academic year. We are desperately in need of someone to take this club over, and if anyone is interested, please see me.

I finish with thanking my hardworking committee members, who have worked hard in securing the Youth Club has a purpose in the village, both now and in the future.

Hermitage Village Hall AGM 2004

Chairman's Report for the year 2003

Once again 2003 got off to a good start with the ever popular Burns Night at the end of January. The enthusiasm of the village for this event always means that demand for tickets outstrips supply, and it presents a challenge to manage the allocation of tickets without causing offence. These are the sort of challenges that it is a pleasure to confront.

The same can be said for the Watermill performance of Gigolo which attracted a full house. This is an event which is proving popular enough to think about running two performances on consecutive nights. We'll see how this year goes.

The celebrations for the anniversary of the Coronation proved equally successful, as did the Spanish night, where Hermitage's ability to Salsa came along in leaps and bounds. This in turn was followed by the Quiz Nite that played to another full house.

The only cloud on the horizon was the Christmas Disco which was cancelled following the tragic events of last November.

Throughout the last year the prospect of development on the Cementation site has been ever present. The committee has been active in ensuring the need for a community facility that can cater for a 50% increase in the village population is getting the attention it deserves in the right places. An option to build a new larger hall with much more facilities next to playing fields is being seriously considered. But if we are to achieve this we will need more committee members to help with important aspects of this. We will need many teams to deal with the many aspects of this major project, from village consultation right through to getting it built, and we need to start now.

In the meantime the current hall lives on, and we will invest prudently to provide a good hall for current users while we await a new one. To this end we have sanded and resealed the floor to provide the quality of surface to meet the demands of dancing classes and other users. We will continue to keep the hall in good order and some redecoration is planned for this year.

The committee have also produced an information pack for Trustees which explains their roles and responsibilities and acts as an introduction for new members.

Once again it is my pleasure to thank the members of the committee for their hard work, support and excellent team work during the last year. They are a great bunch of people and we have a lot of fun and you could do a lot worse than to join them.

The Board of Trustees, Hermitage & Hampstead Norreys Charities

Rev Coombs reported that the charity formed many years ago by combining the village charities.

Funds currently held are £17.26 (current a/c) and £176.85 (deposit a/c). Cases of need are rarely identified in this day and age but there was one last July when a gift of £35.00 was given to the victim of a distraction robbery. Additionally five small gifts (total value £19.95) were given in December.

1st Hermitage Cubs

Mr Axten (known to the cubs as 'Rikki') made the following report.

"The cub hut is located in the Pinewood Park Play Area, Chapel Lane. Membership is at capacity with 36 cubs (currently all boys) age 8 – 11. Cubs come from as far as Brightwalton to Frilsham and Compton to Curridge to attend, but predominantly the membership serves Hermitage, Chieveley and Curridge.

This summer, cubs hope to undertake an expedition to climb mount Snowdon and the team leaders are soon to go for training at the Black Mountain.

The only cloud on the horizon is the vast increase in insurance costs – this being so significant it may mean the end of cubs in Hermitage. This year in addition to the £1000 insurance premium for the cubs themselves, there is an additional fee of £2,500.00 for building and contents insurance. It is the latter which has risen out of all proportion – **please help!**

Also, volunteer helpers are needed and welcome every week."

Hermitage Annual Assembly Hermitage Primary School Report

Since the last annual assembly, the school has enjoyed a successful year. We are currently running at full capacity with 123 pupils on the school roll. There are more applicants to the school than we have places for, which is encouraging and a reflection of the school's high standing.

The lack of classroom capacity has been an issue for some time and we are pleased that development plans are now coming to fruition. We have a two-phase building plan to extend the school. The first phase is just about to start and will provide an additional classroom and extra toilets with facilities for disabled pupils. This will involve building activity over the forthcoming summer term, which will inevitably result in some turbulence. But we have worked carefully with the architects and project managers to minimise the disturbance. We anticipate the new classroom being brought into use in September at the start of the new school year.

Our building plan has a phase two component that will be constructed in parallel with the housing development of the Cementation Site. Planning permission has already been granted for school's phase two construction, so we await the development timetable for the Cementation Site and will dovetail our secondary building construction with them. This will utilise funding provided by the housing developers to further extend the school by an additional one classroom and also replace the two modular classrooms that currently exist. Once complete, it will allow the school to have a classroom for each year, rather than the current mixed year classes and it will take the capacity of the school to 200 pupils. We anticipate that the housing development at the Cementation site will attract families with young children, with the close proximity of the school, so the phase two developments will allow the school to cater for these extra pupils and additional pupils from the local community.

As part of the phase one development plans we have made an agreement with the Youth Club that they will be allowed to use the school hall for meetings. This is a reflection of legacy arrangements and also illustrates of the schools policy to make the school's facilities as widely available to the local community as possible.

The school is performing very well academically. There has been a recent interim Ofsted inspection in the run-up to a full Ofsted inspection in Autumn 2004, this year. The interim inspection found the school to be making good progress both in the national statutory test and also in the

general management of the school. The Ofsted report notes the school is well above the national average in reading and mathematics and above average in writing. The report also noted that pupils were very well behaved in and around the school and are thoughtful, courteous and polite. All this bodes well for the autumn inspection.

There has been some turnover in the staff, but we continue to have a team of well-motivated teaching professionals under the effective leadership of the head teacher Mrs Collicott. We currently have two part time employment vacancies, which would particularly suit local residents. We need a traffic control warden to assist children and parents crossing the road outside the school to follow on from Mr Emmit who has recently retired. We are also looking for a secretary to the school governors involving occasional evening meetings and some work from home. We would welcome any expressions of interest in either of these jobs.

Financially the school is in a healthy position and has not suffered the funding difficulties that some other schools have experienced in the last year.

Outside the classroom the school continues to be active in local sporting events and over the year has enjoyed several successes.

Overall, Hermitage Primary School continues to provide an above average educational environment with a healthy balance between academic achievement and more general development for the youngsters in the community. We enjoy excellent support from the village and appreciate the direct efforts of the school PTA, but also the village community as a whole, including the military component, whose ongoing support is particularly valuable.

Jon Watkinson MBE MA MBA
Chair of School Governors
Hermitage Primary School
14 April 2004

Hermitage Pre-school Playgroup 2003/2004

Over the last year Hermitage Pre-school Playgroup has gone from strength to strength. We are running at maximum capacity (26 children per day) and have a long waiting list. At a recent Ofsted Combined Inspection in February we were rated highly for both our adherence to the fourteen National Standards for Pre-school Education and the curriculum we offer to our children.

The children study a varied curriculum & over the last year topics covered include "All about me", Shapes, Food, Spring and Opposites. They have had trips to Lawrence Farm Equipment, Children's Action Farm, Clarks Shoe Shop and Hermitage School. They have also prepared and performed to parents & friends a Nativity play, Harvest celebration, Chinese Dragon Dance and Easter Poems & Prayers.

We are very fortunate in having an excellent and enthusiastic staff team led by our supervisor, Justine Rigby, who was appointed last November. The staff complement each other with their individual talents and we are now looking to fund two members of staff in obtaining their NVQ level 3 qualification in Pre-school Practice over the coming year. We also appointed a play facilitator in January with special responsibility for role/imaginative play and also to provide 1 on 1 support to children with special needs.

The pre-school is run by a volunteer committee with a dedicated group of parents providing daily support to the staff and acting as a management team. The committee is elected at the AGM in September.

Last year we made a huge fund-raising effort with many different events bringing in over £3.3k that helped pay for the basic running costs of the Pre-school. Your kind donation helped us replace some equipment, in particular outdoor and physical play toys. In September '03 we decided to introduce a separate session the "Lunch Club" at a cost of £1/child per day that brings in a steady revenue. We have already raised over £1000 this academic year through events such as the Christmas Fayre, Quiz Night and St Patrick's Night Supper and Raffle. We have several more events planned for the coming months to help boost our finances. During the last year we had some urgent calls on our funds including the purchase of new chairs, tables, storage equipment, post box and IT related products.

The future plans include replacement of the shed (which is no longer weather tight!) and expansion of the Pre-school from Sessional to Day Care. We are currently trying an afternoon session (the Dolphin Club) to enable the older children to have more time to study the Early Years Curriculum and prepare for "big school". We would also like to replace some of our role play equipment and construction toys, as many are showing the signs of years of happy play and are no longer particularly robust or have bits missing.

We are very lucky to have such a thriving pre-school in our village where the reputation means that parents from outside the catchment area are prepared to wait for a place. Hermitage Pre-school Playgroup is most importantly a place where our children feel happy and secure and the parents feel confident that they are leaving their children in safe hands.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their continued support and interest in this key part of village life.

Wendy Young, Chairperson, Hermitage Pre-school Playgroup

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held on
Thursday 20 May 2004 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church

Present: Mr H Overeynder, Mrs V Coombs, Mr K Gover, Mr J Lawler, Mr N Pearson,
Mr J Walters, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Cllr Q Webb and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr G Pask.

2. **Election of Chairman**

Mr Overeynder, nominated by Mrs Coombs and seconded by Mr Gover, was re-elected as Chair.

3. **Election of Vice Chairman**

Mr Gover, nominated by Mr Walters and seconded by Mrs Willis, was re-elected as Vice Chair.

4. **Signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

Mr Overender and Mr Gover duly signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

5. **Update of Register of Financial and Other Interests**

The Clerk provided new copies of 'Register of Financial and Other Interests' for completion by all members.

6. **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.

7. **Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 18 March 2004** were agreed and signed as a correct record.

8. **Matters Arising**

07/Jan04 Trees at Lipscomb Close bus shelter. The Clerk will write to Garden Culture again asking for these works to be undertaken.

7. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Mar04 Clerk's salary (May) + £46.64 expenses.

02/Mar04 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning March, April, May @ £25.00).

Mr Overeynder agreed to meet with Mrs Carter to discuss terms.

01/May04 Garden Culture (April) - £306.90 + £53.71 VAT

Mr Overeynder will speak with Mr Soutar as it appears works have not been satisfactory over April/May (the burial ground in particular is in dire need of cutting). It is thought, however, that this is due to inclement weather. The removal of rubbish from the burial ground will also be discussed.

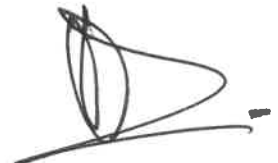
02/May04 Community Council for Berkshire membership £50.00.

07/Mar04 April payments (retrospective approval)

Clerk's salary (April)

BALC Subscription - £145.30

AGM expenses: Mayprint - £36.00, food/wine - £30.83



09/May04 BT plc £32.20

10/May04 Thames Water Utilities Ltd £4.23

All agreed these payments be made.

03/May04 Grants/donations 2004/05

Decisions re S19 expenditure will be deferred until next meeting in order to allow time for the Village Hall Committee to submit an application.

S137 grants were agreed as follows:

Hermitage Pre-school Playgroup	£882.43
Downland Volunteer Group	£100.00
Hermitage Cubs	£500.00
Berkshire Blind	£ 50.00
Community Furniture Project	£150.00

It was also agreed that £100.00 will be made available to the Pang Valley Project if an application is received within 2004/05.

Proposed: Mrs V Coombs Seconded: Mr N Pearson

Other

05/ Mar04 Appointment of internal auditor 2003/04.

Mrs Ager had declined the request to undertake the responsibility of Internal Auditor for 2003/04. Mr Michael Stevenson kindly offered to fulfil this role and his offer was gratefully accepted.

04/May04 Garden Culture – Change of company name to ‘The Landscape Environment Company’ was noted.

05/May04 Hacker Young – change of company name to UHY Hacker Young was noted.

06/May04 Zurich Municipal Insurance renewal. Information requested has been provided by the Clerk. This included the request to remove the Pinewood Park play equipment from the policy (public liability to remain) until the new equipment is installed.

07/May04 BBCTP Training – ‘Meetings’. No member wishes to attend.

6. District Councillors’ Report

Cllr Webb congratulated Mr Overeynder on his re-election as Chairman.

Cllr Webb reported a quiet month.

- Thatcham has no been split from the rural villages at the Planning Area Forum;
- It has been suggested that the value of Travel Tokens be set at £30.00 across the board (removing the £60 eligibility).

Mr Walters asked Cllr Webb to ascertain what s106 funding had been agreed with respect to the two housing developments in Chieveley.

7. Villagers’ Open Forum

The facility to provide ‘Hermitage housing for Hermitage people’ was raised. The ‘Common Housing Register’ was discussed. Representations have been made by Hermitage Parish Council to request that affordable housing be made available in the first instance to Hermitage people at the proposed Cementation and Arena sites. No guarantees can be made. This will not help residents currently in need as neither development has yet started. **Mr Gover** promised to write again to pursue this matter.

Hilliers Garden Centre with only 5 houses proposed falls below the threshold for a requirement to provide social housing.

The proportions of the new house under construction in Doctor’s Lane (on the site of

'The Stumps') were raised as a matter of concern. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to WBC for assurance that the construction has been undertaken in accordance with the plans approved.

The matters of the 'Hermitage' street sign and the dangerous pothole by the Fox Inn were again raised. Cllr Pask had agreed at the Annual Parish meeting to deal with these matters next day, and Cllr Webb will pursue accordingly.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

The Watermill production took place (to mixed reaction) and another performance is planned for the autumn.

8.2 Recreation Ground/play area

Play area inspections - nothing to report.

10/Jul03 Hermitage Cubs/Krafty Raft/abandoned trailer - Mrs Willis will contact cubs again.

03/Sept03 New play area equipment – installation is planned for 28 June and should take three weeks. An official opening ceremony was discussed to coincide with the Annual Parish Walk.

8.3 Footpaths

Mr Gover agreed to ask West Berkshire Council to clear the nettles from footpath 16.

8.4 Village website

A domain name was suggested as 'hermitage.org'. Copyright issues have yet to be clarified. A subscription of £75.00 + VAT was approved.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan) – still under consultation.

8.6 Youth Group – Mrs Willis hopes to encourage a project to provide a skate park in conjunction with the youth group development worker. There will be a meeting next week. Transport issues remain topical.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

Berkshire Structure Plan

DEFRA – Rural Broadband

Proposed Changes to the Draft Regional Transport Strategy

WBC – Kennet and Pang Area Forum

West Berkshire Heritage News

Community Safety Awareness Raising Session

WBC – Supplementary Planning Guidance: House extensions and replacement dwellings

Government Office for the South East – Proposed Changes to Regional Planning Guidance

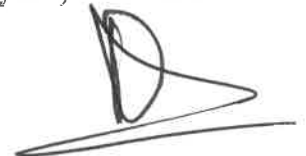
LOCAL Council Review

North Wessex Downs Management Plan

WBC – Common Housing Register for West Berkshire

Other

08/May04 BT plc – BT Street Payphones in Hermitage. The proposed removal of the payphone kiosk at Wellhouse was approved subject to consultation (by Mr Overender) with residents in that vicinity.



10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development

Correspondence from Chris Wood, Town Planning & Marine Environment Consultant – it was noted that Mr Wood was unable to assist at present.

Correspondence from Stewart Souden, WBC Grounds Maintenance Officer – the content of this letter was deemed unsatisfactory and the Clerk will write to Gary Lugg accordingly.

10.2 Arena Site Development – nothing to report.

10.3 Other Planning Matters

Re-development of the White Horse pub should have commenced by now and the Clerk will investigate with Greene King.

Hilliers Garden Centre – the Clerk has responded with ‘no objections’ to the housing proposal. It was agreed that the Clerk write again expressing strong support for the development as it will secure the future of the garden centre which is considered a vital village amenity and employment centre.

11. Burial Ground

Mr Lawler will undertake the annual ‘topple’ test.

12. Any Other Business

Debut Theatre Company – Mr Overeynder will attend.

CCB Roadshow at Hampstead Norryes on 23 June - Mrs Willis agreed to attend.

Parking on the grass at Chapel Lane/Deacons Lane remains a problem. Mr Overeynder will investigate locally and Mrs Willis will contact Sgt Buckingham at Hungerford police station.

The 60th Anniversary of the D-day landing in Normandy was noted.

Annual Parish Walk – Mr Marr agreed to make village notices. Mr Overeynder will ask Mrs Turvey to plot and print the route to include the Pinewood Park play area.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 17 June 2004 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.18pm.

*Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council*

Notes on declaration of interest:

- (i) any Member arriving after the start of the meeting is asked to declare personal interests as necessary as soon as practicable after their arrival even if the item in question has been considered;*
- (ii) with the exception of the circumstances listed in paragraph 9(2) of the Local Code of Conduct for Members, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest. In such circumstances, the Member must withdraw from the meeting room, and should inform the Chairman accordingly;*
- (iii) it is not practical to offer detailed advice during the meeting on whether or not a personal interest should be declared, or whether a personal interest should also be regarded as prejudicial.*



HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
26-Apr	02/01194	FULL	Land adj Long Lane	Construction of footpath	No objections	Refused
13-Sep	02/01194	FULL	Land adj Long Lane	Construction of footpath	Notification of appeal	Appeal dismissed
09-Jan	03/01593	RELAX	Land at Red Shute Hill	Notification of appeal against refusal		Appeal allowed
14-Nov	03/02208	FULL	Spring Plantation, Eling	Redevelopment of existing O2 Telecom site to include 27m lattice tower, relocation of existing O2 equipment and addition of new T Mobile and "3" equipment on replacement tower	No objection	
11-Feb	04/00037	TEMP	Charlotte House	Change of use from private house to residential accommodation providing care	No objection	RDDP - approval
17-Feb	04/00296	FULL	Derwen, Hampstead Norreys Road	Detached dwelling with garage	Over development of small plot, dangerous access, too close to rear boundary, precedent for in-filling	RDDP - refusal
12-Mar	04/00498	HOUSE	Chapel Farm, Pond Lane	Replacement double garage and porch with new double garage and utility room and separate entrance porch at side	No objection	RDDP - approval
12-Mar	04/00403	HOUSE	Brackenveid, Hampstead Norreys Road	Demolition of existing single garage and replace with double length garage	No objection	
18-Mar	04/00506	OUT	Land to rear of bridleways and Va Hale, Doctors Lane	New detached bungalow and double garage	Object - over-development of green open space. Precedent for further development.	
29-Mar	04/00456	HOUSE	1 Fox Cottages, wellhouse	New vehicular access and extended driveway to allow safer car access		
13-Apr	04/00701	HOUSE	Laurel Cottage, Chapel lane	Conservatory	No objection	
15-Apr	04/00698	HOUSE	Dellcote, Deacons Lane	Single storey extension.	No objection	

27-Apr	04/00826	OUT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Outline planning application for erection of 5 No detached 2 storey dwelling houses with associated access (matters of siting and access to be considered; all other matters reserved).	Restrict dwellings to modest size, with no further housing development on this site. OK with 21 year garden centre lease and retention of arborescence.
27-Apr	04/00879	HOUSE	Driftwood, Long Lane	Single storey rear extension forming conservatory.	No objection
27-Apr	04/00799	HOUSE	Montreal Cottage, Deacons Lane	Amendment to approved application 02/02252 for replacement 2 storey building.	No objection
27-Apr	04/00790	HOUSE	Honey Oak Cottage, Marlston Road	Single storey extension.	No objection
27-Apr	04/00757	FULL	Land to rear of Tile Barn and Cornish Cottage	1 No detached dwelling with detached garage	Scale/massing will dominate, out of proportion with adjacent properties. Infill significant problem in this area. Reduce to more modest dwelling as a minimum.
05-May	04/00825	FULL	Hilliers Garden Centre	Full planning application for the erection of new garden centre buildings with associated access road and hard standing.	
10-May	04/01013	HOUSE	Northwood, Pond Lane	First floor rear and side and ground floor side extension	
13-May	04/01057	HOUSE	5 Lea View, Hampstead Norreys Road	Side extension and porch	
13-May	04/01059	HOUSE	Clairewood, Hampstead Norreys Road	Demolition of existing conservatory and build new conservatory.	

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

13-May-04

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 17 June 2004 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church

Present: Mr H Overeynder (Chair), Mr K Gover, Mrs V Coombs, Mr J Lawler, Mr N Pearson, Mr J Walters, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Councillor Q Webb (from 8.49pm) and four members of the public.

1. Apologies – Cllr G Pask

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.

3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held on Thursday 20 May 2004 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

07/Jan04 Trees at Lipscomb Close/bus shelter. Landscape Environment Co is terribly busy at the start of the growing season, but will undertake the works (as instructed in March) when convenient.

5. Finance

Accounts for Payment

01/Jun04 Clerk's salary (May) + £35.98 expenses.

02/Jun04 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning June) – £25.00. Mr Overeynder met with Mrs Carter and agreed a new rate of £30.00 with effect from July. Mrs Carter advised the shelters are cleaned on the first Friday of the month. Payment will be withheld until time sheets are received.

03/Jun04 Landscape Environment Co (May) - £306.90 + £53.71 VAT

- cutting of burial ground. This has now been undertaken and Mr Overeynder has requested a quote for additional works.
- removal of rubbish from burial ground. Mr Overeynder has personally collected and removed the rubbish from the burial ground and he suggested that other Councillors might do likewise on a monthly basis.

15/Jun04 Zurich Municipal – annual Parish Council premium £1003.85. Although amendments to the policy as requested have not been made, it was agreed prudent to pay the premium in full and seek a rebate if necessary.

16/Jun04 Domain name for village website - £52.88 incl. VAT

All agreed these payments be made.

Grants/donations 2004/05

04/Jun04 S19 expenditure.

Total grants of £900 were allocated being the total budget remaining for this purpose:

Hermitage and Curridge Youth Group £250.00

Hermitage Village Hall £650.00

In each case this was 50% of the funds requested.

Proposed: Mr Overeynder Seconded: Mr Pearson

Other

05/Jun 04 Approval of accounts 2003/04

Thanks were expressed to Mr Stevenson for undertaking the Internal Audit.

The accounts were approved and the associated paperwork (Annual Return, Statement of Assurance and supporting schedules) signed by Mr Overeynder.

6. District Councillors' Report

Travel tokens have been confirmed at £60.00 not reduced to £30.00.

06/Jun 04 Report on s106 funding (Chieveley) – information requested but not yet received.

09/Jun04 'Hermitage' street sign – no progress to date.

10/Jun04 Pothole by the Fox Inn – no progress to date.

7. Villagers' Open Forum

17/Jun04 A large tree overhanging Marlston Road is proving problematic for large vehicles. As a result branches are being damaged and falling into the road. The Clerk will report to Highways.

18/Jun04 A resident reported a football crashing through the roof of his greenhouse at around 7.30pm on Friday 11 June and claims the football was kicked from Pinewood Park play area, over the new goal, across Chapel Lane and into his garden. As a result the resident is unhappy with the new equipment and wishes the Parish Council to re-site the goal. This would be a huge task as it has been secured with substantial concrete foundations.

The Parish Council do not accept liability for this incident. The events as reported have no foundation (agreed by the complainant) but if proved, responsibility would lie with the child who kicked the ball.

Mr Overeynder and Mrs Willis will, however, meet the equipment supplier on site to discuss the incident. The opinion of the supplier and of RoSPA (who will undertake the post-installation inspection) will be duly considered.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

The payphone handset is in need of repair.

8.2 Recreation Ground/play area

Play area inspections – renovation project underway.

10/Jul03 Hermitage Cubs/Krafty Raft/abandoned trailer – kindly removed by the new play equipment supplier.

03/Sept03 New play area equipment. It is anticipated work will be completed on Friday 18 June with a RoSPA post-installation inspection scheduled for Monday 21 June.

Mr Overeynder thanked Mrs Willis for sterling efforts over recent months – from securing funding in the early days through to overseeing installation. It was agreed the equipment looks great and that Mrs Willis has done a fantastic job.

Insurance of the equipment was discussed. The Clerk will seek details of cover and associated premium.

It was agreed that to combine an opening ceremony with the Parish Walk was not sensible – being Bank Holiday Monday representatives of funding bodies may not be available. Mrs Willis will approach the Headteacher of Hermitage School for suggested dates, the last day of term being a possibility.

8.3 Footpaths - nothing new to report.

8.4 Village website

The new domain name has been registered and it was agreed that the Parish Council reimburse Dr Lawler. A 'go-live' date of 29 June was agreed and publicity via the Newbury Weekly News will be sought.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan)

Mr Gover has received an e-mail from WBC Planning & Transport Strategy advising that the public consultation period has ended. Therefore the project is close to its conclusion.

8.6 Youth Group

The website is now up and running.

Funding for a rural transport scheme has been established and 60 youngsters identified.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

Other

08/May04 BT plc – BT Street Payphones in Hermitage. The payphone closure project has stalled for the time being.

11/Jun04 Lambert Smith Hampton re Asbestos Legislation. The **Clerk** will investigate the Parish Council's position re the land under the railway bridge leased from BRB.

12/jun04 Readibus – notification of AGM. Noted.

13/Jun04 Freedom of Information Act. Noted.

14/Jun04 WBC – Tree Preservation Orders. Noted.

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development – nothing to report.

10.2 Arena Site Development – nothing to report.

10.3 Other Planning Matters

07/Jun04 New dwelling at 'The Stumps'. Information requested from WBC has not been forthcoming.

08/Jun04 Re-development of the White Horse pub. Greene King has confirmed that they are seeking tenants and that refurbishment will not take place until settled.

11. Burial Ground

09/Jun04 Annual 'topple' test. Dr Lawler has undertaken the topple test and identified eight wobbly but not immediately dangerous memorials. **Dr Lawler** will seek quotes for remedial works.

12. Any Other Business

CCB AGM – Wednesday 14 July, 7.30pm at Reading Canoe Club, The Warren, Caversham.
Installation of 'Dog bins' around the village was discussed.

Date of next meeting - Thursday 15 July at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.09pm.



Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
14-Nov	03/02208	FULL	Spring Plantation, Eling	Redevelopment of existing O2 Telecom site to include 27m lattice tower, relocation of existing O2 equipment and addition of new T Mobile and "3" equipment on replacement tower	No objection	
12-Mar	04/00403	HOUSE	Brackenveld, Hampstead Norreys Road	Demolition of existing single garage and replace with double length garage	No objection	
18-Mar	04/00506	OUT	Land to rear of bridleways and Va Hale, Doctors Lane	New detached bungalow and double garage	Object - over-development of green open space. Precedent for further development.	RDDP - approval
29-Mar	04/00456	HOUSE	1 Fox Cottages, wellhouse	New vehicular access and extended driveway to allow safer car access	No objection	RDDP - refusal
13-Apr	04/00701	HOUSE	Laurel Cottage, Chapel lane	Conservatory	No objection	
15-Apr	04/00698	HOUSE	Dellcote, Deacons Lane	Single storey extension.	No objection	
27-Apr	04/00826	OUT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Outline planning application for erection of 5 No detached 2 storey dwelling houses with associated access (matters of siting and access to be considered; all other matters reserved).	Restrict dwellings to modest size, with no further housing development on this site. OK with 21 year garden centre lease and retention of arboretum.	
27-Apr	04/00879	HOUSE	Driftwood, Long Lane	Single storey rear extension forming conservatory.	No objection	
27-Apr	04/00799	HOUSE	Montreal Cottage, Deacons Lane	Amendment to approved application 02/02252 for replacement 2 storey building.	No objection	RDDP - approval

27-Apr	04/00790	HOUSE	Honey Oak Cottage, Marlston Road	Single storey extension.	No objection	
27-Apr	04/00757	FULL	Land to rear of Tile Barn and Cornish Cottage	1 No detached dwelling with detached garage	Scale/massing will dominate, out of proportion with adjacent properties. Infill significant problem in this area. Reduce to more modest dwelling as a minimum.	RDDP - approval
05-May	04/00825	FULL	Hilliers Garden Centre	Full planning application for the erection of new garden centre buildings with associated access road and hard standing.	No objection	
10-May	04/01013	HOUSE	Northwood, Pond Lane	First floor rear and side and ground floor side extension	No objection	RDDP - approval
13-May	04/01057	HOUSE	5 Lea View, Hampstead Norreys Road	Side extension and porch	No objection	
13-May	04/01059	HOUSE	Clairewood, Hampstead Norreys Road	Demolition of existing conservatory and build new conservatory.	No objection	
11-Jun	04/01285	FULL	Charlotte House, 4 Charlotte Close	New staircase and minor changes to the floor plan and elevations		

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

12-Jun-04

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 15 July 2004 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church

Present: Mr H Overeynder (Chair), Mr K Gover, Mrs V Coombs, Mr J Lawler, Mr N Pearson, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Councillors Webb and Pask (for part of meeting) and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – Mr J Walters who was unwell.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – none were recorded

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.

3. **Minutes of a meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held on Thursday 17 June 2004** were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

07/Jan04 Trees at Lipscomb Close (village hall bus shelter). The works have not as yet been undertaken.

17/Jun04 Tree overhanging Marlston Road. The Clerk has contacted highways who have agreed remedial works are required.

11/Jun04 Lambert Smith Hampton re Asbestos Legislation. Subsequent to investigations made by the Clerk, it was agreed that a letter should be sent in reply explaining that there are no buildings on the land in question.

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Jul04 Clerk's salary (July & August).

02/Jul04 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning July & August) @ £30.00.

03/Jul04 Landscape Environment Co (June) - £306.90 + £53.71 VAT

07/Jul04 Thames Water Utilities - £4.98

12/Jul04 Playground Services Ltd - £34,960 + £6,118 VAT

All agreed that these payments be made.

Other

04/Jul04 Clerk's authorisation to make August payments. It was agreed that the Clerk make payments as necessary over summer and report at the September meeting.

06/Jul04 Additional S19 donations. The Clerk advised that the budget had been set in January with reduced s19 (and s137) donations. It is unfortunate that consequently s19 donations had to be made at 50% of the requested amounts. It was agreed that additional expenditure causing a deficit against budget was not advisable however regrettable the circumstances. Hermitage is one of the most expensive Parishes in West Berkshire and it was felt prudent to preserve funds in an attempt to remedy this situation in the future.

11/Jul04 Replacement grass cutting contractor. The Landscape Environment Company has terminated the contract with Hermitage Parish Council with effect from 31 July 2004.

Mr Overeynder has sourced a replacement contractor (Mr Lawrence) prepared to take over the works on similar terms and conditions. All agreed that Mr Lawrence be appointed with effect from 01 August 2004. It was further agreed that Mr Lawrence be effective from 01 July if Mr Soutar wished to be released from the one month notice period.

6. District Councillors' Report

06/Jun 04 Report on s106 funding (Chieveley). Information requested from WBC not yet received.

09/Jun04 'Hermitage' street sign. Has been requested but not yet undertaken by WBC.

10/Jun04 Pothole/kerb opposite the Fox Inn. **Mr Pask** will again request that WBC undertake remedial works.

14/Jul04 Marlston Road railway bridge. The principle engineer has reported that fencing will be repaired and warnings signs erected. Monitoring of the situation will follow.

Written report attached.

7. Villagers' Open Forum

Information re the latest situation with the White Horse public house was requested. See 12/Jul04 below.

The Parish Council was criticised for the donation of £650.00 made to the Hermitage Village Hall Committee as it was considered to be an inadequate amount. The amounts given to other village societies/charitable projects were called in to question as they were considered too large or inappropriate. The Parish Council attempt to control spending and avoid increasing the precept (and subsequently Council Tax) was questioned. A higher grant to the village hall in future years was demanded.

It was pointed out by the Parish Council that all grants/donations made under s137 and s19 were discretionary not obligatory.

Appreciation for the provision of the new play equipment in Pinewood Park was expressed, with particular thanks due to Mrs Willis.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

The oil tank will have been replaced by the end of the month.

There is a problem with the woodwork of the old cottage.

Painting and decorating costs have been estimated in excess of £7000.

Branches of trees in neighbouring properties are overhanging the village hall car park causing a nuisance. The village hall committee will request the trees be cut back by the residents concerned.

8.2 Recreation Ground/play area

Play area inspections – requirements have been set out by the new equipment supplier and will be adhered to by Mrs Willis.

18/Jun04 Football/greenhouse incident. The playground equipment installer and the RoSPA safety inspector are of the opinion that the possibility of a ball from the play area breaking glass in the greenhouse as claimed is extremely unlikely. Even if it did so, there is no liability on the part of the Parish Council, just a consequence of owning property adjacent to a public amenity. The Parish Council will take no further action.

03/Sept03 New play area equipment. The equipment is installed and has been inspected by RoSPA. One or two minor issues in the post-installation report will be rectified as necessary by the supplier. The bench/seat ordered from Barlow & Sons has been delivered and is ready for installation. Grateful thanks for the donation of this seat by Barlows were expressed and the Clerk will write accordingly.

05/Jul04 Insurance of new equipment. All Risks cover in respect of the new equipment/surfacing has been quoted at £948.91. In view of this high premium it was agreed that All Risks cover will not be taken and the Parish Council funds instead set aside for 'repairs and renewals'. This will not affect Public Liability cover which will remain in force under general policy terms.

08/Jul04 Playground sign reimbursement. A sign has been purchased listing all the bodies who made funds available for the new equipment. Mrs Willis was reimbursed £77.00.

8.3 Footpaths – nothing to report.

8.4 Village website – now up and running at ‘www.hermitage.org.uk’.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan). Comments from consultees have all been addressed and with a little re-working will be ready for adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance. Mr Gover expressed thanks to the ward members for their support of the project.

8.6 Youth Group – nothing to report.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

Up! On the North Wessex Downs

The Berkshire Communicator

WBC Heritage News

BALC Notice of AGM

Thames Water – Waste Water Flooding

WBC - District Parish Conference 07 October 04

CCB – Notice of AGM

WBC – Remembrance Sunday

WBC - Kennet & Pang Valley Area Forum 14 July 2004-07-01

WBC – Location Change & Social care Information Update

Clerk & Councils direct

Local Council Review

Newbury 2025 – Additional Autumn Conference

House of Commons – Advice Surgery (David Rendel MP)

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development – nothing to report.

10.2 Arena Site Development – site clearance/demolition has commenced.

10.3 Other Planning Matters

04/00296 – Derwen. The Parish Council has been asked how its concerns (and subsequent objection) to this application can be alleviated. The Parish Council will refrain from comment until further information has been sought from WBC officers.

11. Burial Ground

09/Jun04 Annual ‘tople’ test. Estimates are being sought.

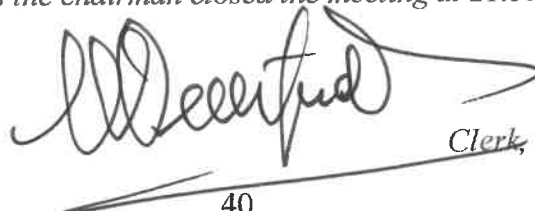
12. Any Other Business

13/Jul04 Greene King/White Horse Public House. The deteriorating condition is unsatisfactory and the Clerk will write again expressing concern.

14/Jul04 Sign outside the Fox Inn. The Clerk will write to the landlady about the poor condition of the Fox Inn sign on the grass verge near the telephone box.

Date of next meeting - Thursday 23 September at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 21.55pm.



Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
14-Nov	03/02208	FULL	Spring Plantation, Eling	Redevelopment of existing O2 Telecom site to include 27m lattice tower, relocation of existing O2 equipment and addition of new T Mobile and "3" equipment on replacement tower	No objection	Approval
12-Mar	04/00403	HOUSE	Brackenveld, Hampstead Norreys Road	Demolition of existing single garage and replace with double length garage	No objection	Approval
18-Mar	04/00506	OUT	Land to rear of bridleways and Va Hale, Doctors Lane	New detached bungalow and double garage	Object - over-development of green open space. Precedent for further development.	RDDP - approval
13-Apr	04/00701	HOUSE	Laurel Cottage, Chapel lane	Conservatory	No objection	Approval
15-Apr	04/00698	HOUSE	Dellcote, Deacons Lane	Single storey extension.	No objection	Approval
27-Apr	04/00826	OUT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Outline planning application for erection of 5 No detached 2 storey dwelling houses with associated access (matters of siting and access to be considered; all other matters reserved).	Restrict dwellings to modest size, with no further housing development on this site. OK with 21 year garden centre lease and retention of arboretum.	
27-Apr	04/00879	HOUSE	Driftwood, Long Lane	Single storey rear extension forming conservatory.	No objection	
27-Apr	04/00790	HOUSE	Honey Oak Cottage, Marlston Road	Single storey extension.	No objection	Approval

27-Apr	04/00757	FULL	Land to rear of Tile Barn and Cornish Cottage	1 No detached dwelling with detached garage	Scale/massing will dominate, out of proportion with adjacent properties. Infill significant problem in this area. Reduce to more modest dwelling as a minimum.	RDDP - approval
05-May	04/00825	FULL	Hilliars Garden Centre	Full planning application for the erection of new garden centre buildings with associated access road and hard standing.	No objection	
13-May	04/01057	HOUSE	5 Lea View, Hampstead Norreys Road	Side extension and porch	No objection	
13-May	04/01059	HOUSE	Clairewood, Hampstead Norreys Road	Demolition of existing conservatory and build new conservatory.	No objection	
11-Jun	04/01285	FULL	Charlotte House, 4 Charlotte Close	New staircase and minor changes to the floor plan and elevations	No objection	
01-Jul	04/01517	FULL	Oakville, Hampstead Norreys Road	New two storey house on site of Oakville		

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

08-Jul-04

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT July 2004

- 1) The Brand new Community Learning and Information Vehicle (CLIVe) has been put into service it carries 5 Internet laptops plus information on a whole range of subjects. Its role is also to distribute travel tokens across the district.
- 2) Since West Berkshire Council Trading Service started its enforcement programme, fines and costs totalling in excess of £10,000 have been handed down by Magistrates to lorry drivers and hauliers found guilty of breaching weight restrictions on West Berkshire roads and bridges.
- 3) West Berkshire Council is carrying out a review of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision in the district. Some Consultation meetings took place in June.
- 4) West Berkshire Council has been awarded £4.195 million for the restoration of Newbury's Shaw House-by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The aim is to create a venue for civic and community events ranging from concerts to presentations, it will be open to public, school and adult groups and will also be a civic wedding venue.
- 5) West Berkshire residents will see an enhanced range of registration services the programme includes new ceremonies, baby naming, reaffirmation of vows, and civil funerals.
- 6) The area forum review has now been approved by the executive and will be based on five areas, full Council has to approve the change, first meetings will probably be in September. Next meeting is this Wednesday at Hermitage Village Hall.

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council

held on Thursday 23 September 2004 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church

Present: Mr H Overeynder (Chair), Mr K Gover, Mrs V Coombs, Mr J Lawler, Mr J Walters, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Councillors Webb and Pask (for part of meeting), Paul Gavin (Newbury Weekly News) and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – Mr N Pearson who was attending a meeting of Hermitage School governors.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – none were recorded

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.

3. **Minutes of a meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held on Thursday 15 July 2004** were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

07/Jan04 Trees at Lipscomb Close (village hall bus shelter). Ongoing.

17/Jun04 Tree overhanging Marlston Road. The tree has been cut back.

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Sept04 Clerk's salary (September) & £49.18 expenses

02/Sept04 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning @ £30.00)

03/Sept04 Village maintenance contract for July & August

Landscape Environment Co (July) } - £306.90 + £53.71 VAT. Payment actually made £204.60 + £35.80 VAT in reflection of incomplete works.

F C Lawrence - £97.22 part payment for July and £291.67 for month of August.

04/Sept04 UHY Hacker Young 2003/04 Audit fee - £250.00 + £43.75 VAT }

It should be noted that this fee is double that of the previous year. This being a result of the play area refurbishment grants taking the Parish Council accounts into the £25,000+ income bracket. (Two receipts @£5000 resulting in a £125.00 audit fee!) The Clerk has written to UHY Hacker Young to protest at the higher fee levied under such circumstances, but they declined to revise the fee. It should be noted that this will also be the case next year when the accounts include the play area expenditure.

05/Sept04 Sovereign Housing – Land Rent £5.00

09/Sept04 August bank holiday walk expenses £21.02

10/Sept04 Thames Water Utilities Ltd - £4.19

All agreed these payments be made.

Other

04/Jul04 August payments – BT plc £34.46 + £6.03VAT. Approved.

6. **District Councillors' Report**

06/Jun 04 Report on s106 funding (Chieveley). This information remains unavailable.

09/Jun04 'Hermitage' street sign. No further action required.

10/Jun04 Pothole/kerb opposite the Fox Inn. No further action required.

12/Sept04 The repainting of the Yattendon Road white lines (near the old railway line) was requested and Cllr Webb agreed to action this.

13/Sept 04 Concerns were again reiterated on the topic of the s106 funding allocated to the Chieveley surgery. The legitimacy of giving public money to a private business was questioned and Cllr Webb agreed to investigate.

7. Villagers' Open Forum

11/Sept04 'Operation Fahrenheit'. On behalf the Parish Council, Mr Charles Gilchrist had kindly agreed to attend a Crime Reduction meeting in East Garston and also to report back to the Parish Council so that an action plan could be devised. An official bulletin has been provided to all Councillors.

'Operation Fahrenheit', with the aid of a £15000 government grant, additionally seeks help from Parish Councils:

- to identify potential victims so they may contact Newbury Police Station;
- to advertise the scheme in the parish magazine and on the village website.

Typical 'target' properties are detached with a back entrance that is not overlooked – tools of entry are taken from the householders own garage/shed.

As the next parish magazine has already gone to print, the inclusion of a separate A5 flier was agreed subject to the Crime Reduction Officer providing the text with official logo. A maximum budget of £60.00 was agreed for 600 copies.

Finally, Mr Gilchrist was thanked for committing his time to the project.

'Speed Kills' notices – the desirability and effectiveness of these notices around the village was discussed, as was their potential to be a dangerous distraction. Cllr Webb agreed to request removal after an appropriate period lest they become shabby.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

06/Sept04 Branches of trees overhanging car park. The Village Hall Committee had not made contact with the tree owners responsible for maintenance, therefore a Parish Council contribution was not approved. No further action required.

The oil tank is now installed and compliant with new regulations.

Watermill Theatre production 15 October.

The purchase of new round tables is being considered.

Lighting and interior decoration is being reviewed.

8.2 Recreation Ground/play area

Play area inspections

- on the new equipment has been undertaken according to the supplier's guidelines with no problems arising;
- fencing between the play area and the BT compound remains an issue. Mrs Willis met a BT representative on site to request repairs and the removal of barbed wire. The representative advised that a general clean up of the BT site was planned but that no repairs to fencing were planned. It was felt that BT would be responsible should a child have an accident as a result of the lack of repairs. The Clerk however, advised that the Parish Council had a duty of care to the children using the play area and that in the knowledge of the problem would itself become liable should an accident occur. The Clerk advised that an additional fence on play area land should be installed by the Parish Council for the safety and protection of children. Councillors asked the Clerk to write BT asking them to carry out repairs – Mrs Willis will provide contact details;
- the play area gate needs re-hanging as it fails the 'finger trap' space requirement;
- overhanging tree branches have now been removed.

The purchase of picnic benches with litter bins was suggested and will be discussed at the October meeting.

8.3 Footpaths

The Yattendon Road – Chapel Lane footpath that was clear has now been ploughed! Nature will naturally repair.

Offending nettles have been cleared.

8.4 Village website

The Village Design Statement is soon to be launched on-line. The length of time older PC's take to download the opening website photograph was noted.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan)

The 'final', final version has now been agreed. Several print quotes have been sought.

Supplementary Planning Guidance must now be A4 and original publication had been planned as A5. Final decisions re printing and associated costs will be discussed at the October meeting.

8.6 Youth Group

£40.00 travel tokens have been offered to 16/17 year olds at the Downs School if they have no transport of their own – there has been a reasonable response but not as great as anticipated.

Rural youth work is being undertaken in villages without their own youth group.

Vodafone youth challenge was noted (how to communicate with youngsters).

Finally it was suggested that an additional representative report should be added to the list. With Mr Pearson's consent, 'Hermitage School' governor report will be added.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

Proposed Changes to Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9)

WBC – Highway Improvement programme 2004/05

WBC – Speed Indicator Device Training

WBC – Temporary Prohibition of Driving and Waiting (Newbury Show)

Community Action West Berkshire Update

Notice of Application for New Justices Licence – NAAFI Family Store, Dennison Barracks

Government Office for the South East – Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

WBC – Public Liaison Information requirements

Planning Aid South

BALC Newsletter

WBC – District Parish Conference 07 October 04

WBC – Review of Minerals Local Plan & Waste Local Plan for Berkshire

Newbury & Community PCT AGM – 16 September 2004

Model Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees

WBC – Kennet & Pang Valley Area Forum

WBC – Junior Citizen of the Year award

Parish Plan News

Bucks & Berks Training – playground inspections

Local Council Review

WBC – Annual Parish Survey

Community Furniture Project – news

WBC – District/Parish Conference 07 October 2004

WBC – Kennet and Pang Area Forum 06 October 2004

Other

07/Sept04 WBC – Poor Quality Rural Verge Cutting in Hermitage.

Following complaints to the Chairman, the Clerk had written to WBC and the response received was noted.

13/Jul04 Greene King - White Horse Public House.

Commitment to the refurbishment of the White Horse was reiterated. No further action required.

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development

There is no further news at present. The Clerk will write to the Land Agent requesting a progress report.

10.2 Arena Site Development

A meeting on Wednesday 29 September will be held with Hermitage Parish Council, Ward Members, West Berkshire Council planning officers and developer representatives. With this in mind only a short discussion ensued, but the following concerns were noted:

- designs not compatible with AONB;
- overloading of infrastructure;
- assessment of sewerage;
- nature/illumination of mini-roundabout (Cllr Pask committed to work closely with Highways to ensure no light pollution to adjacent properties);
- concern over developer hoardings;
- open meeting for all villagers requested;
- how to integrate (and not isolate) this development into the village;
- no official notification of withdrawal of first set of plans.

10.3 Other Planning Matters

08/Sept04 Briants Piece

The large extension proposed to a property in a close of retirement style bungalows was discussed. The Parish Council agreed that careful consideration would be required should any similar applications arise in the future.

11. Burial Ground

09/Jun04 Annual 'topple' test

Alan G Wright has not responded to a request to quote for the remedial works required.

Mr Lawler will pursue with another contractor.

A letter has been received from the Rev Coombs suggesting a review of burial ground regulations may be appropriate. This will be included in next month's agenda.

12. Any Other Business

14/Jul04 Sign outside the Fox Inn. Has now been removed. No further action required.

The bus shelter opposite school is in need of attention. Mr Overeynder will investigate.

The Annual village walk as successful with around 55 people participating.

There has been a complaint about the lack of 'Hermitage' signs at junction 13.

White plastic pipes dumped at Lipscomb Close will be investigated.

The opening of the new play area was very successful.

Concerns were raised at difficulties encountered trying to place an advert in the Parish magazine.

Distribution to newcomers was also discussed.

Moving the village boundary was suggested.

Legal notes:

A legal decision cannot be made on matters brought to the meeting without prior notification to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda.

It is actually unlawful to make a decision, especially a decision to spend money, without sufficient (three clear days) warning. The three clear days is established in law because it is important to be

notified of issues to be discussed. Topics requiring a decision cannot be added to the agenda after the deadline of three clear days has passed; they must wait for another meeting.

The Chairman has a duty to ensure that all decisions are lawful – it is good practice for the Chairman to refer to the Clerk for advice.

The Clerk cannot take instruction from any single Councillor. The Clerk is employed by the Council and answers to the Council as a whole. The Clerk cannot be instructed to take any actions that are not in accordance with the law.

No Parish Councillor may act as an individual on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Clerk requested that any Councillor with a topic for discussion notify her accordingly so that the item may be included on the agenda.

Date of next meeting - Thursday 21 October at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.25pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Riordan', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

*Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council*

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
27-Apr	04/00826	OUT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Outline planning application for erection of 5 No detached 2 storey dwelling houses with associated access (matters of siting and access to be considered; all other matters reserved).	Restrict dwellings to modest size, with no further housing development on this site. OK with 21 year garden centre lease and retention of arboreturn.	
27-Apr	04/00879	HOUSE	Driftwood, Long Lane	Single storey rear extension forming conservatory.	No objection	
05-May	04/00825	FULL	Hilliers Garden Centre	Full planning application for the erection of new garden centre buildings with associated access road and hard standing.	No objection	
13-May	04/01057	HOUSE	5 Lea View, Hampstead Norreys Road	Side extension and porch	No objection	Approval
13-May	04/01059	HOUSE	Clairewood, Hampstead Norreys Road	Demolition of existing conservatory and build new conservatory.	No objection	Approval
11-Jun	04/01285	FULL	Charlotte House, 4 Charlotte Close	New staircase and minor changes to the floor plan and elevations	No objection	Approval
01-Jul	04/01517	FULL	Oakville, Hampstead Norreys Road	New two storey house on site of Oakville		Approved
14-Jul	04/01521	HOUSE	15 Briants Piece	Extensions and alterations to existing bungalow.	No objection	Approved
09-Aug	04/01717	FULL	Little Orchard, Doctors lane	Section 73, Condition 11 landscaping	No objection	Member request 4 committee

09-Aug	04/01656	HOUSE	August House, Chapel Lane	Proposed new outbuilding (shed) and new side fence to replace existing sheds and fence in rear garden	No objection	
09-Aug	04/01648	FULL	Land at Hermitage Farms, Oare	Construction of farm track from existing field access of B4009 to link with existing farm track	No objection	
09-Aug	04/01799	RESMAJ	Arena House	Demolition of existing buildings, erection of 70 no. dwellings and associated works thereto.	Withdrawn	
17-Aug	04/01799	RESMAJ	Arena House	Additional information omitted from pack	Withdrawn	
17-Aug	04/00456	HOUSE	1 Fox Cottages, Wellhouse	Notification of appeal	No objection	
17-Aug	04/01869	FULL	Derwin, Hampstead Norreys Road	Detached dwelling with car parking	Over development of small plot, dangerous access, precedent for in-filling	
23-Aug	04/1843	HOUSE	1 Fox Cottages, Wellhouse	New vehicular access and extended driveway to allow safer car access	No objection	
15-Sep	04/02208	RESMAJ	Arena House	Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of 70 no. dwellings and associated works thereto.		

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

16-Sep-04

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2004

- 1) The West Berkshire Councils Ruling group has published its Annual Progress Report it is available for reference at all Libraries in the district or on the Web site www.westberks.gov.uk
- 2) Grantnet the UK's free-to-use computerised grants database is now available on the Council website click on the link 'How to find funding' developed to assist groups and organisations of available funding via a single source database. Simply register on line then use password you will receive by e-mail to gain access.
- 3) The search for Junior Citizen 2004 is now on and any one can nominate a young person they feel is worthy of the award. Now in its fourth year criteria for nomination is to have achieved excellence at school, work or in an outside activity. Closing date for nominations is Friday 5 November. The winner will be presented with an award at the Council Offices on 14th December and a prize of package of activities at the Adventure Dolphin Centre, Pangbourne. Further information from Peta Stoddart-Crompton, Public Relations Tel 01635 519670 or e-mail petastoddartcrompton@westberks.gov.uk.
- 4) West Berkshire children for 7, 11 and 14 year olds achieve best ever results. For 7 year olds, 84% achieved level 2 or higher in reading and 81% for writing. At the end of primary education 80% of children have achieved the expected standard in English. At the end of Key Stage 3 79% of 14 year olds have achieved level 5 or more in mathematics. Further information is available from Public Relations tel no. 01635 519670.

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council

held on Thursday 21 October 2004 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church

Present: Mr H Overeynder (Chair), Mr K Gover, Mrs V Coombs, Mr J Lawler, Mr N Pearson, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk) and six members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – none were recorded.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – none were recorded

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

3. **Minutes of a meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held on Thursday 23 September 2004** were amended and signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

11/Sept04 'Operation Fahrenheit'. A precis of the Thames Valley Police press release was included in the Parish magazine and the mobile police information unit visited Hermitage last night. The jewellery thief has not been apprehended but no further crimes have been committed.

10/Oct04 Bus shelter opposite school. Mr Overeynder inspected the bus shelter and no action is required at present.

11/Oct04 'Hermitage' signs at junction 13. Mr Overeynder has reported the situation to West Berkshire Council officers.

12/Oct04 White plastic pipes at Lipscomb Close. Have been removed.

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Oct04 Clerk's salary (October)

02/Oct04 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning @ £30.00) - October

03/Oct04 F C Lawrence £291.67 for month of September

All agreed these payments should be made.

Other

07/Oct04 Purchase of picnic benches/litter bins. £763.00 remains of the playground development budget but this must also cover any safety/maintenance issues until the end of the financial year. It was agreed that **Mr Overeynder** would order 2 picnic benches @ £100 to be secured to the ground. No additional litter bins to be purchased at present.

08/Oct04 Approval of village design statement printing/publication costs. Mr Gover has obtained three quotes and recommended 'Apple' print at a cost of £720.00 for 650 copies of an A4 booklet with a colour cover and one colour page inside. It was agreed that a copy should be delivered as soon as possible to every household free of charge with a covering letter. **Mr Gover** will draft the letter and advise the extra printing cost. **Mr Gover** will also request a .pdf file so the VDS can be included on the village website.

6. **District Councillors' Report**

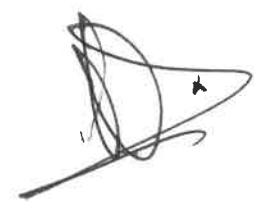
06/Jun 04 Report on s106 funding (Chieveley)

12/Sept04 Repainting of the Yattendon Road white lines

13/Sept 04 S106 funding allocation to Chieveley surgery

04/Oct04 Meeting re S106 funding with WBC officers

Neither of the District Councillors were present.



7. Villagers' Open Forum

Excess surface road water on Marlston Road/entrance to Lipscomb Close was noted. The red road surface/30mph paint has worn away on the approach to Hermitage via Long Lane. It was suggested that the first 30mph sign on the approach to Hermitage on the Hampstead Norreys Road should be pushed back further towards Hampstead Norreys.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

The Watermill played to an audience of around 60 people but the choice of production was questioned.

Redecoration/lighting, replacement of chairs and round tables remain current issues.

8.2 Recreation Ground/play area

Play area inspections – no problems reported. The safety/grass matting is looking good.

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing

The fence has been patched but barbed wire remains. Mrs Willis agreed to try and find a contact name/number within BT. The planting of shrubs such as pyracantha along the fence line was suggested.

06/Oct04 Play area gate – ongoing.

8.3 Footpaths

The footpath from the corner of Chapel Lane across the field to the path through the wood by the motorway is not walkable. Mr Gover will report this to WBC.

8.4 Village website – no further news.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan).

The importance and relevance of the Parish Plan based on local consultation was discussed. It will be circulated before discussion on whether to print or not.

8.6 Youth Group

Of the 30 'outrider' travel vouchers issued, 2 were allocated to Hermitage.

The website set up by the youngsters is being supported by Vodafone.

Mrs Willis will attend the 'Big Buzz' challenge evening.

8.7 Hermitage Primary School

Phase I (classroom for years 5 & 6) has recently been completed.

Phase II is dependent on Cementation site s106 funding.

An Ofsted inspection is due after half term.

Numbers are currently relatively low at 106 (usually 115 – 120).

£118,079 s106 Arena site funding has been requested for education.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

WBC – Licensing Act 2003, Statement of Licensing Policy

WBC – Heritage News

Pang & Kennet Valley Countryside Project newsletter 'Upstream'

WBC – Anti social behaviour review

WBC – Housing Strategy Consultation

WBC – Guide to Election procedures

WBC – Drugs & Alcohol. Public discussion Thursday 21 October 2004

Other

Community Action West Berkshire - Big Buzz Challenge Saturday 13 November 2004. Noted.

WBC – Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. Public Entertainment Licensing Consultation re Hermitage Village Hall. No objections.

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development

Miller Homes Ltd have acquired the site for development.

10.2 Arena Site Development

All agreed that the plans as amended were satisfactory as all matters previously of concern to the Parish Council have been addressed. The Clerk will seek reassurance that the £24k (payment in respect of reduced public open space) will be made directly available to the Parish Council.

A decision on the application will be made by West Berkshire Council at the planning meeting of 27 October. Mr Overeinder will attend and speak on behalf of the Parish Council. It was noted that nearby residents have been given until 05 November to return their comments to WBC. The Clerk will raise this with the planning officer.

Again concerns at how this development will integrate into Hermitage and how residents will be able to access the village safely were raised. Concerns over the roundabout lighting scheme remain.

10.3 Other Planning Matters

The offer made by Lisa Smith (WBC) of a meeting to discuss s106 issues will be pursued by the Clerk.

04/01869/FUL Derwin, Hampstead Norreys Road. It was noted that WBC have recommended that this application be refused. However, it was also noted that all objections raised by the Parish Council and neighbours have been overruled.

11. Burial Ground

09/Jun04 Annual 'topple' test

A contractor has been located who is prepared to undertake these works. Mr Lawler will seek a written quotation.

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations. Ongoing.

12. Any Other Business

Thanks were expressed for the kind donation of a seat/bench for the play area.

The Clerk reported that she had been involved in an altercation with a man representing a Hermitage resident. The man turned up on her doorstep on Saturday afternoon with a very unpleasant attitude. It was agreed that the Clerk was not required to undertake personal meetings with or without appointment and that all communication should be by letter, telephone, fax or e-mail. It was also agreed that the Clerk should investigate a PO Box address. Mrs Coombs suggested that the Chairman contact the man in question and advise him that his behaviour was totally unacceptable. Mr Overeinder agreed to write a letter to this effect.

Date of meetings 2005:

20 January 17 February 17 March 28 April (Annual Parish Assembly)
19 May (Annual Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council)
23 June 21 July 22 September 20 October 17 November

The Next Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council:

Thursday 18 November at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm.



Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
27-Apr	04/00826	OUT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Outline planning application for erection of 5 No detached 2 storey dwelling houses with associated access (matters of siting and access to be considered; all other matters reserved). Single storey rear extension forming conservatory.	Restrict dwellings to modest size, with no further housing development on this site. OK with 21 year garden centre lease and retention of arboretum.	
27-Apr	04/00879	HOUSE	Driftwood, Long Lane		No objection	
05-May	04/00825	FULL	Hilliers Garden Centre	Full planning application for the erection of new garden centre buildings with associated access road and hard standing.	No objection	
09-Aug	04/01656	HOUSE	August House, Chapel Lane	Proposed new outbuilding (shed) and new side fence to replace existing sheds and fence in rear garden	No objection	Approval
09-Aug	04/01648	FULL	Land at Hermitage Farms, Oare	Construction of farm track from existing field access of B4009 to link with existing farm track	No objection	
17-Aug	04/00456	HOUSE	1 Fox Cottages, Wellhouse	Notification of appeal	No objection	
17-Aug	04/01869	FULL	Derwin, Hampstead Norreys Road	Detached dwelling with car parking	Over development of small plot, dangerous access, precedent for in-filling	
23-Aug	04/1843	HOUSE	1 Fox Cottages, Wellhouse	New vehicular access and extended driveway to allow safer car access	No objection	
15-Sep	04/02208	RESMAJ	Arena House	Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of 70 no. dwellings and associated works thereto.	Full response provided to Councilors	
14-Oct	04/02208	RESMAJ	Arena House	Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of 70 no. dwellings and associated works thereto.		

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

02-Nov-04

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 18 November at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church

Present: Mr H Overeynder (Chair), Mrs V Coombs, Mr J Lawler, Mr J Walters, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk) and Cllr Webb.

1. **Apologies** – Mr K Gover, Mr N Pearson, Cllr Pask.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – none were recorded

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

3. **Minutes of a meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held on Thursday 21 October 2004** were signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising** – none recorded.

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Nov04 Clerk's salary (November) + £54.41 expenses

It was noted that the Clerk is now being paid at the appropriate NALC rate for 2004/05 with an adjustment included in the November payment.

02/Nov04 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning @ £30.00) - November

03/Nov04 F C Lawrence £291.67 for month of October

04/Nov04 Apple Print Ltd £737.00 – Village Design Statement

09/Nov04 BT plc £41.13

Other

07/Oct04 Purchase of picnic benches. It was decided to delay the purchase until the spring.

09/Jun04 Burial Ground 'topple' test - approval of costs to undertake remedial works. Costs of £97.00 payable to Mr E Crook were approved.

07/Nov04 PO Box address. Royal Mail costs of £106.00 to set up a PO Box delivering mail to the Clerk's home was approved. Mrs Coombs thanked Mr Overeynder for his letter sent in response to the incident that resulted in this measure becoming necessary.

All agreed that the above payments be made.

05/Nov04 s137 & s19 applications for grants 2005/06. The closing date for applications is 30 November 2004. A notice will be displayed on the Parish Notice board accordingly.

08/Nov04 Approval for December payments. It was agreed that the Clerk make payments as necessary and report at the January meeting.

10/Nov04 Additional amenity works. Mr Overeynder has noted tasks around the village that need to be undertaken. Mr Overeynder will ask Mr Lawrence to quote for these works (in addition to his contractual payment) and these will be included on the agenda for discussion at the January meeting.

6. **District Councillors' Report**

06/Jun 04 Report on s106 funding (Chieveley). Cllr Webb confirmed that s106 agreements for the two housing developments in Chieveley made no contribution to the Chieveley surgery.

Consternation was expressed that Hermitage developers should contribute via s106 when Chieveley

did not. Cllr Webb explained that this was because of a change in legislation and that should a further development come to Chieveley, the developer would indeed be expected to contribute.

12/Sept04 Repainting of the Yattendon Road white lines. This has been requested and is programmed for action in the near future.

13/Sept 04 S106 funding allocation to Chieveley surgery. Cllr Webb confirmed that it is legal for s106 monies to be allocated to a private enterprise.

04/Oct04 Meeting re S106 funding with WBC officers. The officers are not yet in post. A new software package is being developed to track s106 agreements across WBC.

Written report attached points 1 – 7, additional notes below.

8. The next Area Forum will be on 26 January 2005 at Sulhamstead.

9. Rail accident – Ufton Nervet. Emergency procedures were instigated at Gold level (24 hour cover) for 5 days, then reduced to silver level (an incident room on site) for 5 days then reduced to bronze level at the Police Station. All services worked well together – hospitals, police, railway police and highways – and were commended. Traffic queues as a result of diversions were noted.

10. Two planning areas are to be introduced (East and West) with the intention of speeding up the decision making process.

7. **Villagers' Open Forum** - no villagers were present.

8. **Representatives' Reports**

8.1 Village Hall

The recent cocktail evening was very successful, with the new round tables proving popular.

Burns night is planned for 29 January.

A grant application will be submitted to the Parish Council to assist with the purchase of chairs.

The committee are looking forward to defining requirements for a new village hall on which public opinion will be sought.

8.2 Recreation Ground/play area

Play area inspections – ongoing with no current issues.

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing. A contact name (Lynne Burrows) has been identified but BT are unable to provide a telephone number for her! **Mrs Willis** will pursue the matter.

06/Oct04 Play area gate – ongoing.

8.3 Footpaths

Mr Gover is dealing with the footpath issue raised at the last meeting, however it was additionally noted that a gate has fallen and that garden rubbish is being dumped at the side of the path.

8.4 Village website – nothing to report.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan). Has now gone to print and will be ready on 02 December. A covering letter drafted by Mr Gover was approved.

8.6 Youth Group. **Mrs Willis** will remind the youth group that the deadline for grant applications is imminent. It is hoped that a new leader will be appointed to the Hermitage group which is particularly well supported by parents.

8.7 Hermitage Primary School. The recent Ofsted inspection went well. Good teaching and good management of the school was noted. The inability to recruit non-teaching staff (lunchtime supervisors) remains an issue.

9. **Correspondence**

In circulation

WBC – Parish Liaison Officers

Community Action West Berkshire – Training & Information Fair Tuesday 30 November
Berkshire Communicator

NALC – Annual Review & Accounts
Defra – rural services review
Local Council Review
Clerks & Councils Direct
Standards Board for England
Town and Parish Standard 2
WBC – Cold Ash Maintenance Scheme
WBC – Winter Service
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority – Integrated Risk Management Plan
WBC – District Parish Conference Feedback
Community Council for Berkshire Autumn magazine
WBC – Ufton Nervet rail crash
WBC – Winter service 2004/05

Other

Burges Salmon – Transfer of Off Licence at NAAFI Family Store, Dennison Barracks. No objections.

BALC – Notice of a Special General Meeting 09 December 04. Noted.

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development

Cllr Webb was surprised to hear that the Parish Council has still not been furnished with details of the £1.1m s106 funding (top level allocation only has been provided) in spite of promises from Gary Lugg (Head of Planning & Transport Strategy) and correspondence sent by the Clerk to Mr Lugg and Mr Souden (Countryside Officer). Cllr Webb agreed to request a copy for the Parish Council.

10.2 Arena Site Development

It was noted that works started the day after planning consent was granted. Mr Overeynder is seeking a meeting to discuss the low level lighting planned for the mini-roundabout (Cllr Webb will investigate any potential running costs that may fall to the Parish Council). A discussion ensued on the £24,310 promised to the Parish Council to mitigate the effect of the reduced open space provision.

10.3 Other Planning Matters

Oare Common – it was noted that Oare Common has been purchased by a Hermitage resident. 06/Nov04 Highway improvements with s106 funding. A site meeting was held to discuss the use of the £150k Arena site funding allocated for highway improvements (over and above the monies required for the provision of the mini-roundabout). Mr Winstanley (WBC), Mr Overeynder, Mrs Riordan, Cllrs Webb and Pask attended and walked through Hermitage starting at Priors Court Road. Footpath widening (and therefore carriageway narrowing) with cycle path provision was discussed as was a new mini-roundabout at the Yattendon Road junction (to slow traffic). A scheme will be drafted by Mr Winstanley and consultation will follow.

(It is anticipated that cementation s106 monies will fund improvements from that site through to the Yattendon Road junction).

It was noted that the costs of the consultation may be at Parish Council expense.

11. Burial Ground

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations – Mr Lawler committed to providing a draft for the January meeting.

12. Any Other Business

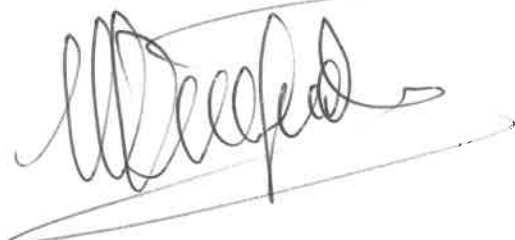
11/Nov04 Ash tree on Deacons Lane. Residents are concerned that an ash tree in the bank at the top of the road may be unsafe. The WBC Arboricultural Officer has advised that the tree needs considerable pruning for both height and width, but that as the tree is on private land this is a matter for the land owner. Mr Overeynder has written to the landowner (Brockhurst Preparatory School) accordingly.

12/Nov04 Big Buzz Challenge. Mrs Willis attended the event and will continue her involvement. Consultation as to the 'wish list' for the youth of Hermitage is planned.

The Next Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council:

Thursday 20 January 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Riordan', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

*Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council*

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT NOVEMBER 2004

- 1) West Berkshire has won the national award for 'the most improved highway authority in England at implementing measures to increase cycling'. Of the 149 highway authorities in England, 88 were included in the 'approved' list the average increase in scores for those following the review, was just 16%. By comparison West Berkshire achieved 143%.
- 2) A three-man team from the Audit Commission is carrying out a week-long inspection of the Council's Transport Service during the week of November 1st to 5th.
- 3) The Common Housing Register has now gone live, and has been operating efficiently since doing so. This means that all applicants for affordable rented housing in West Berkshire are being considered for vacancies through the Common Register. The Registered Social Landlords have been pleased with the streamlined database and the increased speed of the nominations from the Council.
- 4) A new project has been started, run by West Berkshire Council's Culture and Youth Service called 'Buzz' which aims to give 11-16 year olds the opportunity to channel their talent and energy into constructive activities. Scheduled to run until March 2005 over the coming months, the Buzz project could develop any number of sports and arts activities based at a mixture of local clubs and other venues. Text the Youth Team for more info on 0774 775 6877.
- 5) Please note work is now being carried out to add box sections to the Everington Bridge, Yattendon Rd, culvert. Scheduled to last 4 weeks from November 1st with permanent two-way traffic lights in operation.
- 6) The Executive of the Council has recommended to Council the Formal adoption of the Berkshire Structure Plan 2001-2016 and that the date adoption be 10 December 2004.
- 7) West Berkshire Council has set up a fund of £150,000 to assist in the implementation of Parish Plans over the next three years. Any Parish Planning group that has presented their completed plan to their local area forum and has an agreed action plan in place can apply for individual grants of up to £5,000. Next opportunity to apply to the grant will be **1st March 2005; further details are available from: The Partnership Manager, Policy and Performance, West Berkshire Council, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD Tel 01635 42400**

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
27-Apr	04/00826	OUT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Outline planning application for erection of 5 No detached 2 storey dwelling houses with associated access (matters of siting and access to be considered; all other matters reserved).	Restrict dwellings to modest size, with no further housing development on this site. OK with 21 year garden centre lease and retention of arborium.	Approved 27 October 04
27-Apr	04/00879	HOUSE	Drifwood, Long Lane	Single storey rear extension forming conservatory.	No objection	
05-May	04/00825	FULL	Hilliers Garden Centre	Full planning application for the erection of new garden centre buildings with associated access road and hard standing.	No objection	Approved 26 June 04
09-Aug	04/01648	FULL	Land at Hermitage Farms, Oare	Construction of farm track from existing field access of B4009 to link with existing farm track	No objection	
17-Aug	04/00456	HOUSE	1 Fox Cottages, Wellhouse	Notification of appeal	No objection	
17-Aug	04/01869	FULL	Derwin, Hampstead Norreys Road	Detached dwelling with car parking	No objection	
23-Aug	04/1843	HOUSE	1 Fox Cottages, Wellhouse	New vehicular access and extended driveway to allow safer car access	Over development of small plot, dangerous access, precedent for infilling	RDDP refusal because of TPO's
15-Sep	04/02208	RESMAJ	Arena House	Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of 70 no. dwellings and associated works thereto.	No objection	Approval
14-Oct	04/02208	RESMAJ	Arena House	Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of 70 no. dwellings and associated works thereto.	Full response provided to Councillors	
05-Nov	04/02573	HOUSE	The Drove House, Cold Ash	Single storey extension kitchen/family room, single storey workshop extension	No objection	Approved subject to legal agreement
06-Nov	04/02620	HOUSE	Cherry Cottage Bucklebury Alley	Two storey extension to existing dwelling including demolition of existing lean-to utility room, plus new detached garage		

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers