

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 20 January 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Rooms, Holy Trinity Church**

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), Cllr Pask and eight members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Webb

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 18 November 2005** were signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

11/Nov04 Ash tree on Deacons Lane. Two Parish Council letters and several telephone calls have been addressed to the headmaster of Brockhurst School who has failed to respond. A discussion ensued as to where liability would lie should an accident occur. The Clerk will write to the Arboricultural officer at WBC.

10/Jan05 A34/M4 Direction signs for Hermitage. A letter from the Highways Agency has been received and the matter is being looked into.

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Jan05 Clerk's salary (January) + £42.86 expenses

02/Jan05 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning @ £30.00) - January

03/Jan05 F C Lawrence £291.67 for month of December

09/Jan05 Thames Water - £4.15

16/Jan04 Mayprint services for VDS covering letter - £18.00

All agreed these payments should be made.

December payments

04/Jan05 F C Lawrence £291.67 for month of November

05/Jan05 Clerk's salary (December)

10/Nov04 F C Lawrence £140.00 - additional amenity works

These payments were approved.

Other

08/Jan05 F C Lawrence £120 – pruning of burial ground trees. These proposed works were approved.

06/Jan05 Budget setting 2005/06. The schedule and report prepared by the Clerk were discussed. It was agreed that the precept would be increased by £500 and reserves of £1000 used as supplementary income.

07/Jan05 Precept application 2005/06. A precept of £17500 was formally proposed and a request will be submitted to West Berkshire Council.

6. **District Councillors' Report**

Cllr Pask reported on the traffic issues minuted under 17/Jan05 below.

He also advised that new planning procedures were now in place to process planning applications more efficiently.

The proliferation of 'in-fill' and 'back garden' developments were discussed.

The 'Hermitage' village sign on Priors Court Road has been demolished and Cllr Pask agreed to request replacement.

12/Sept04 Repainting of the Yattendon Road white lines. Cllr Pask will pursue this matter as the works should have been carried out by now.

11/Jan05 Provision of detailed Cementation site s106 agreement. Cllr Webb had promised to seek out a copy for the Parish Council. As it has not been received Cllr Pask will follow this up.

7. Villagers' Open Forum

Footways in general throughout the village are in a deplorable state. It is hoped this will be addressed as a result of the highways/traffic calming study.

Security lighting causing light pollution and distress to neighbouring properties was discussed. Cllr Pask advised that there is no legislation at present to deal with these issues, but thought that the matter would be of concern to Environmental health rather than planning officers. Cllr Pask will discuss with the relevant WBC officer.

The bus shelter opposite the school is causing concern to residents of the adjacent property who were present at the meeting to appraise the Parish Council of the situation. The matter is minuted under 13/Jan05 below.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

An EGM will be held next Thursday to discuss the 'village hall for the future'. It is hoped project teams will be set up and the first exercise will be consultation to find out what villagers want.

£4k renovation works are planned in the interim.

Tickets for Burns night are already sold out.

8.2 Play area (*incl. inspections*)- *nothing to report.*

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing – no further deterioration. Mrs Willis has been unable to make contact with the BT representative spoken to previously. The Clerk will now try.

06/Oct04 Play area gate. Ongoing.

07/Oct04 Purchase of picnic benches. It is planned to purchase and install the benches before the end of the financial year (ie before 31 March 2005).

8.3 Footpaths

The two stiles on the footpath from Doctors Lane to Oare Common are causing problems and WBC officers are investigating the matter.

8.4 Village website

The Village Design Statement will soon be included on the website.

It is hoped that village societies will maintain their own information on the website without going through John Lawler.

The assistance promised by Vodafone has not as yet been forthcoming.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan)

12/Jan05 WBC – notification of adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance. Noted.

Each household now has its own copy.

It is believed that document has already been constructive in influencing the design of the Arena site housing development.

8.6 Youth Group – nothing to report.

8.7 Hermitage Primary School. There has been no meeting since the last report. The next meeting will be looking ahead to the anticipated expansion.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

WBC – THINK! Drink Drive Campaign

Community Action West Berkshire – A Two-Way Street, A Compact West Berkshire

WBC – Community Involvement in the new West Berkshire Local Development Framework – a Workshop for Parish Councils

WBC – Voluntary Sector Small Grants

Standards Board for England - Local Investigations:

guidance for monitoring officers and standards Committees

- Lobby Groups, dual hated members and the Code of Conduct:

guidance for members

Government Office for the South East – ‘A Picture of Change’

The Pub Train – re the White Horse, Newbury Road

Local Council Review

Clerk and Councils Direct

CAWB – West Berkshire Parish Planning Toolkit

North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Review 2002-04

South East England Regional Assembly – South East Plan public consultation

Local Councils Update

WBC – Area Forums Update

WBC – West Berkshire Supporting People Strategy 2005-10 consultation draft

WBC – Timetable of meetings

WBC – Town & Country Planning Act, Changes to the Planning System

A Guide to Becoming a Quality Council

Upstream

Other

13/Jan05 Miss J Burnham – Colyer Close bus shelter.

The bus shelter is a cause for concern because of youths congregating in the evening and also because it impedes visibility for vehicles exiting 15 Colyer Close.

The property, owned by Sovereign housing, was vacant at the time the shelter was built. Subsequently residents moved in, then as tenants but went on to purchase the property. The Parish Council maintains the bus shelter which is built on land leased from Sovereign Housing.

The request from the resident is that the bus shelter be removed but that the bus stop retained. Discussions ensued with differing opinions on how much use/need there is for seating and protection from the elements. A more modern style and construction was also discussed.

A decision was deferred to enable further consideration of the matter.

14/Jan05 WBC – Register of Electors 2005. It was noted that the present register showed 877 electors in the Parish of Hermitage.

15/Jan05 WBC – Concessionary Fares Scheme – consultation

This document had been circulated prior to the meeting and returned without comment by six of the seven Councillors. Councillors confirmed that they did not wish to complete the questionnaire but agreed that a response be returned that they felt the existing scheme was satisfactory and should

be maintained. The consultation period was thought to be too short, particularly in view of the Christmas holidays and the Clerk will advise WBC of this.

16/Jan05 Kennet & Pang Valley Area forum – Wednesday 26 January, Sulhamstead village hall. Noted.

18/Jan05 Invitation to hear about ‘Children and young people in the community – obesity, tobacco, alcohol, drug abuse and bullying.’ Thursday 27 January 2005. Noted.

19/Jan05 West Berkshire SPOKES – Newbury to Hermitage cycle route feasibility consultation. The Clerk will write to express support in principle.

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development

Some works are underway but these are thought to be preliminary works as a detailed planning application has not been received by the Parish Council. It was noted that two silver birch trees have been cut down.

10.2 Arena Site Development. Nothing to report.

10.3 Other Planning Matters

17/Jan05 Highways/traffic review for Hermitage. A second site meeting was held, this time to include an external consultant engaged by WBC to undertake a study on the whole of the B4009. The consultant will draw up plans for consideration by the Parish Council initially, followed by a public exhibition.

11. Burial Ground

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations. Ongoing.

12. Any Other Business

20/Jan05 TPO trees. Mr Overeynder met with a resident who wished to fell 5/6 trees with TPO's. Mr Overeynder felt the request was reasonable and contacted the arboricultural officer at WBC. His advice was that the resident could appeal to overturn the TPO's but that the chance of success was remote.

The Next Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council:

Thursday 17 February 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.04pm.

*Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council*

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
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	
05-Nov	04/02573	HOUSE	The Drove House, Cold Ash	Single storey extension kitchen/family room, single storey workshop extension	Not in Parish	
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	Not in Parish	
18-Nov	04/02677	HOUSE	4 Dines Way	Conservatory	No objection	Approved
06-Jan	04/02986	HOUSE	Lingermax, Deacons Lane	Conservatory		
06-Jan	04/02836	HOUSE	Pippins, Orchard Close	Change of existing garage to habitable rooms		
06-Jan	04/02998	RESMAT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Erection of five detached, four bedroom houses and associated garages		
11-Jan	04/03027	FULD	Land to rear of Bridleways and Va Hale	Erection of detached house and associated works		
11-Jan	04/02620	HOUSE	Cherry Cottage Bucklebury Alley	Two storey extension to existing dwelling including demolition of existing lean-to utility room		
11-Jan	04/02932	HOUSE	Touch Wood, Drove Lane, Cold Ash	Single storey extension and loft conversion		

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 2005/06

YTD Dec 04	Forecast Mar 05	Receipts	Estimate 03/04	Estimate 04/05	Estimate 05/06
£			£	£	£
17,000.00	17,000.00	Precept	16,500.00	17,000.00	17,500.00
219.43	259.43	Interest		20.00	50.00
100.00	100.00	Burial Ground			
22,000.00	22,000.00	Play area grants		22,000.00	
575.16	575.16	Insurance refund			
39,894.59	39,934.59		16,500.00	39,020.00	17,550.00

YTD Dec 04	Forecast Mar 05	Payments	£	£	£
£					
		General Administration			
2,562.38	3,416.51	Salaries	3,200.00	3,300.00	3,580.00
1,003.85	1,003.85	Insurance	750.00	1,100.00	600.00
145.30	145.30	BALC Subscription		170.00	170.00
250.00	250.00	Audit	1,460.00	200.00	250.00
537.31	600.00	Other admin	1,820.00	606.00	700.00
21.02		Contingency	500.00	416.00	500.00
1,732.43	1,732.43	S137 payments	3,090.00	2,000.00	2,800.00
1,000.00	1,000.00	Other Grants	2,500.00	1,000.00	1,650.00
		Running Costs			
2,680.87	3,555.88	Grass cutting	3,200.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
35,067.00	35,300.00	Play area	582.00	35,800.00	500.00
		Play area R&R			500.00
370.00	370.00	Amenity	365.00	500.00	500.00
160.15	280.15	Burial ground	295.00	300.00	300.00
2,193.16	2,193.16	Village Hall Loan	2,193.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
755.00	755.00	Parish Plan		500.00	
		Notice Board			800.00
		Capital	500.00		
48,478.47	50,602.28		20,455.00	51,592.00	18,550.00

(8,583.88)	(10,667.69)	Excess/deficit	(3,955.00)	(12,572.00)	(1,000.00)
	4,772.00	Play area fund		4,772.00	
	10,000.00	Grants 2003/04		10,000.00	
	(2,200.00)	2003/04 PC to WREN		(2,200.00)	
	1,904.31	Final excess/(deficit)		0.00	
		* £575 of this excess to go to Play Area R&R fund		From reserves	1,000.00
					0.00

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

11 January 2005

BUDGET REPORT FOR SETTING OF PRECEPT 2005/06

2004/05 YEAR END FORECAST

RECEIPTS shown as better than expected predominantly due to £575 insurance refund (play equipment now only insured for third party liability) which will be earmarked for a Repairs and renewals fund.

PAYMENTS shown favourable because;

- £416 contingency remains unspent;
- £170 S137 unclaimed;
- £500 play area unspent (purchase benches before year end at around £200);
- £130 amenity budget remains.
- Only major overspend was on Village Design Statement.

On this basis, it would seem that the budget last year was just about right. Most unspent items were contingency items which by their nature are difficult to pre-empt!

RESERVES

Year end balance to be carried forward is forecast to be nearly £14,000 (however £575 of this is Play Area R&R), which is higher than it needs to be - £10,000 would be more appropriate.. Reserves could be used to offset the precept but care must be taken that this can be sustained in future years without necessitating a large precept increase further down the line!

RECOMMENDATION

That a modest precept increase is implemented - £500.

Budget to use £1000 of reserves this year and possibly for two subsequent years.

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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held on Thursday 17 February 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

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

1. **Apologies** – Mr H Overeynder, Mrs V Coombs and 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 20 January 2005** were signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

11/Nov04 Ash tree on Deacons Lane. The WBC arboricultural officer has agreed to inspect the tree and advise (the officer who previously inspected the tree is no longer in post). Prior to the inspection he advised that he thought he would only be able to pursue the matter if the tree was a hazard to the highway.

13/Jan05 Colyer Close bus shelter. Mr Gover has spoken to nearby residents and was assured that at least five residents regularly use the bus shelter (usually twice weekly), with no late night problems to report. Mr Walters passed by the shelter late evening and saw nothing untoward. Under these circumstances, the Parish Council agreed that it was inappropriate to move or remove the shelter and that the shelter will remain *in situ* in its current form. The Clerk will write to Miss Burnham accordingly.

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Feb05 Clerk's salary (February) + £75.71 expenses

02/Feb05 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning @ £30.00) - February

03/Feb05 F C Lawrence £291.67 for month of January

08/Jan05 F C Lawrence £120.00 – pruning of burial ground trees

04/Feb05 F C Lawrence £35.00 – fence repair Dines Way

10/Feb05 BT plc - £38.75

All agreed that these payments be made.

6. **District Councillors' Report**

12/Sept04 Repainting of the Yattendon Road white lines. Two reminders have been made by Cllr Webb but the works have still not been undertaken.

11/Jan05 Provision of detailed Cementation site s106 agreement. Cllr Webb now advises that there is no report(s) as no legal agreement has been signed by WBC and the developer.

Written report attached.



7. Villagers' Open Forum

Mains gas – Cllr Webb was asked whether mains gas would be brought to the cementation site development, but no information was available on this matter.

Potholes – two large potholes on Marlston Road near the Slanting Hill railway bridge were reported. The Clerk will contact WBC Streetcare accordingly.

Charlotte House – it was noted that an open evening had been held at Charlotte House (which is used to provide staff accommodation for Priors Court School).

Street lighting for the proposed mini-roundabout at Priors Court Road junction was again highlighted as a matter of concern.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

The interior is currently being redecorated, new interior lights have already been installed and the exterior lights are being replaced.

At the EGM last month around ten people agreed to work together to identify the future needs of a hall in a village which is to see its population increase by around 50%. The group will meet again next Thursday.

8.2 Play area (*incl. inspections – no problems to report*)

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing. The Clerk had contacted the company who owns 'BT' property. Substantial repairs/replacement were promised within 20 days – nothing has been done. The Clerk will pursue the matter.

06/Oct04 Play area gate – ongoing.

07/Oct04 Purchase of picnic benches. The benches will be purchased before the end of March. Mr Willis has agreed to install them and the Parish Council will pay for materials (concrete etc) as necessary.

8.3 Footpaths

- a problem footpath was brought to the attention of the Parish Council however the area in question was in Cold Ash;

- there is a problem tree on the path leading from Marlston Road to Yattendon Road by the Fox Inn. The tree was fallen over the path and has been lifted, but remains at a precarious angle.

Mr Gover will investigate;

- the two stiles by Doctors Lane have not been attended to. Mr Gover confirmed that in fact three stiles are scheduled for replacement.

8.4 Village website

The Village Design Statement is now on the village website but as a 7Mbyte PDF file it is very slow to download even with Broadband. Mr Lawler is hoping something can be produced that is less demanding on a PC.

8.5 Village Design Statement (& Parish Plan). Now there is a printed version of the VDS, attention has returned to the Parish Plan for which the introduction will be re-written for a stand alone document. **Mr Gover** will provide an electronic copy which the Clerk will then e-mail to Councillors.

It was agreed that contacting Sarah Ward of CAWB will be discussed at the March meeting.

8.6 Downland Youth Network

The construction of a website is ongoing with a funding application for a webmaster in progress.

8.7 Hermitage Primary School

The Governors and PTA have agreed that the swimming pool has reached the end of its useful life and is to be removed in due course.

The playing field is in a sorry state due to problems with moles!

The school website is progressing well.

It seems that the Hermitage Youth Group will no longer be using the school premises due to storage issues.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

WBC – Planning Structures

WBC – Supplementary Planning Guidance - House Extensions & Replacement Dwellings

WBC – a guide to help you....

BALC – Berkshire Communicator & Freedom of Information Act

West Berkshire Lifelong Learning Partnership – Awards 2005

Countryside Agency – Consultation - criteria for undertaking a review of a national park or AONB boundary

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

– Citizen engagement and Public services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter

– Vibrant Local leadership

Other

05/Feb05 South East England Regional Assembly – the South East Plan. It was agreed that Councillor comments arising from circulation will be discussed at the next meeting.

06/Feb05 Charles Lucas & Marshall – Application for Transfer of Justices' Off Licence, Hermitage Post Office & Stores. Noted with no objections.

07/Feb05 Community Action West Berkshire – a village car – access for all. Noted with no further action required.

08/Feb05 WBC – District Parish Conference 22 March 2005. Noone wished to attend but the Clerk will pass the papers to Mr Overeynder on his return.

09Feb05 CCB – Calor Village of the Year. This will be circulated.

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development

A meeting has been held between the developers, architect and Parish Council at the request of the developers (Miller Homes and Taylor Woodrow). This was an informal discussion with no drawings/plans on paper at that time. The Village Design Statement and the Hermitage Planning Obligation Report were discussed, as were the proposed light industrial units amongst other things. Another meeting is planned for 24 February when the Parish Council will see the first plans drawn. Once agreed satisfactory the developer will submit a formal planning application and has promised a public exhibition in the village hall. The developers expect to be on site for around 2½ years.

10.2 Arena Site Development

It was noted that progress seems to have slowed down.

10.3 Other Planning Matters

17/Jan05 Highways/traffic review for Hermitage. An exhibition for public consultation is to be held in the village hall on Saturday 19 March 10am to 4pm and again on Wednesday 23 March 4pm to 8pm.

Tidal flows and other 'undesirable' traffic calming measures were discussed.

Traffic flow priorities at the Priors Court mini-roundabout were discussed – traffic coming from the motorway will have right of way over traffic leaving Hermitage village which may prove problematic.

11/Feb05 Notification of Appeal to the Secretary of State against refusal of planning permission – Derwen, Hampstead Norreys Road. The appeal was noted but no further correspondence was required.

11. Burial Ground

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations

Mr Lawler had produced a comprehensive document as a result of studying other Parish Council Cemetery regulations. It was agreed that this may be an appropriate time to review fees also.

Mr Lawler will provide an electronic copy and the Clerk will e-mail Councillors accordingly.

12. Any Other Business

It was agreed that information obtained by the Clerk re the new Parish Council notice board will be circulated for discussion at the next meeting. The possibility of a detailed village centre map showing names of roads and landmark buildings for public display was also discussed.

The Next Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council:

Thursday 17 March 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Riordan', written over a horizontal line.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.27pm.

*Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council*

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
06-Jan	04/02986	HOUSE	Lingermax, Deacons Lane	Conservatory	No objection	
06-Jan	04/02836	HOUSE	Pippins, Orchard Close	Change of existing garage to habitable rooms	No objection	
06-Jan	04/02998	RESMAT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Erection of five detached, four bedroom houses and associated garages.	No objection	
11-Jan	04/03027	FULD	Land to rear of Bridleways and Via Hale	Erection of detached house and associated works		
11-Jan	04/02620	HOUSE	Cherry Cottage Bucklebury Alley	Two storey extension to existing dwelling including demolition of existing lean-to utility room	Not in Parish	
11-Jan	04/02932	HOUSE	Touch Wood, Drove Lane, Cold Ash	Single storey extension and loft conversion	Not in Parish	
07-Feb	05/00142	RENEW	Poplar cottage, Chapel Lane	renewal of planning permission 134142 for a two storey extension		
10-Feb	04/02898	HOUSE	Toutley Court, doctors lane	extensions and addition of first floor	Arrived after closing date of 28 Dec!	

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

10-Feb-05

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT FEBRUARY 2005

- 1) West Berkshire Council has selected Standard Life Investments in partnership with Shearer Property Group as their preferred Development Partner for a major £120 million pound mixed use development on Park Way in Newbury town centre. The 5.7 acre site will include 270,000 sq ft of new retail space. The planning application will be prepared for submission by late summer and is planned to be completed by Christmas 2009.
- 2) A new and updated version of the Comments and Complaints Leaflet has been produced, it explains the stage 1 and stage 2 complaints now available from all Council Buildings and the Council web site www.westberks.gov.uk refer Search/Complaints.
- 3) West Berkshire Council and Thames Valley Police would like your views on drinking in public places it often fuels anti-social behavior, the Council and Police are suggesting that new rules could be introduced. Councils now have powers to designate 'by order' public areas. A survey has been sent out to a random selection of residents if you would like a copy and want to express an opinion write to Jessica Broom at West Berkshire Council, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD.
- 4) The Licensing Act 2003 became effective on 7th February 2005. Licensees can now apply to have their current license converted to a new license ready for Autumn 2005, when the old licensing regime is due to end. The Council is expecting requests for longer hours of opening particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. Applicants for longer drinking hours must display a distinctive Blue Sign (similar to the pink planning application sign) close to the entrance of the premises. Anyone wishing to raise objections to an application needs to do so in writing to the Council. Objections can only be considered if they relate to the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. Currently, a Personal Licence last for ten years and a Premises License needs to be renewed every three. Under the new laws, premises will be granted a license for the life of the period that they remain in use that the license was granted under. In addition, individuals must also be licensed to sell or authorize the sale of alcohol.

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

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1. Apologies – 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 17 February 2005
were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

11/Nov04 Ash tree on Deacons Lane. The arboricultural officer from WBC inspected the tree from the roadside and could not see any sign of immediate hazard. Other than urging the owner of the tree that they would be wise to have the ivy severed and a full climbing inspection made, there is little the Parish Council can do – certainly WBC will be taking no further action at this time. It was agreed that the Parish Council will advise any concerned resident to contact Mr Fleming directly.

14/Mar05 Potholes on Marlston Road near the Slanting Hill railway bridge. WBC has issued a works order to repair the potholes identified.

07/Feb05 Community Action West Berkshire: A village car - access for all. An information pack has been requested and will be circulated upon receipt.

5. Finance

Accounts for Payment

01/Mar05 Clerk's salary (March)

02/Mar05 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning @ £30.00) - March

03/Mar05 F C Lawrence for month of February & March @ £291.67

04/Mar05 BALC Annual subscription £150.57

April Payments

05/Mar05 Hermitage Village hall for Annual Parish Assembly - £23.13

15/Mar05 WBC non domestic rate demand for burial ground £42.20

All agreed these payments be made.

06/Mar05 Approval to meet April commitments

Regular payments for April were approved (Clerk's salary & bus shelter cleaning) and the Clerk was authorised to make any other payments as necessary and report at May meeting.

Other

07/Mar05 Replacement of Parish Council Notice Board. It was agreed to push ahead with replacement. Mr Overeynder will speak to the owners of the shop for their consent to replacement and will offer them the old notice board (to be relocated). Brochures have been circulated to all Councillors for their consideration. Mr Gover will investigate local suppliers.

07/Oct04 Purchase of picnic benches. **Mr Overeynder** will order two picnic benches with appropriate fixings and **Mr Willis** has kindly agreed to install.

6. District Councillors' Report

- Cllr Webb advised of the pothole repairs and other proposed works at the bottom of Slanting Hill;
- Prior to tonight's meeting Cllr Webb had attended a SEERA meeting and will keep Hermitage informed as appropriate;
- **Cllr Webb** agreed to investigate the full implications of the cementation site s106 agreement and to ensure that Hermitage Parish Council was fully in the picture before the anticipated meeting with the developer of 04 April. Cllr Webb suggested that Hermitage members may need to attend WBC offices for a meeting to this end, to which Councillors agreed. A meeting arranged by **Cllr Webb** is anticipated next week;
- the Clerk confirmed that Hermitage Parish Council does not receive a copy of the weekly decision list for planning applications **Cllr Webb** agreed to request this;
- **Cllr Webb** will remind **Cllr Pask** of his commitment to investigate light pollution issues (re proposed Priors Court Road roundabout) with Environmental Health officers,.

7. Villagers' Open Forum

An update on any lighting proposal for the Priors Court Road roundabout was requested – see agenda item 17/Mar05 below.

8. Representatives' Reports

8.1 Village Hall

A working party meeting concluded that a move to the cementation site and new premises is the favoured way forward.

An open market valuation of the existing village hall site has been obtained.

A further working party meeting is planned before the village/cementation site consultation.

The inside of the hall has now been painted.

8.2 Play area (*incl. inspections - notice of the impending RoSPA inspection in April has been received.*)

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing. Although substantial repairs and barbed wire removal have been promised, the works are unconfirmed. **Mrs Willis** will investigate and advise the Clerk. The Clerk will take the necessary steps to request full replacement of this fence.

06/Oct04 Play area gate. Ongoing.

8.3 Footpaths

The tree on the Yattendon Road/Marlston Road footpath is no longer a problem.

8.4 Village website

The Village Design Statement .pdf file has been updated and reduced to a more modest 1Mb file which is more appropriate for non-Broadband users (although a little patience will still be required)!

8.5 Parish Plan

The Parish Plan is acceptable as it stands in the light of the impending developments to the village. **Mr Gover** will however contact Sarah Ward (CAWB) to appraise her of the situation.

8.6 Downland Youth Network

The AGM will be held on 18 April at which the website will be launched with the assistance of Vodafone. The group is hoping to apply for funds from 'Awards for All' to be used to employ a webmaster to oversee future usage.

8.7 Hermitage Primary School

Looking forward to the potential expansion (Phase II to the front of the school).

The Youth Club will use school over summer but storage remains an issue.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

Standards Board for England – a code for the future

WBC – Prohibition of Stopping on School markings

Community Furniture Project – Annual report

Local Council review

Clerk & Councils Direct

West Berkshire Council Information Bulletin Council Tax 2005/06

West Berkshire Council – Call-a-bus service 99 Pangbourne to Newbury

Defra – partnership in rolling out Broadband to local communities.

Trent Licensing Consultants re The White Horse, Newbury Road. Noted with no objections.

WBC – Community involvement Workshop Feedback

Other

05/Feb05 South East England Regional Assembly – the South East Plan

(to include correspondence from Basildon Parish Council)

As Councillors have made individual responses, only a brief response from the Parish Council was deemed necessary - “the current housing developments in Hermitage are set to more than double the size of the village – please do not propose any further developments for the village.”

08/Mar05 Community Action West Berkshire – Parish Plans Event 16 April. Noted.

09/Mar05 Berkshire Social Enterprise Networking Event 22 March. Noted.

16 Mar05 WBC – Local Development Scheme. To be circulated (e-mail copy already received).

10. Planning

10.1 Cementation Site Development

The anticipated meeting for 10 March did not take place. The public consultation proposed by the developer for 04 April is to be postponed until 14 April. The developer now wishes to meet with the PC on 04 April.

A copy of the S106 agreement has now been received by the PC and questions have been lodged with Cllr Webb.

10.2 Arena Site Development

17/Mar05 Priors Court Road mini-roundabout. A lighting consultant retained by WBC met with the PC on 15 March. The PC was advised that lighting is mandatory for Health & Safety reasons. A scheme to include three street lamps on three of the four corners of the crossroads was proposed. The lamps will be 5metres high (town/urban would be 6metres) and ‘directional’ so as to illuminate the road/roundabout as necessary only.

A street lamp 50 yards from the roundabout on each of the four approach roads was also proposed.

10.3 Other Planning Matters

17/Jan05 Highways/traffic review for Hermitage. The public exhibition/consultation will take place on 19 and 23 March. It is hoped that the scheme in 17/Mar05 above will also be displayed.

10/Mar05 04/02898 Toutley Court, Doctors Lane. Consultation date for Parish Council 10 to 28 December 2004, decision by WBC made 27 January 2005, papers actually received by Parish Council 10 February 2005. Whilst this is clearly unsatisfactory, it is difficult to pinpoint whether the delay was with WBC or with the Royal Mail. As the decision has been made there is little the PC can do, although the consensus would have been to object. The Clerk will notify WBC and ask them to keep a copy of the letter on file.

11. Burial Ground

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations (including schedule of fees). Further consideration is required before discussion at the May meeting.

11/Mar05 WBC Burial Ground Survey 2005

A Home Office survey has been received and completed jointly by the Clerk and Mr Lawler.

12. Any Other Business

12/Mar05 Hermitage Post Office & Stores. The owners have advised that they are struggling to stay in business – they need more customers and need to undertake repairs to the fabric of the building. Whilst sympathising with their plight, it was felt that the Parish Council could do little to assist. More local advertising (Parish magazine?) was suggested and the old Parish Council notice board will be offered.

13/Mar05 Annual Parish Assembly

Will be held on 28 April in the Village Hall. The agenda leaflet will be prepared by the Clerk in last year's format and printing arranged. Mr Lawler will provide a submission for the back page. The Clerk will include a section on Parish Council grants and donations. Delivery is planned for the weekend of 09/10 April and will be distributed by Parish Councillors as last year.

Next Meetings of Hermitage Parish Council:

Annual Parish Assembly

- Thursday 28 April 2005 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Annual Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council

- Thursday 19 May 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.17pm.

*Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council*



HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
06-Jan	04/02986	HOUSE	Lingermax, Deacons Lane	Conservatory	No objection	Approved
06-Jan	04/02836	HOUSE	Pippins, Orchard Close	Change of existing garage to habitable rooms	No objection	Approved
06-Jan	04/02998	RESMAT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Erection of five detached, four bedroom houses and associated garages	No objection	
11-Jan	04/03027	FULD	Land to rear of Bridleways and Va Hale	Erection of detached house and associated works	Outline plan for bungalow was OK, but 5 bedroom house is not. Therefore object to scale, massing and over-development.	
11-Jan	04/02620	HOUSE	Cherry Cottage Bucklebury Alley	Two storey extension to existing dwelling including demolition of existing lean-to utility room	Not in Parish	
11-Jan	04/02932	HOUSE	Touch Wood, Drove Lane, Cold Ash	Single storey extension and loft conversion	Not in Parish	
07-Feb	05/00142	RENEW	Poplar cottage, Chapel Lane	Renewal of planning permission 134142 for a two storey extension	No objection	
10-Feb	04/02898	HOUSE	Toutley Court, doctors lane	extensions and addition of first floor	Arrived after closing date of 28 Dec - but PC concerned at overdevelopment	Approved
17-Feb	04/01869	FULL	Derwen, Hampstead Norreys Road	Notification of Appeal	No additional comments	
28-Feb	05/00348	FULL	Derwen, Hampstead Norreys Road	Detached dwelling with car parking	Objection as before - in-filling, precedent for back garden development and dangerous access.	

07-Mar	04/03027	FULD	Land to rear of Bridleways and Va Hale	Erection of detached house and associated works - amendments	For information only	
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* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

22-Mar-05

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Annual Parish Assembly of Hermitage held on
Thursday 28 April 2005 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Mr H Overeynder (Chair), Mrs V Coombs, Dr J Lawler, Mr N Pearson, Mr J Walters, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Mr G Pask (District Councillor), Mr Q Webb (District Councillor), Carla Payne (Newbury Weekly News) and 35 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Mr K Gover.

2. **Opening Address** - Mr Overeynder welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 15 April 2004** 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 – *Cllr G Pask & Q Webb*

Hermitage & Curridge Youth Club – *Mrs Percy*

The Village Hall Committee – *Dr J Lawler*

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

1st Hermitage Cubs – *Mr J Pearce*

Hermitage School Governing Body – *Mr N Pearson*

Hermitage Pre-school Playgroup – *Mr A Slatter*

5. **Parish Walk** – 2.00pm Monday 29th August 2005. A cream tea will be served afterwards.

7. **Villagers' Open Forum**

There are lots of marks on the road at the north end of the village indicating areas in need of repair. Why not total resurfacing?

Cllr Webb: This has probably been deferred until after the anticipated building works at the cementation site, the passage of construction vehicles would ruin a new surface. Highway alterations/improvements will be carried out using developer funding.

The footpaths are also diabolical!

Cllr Webb: This will also be taken care of using s106 monies.

The drainage outside the village hall was repaired last year but needs to be done again.

Cllr Webb will report as necessary.

With the new prohibition of alcohol consumption in public places, does this apply to sensible individuals having a civilised picnic with a bottle of bubbly on the banks of the Thames?

Cllr Pask: This legislation was introduced to tackle the problem of anti-social behaviour and it is hoped the police will be able to use discretion.

The entrance to cementation site when used as a brick yard was via Chapel Lane. Why is this not the case for the new houses?

The Parish Council advised that WBC Planning and Transport Strategy set a condition within the outline planning consent that the Chapel Lane access should be closed to vehicles and be for pedestrian use only. This was based on the opinion that Chapel Lane - in particular the single track former railway bridge - would be unable to sustain the traffic arising from 165 (or more)

NP

dwellings. Additionally, safety issues regarding the proximity of the Pinewood Park Play area made this route unsuitable. The new Hampstead Norreys Road access with highway improvements funded by the developer was the preferred option, albeit closer to the Primary School. This is the only comment in several years including widespread consultation to question this matter.

What is the latest situation with regard to the proposed lighting scheme for the Priors Court Road mini-roundabout?

The Parish Council has not yet seen the plans/proposals.

There seems to be some disquiet as to the 'home' for the youth club. The club would like to continue using the village hall but has had no response to their request?

Dr Lawler: The Village hall committee has agreed that the youth club should continue to use the hall, clearly this has not been communicated to the youth club! Perhaps a youth club representative could attend the village hall committee meetings in future?

What will be the effect on the water supply for the rest of the village when the cementation houses are occupied – the current water pressure is not great even now?

Cllr Pask: Planning conditions state that the developer must liaise with the Water Authority to ensure supplies are adequate. If Thames Water is satisfied then the matter will rest there.

7. Any Other Business and Close of Meeting

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.11pm.

Lynne Riordan, Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council


20/4/06.

Annual Parish Assembly 28 April 2005

Chairmans Report

As in my previous reports over the years, events have been dominated by the developments at the Arena site to the South and the future development at the Cementation site to the North of our village.

The Arena site was finally given the go ahead at a planning meeting held in Thatcham in March last year for 70 dwellings, of which 21 units would be affordable homes of various sizes, the rest to be divided into 3,4 and 5 bedroom houses.

The plans have been readily available for inspection at WBC.

You will have noticed work has started on the site last autumn by the demolishing of the Old Cold Storage building. Since then groundwork has commenced such as drainage work and road layout. It is planned to have the first homes ready during July-August. The Parish Council would like to thank Banner Homes for their liason with the PC in the development of the site.

Cementation

Negotiations have at last commenced with regards to this site. Up until the beginning of last year we had to deal with agents on behalf of Kvarnaer Estates, however Millar Homes in association with Taylor Woodrow are now the developers, and we are pleased to report that several meetings have taken place between the developers and your PC, in particular with the possible relocation of the Village Hall to the new development site.

(John Lawler report to follow)

Your PC are desperately trying to negotiate new recreational facilities on the new site, since Hermitage has no Football, Cricket or Tennis playing facilities of any kind. The developers and WBC are sympathetic to get these recreational facilities included, however since negotiations are on going I cannot at this stage go into detail. I can say however ^(outline) permission exists for the development of 165 houses. (with an option to increase this to 209. If 209 houses are build this will only increase the No of houses not the overall acreage) Affordable homes of 1,2, and 3 bedroom will be made available, most other dwellings will be 3-4 bedroom homes.

Traffic.

I hope most of you have visited the recent exhibition in this hall of future road layout proposed, you have also all had the opportunity to have your say as to where improvements should be made. Our PC were pleased we have been able to arrange this exhibition with the considerable help from WBC.

Playing Area in Chapel Lane

The equipment at the playing area became so old that usage became impossible and dangerous, unfortunately we had to close the site. However Kay Willis accepted the challenge to re-equip the site for usage as soon as possible. Kay was able to find sponsorship support from WREN (the Waste Recycling Group) to the tune of nearly £20,000, in addition, after much hard work we received from Englefield Estates £5000 and from Eling Estates £2000. A Lottery grant was made available for £5000 and your PC donated also £5000. Kay was able to arrange New Equipment to be installed last May. The play area was officially re opened by our local MP Mr David Rendel, Additionally 2 Bench seats have been donated and installed by Messrs Barlow and Sons, and David and Petra Brown 2 Picnic Tables have also been ordered and will be installed shortly.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their support and hard work during the year and ofcourse our clerk whom without her efficient and enthusiastic support we could not operate, last but not least I also like to thank our 2 Councillors for their part in the development negotiations with WBC and developers.

End of Report

Cheese & Wine to follow

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT 2005

Cllr Pask opened by saying that there are always two 'hot topics' for discussion at Annual Parish Assemblies - traffic and planning.

Traffic and highway matters have recently been the subject of consultation here in the village hall so Cllr Pask moved swiftly on to planning.

New processes have been implemented to ensure the a decision is received within 8 weeks for minor applications and within 13 weeks for major developments (including the settlement of s106 matters). The process also means that committee meetings for Hermitage matters are now held in Calcot!

Cold Ash Parish Council has been very concerned over the efficiency of the planning processes and additionally unhappy with the trend for 'back garden in-filling'. As a result Supplementary Planning Guidance is being produced which means this will be much harder to achieve in the future.

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

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT April 2005

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

1. New measures to tackle anti-social behaviour in the district have been introduced.
 - a. A shared database accessible to all appropriate partner agencies recording all incidents of anti-social behaviour in the district.
 - b. The publication of a route-map for the public suggesting the best way to report incidents of anti-social behaviour, along with a publication clarifying what is and is not 'anti-social behaviour' according to current legislation.
 - c. Greater training for Council officers in how to assist the public in dealing with incidents of anti-social behaviour.

2. Designation Orders for Alcohol are to be introduced in areas in an attempt to reduce behaviour associated with public drunkenness this will cover.
 - a. Pangbourne
 - b. Lambourn
 - c. Theale
 - d. Burghfield
 - e. Calcot
 - f. Hungerford
 - g. Purley on Thames
 - h. Newbury
 - i. Thatcham

You can be prosecuted for drinking alcohol in public within the area Penalty £500.

3. There will be a change in the colour of Travel Tokens for commencement of the 2005/6 year and that Travel Tokens issued prior to 1 July 2005 will cease to be valid after 1 October 2005.

4. West Berkshire Council is compiling an electronic local Business Directory in direct response to requests from local companies. Located on the Council Web site. To be included, free of charge contact Stephen Smyth West Berks District Council. ssmyth@wesberks.gov.uk

5. The next meeting of the Kennet & Pang Valley Area Forum where the public can come and put your questions to the District Councillors and officers will take place on Wednesday 25 May at the Village Hall Bradfield at 7.00 all are welcome.

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

Report for year 2004-2005

Hermitage and Curridge Youth Club

The youth club continues to be well supported with over 50 Young members and 40 to 58 members and guests generally at each meeting. We meet fortnightly on Friday evenings for people in their last year at primary school up to 16 years old. The members come from Hermitage and Curridge and surrounding villages. The club receives grants from Hermitage and Curridge Parish Councils.

The long standing Youth Leader, Debi Arden Hunt retired last summer. The Youth Leader post is funded by West Berks Council and as no new Youth Leader had been appointed, the Council's Youth Service staff supported the club by attending each club night in the autumn term. Linda and Dibs regularly attended, and then Mark joined their team in Oct 04 and has supported us since. Our new Youth Leader, Beth, took up her post in January and receives continued assistance from Mark.

Among the activities run for the young people we have had:

- Harley Davison Motor Cycle Club visit to exhibit their glimmering machines.

- Circus skills equipment to try the various techniques.

- Halloween Disco with fancy dress.

- Quiz night

- DJ training workshops

- Virtual babies, lifelike interactive dummies where a group of the older members received some training then 9 members each had responsibility for a virtual baby for a 24 hour period over a weekend.

- We organised a Theatre Trip to a musical at Oxford.

- Other trips included swimming at Thatcham Leisure, ice skating at Basingstoke.

Our AGM was held in September the existing committee agreed to continue to stand and have been joined by 4 more parents.

Alan, our treasurer, submitted a bid on the club's behalf for a grant to purchase new equipment in Mar 04. This was successful and over £900 of equipment including:

- Portable TV

- Playstation

Dance mats with DVDs
Snooker table
Arts and craft materials

Was purchased and launched in use in Oct 04.

The grant came from "Give a Child a Chance" fund. Our local children are considered "Disadvantaged" because they don't have ready access to forms of entertainment only available in a town.

This time last year the club was in discussion with the Primary School Governors and Head teacher seeking to relocate the club night from the Village Hall to the school Hall and grounds. This was in part due to reluctance by the Village Hall committee to continue allowing the Youth Club to use the hall, partly because the school venue would allow freedom to use the extensive outdoor areas for sports and games in better weather and, thirdly, to maintain a link with the school which was undergoing alterations and an extension which involved converting the Enever Room there which was originally paid for by the Youth Club when built in the 1970s. A licence to use the school hall was signed in late summer. However, there continue to be difficulties with use of the school: Namely, 1. Absence of anywhere in the school to store club equipment. Negotiations continue for provision of a shed to be paid for and erected by the Youth Club, but this would not be suitable for our electrical equipment. Also, 2. The layout at the school precludes use of the WC facilities except the tiny loos in the infant classroom block. We have no access to the school kitchen so are unable to safely make a cup of tea for parent helpers, club staff or club committee members who are there for over two and half hours. Our first club night there was 2 weeks ago.

*by public subscription
for youth
club house*

In January I submitted a written request to the Village Hall Committee for permission to continue to use the Village Hall for storage of some of our equipment and to continue to hire the Village Hall for club nights in autumn, winter and early spring. I was invited to speak on this matter at their committee meeting on 3.03.05. But still have received no decision on my request. We do not yet have a solution at this stage to the predicament over a suitable space to safely store our electrical equipment where it may be readily retrieved for use on a club night: It is not safe or practical to move it by car from committee members' homes on each evening it is required and will be relatively unusable for this reason until we have a solution.

Hermitage & Hampstead Norreys Charities

Chairman - Revd. John Coombs

Sec/Treasurer - Mrs. Jill Burgess

Trustees

1. Mr. George Jennings - Giles.
2. Mr. James Walters.
3. Mrs. Lucy Shanks.
4. Mrs. Barbara Peake.

Current Account - £ 34-36 } as at 15th April 2005.
Deposit Account - £ 180-84 }

The trustees met twice during 2004.

The Annual return was sent to the Charity Commission by October 2004.

Gifts totalling £29-94 were made to three Hermitage residents and three from Hampstead Norreys.

1st Hermitage Cubs – Parish Council Report 28th April 2005

Overall Summary

36 Cubs currently attending.: 8 on waiting list for Sept 05

Demographics -

Curridge	9		
Chieveley	7		
Hermitage	16 Boys		1 Girl
Frilsham	2		
Cold Ash	1		

Total as of last term 36

2 Warranted Leaders – Rick Marriot and Rikki Axten

Activities from September Last Year to Date

- Hike to Rushall's Farm and Sleep over - Free for the cubs
- Bingo Evening - Fund raising Event
- Sponsored Run up Beacon Hill - Fund raising Event
- Crafty Raft Race
- Horse Race Evening - Fund raising Event
- 2 Additional hut sleepovers
- Pantomime at Christmas

- Snowdon Trip
 - Main event of last year
 - 23 Cubs and 17 Adults
 - Climbed Capel Carig and took train up Snowdon
 - Staying a Pen-y-Pass Youth Hostel

- Remembrance Sunday - 18 Cubs at Hermitage Church
- Pond Dipping at Hermitage School
- Cycling proficiency/ Badge
- Swimming Badges at Northcroft
- 1st Hermitage regained the 6 a-side cubs football trophy

Financials

Current Balance March 05 - £ 2471

Main expenditure capitation - £ 26 per cub + leaders (total £ 988)

Additional expenditure – renovations and up keeping of the hut
Health and Safety Audit – replacement Fire Extinguishers
Fluorescent paint on the steps and renovation of night time lighting
Rates

Grants

Thank you for you ongoing support of 1st Hermitage Cubs

Last years grants enabled Cubs to :

- Renovate the kitchen
- Purchase new Vacuum, Fridge and Kettle
- Purchase an Awards Board for the cubs
- Purchase new camping equipment and leisure equipment

The Year Ahead

Grants Submitted

Refurbishment of the Storeroom

- Continued clearout and making safe of the ceiling space

Renovate the toilets

Planned Activities

Summer Camp May 20th – 22nd

Ongoing Challenge Badge Activities

This Friday – 'wood craft – fire lighting/camp awareness

A fund raising event tbc - in the summer term

AOB

Scouts in Hermitage

Cub Hut and Playground Safety

**Hermitage School Report to Hermitage Annual Parish Meeting
28 April 2005**

The last year has been particularly successful for Hermitage School. The highlight was the OFSTED inspection and report, which occurred in October with the findings published in January. The school received high praise and a VERY GOOD grading. OFSTED terminology is quite precise, but in reality this is an impressive result. The West Berks LEA Schools Standards Officer described it as "a glowing report". The school was judged to have no areas that needed improvement and praised the very high standards of teaching that the inspectors observed. They were very complimentary about the leadership and management of the school and the supporting roll of the Governors towards the head teacher and her staff. The school was noted as a particularly friendly environment where the children's good behaviour and courtesy was a creditable characteristic.

The second major success at the school was the building extension completed in September last year. The new classroom has ^{relieved} the congestion and provided much needed additional teaching space. During the build a new boiler was installed to upgrade the heating system. Existing planning permission includes provision for a further three classrooms and a library to be built at some stage in the future. This will include the replacement of the two modular classrooms at the back of the school.

The timing for this additional Phase two build remains uncertain, as part of the funding is dependant on S106 money from the various developments that are occurring in the village. However, the provisional target window is for the construction to occur in the summer of 2006. The funding has been agreed with West Berks LEA, but it may be necessary to split the phase two build into two separate stages. This will depend on the developers' progress at the Cementation Site. The school anticipates that the new houses in the village will significantly increase the number of pupils attending Hermitage School.

The School continues to play an active part in the village community. The PTA organises various events, which are well supported by the children, parents and the village community. The school's facilities continue to be used for a wide range of extra mural activities, by both the school and other clubs. The school now has a useful Internet web site as part of the West Berks LEA site.

Jon Watkinson MBE
Chair of Governors'
26 April 2005

Hermitage Pre-School Playgroup



Hermitage Village Hall
High Street
Hermitage, THATCHAM, RG18 9SS

Report to Hermitage Parish Council

Since the last session at which Wendy Young presented on the activities of Hermitage Pre-School Playgroup, a busy year has passed, including the election of a committee whose members are almost all new to their roles. Wendy Young has stayed on the committee to mastermind fund raising until September and many thanks go to her for this and her chairmanship over the last two years. New to both the Pre-school and to the committee, a great vote of thanks goes to Claire Goodhind who is co-chair and indeed to all the committee who give their time to help. There were several notable developments during the year:

- A Lunch Club has been established to provide care and supervision for all children, currently 26 in number every day, to take lunch and extend care at the same premises as they already enjoy morning activities and this is fully subscribed.
- An additional session has also been put in place to provide an extra session for children on Tuesday afternoons. It is aimed at those children 4 and over, to provide educational activities designed to smooth the transition to primary school. As such, this session focuses on all six areas of the foundation stage curriculum and priority for this session is given to children in their final term at Pre-School.
- The OFSTED inspectors came in last year to audit the running of the Pre-School and their report came back just after last year's meeting, pronouncing the level of care and education to be good. In this respect much thanks must go to all the staff lead by Justine Rigby and this is the major reason why the Pre-School is so popular with 39 children attending and a waiting list of 37.

As with all charitable organisations, funding to support the running of Pre-school and the services it provides is paramount. The Pre-school provides 6 sessions to local children and employs 6 local people to assist in this respect. In all it costs about £55,000 to run the Pre-school over the year, most of this provided by a combination of parent fees and education grant. However, this money covers our

overheads alone and we rely on fundraising for additional equipment. Therefore all the money we receive is vital and we are thankful for the continuing support of Hermitage Parish Council. Last year's grant has enabled us to provide much needed storage facilities both inside and outside the Village Hall and equipment to enhance the learning experience for all our children.

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
Held in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church
Thursday 19 May 2005 at 7.45pm

~~AGENDA~~

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

1. Apologies – Cllr G Pask

2. Election of Chairman

Proposed by Mrs Coombs and seconded by Mrs Willis, Mr Pearson was unanimously elected chairman.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Proposed by Mr Gover and seconded by Dr Lawler, Mr Overeynder was unanimously elected vice chairman.

Mr Pearson duly took the chair to preside over the meeting until leaving at 21.40, after which Mr Overeynder chaired the meeting.

It was agreed that Mr Overeynder has delegated authority to act on behalf of the chairman between meetings. This arrangement will be reviewed in 6 months' time.

4. Vacancy for a Councillor

Mr Walters has reluctantly resigned his position as member of the Parish Council. The Clerk will follow the necessary procedures to advertise the vacancy.

Mr Walters was sincerely thanked for his years of service, particularly as village 'policeman'. It is hoped that he will still be available for advice if required.

5. Signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Declarations of Acceptance of Office were duly signed.

6. Update of Register of Financial and Other Interests

Members were reminded of the requirement to keep this register up-to-date and forms were completed.

7. 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.

8. Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 17 March 2005 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

9. Matters Arising

07/Feb05 Community Action West Berkshire: A village car - access for all. It was agreed that although an interesting concept, this was not a practicable arrangement for Hermitage.

10. Finance

Accounts for Payment

- 01/May05 Clerk's salary (May) + £66.85 expenses
02/May05 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning for May) – £30.00
03/May05 F C Lawrence for month of May @ £291.67
04/May05 Zurich Municipal £462.64
05/May05 RoSPA Annual inspection - £62.00 + £10.85 VAT
20/May05 BT plc £47.07 + £8.23 VAT
21/May05 K Willis re picnic bench fixings £21.92
22/May05 Mr H Overeynder re Annual Parish Assembly expenses £34.91

All agreed these payments be made.

April Payments

The following payments were made in the month of April:

- 06/May05 Thames Water £13.36
07/Oct04 Barlow & Sons (Hermitage) Ltd £190.5 + £33.34 VAT (picnic benches)
07/May05 Mayprint £37.00 (Annual Parish Assembly agenda)

These payments were approved.

Other

07/Mar05 Replacement of Parish Council Notice Board. The existing notice board has been moved to accommodate the new shop window and standard replacement notice boards are now too wide for the space allocated. It was agreed however, that the board having been refurbished, was looking good and that replacement should be deferred until next the financial year, allowing the £800 budget allocation to be vired to office equipment.

08/May05 Clerk's Office allowance. It was agreed that the Clerk's monthly expenses for heating, lighting etc will be increased to £10.00 per month for 2005/06. It was noted that the Clerk's home computer (currently being used for Parish Council work) had failed and was nearing the end of its life. It was agreed that a Parish Council lap-top computer should be purchased and set up with a Broadband connection using the budget vired from 07/Mar05. This PC will remain the property of the Parish Council and should there be a change of Clerk at any time in the future, the lap-top will be handed over. The Clerk and Dr Lawler will liaise.

09/May05 Appointment of internal auditor. Mr Michael Stevenson has kindly agreed to internally audit the accounts again this year (prior to external audit) and this arrangement was accepted unanimously.

10/May05 CPRE Membership £25.00. Agreed.

11/May05 Subscription to SLCC £82.00 plus £11.00 joining fee. Agreed for a one year trial.

12/May05 CCB renewal of membership £25.00. Agreed.

13/May05 Zurich Insurance level of indemnity. £5,000,000 agreed.

14/May05 Broadband. A connection was agreed necessary for the Clerk, possibly wireless.

15/May05 WBC – Small Business rate relief. The Clerk will submit an application.

16/May05 Grants /Donations 2005/06 - S137 & s19

The following was agreed:

Section 137

Hermitage Pre-school Playgroup	£1000.00
Downland Volunteer Group	£ 150.00
1 st Hermitage Cub Scouts	£ 500.00
Hermitage Primary School	£ 770.00
Pang Valley Project	£ 100.00
Community Furniture project	£ 150.00

£2670.00

NP

Section 19

Hermitage Village Hall	£1500.00
Downland Youth Network	£ 150.00

	£1650.00

11. District Councillors' Report

Written report attached.

12. Villagers' Open Forum

Cementation site access. A villager questioned why the proposed new housing development is planned with vehicular access via Hampstead Norreys Road when the cementation works had used Chapel Lane. The Parish Council advised that WBC Planning and Transport Strategy set a condition within the outline planning consent that the Chapel Lane access should be closed to vehicles and be for pedestrian use only. This was based on the opinion that Chapel Lane - in particular the single track former railway bridge - would be unable to sustain the traffic arising from 165 (or more) dwellings. Additionally, safety issues regarding the proximity of the Pinewood Park Play area made this route unsuitable. The new Hampstead Norreys Road access with highway improvements funded by the developer was the preferred option.

Cementation site advertising hoarding – clarification on the need for planning consent for such hoardings was sought. **Cllr Webb** agreed to investigate this matter.

Slanting Hill childcare facility. The Parish Council were advised on a proposed development at Slanting Hill which would involve a change from residential to commercial use. The nature and ethos of the proposals were explained and a formal planning application will be considered in due course.

13. Representatives' Reports

13.1 Village Hall

The questionnaire has been returned and the results collated. Analysis confirmed that 90% were in favour of relocating to a new site. Major requirements were for sport/exercise facilities including a playing field and for a stage inside the hall.

A wine tasting event will be held on 11 June.

13.2 Play area (*incl. inspections*)

17/May05 Annual RoSPA inspection - has taken place and the following matters identified:

- Overhanging branches below 2.4m (**Mr Overeynder** will seek the advice of **Mr Lawrence**);
- Trip hazard by pedestrian gate (see 06/Oct04 below);
- Notice 'Do not hang from ring' on new goal posts (**Mrs Willis** to contact RoSPA).

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing. BT has yet to reply to the written request for fence replacement.

Cllr Webb suggested contacting **Jim Sweeting** at WBC and **Mrs Willis** agreed to do this.

06/Oct04 Play area gate. Re-hanging the pedestrian gate has proved troublesome as the vehicular gate is in a poor condition and should be replaced. **Mr Overeynder** will investigate the cost of replacing vehicular and pedestrian gate. Changing the pedestrian gate to the side away from Chapel Lane will be considered as this may be safer and will solve the trip hazard issue above.

13.3 Footpaths. Some footpaths are rather muddy due to the inclement weather and **Mr Gover** will feed this back to the WBC Rights of Way officer.

13.4 Village website. The link to the Primary School is not functioning at present.

13.5 Parish Plan

13.6 Downland Youth Network. The AGM was successful with a display of dancing and miming. The website is now available but a webmaster is still required. This is a paid position and any nominees/applicants would be appreciated.

13.7 Hermitage Primary School

The Youth Club is now back in school and after a few teething problems is running smoothly. A bike shed is about to appear and a walking bus is to be encouraged.

14. Correspondence

In circulation

WBC - Newbury 2025 – April Conference

- Public footpaths – stile project
- Local Development Framework Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
- Pre-Submission Public Participation (Regulation 26) Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004
- Consultation on Draft Market Street Urban Village Planning Brief, Supplementary Planning Document
- Confirmation of Dates for Planning Roadshows
- Community Mental Health Service Information
- Local Transport plan Consultation Briefing Note
- Learning Disability Services
- Temporary Prohibition of Driving 2005 Carriageway Resurfacing Programme
- Minutes of meeting of Kennet and Pang Valley Area Forum 26 January 2005
- Local Development Scheme
- Proposed Enmainements for River Pang

ARFA – Area Resource For All

Berkshire Communicator

Local Council Review

Other

18/May05 BALC - Notice of AGM Thursday 14 July 2005

- Notice of Trafalgar Weekend

19/May05 WBC - Kennet & Pang Valley Area Forum Wednesday 25 May 2005

- District/Parish Conference Tuesday 25 October 2005

- West Berkshire Business Directory

- Code of Conduct Training 28 June 2005

15. Planning

15.1 Cementation Site Development

20/May05 s106 negotiations re developer contributions. The meeting has again been deferred by the developer to 22 June at 10.00am.

There are still many unanswered questions - the response from Gary Lugg (Head of Planning and Transport Strategy at WBC) was curt and unhelpful. Cllr Webb agreed to take a firm stance and 'pursue vigorously' these issues on behalf of the Parish Council.

15.2 Arena Site Development

17/Mar05 Priors Court Road mini-roundabout (including lighting scheme). It was agreed that the proposed lighting scheme had been well managed and the Parish Council kept well informed, but was very much a 'fait accompli'.

15.3 Other Planning Matters

17/Jan05 Highways/traffic review for Hermitage. A meeting to discuss feedback from the village hall exhibition is to be arranged. The Clerk will request that the Highways officer attends the next PC meeting in June.

16. Burial Ground

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations (including schedule of fees)

Dr Lawler reported that the scale of fees used by other burial authorities was very wide ranging and therefore difficult to use as a benchmark for setting Hermitage fees.

Dr Lawler agreed to investigate further the need for differing rates for adults, children and stillborn babies as appears commonplace. Also the 'good practice' requirement for unconsecrated ground and a children's area within the cemetery was noted.

17. Any Other Business

The repairs to the potholes in Pond Lane are proving inadequate and this will be brought to the attention of Cllr Webb.

The tree in Deacons Lane has still not received attention from the owner (Brockhurst Preparatory School) in spite of requests from the Parish Council and villagers alike.

The 50+ club remains a success with 31 members and 24 regular attendees.

The Chairman has been invited to attend 'Beating of the Retreat'.

Finally, Mr Walters was warmly and sincerely wished all the best for a long and happy 'retirement'.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.11pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 23 June at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

*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
06-Jan	04/02998	RESMAT	Hilliers Garden Centre	Erection of five detached, four bedroom houses and associated garages	No objection	
11-Jan	04/03027	FULD	Land to rear of Bridleways and Va Hale	Erection of detached house and associated works	Outline plan for bungalow was OK, but 5 bedroom house is not. Therefore object to scale, massing and over-development.	Approved
11-Jan	04/02620	HOUSE	Cherry Cottage Bucklebury Alley	Two storey extension to existing dwelling including demolition of existing lean-to utility room	Not in Parish	
11-Jan	04/02932	HOUSE	Touch Wood, Drove Lane, Cold Ash	Single storey extension and loft conversion	Not in Parish	
07-Feb	05/00142	RENEW	Poplar cottage, Chapel Lane	Renewal of planning permission 134142 for a two storey extension	No objection	Approved
17-Feb	04/01869	FULL	Derwen, Hampstead Norreys Road	Notification of Appeal	No additional comments	Approved
28-Feb	05/00348	FULL	Denwen, Hampstead Norreys Road	Detached dwelling with car parking	Objection as before - in-filling, precedent for back garden development and dangerous access.	Approved
07-Mar	04/03027	FULD	Land to rear of Bridleways and Va Hale	Erection of detached house and associated works - amendments	For information only	Approved
17-Mar	05/00580	FUL	White Horse, Newbury Road	Internal alterations and refurbishment with 1 no. single storey link between existing buildings on site. The scheme is to include 20 no. proposed parking spaces and creation of new access		

14-Mar	05/00512	HOUSE	Lynton Cottage, High St	Two storey extension	No objection	Refused
04-Apr	05/00695	HOUSE	Tamarisk, Hampstead Norreys Road	Single and two storey extension	No objection	
12-May	05/00695	HOUSE	Tamarisk, Hampstead Norreys Road	Amendments to roof design		
13-May	05/00980	FUL	White Horse, Newbury Road	Internal alterations and refurbishment with 1 no. single storey link between existing buildings on site. The scheme is to include 19 no. proposed parking spaces and creation of new access		

* RDDP - Recommended for Determination Under Delegated Powers

13-May-05

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT MAY 2005

1. At the Annual Meeting of West Berkshire District Council on 10 May 2005. The Conservative group have taken control of the Council. The new Chairman is John Chapman (Purley) and Leader of Council is Graham Jones (Lambourn). I have been appointed the Chairman of the Environment and Public Protection Select Committee and remain as Chairman of the Kennet and Pang Valley Area Forum. Graham Pask is the Executive Portfolio holder for Children and Young people.
2. The next Planning Roadshow is for the Kennet and Pang Forum region and is arranged to be held at Bradfield Village Hall on 6th June 2005 at 6.30pm and should last about 2 hours. Topics will cover.
 - a) Introduction and Background.
 - b) Planning Policy-The Local Development Framework
 - c) Development Control-Making decisions and the process.
 - d) Planning Enforcement.
 - e) Questions and Answers.
3. The first meeting of the Environment and Public Protection Select Committee covers the Scrutiny of Equal Access to the Countryside-Rights of Way Act 2000-Disability Discrimination Act-access to the countryside.
4. The new administration has set out some of its guiding principles. These Include:
 - A commitment to **financial discipline** within the Council. The administration intends to remove the Council's unwanted title of being the highest taxing unitary authority in the south-east.
 - The administration will ensure that there is a rigorous focus on delivering **good quality, efficient front line services for the whole of the district**
 - The administration will ensure that the **public are properly consulted on decisions that affect their lives, and will take notice of what people say.**
 - The administration is committed to the work of building **an inclusive society in West Berkshire**, in particular the Council's responsibilities for protecting the most vulnerable members of our community
 - The Council will strive to be an **"enabling authority"**, helping others to achieve their full potential.
5. Do not forget the next meeting of the Kennet & Pang Valley Area Forum will take place on Wednesday 25 May at the Village Hall Bradfield at 7.00 all are welcome.

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 23 June 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church**

Present: Mr N Pearson (Chair), Mrs V Coombs, Mr K Gover, Dr J Lawler, Mr H Overeynder, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Cllr Q Webb, Mr J Winstanley (West Berkshire Council), Miss C Payne (Newbury Weekly News), Mrs J Pearce and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – 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

Report and Feedback from B4009 Highways exhibition/consultation

- John Winstanley, West Berkshire Council

All members of Hermitage Parish Council had previously had sight of the comprehensive report prepared by Mr Winstanley and with this in mind, the prioritisation of schemes was the focus of discussions.

The Yattendon Road footway to Chapel Lane and the school safety schemes were agreed as the top priorities. Whether these schemes should wait for s106 monies to become available was called into question.

Scheme number 7 (B4009/Yattendon Road junction improvements) was moved to priority 3. It was strongly agreed that the overall safety of the village should override any concerns that may arise over potentially contentious street lighting proposals for a mini-roundabout.

Scheme 8 (Post Office Footway Widening) – a request to build up the height of the footway was noted.

Mr Winstanley reported that he hoped there would be sufficient funding for all the highways issues listed. If there should be a shortfall, however, it would obviously be the lower priority schemes that would be put on hold.

Surprise was expressed that there was no cycling provision. Mr Winstanley advised that a cycle lane was not feasible through the village, although a separate study is investigating the possible use of the old railway embankment.

Mr Pearson thanked Mr Winstanley for his diligence in preparing a report which had clearly listened carefully to villagers' comments made at the exhibition.

Mr Winstanley concluded by saying that he hoped to process paperwork for the proposals in anticipation of the commencement of the cementation site works, so that the highway schemes can start promptly when the s106 monies are released.

NP

3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council held on Thursday 19 May 2005 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Vacancy for a Councillor

04/Jun05 Co-option of a Councillor. The vacancy for a Councillor has been advertised and the Returning Officer at West Berkshire Council notified. As there has been no request for an election advised, the Parish Council is in a position to co-opt a member. Mr Pearson proposed the co-option of Mrs Jane Pearce and this was seconded by Mr Overeynder. Mrs Pearce was unanimously appointed and she signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office accordingly.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. Finance

Accounts for Payment

01/Jun05 Clerk's salary (June)

02/Jun05 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning for June) – £30.00

03/Jun05 F C Lawrence for month of May @ £291.67

14/May05 Clerk's lap-top computer and Broadband connection £689.73 + £120.70 VAT

All agreed these payments be made.

Other

05/Jun05 Purchase of chairs for Village Hall (section 19). A donation of £1500.00 has been made to the village hall committee to assist with the purchase of chairs. A request that the Parish Council makes the purchase and donates the chairs was agreed. The village hall committee will return the grant cheque. It was noted that the invoice must be addressed to Hermitage Parish Council (not the village hall committee) for an amount not exceeding £1500.00 exclusive of VAT.

06/Jun05 Approval of accounts for 2004/05. The Clerk has prepared the accounts for the year ending March 2005 and they have been internally audited (Mr Michael Stevenson was thanked accordingly). Members of the Parish Council have copies of the accounts. The Annual Return for submission to the external auditor was duly signed.

07/Jun05 Deposit of s106 monies £24,310.00. The Parish Council is in receipt of £24,310 from West Berkshire Council in respect of Arena Site s106 monies. This money was made available to the Parish Council in lieu of the developers' wish to decrease the area of open space on the Arena site. As West Berkshire Council had failed to secure any s106 monies for the benefit of Hermitage village, it was agreed this sum should be handed over to the Parish Council for use on recreational projects.

Depositing the funds in a high interest account will be investigated, although it was agreed that instant access without penalty was required.

7. District Councillors' Report – written report attached.

Update on Cementation site advertising hoarding – Cllr Webb confirmed that planning consent for the hoarding has not been sought by the developer and a retrospective application has been invited.

8. Villagers' Open Forum

The Parish Council was advised that Banner Homes (Arena site) had attempted to erect an advertisement hoarding without planning permission. The hoarding was taken away, albeit reluctantly. The villager reporting felt that the developer had acted inappropriately, in the full knowledge that planning consent for such a hoarding is required. Furthermore, the nature of the advertisement was not considered to be in keeping with a rural setting.

[Cllr Webb advised that the law of the land does not require planning consent for any structure to be built, but a retrospective application may be requested. Should this be refused then the structure must be removed and the land returned to its original state. Most developers prefer not to take this risk and therefore planning consent is sought before the commencement of works.]

Cllr Webb agreed to draft a letter (with appropriate wording) for the Parish Council to send to Banner Homes on the matter.

Rivar development – the trees retained are suffering but may just need watering. **Mr Overeynder** agreed to investigate and contact the developer or Chieveley Parish Council as appropriate.

9. Planning

9.1 Cementation Site Development

20/May05 s106 negotiations re developer contributions. A meeting between the developer representatives, West Berkshire Council and Hermitage Parish Council was held on 22 June.

The ecologist presented a comprehensive report on the findings of his study which will determine the land available and the layout of the recreational area. The presence of (*inter alia*) bats, slow worms and great crested newts dictates that there is only sufficient space remaining for one football field (in addition to a tennis court, village hall with changing facilities and a childrens' play area). Some members felt that ecology should not override the needs of the human population of Hermitage.

Co-operation in the provision of the facilities mentioned above will be accompanied by an increase in the number of dwellings from 165 to 209. Whilst the Parish Council does not wish to be 'held to ransom', it was acknowledged that should the developer choose to appeal, an increase to 209 dwellings would be permitted and this could be without provision of any recreational facilities whatsoever. With this in mind, the Parish Council will try to agree the best recreational provision it can.

Disappointment that a cricket square was not included was expressed. The developer advised that a meeting with the Headteacher of Hermitage School had indicated that allowing the use of school land to this end may be possible.

A second tennis court at the cementation site was not ruled out.

All matters above are dependant on the agreement of West Berkshire Council to waive its requirement for additional s106 contributions (from the 44 extra dwellings), allowing the funding to be re-directed to recreational provision. West Berkshire Council officers present were unwilling to give any indication of their opinion – this was unhelpful to Parish Council and developer alike given that the meeting had been called for this purpose. If WBC insists on further s106 monies the recreational project may fail.

The developer is hoping to hold an exhibition (possibly two) in July displaying its proposals. A formal planning application will follow with a decision within 13 weeks of submission. The developer hopes to commence building works in the autumn.

9.2 Arena Site Development

Nothing formal to report, although the imminent marketing of properties is anticipated.

9.3 Other Planning Matters

Noted as per the attached schedule.

10. Representatives' Reports

10.1 Village Hall

Space for a new village hall has been identified at the cementation site. The developer is preparing a design/drawings based on the village hall committee requirements which is also in keeping with the new housing, together with an estimate of costs. The developer will assist with a village hall project but will not actually fund the building itself. The village hall committee will take on the building project and the procurement of the necessary funding. However, with proceeds of the sale of the existing village hall site and a £91k s106 commitment this should be possible.

A 'Victory' dance will be held on 1st October.

The Village hall is seeking to employ a cleaner at a rate of £7.50/hr. Should anyone wish to apply for the post they should contact Dr John Lawler or a member of the village hall committee.

10.2 Play area (*incl. inspections*)

17/May05 Annual RoSPA inspection:

- Overhanging branches below 2.4m. Mr Lawrence will submit his quotation for the works in due course;

- Notice 'Do not hang from ring'. The equipment supplier is to provide a written response.

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing. Mrs Willis has not yet contacted Mr Sweeting (West Berkshire Council) as she is pursuing the matter via an alternative route.

06/Oct04 Play area gate. A quotation for the provision of a new vehicular/pedestrian gate unit has been obtained.

Cost of gate	£147
Cost of erection	£187
Total cost	£334

This expenditure was approved, to be funded by the remainder of the new play area project fund.

10.3 Footpaths

A map showing a particularly muddy stretch of footpath has been provided and the matter referred to the West Berkshire Council officer.

Mr Gover will investigate the following:

Rubble has been dumped on the path leading from Chapel Lane to the play area;

The newly installed stile in Doctors Lane is too high for safe negotiation;

The path from Chapel Lane to cementation site is treacherous with stinging nettles and also has a stile which is very high.

10.4 Village website

Is up to date including a working link to the school website.

10.5 Downland Youth Network

A meeting will be held next week.

10.6 Hermitage Primary School

The swimming pool has been taken down.

The headteacher has met with the cementation site developer to discuss the possibility of shared facilities.

10.7 Patient Representative Group at Downland Practice

At the last meeting parking problems were discussed. The purchase of more land to the rear of the existing car park is being investigated.

A phlebotomist has been appointed (for blood samples).

11. Correspondence

In circulation

Berkshire Unitary Authorities' Joint Strategic Planning Unit – Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy Issues and Options Report

BALC – Berkshire Communicator

South East Regional Assembly – Update on the South East Plan

VITALISE (formerly Winged Fellowship Trust)

- West Berkshire Council
- Standards Committee – Parish Representation
 - Planning Roadshow reminder
 - New License Arrangements and Open Spaces in the Public Realm
 - Planning Roadshow feedback

CPRE new member information

Notice of Readibus AGM – Thursday 30th June

CCB audited accounts

'Pointers to Good Practice'

12. Burial Ground

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations (including schedule of fees)

The schedule of fees for Newbury Town Council was reported.

13. Any Other Business

August Bank Holiday Monday walk (with free cream tea) starts at 2pm from the village hall.

A safer school crossing was again requested. **Mr Pearson** agreed to discuss with the headteacher.

The next meeting of Hermitage Parish Council will be held on

Thursday 21 July 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.38pm.

Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council


21/7/05.

Hermitage Scheme Prioritisation

With the agreement of the Parish Council and Local Councillors it is proposed that the results of the consultation be reported to the Portfolio Member for Highways and Transport for Individual Decision with a recommendation to progress the following prioritised list of schemes.

Priority	Scheme	Way Forward
1	Yattendon Road – New footway to Chapel Lane	Top priority - to be progressed as soon as S106 money becomes available.
2	School Safety Scheme – Road safety scheme and crossing point outside Hermitage school.	Scheme to be designed in detail and consulted with frontagers ready for implementation once funds become available.
3	Gateway Features – 3 no. to be provided on the B4009 approaches to Hermitage from Newbury and Hampstead Norreys, and the Yattendon Road.	Schemes to be designed in detail and implemented once funds become available.
4	Hermitage General – Sign rationalisation and upgrade. Also some additional painted 30mph roundels through the village, with the provision of some carriageway narrowings to prevent speeding on the approach to the school zone from the Yattendon Road.	To be undertaken when funds become available.
5	Marlston Road – Construction of a footway under the railway bridge	To be designed and progressed when funding becomes available.
6	B4009 – Footway widening between Yattendon Road and Dines Way.	To be designed and progressed when funding becomes available.
7	B4009/Yattendon Road junction improvements	Due to the sensitivity surrounding the provision of street

	– Possible provision of a mini-roundabout.	lighting with roundabouts, this proposal will require careful consultation with frontagers before proceeding. To be undertaken when funding becomes available.
8	Post Office Footway Widening – Footways to be widened on the northern side of the B4009 adjacent to the Post Office.	Consultation to be undertaken with frontagers during the design stage.
9	Hermitage General – Replacement of centre-line through village.	-
10	B4009 – Footway widening on the southern side of the B4009 between the entrance to the Arena site and Doctors Lane.	To be progressed if funding is available.
11	Yattendon Road – provision of Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on the approach to Hermitage.	This proposal is dependent on the VAS policy currently being formulated. The provision of VAS proved popular at the public exhibition, and if the policy proves this site to be an appropriate location, this scheme could move up the priority list.

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 21 July 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church**

Present: Mr N Pearson (Chair), Mrs V Coombs, Mr K Gover, Mrs J Pearce, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Cllr Q Webb, Miss C Payne (Newbury Weekly News) and four members of the public.

Mr Pearson opened the meeting with a public address. This was to advise that in accordance with rules of best practice and Parish Council standing orders, Hermitage Parish Council will only take comments from the public at Villagers' Open Forum. Members of the public should not interject and should refrain from comment at any other time during the meeting. This is to ensure that all items are discussed fairly, for the benefit of Hermitage village as a whole without undue influence from any individual in attendance at a meeting.

Any comment on an agenda item will be heard at Villagers' Open Forum, then considered by members at the appropriate point in the meeting.

1. **Apologies** – Mr Overeynder.

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 June 2005** were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

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

5. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Jul05 Clerk's salary (July)

02/Jul05 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning for July) – £30.00

03/Jul05 F C Lawrence for month of June @ £291.67

All agreed these payments should be made.

Other

05/Jun05 Purchase of chairs for Village Hall (section 19). The s19 grant cheque has been returned.

07/Jun05 Deposit of s106 monies £24,310.00. All agreed that the Clerk should operate an on-line banking deposit account with Bank of Scotland, with whom the Parish Council's current account is held. This will facilitate easy transfer of all Parish Council funds between accounts as necessary, not just the s106 monies.

04/July05 Help Aboard Bus – S137 donation request. A donation of £30.00 was agreed.

August Payments

05/July05 Approval to make August payments. There being no August meeting, the Clerk was given authority to make payments as necessary and report in September.

6. **District Councillors' Report**

Written report attached.

7. Villagers' Open Forum

The village hall has been booked by the cementation site developer for a presentation on 09 August – the Parish Council has not been formally advised and has no further information to add. The Arena site developer had booked the hall for an exhibition re mains gas, but this has been cancelled.

Concern was expressed over the planning application for hoarding at the Arena site:

- the sign is too big and too high;
- it will be in direct eyeline of adjacent residents;
- accept text is necessary, but are artistic impressions/photos?
- will be located in a private garden;
- should be relocated further down Station Road, nearer to development.

Rumour of an impending planning application for a 'back garden' development was noted.

8. Planning

8.1 Cementation Site Development

No further information at present.

20/May05 s106 negotiations re developer contributions

Cllr Webb advised that he believed that the developer was still negotiating with WBC the additional contribution for the increased number of dwellings. He confirmed that a sports field prepared to an appropriate standard would be provided.

8.2 Arena Site Development

05/01412/ADV A planning application for site signage board has been made. Parish Council response will be prepared by **Mr Pearson**, in general consistent with views expressed in Villagers' Open Forum.

8.3 Other Planning Matters

Parish Council methods for dealing with and commenting on planning applications were discussed.

In accordance with rules of best practice and Parish Council standing orders, all discussions and comments agreed for return to WBC on planning submissions will be in public meetings.

Circulation of plans to the Parish Council planning committee will continue, and a recommendation for the formal response to WBC prepared as before. However, the response will be approved in a Parish Council meeting before being returned to WBC. The Clerk will endeavour to ensure that plans can be considered in monthly Parish Council meetings. This may not always be possible, and additional meetings may need to be called specifically to deal with a single planning application.

Plans will be available for inspection prior to the start of any meeting.

A schedule of plans considered at this meeting is attached.

9. Correspondence

In circulation

- WBC – Temporary Prohibition of Driving: Marlston Road, Hermitage
- Heritage & Tourism, Welcome to West Berkshire
 - Prohibition of Stopping on School Markings Order 2005-07-15
 - Underage Drinking in West Berkshire
 - Connexions Berkshire Small Grants FUN:d
 - Highway Improvement Programme

Local Council Review

Clerk & Councils Direct

Up! On the North Wessex Downs

Community First – Capital Funding for Local Community Projects

Other

WBC - Shaping the Planning Strategy for West Berkshire – Have your say!

Wednesday 03 August 10am – 1pm Newbury Rugby Club

10. Representatives' Reports

10.1 Village Hall – nothing to report.

10.2 Play area (*incl. inspections*) - weekly inspections continue to be made by Mrs Willis.

Mr Pearson and Mrs Pearce will undertake inspections when Mrs Willis is on holiday.

17/May05 Annual RoSPA inspection:

- Overhanging branches below 2.4m. A quote to cut back the branches for £60.00 has been received and it was agreed the works should be undertaken.

- Notice 'Do not hang from ring'. A response from the equipment supplier will be forwarded to RoSPA by the **Clerk**.

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing. A commitment to replace the fence without barbed wire has been made by BT.

06/Oct04 Play area gate. The new gate has been installed. The invoice for installation has been received and payment approved. Payment for the gate unit will be made on receipt of invoice.

10.3 Footpaths – nothing to report.

10.4 Village website – nothing to report.

10.5 Downland Youth Network. The next meeting will be in September. From September the Downs School will take over responsibility for the website.

10.6 Hermitage Primary School. A very successful summer fete has been held.

11. Burial Ground

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations (including schedule of fees) – ongoing.

12. Any Other Business

Mrs Coombs advised that she will be moving from Hermitage in October and tendered her resignation from the Parish Council with effect from 01 August. The **Clerk** will take the necessary steps to advertise the vacancy.

Mr Pearson thanked Mrs Coombs for her time and commitment to the Parish Council and wished her well in the future.

Mr Pearson advised that he will visit the WBC offices on Monday to inspect the Licence application made by the Fox Inn.

13. Date of next meeting

There being no meeting in August, the next meeting of Hermitage Parish Council will be on

Thursday 22 September 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council



WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT JULY 2005

1. Comments from the public and key stakeholders have prompted a more extensive consultation on the future of Market Place, Newbury.

An upgrade of the area was scheduled to begin this summer, but feedback on information leaflets about the proposals - distributed over the past two months - has convinced West Berkshire Executive Councillors that the true level of public support for the scheme has to be determined before any further moves are made.

More than 150 people responded to the information leaflet. Of these, about a third were in support of the scheme and a third not. The rest commented on certain aspects but did not give an overall opinion.

Those in favour tended to support the proposed pedestrianisation and the activities that could be held in the public space. They also welcomed the planned upgrade as giving Newbury a more unique identity.

Those against, suggested Market Place was fine as it is, including its use as a short-term car park. And that the proposals were a waste of money.

Executive Councillor Emma Webster said: "There is clear public concern about the future of Market Place. Many welcomed the plans but an equal number have raised a series of very relevant issues. What we need now is an extensive, representative survey that will tell us exactly what people want. Only then will we be able to make a fully-informed decision about the future of this all-important focal point of the town."

The proposal is for a postal survey of some 4,000 people across the Newbury catchment area, to allow for a reliable conclusion about public opinion. This will be backed by consultation with key stakeholders, building on issues already raised. There will also be a questionnaire available on the Internet and at council offices, which will allow everyone to have their say on the scheme.

The exercise is scheduled to take place between July and September this year.

2. The Oaks Primary Pupil Referral Unit at Foxglove Way, Thatcham officially opens on Thursday, 16 June 2005 at 2.00pm. The new purpose built building replaces the Newtown Road facility and will cater for mostly Key Stage 2 pupils aged between 7 and 11 and house the Behaviour Support Service and the Pupil Referral Unit that together form the 'Primary Behaviour Service'

Their time at the Oaks will be spent working to prevent any problems developing and leading to them being excluded from mainstream education. The work will focus on building self esteem and building social, academic and behaviour skills to enable them to return to school as quickly as possible."

There are 2 classrooms, an IT suite, a 1-1 work room and a library area. The outside play area has separate climbing and grassed areas where pupils can play.

The Oaks will work with children across the district as well as those from Thatcham and the surrounding villages. There is a high teacher pupil ration and there will be a maximum of 16 children at the Unit at any one time.

3. A series of 'on road' cycling courses for children aged over 10 years starts this month.

These courses are designed to develop road sense, awareness of traffic dangers and to improve the child's ability to ride safely. The course consists of six sessions and a certificate is awarded on completion. The courses will take place at:

- Theale Green Recreation Centre on Saturday 23rd July to Fri 29th July - 9am to 10.30am
- Kennet Leisure Centre, Thatcham on Saturday 23rd to Fri 29th July - 2pm to 3.30pm
- Park House School, Newbury on Saturday 30th July to Fri 5th August - 9am to 10.30am
- John O' Gaunt School, Hungerford on Saturday 30th July to Fri 5th August - 1.15pm – 2.45pm
- Willink Leisure Centre, Burghfield Common on Saturday 13th August to Fri 19th August - 9am to 10.30am
- Little Heath School, Tilehurst on Saturday 13th Aug to Fri 19th August - 2pm – 3.30pm

Margaret Newell, Road Safety Officer at West Berkshire Council, said, "The STREETWISE Course is an excellent confidence builder and provides young people with both the knowledge and practical skills they need to ride safely."

The courses are run by qualified instructors and cost £15 for 6 sessions. To get STREETWISE contact Margaret Newell on (01635) 519672 for an application form.

4. West Berkshire Council is pleased to announce that Dolce Catering Ltd. has won the school meal contract to supply food to 68 primary and secondary schools in the district.

Dolce is a rapidly expanding catering company that has built an enviable reputation at schools around the country by working with a network of local suppliers to ensure that all food served is as fresh as possible.

John Chapman, Chairman of West Berkshire Council said, "We welcome Dolce. The company has an excellent record of supplying quality food which is value for money. The importance they place on providing nutritious meals is both impressive and reassuring and we look forward to a fruitful partnership. I share Dolce's belief in the benefit to children of good food in the middle of the school day and hope that we can increase the number of children taking up the offer of healthy school meals."

The contract was awarded following consultation with schools, parents and children. A panel of stakeholders made up of teachers, governors, Council Members and Officers reviewed tenders from three companies and received presentations from two.

Sheila Armstrong, Contracts Manager at the Council added, "West Berkshire has a strong school meals policy which supports healthy eating as part of a holistic approach by schools to all round healthy living. The district already boasts a number of Healthy Schools Awards and eating well prepared, fresh food is embedded in the culture of promoting health within the schools. We feel confident that Dolce shares West Berkshire's Vision of continuous improvement and development of that culture

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 22 September 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church**

Present: Mr N Pearson (Chair), Dr J Lawler, Mr Overeynder, Mrs J Pearce, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Cllr Q Webb, Miss S Zagoule (Newbury Weekly News) and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – Mr K Gover

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 July 2005** were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. **Vacancy for a Councillor**

There have been no formal applications/nominations received. The Clerk will advertise the vacancy in the Parish magazine.

5. **Matters Arising** – none were recorded.

6. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Sept05 Clerk's salary (Sept) + expenses

02/Sept05 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning for Aug & Sept) – £30.00

03/Sept05 F C Lawrence for month of August @ £291.67

05/Sept05 Sovereign Housing (land rent) - £5.00

08/Sept05 Thames Water Utilities - £1.31

All agreed these payments be made.

Other

05/Jun05 Purchase of chairs for Village Hall (section 19) – ongoing.

06/Sept05 Conclusion of Audit of accounts 2004/05

The Clerk reported that the external audit was now concluded, with no matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council. Mr Stevenson was again thanked for undertaking the internal audit.

07/Sept05 Cutting back bushes near Dines Way. Mr Lawrence has been asked to provide a quote for the works.

09/Sept05 Clerk's BT land line. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange repairs to Parish Council telephone and/or telephone line at Parish Council expense.

August Payments

01/Aug05 Clerk's salary (August)

02/Aug05 N J Perry (Pinewood Park gate construction) - £187.00

03/Aug05 F C Lawrence for month of July @£291.67

04/Aug05 F C Lawrence for overhanging branches - £60.00

05/Aug05 Barlow & Sons (Hermitage) Ltd (Pinewood Park gate) - £137.84 + £24.12 VAT

06/Aug05 BT plc - £34.26 + £5.99VAT

07/Aug05 UHY Hacker Young (audit fee 2004/05) - £350.00 + £61.25 VAT

The above payments were retrospectively approved.

7. District Councillors' Report

Written report attached.

Cllr Webb confirmed that a WBC s106 officer is now in post and will advise contact details accordingly.

8. Villagers' Open Forum

04/Sept05 Parking in Dines Way

Parking on Parish Council maintained land in Dines way is giving cause for concern. A letter will be sent to all residents on the matter.

Bus shelters;

- a complaint has been received that the school bus shelter is in a deteriorating condition due to woodworm;
- the standard of bus shelter cleaning was reported unsatisfactory.

It was agreed that Councillors review all three bus shelters over coming month so that the action to be taken will be decided at the next meeting.

Chapel Lane footpath – overhanging bushes are a problem. The Clerk will write to Englefield Estates (**Mr Pearson** to provide details).

Cementation site:

- The hoardings at the entrance to the cementation site development were again called into question. A retrospective planning application has been received and approved by WBC;
- Information regarding the employment space was requested. The Parish Council had no information at the time of the meeting but hopes that the detailed planning application to be discussed at next week's meeting would answer the question.

Concern was expressed that the public are only allowed to speak at Villagers' Open Forum and at no other time. Mr Pearson reiterated that this is the correct procedure that the Parish Council is obliged to adhere to.

9. Planning

9.1 Cementation Site Development

A planning meeting will be convened to discuss and formulate Parish Council comment on the detailed planning application just received. The meeting will be held on Thursday 29 September at 8.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

9.2 Arena Site Development

- Street naming – will be discussed at the meeting above (9.1).
- The possibility of providing a welcome pack for new Hermitage residents was proposed.
Mr Pearson agreed to discuss with Hermitage Parochial Church Council.

9.3 Other Planning Matters

05/01959/HOUSE 33 Briants Piece – no objections.

05/01755/HOUSE 23 Lipscomb Close (amendments) – no objections.

05/01921/FUL Hilliers Garden Centre – no objections.

10. Correspondence

In circulation

WBC - CCTV Development Group

- WWII, Far East Theatre
 - West Berkshire LDF – scoping report for SEA/sustainability appraisal of the core strategy and Newbury town centre AAP
 - West Berkshire LDF: Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) notification of submission to the Secretary of State under Regulation 28 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004
 - Welcome to West Berkshire
 - Junior Citizen of the Year Award Scheme 2005
 - Local Development Framework – summary of ‘Have your say’ workshop
 - South East Plan – Consultation on the Housing Distribution for Berkshire
 - Newbury Town Centre Plan – Have your say!
 - Shaping the planning strategy for West Berkshire – Have your say!
 - Heritage News
- CCB - summer bulletin & annual review
- CPRE - summer bulletin & notice of AGM
- Fieldwork September 2005
- North Wessex Downs – Sustainable Development Fund grants
- CAWB – Broadband Booklet
- Your opportunity to put your point of view.....
- Local Works Summer 2005-08-26
- Wicksteed – invitation to Saltex 2005
- Berkshire Communicator
- SEERA – Update August 2005-08-26
- SLCC – notice of AGM
- Newbury & Community NHS Primary Care Trust – Notice of AGM
- Rural Housing Trust – Royal County of Berkshire Show
- Community Safety Awareness Raising Session
- Inn Court Licensing Consultants – White Horse
- Proposed Changes to Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) – Waste & Minerals
- Local Council Review September 2005-09-08
- The Clerk
- Other
- WBC - Rights of Way Improvement Plan for West Berkshire. The response prepared by Mr Gover was agreed appropriate.
- Shaping the Planning Strategy for West Berkshire – Have Your Say! Tuesday 04 October, Newbury Racecourse. Noted.
 - District Parish Conference, Tuesday 25 October, Council Offices, Newbury. Noted.
 - Kennet & Pang valley area Forum, 05 October 7.00pm. It was noted that the Hermitage Parish Plan was an agenda item for this meeting. Unfortunately Mr Gover is away until 04 October. **Dr Lawler** will text Mr Gover to this effect and **Mr Pearson** agreed to try to attend in his absence if necessary, although he has a previous commitment.

11. Representatives' Reports

11.1 Village Hall

The new chairs will be ordered soon.

The new village hall working party will be meeting with the cementation site developer to discuss relocating the proposed car park to release more space for recreation.

The Victory dance will be held on 01 October.

11.2 Play area (*incl. inspections*)

17/May05 Annual RoSPA inspection:

- Overhanging branches below 2.4m. These have now been cut back.
- Notice 'Do not hang from ring'. A response from the manufacturer and subsequently from RoSPA has been received and a notice confirmed as not necessary.

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing. Ongoing.

06/Oct04 Play area gate. Now completed and the old gate will be removed.

11.3 Footpaths – nothing to report.

11.4 Downland Youth Network. It is hoped to continue the successful 'Outrider' scheme which funded travel for youngsters to and from Newbury. A bid for funding has been submitted to the Greenham Trust – also to Vodafone for a Webmaster and rural youth worker.

11.5 Hermitage Primary School

A working party has been formed to coordinate the forthcoming building works.

The school is at capacity and has turned away at least 10 pupils this term.

There is a vacancy for Clerk to the Governors (10 hours per month).

12. **Burial Ground**

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations (including schedule of fees)

Dr Lawler has procured a copy of the table of fees for Newbury Town Council (Shaw cemetery).

This will be circulated to members for them to return comment to John before next meeting.

13. **Any Other Business**

Pond Lane and Chapel Lane – are in a poor state with numerous potholes. **Cllr Webb** agreed to pursue the matter.

Yattendon Road white lines – have still not been painted. **Cllr Webb** agreed to pursue the matter.

14. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Hermitage Parish Council will be on

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

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.26pm.

Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council



**HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL
PLANNING**

Date of Receipt	WBC Ref	Type	Address	Description	HPC comment	WBC Decision
29-Jun	05/01258	FUL	Fencewood house, Slanting Hill	Change of use of house to children's day nursery	No objection	
21-Jul	05/01459	FUL	Land at Hermitage Farm Landfill, Bradley Court	1) s73 variation of conditions 1 & 2 (V) of planning permission 04/00394 to extend completion of site restoration to 31 Dec 05 and for the retention of a temporary gas flare stack. 2) new permission for retention and relocation of leachate storage tank and associated access road.	No objection	
08-Aug	05/01715	FUL	Land adjacent to Medan and 4 Oare View	New double garage/bat roost	Support	WITHDRAWN
22-Aug	05/01755	HOUSE	23 Lipscomb Close	Side extension	No objection	
12-Sep				Amendments	No objection	
30-Aug	05/01925	ADV	Oare View, Hampstead Norreys Road	Advertising signage for proposed development	No objection	Approval
12-Sep	05/01959	HOUSE	33 Briants Piece	Single storey front extension. Replace main roof with raised ridge line and windows in rear. Additional window on front elevation.	No objection	
19-Sep	05/02036	FULMAJ	Former cementation site, Hampstead Norreys Road	209 dwellings and associated access, car parking, amenity and landscaping, open space and woodland	Objections re: urbanisation, impact on neighbours, insufficient parking, children's play area, social housing, traffic concerns, water features	
	05/01921	FUL	Hilliers Garden Centre		No objection	

06-Oct	05/02162	FULD	Bridge House, Chapel Lane	Convert existing garage/store to retirement bungalow.		
13-Oct	N/A		Thames Water Reservoir, (corner of) Red Shute Hill/Slanting Hill	Pre-application consultation re proposed H3G Base Station		

17-Oct-05

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT AUGUST 2005

1. Consumers in West Berkshire can now call Consumer Direct South East, a new advice and information line, for clear and practical advice on a range of consumer issues. From a £20 pair of shoes developing a fault, a £200 sofa ripping after only a few weeks to a garage repair bill that seems to expensive, Consumer Direct aims to provide consumers with the knowledge, tools and confidence to resolve consumer problems themselves. And, what's more, the advice is free. Open to the public six days a week tel number 08454 04 05 06 also www.consumerdirect.gov.uk
2. The Council has from the 12th July a new Registrar Service Office in Theale, anyone wanting the services of a registrar will be able to make an appointment to go along to the new office in the High Street, Theale on Tuesday afternoons, avoiding the need to travel to Newbury. West Berkshire Council- which runs the service for births, deaths, marriages, and citizenship- has made the move in line with its commitment to make its services available to people right across the district. The new office will be staffed by a registrar who is based at the register office in Newbury. They will visit Theale every Tuesday. Opening times will initially be 1pm to 4pm. The address of the new office is **Coopers House, Brewery Court, High Street, Theale**. The number to call for registering births or deaths is (01635 40991). For Marriages it is (016350 48133).
3. West Berkshire Council's planning service has made the top ten nationally both for handling workload and performance.
Government tables show West Berkshire received 872 major and minor planning applications in the last financial year. That places the District in the top 10% of the 362 planning authorities in the country for such workload. On top of that, the team also had to process an additional 2,000 'other' applications for permissions such as small extensions, conservatories, consents to alter listed buildings and so on .In terms of performance, the time now taken to decide applications places the planners in the top 10%. Currently 80% of major application are decided within 13 weeks; 84% of minor within 8 weeks, and 95% of other within 8 weeks-all significantly above government targets
4. West Berkshire Council is the number one of all unitary authorities in the country for efficiency in collecting council tax. Figures just released by the government show West Berkshire collected 98.7% of council tax due in the district in the last financial year- better than any other unitary authority. The Average collection rate across England was 96.6%.
5. Twenty-two schools in West Berkshire are set to receive grants of up to £5,000 for producing a Travel Plan way ahead of the Government deadline. Every school in the country is required to have a School Travel Plan by 2010 but those who have one in place before 2008 are eligible for funding which can be used for playground shelters, cycle and cycle helmet storage and pedestrian entrances.
6. West Berkshire Council's Food and Trading Standards Team, in association with The Smoke Free Berkshire Alliance, has produced a guide to smoke-free eating and drinking in Berkshire, featuring 100% smoke-free eating and drinking establishments in the district. The guide is available from the Council Offices in Market Street and Faraday Road, Newbury and at all West Berkshire Libraries.

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2005

1. West Berkshire GCSE results continue upward trend. Year 11 students at West Berkshire Schools can be rightly proud of their successful results. The pass rate in the district continues to move upwards and stay well ahead of the national average. Provisional results received so far show that the proportion of students achieving 5 or more passes at grades A* to C has increased from 60o/o in 2004 to 61o/o this year. The number of students gaining at least on pass has also increased from 97.6 last year to 98.50o/o this year.
2. West Berkshire Council has been awarded the 'Safer Car Parks Award' by the British Parking Association (BPA) for both the Northbrook Street and Kennet Centre Multi-storey car parks in Newbury. This prestigious award is sponsored by the BPA and the association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and is part of an initiative that aims to reduce crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities. The Safer Parking status and the 'Park Mark' are only awarded to those parking facilities that meet the requirements of a special risk assessment conducted by the Police. To achieve the standard the parking operator must have measures in place that help to deter criminal activity and anti-social behaviour, thereby doing everything they can to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime in their parking area.
3. The Kennet and Pang Valley Area Forums' next meeting is 5th October at St Mary's Burghfield Parish Centre, Church Lane Burghfield. Do come and listen to the plans for the new Forum format due to take place in the New Year. We also have a speaker from Newbury Museum on Archaeological planning assessments and current activities and projects they are working on.
4. The South East Regional Assembly's (SEERA) plan for over 52,000 new homes in Berkshire over the next 20 Years is out for public consultation and West Berkshire Council is urging local residents to make sure they have their say.

The six Berkshire councils have been asked to come forward with proposals for the type of areas where extra homes could be built in their respective districts, and the views of local people.

At this stage, specific sites are not being looked at. Nor are actual numbers of houses per district. What is wanted is views on whether to continue the current rate of developing in built-up areas with extensions to some urban boundaries, whether to look at higher densities in built-up areas which would relieve pressure on Greenfield sites, or whether to look at more development in other areas with some currently-protected land being brought in to use.

Leaflets are on display in libraries and public buildings, and a wide range of local organisations are being individually consulted. Information is also available through the Berkshire authorities' Joint Strategic Planning Unit in Maidenhead and on the unit's website www.berks-jsu.gov.uk/newhomes. Responses from the public must be in by 25th October.

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 20 October 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church**

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

1. **Apologies** – from Mrs K Willis were accepted.

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 22 September 2005** were amended and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. **Vacancy for a Councillor**

An expression of interest in becoming a member of Hermitage Parish Council has been received in writing. Unfortunately this candidate was unable to attend the October meeting. Dr Lawler also advised of a second candidate who was not in attendance either. Mr Pearson thought an interview process may be the best way forward. This was agreed with a view to co-option at the November meeting.

5. **Matters Arising**

04/Sept05 Parking in Dines Way. The Clerk provided a letter which will be delivered to each household in Dines Way.

04/Oct05 Bus shelter condition/woodworm. A formal letter of complaint has now been received about the woodworm present in the bus shelter opposite school. All members of the Parish Council have had an opportunity to inspect all three shelters since the last meeting. It was agreed that a professional company should be appointed to undertake the works. A letter will be sent to Mrs Burnham accordingly.

05/Oct05 Chapel Lane overhanging bushes. The Clerk has written to Englefield Estates as requested but no reply has been received.

6. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Oct05 Clerk's salary (Oct)

02/Oct05 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning for Oct) – £30.00

It was agreed that although a time sheet is submitted before payment is made, the time delay that elapses after cleaning means it is impossible to know the standard of work carried out. It was agreed that the Clerk will request a cleaning schedule for the forthcoming months which will provide better basis for checks for audit purposes. Additionally, details of what the actual cleaning entails will be sought so that the potential need for a risk assessment can be considered.

03/Oct05 F C Lawrence for month of Sept @ £291.67

All agreed these payments be made.

Other

05/Jun05 Purchase of chairs for Village Hall (section 19) – ongoing.

07/Sept05 Cutting back bushes near Dines Way & other minor works. Mr Overeynder has instructed Mr Lawrence to undertake the following works:

- Cutting hedge around sub-station at Lipscomb Close £50
- Trim hedge on Hampstead Norreys Road – Fox Inn to Dines Way £20
- Cutting Chapel Lane hedge from bridge to Pinewood Park. £65

These works totalling £135 were retrospectively approved by the Council.

07/Oct05 Finance procedures

The need for all items of expenditure to be approved by the Parish Council collectively in a Parish Council meeting as an agenda item was discussed. No member should authorise works as an individual when the matter has not been discussed in a Parish Council meeting. It was agreed that a delegated authority to spend up to a set limit on works that cannot wait for a Parish Council meeting should be investigated – this may mean an amendment to standing orders.

7. District Councillors' Report

06/Oct05 Pond Lane and Chapel Lane. Works to improve the poor condition of the road surfaces will be pursued, although Thames Water is investigating problems in Pond Lane.

07/Oct05 Yattendon Road white lines – have now been painted.

8. Villagers' Open Forum

Priors Court Road mini-roundabout

- has seen two accidents this week;
- Banner Homes have not formally handed over the scheme to West Berkshire Council and therefore a resident's complaint cannot be addressed;
- the grass verge outside Corner Nook has been destroyed. Cllr Webb will pursue its reinstatement.

White Horse pub – it was reported that the light outside the front door was rather large and very bright, furthermore it was switched on during daylight hours.

Yattendon Road – 30mph signs were obscured by overhanging branches. Cllr Webb agreed to report the matter.

9. Planning

9.1 Cementation Site Development

A meeting was held with DPP (agent for the cementation site developer) to discuss the observations made by Hermitage Parish Council to West Berkshire Council (WBC) on the detail of the planning application. In summary:

1. Three storey buildings – will be reduced to 2 ½ storey buildings with a lower roof line.
2. Open space – WBC does not favour open space within a development as it is difficult to maintain. DPP will, however, try to soften the landscape where possible.
3. Flats to rear of Chapel Lane properties – these three storey properties have been realigned, have been set further away from the Chapel Lane dwellings to provide an increased 'buffer' zone with additional planting.
4. Social housing – it is not the policy of WBC and Sovereign housing to 'pepper pot' social houses throughout a development and the affordable homes will remain in two distinct blocks.
5. Parking allocation – cannot be improved upon.
6. Traffic – the developer agreed that a crossing provision outside school was essential and will pay for this if it is not provided by highways through s106 monies prior to the start of construction works.

7. Employment area – there is still a question mark over whether employment is the most appropriate use of this land. In due course DPP will ask WBC whether further residential units can be added.
8. Children's play area – the aesthetic comments were noted and will be adhered to. The location of the play area will remain as this is in line with WBC policy.
9. Village hall – still awaits the outcome of the final s106 agreement.
10. Water features – the pond within the development will be regraded and fenced for security, those within the woodland will be the responsibility of WBC.

DPP hopes that building works will commence in January, but currently environmental factors (the newts) are restricting progress.

Amendments to the detailed planning submission are now awaited.

9.2 Arena Site Development

The Parish Council suggestion for the street name was turned down by the developer who favours 'Hermitage Green'.

It was noted that an annual management fee will be charged to all properties.

9.3 Other Planning Matters

05/02162/FULD Bridge House, Chapel Lane – objection.

Hutchison 3G UK Ltd Pre-Application Consultation with Hermitage Parish Council re Proposed H3G Base Station at Thames Water Reservoir (Corner of) Red Shute Hill and Slanting Hill. Noted.

05/01657/ADV White Horse, Newbury Road. Concern re size of light to front door.

Pro-vision Planning and Design Pre-application consultation re Home Park, Slanting Hill (site visit to be arranged).

10. Correspondence

In circulation

West Berkshire Council:

Quality Design – West Berkshire – Supplementary Planning Document

Community Council for Berkshire – defra Rural Social and Community programme

Community Action West Berkshire – Information Booklet

Other

West Berkshire Council:

Local Transport Plan (2006 – 2010) Rural Areas of West Berkshire Consultation Event, Saturday 19 November – noted.

South East Plan – Consultation on housing distribution for Berkshire. It was agreed to return the comment that further homes should not be planned for Hermitage.

Berkshire Rural Towns Partnership – A plan for community action, Saturday 19 November. Noted.

11. Representatives' Reports

11.1 Village Hall

Cocktail evening postponed until March

Working party has had a meeting with cementation site developer, but further information/commitment from West Berkshire Council is required.

11.2 Play area (*incl. inspections*)

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing – ongoing.

11.3 Footpaths

Footpaths overgrown with nettles is a perennial problem and therefore West Berkshire Council have been asked to provide a regular service rather than waiting for complaints.

11.4 Downland Youth Network – will be meeting in November

11.5 Hermitage Primary School

A meeting was held with West Berkshire Council last week and it is planned that the school will expand to provide 7 classrooms in total for 189 pupils (70 extra) with s106 monies.

Work is hoped to start in summer 2006.

A feasibility study is planned re the inclusion of pre-school on this site.

12. Burial Ground

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations (including schedule of fees)

A middle ground setting rates between the current Hermitage rates and those of Newbury Town Council (Shaw) was agreed. **Dr Lawler** will draw up the schedule accordingly.

13. Any Other Business

Hermitage Village Welcome Pack – is well underway and funding is being sought. Hermitage Parish Council agreed to support the project in principle, but further information is needed before an amount can be agreed. **Mr Pearson** will investigate.

Applications for Parish Council grants – applications for Parish Council funding must be submitted by 30 November 2005 for consideration in 2006/07.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Hermitage Parish Council will be on

Thursday 17 November 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

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

*Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council*


17/11/05.

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT OCTOBER 2005

1. The South East Regional Assembly's (SEERA) plan for over 52,000 new homes in Berkshire over the next 20 Years is out for public consultation and West Berkshire Council is urging local residents to make sure they have their say.

The six Berkshire councils have been asked to come forward with proposals for the type of areas where extra homes could be built in their respective districts, and the views of local people.

At this stage, specific sites are not being looked at. Nor are actual numbers of houses per district. What is wanted is views on whether to continue the current rate of developing in built-up areas with extensions to some urban boundaries, whether to look at higher densities in built-up areas which would relieve pressure on Greenfield sites, or whether to look at more development in other areas with some currently-protected land being brought in to use.

Leaflets are on display in libraries and public buildings, and a wide range of local organisations are being individually consulted. Information is also available through the Berkshire authorities' Joint Strategic Planning Unit in Maidenhead and on the unit's website www.berks-jsu.gov.uk/newhomes. Responses from the public must be in by 25th October.

2. The annual Junior Citizen of the year award, aimed at young people (aged 18 years and under) who live in the district and meet one of the following criteria:

1. Have shown an act of bravery, or
2. Have Shown a helping/caring attitude to someone disadvantaged, or
3. Have contributed to making West Berkshire a better place to live and work, or
4. Have achieved excellence at school, work or in an outside activity.

To ensure impartiality, the award will be judged by a panel of independent representatives selected from across West Berkshire. Nomination forms can be found on the website www.westberks.gov.uk or telephone Vicky Wheatley On 01635 519517. Nominations close November 1st.

3. The Kennet and Pang Valley Area Forums' next meeting is 5th October at St Mary's Burghfield Parish Centre, Church Lane Burghfield. Do come and listen to the plans for the new Forum format due to take place in the New Year. We also have a speaker from Newbury Museum on Archaeological planning assessments and current activities and projects they are working on.

4. .

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member



HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hermitage Parish Council
held on Thursday 17 November 2005 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church**

Present: Mr N Pearson (Chair), Mr K Gover, Mrs P Knightly, Dr J Lawler, Mr Overeynder, Mrs J Pearce, Mrs K Willis, Mrs L Riordan (Clerk), Cllr Q Webb and three 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 20 October 2005** were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. **Vacancy for a Councillor**

11/Nov05 Co-option

Mrs Knightly was in attendance and Mrs Willis proposed that she be co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council. This was seconded by Dr Lawler and unanimously agreed by all members. Mrs Knightly was co-opted and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. **Matters Arising**

04/Oct05 Bus shelter condition/woodworm

Two contractors have advised that it is extremely unlikely that any woodworm present would transfer to a residential property. Woodworm larvae live on damp/rotten wood or sap wood as moisture is necessary. Once holes are seen this means they have matured and flown away. They do not like warm, dry houses where there is no moisture in timbers (which have probably been treated anyway). Surrounded by woodland, woodworm is probably present in abundance generally not just in the bus shelter. Only one contractor inspected the shelter, and although willing to undertake treatment, deemed it unnecessary.

It was agreed that **Mr Overeynder** should approach Mr Lawrence and ask him for his quotation to apply timber treatments to all three of the Parish Council owned bus shelters. Expenditure up to a maximum of £250.00 was approved.

The **Clerk** will approach the contractor to request a written report in view of his inspection. Expenditure up to a maximum of £50.00 was approved.

05/Oct05 Chapel Lane overhanging bushes

The **Clerk** will send a second letter.

6. **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

01/Nov05 Clerk's salary (Nov)

02/Nov05 D Carter (bus shelter cleaning for Nov) – £30.00

03/Nov05 F C Lawrence for month of Oct @ £291.67

08/Nov05 Royal Mail (PO Box renewal) - £108.00

12/Nov05 BTplc £37.02

All agreed these payments be made.

Other

07/Oct05 Finance procedures.

It was agreed that a review of standing orders and financial regulations was appropriate (rather than an isolated review of incurring financial expenditure without full council approval). This will not only bring procedures thoroughly up to date, but will also allow a proper budgetary provision to be made to support the proposals.

04/Nov05 December payments.

All agreed that the Clerk make payments as necessary and report at the January meeting.

07/Nov05 Hermitage Village Welcome Pack.

As Banner Homes have made a generous donation in support of this initiative, a Parish Council contribution is not necessary.

7. District Councillors' Report

06/Oct05 Pond Lane and Chapel Lane

Highways have been informed and they will look into the matter.

05/Nov05 Grass verge outside Corner Nook

This will be looked at when all works have been completed, probably in spring which is an appropriate time for spreading seed (although a request to prepare the ground now was noted).

06/Nov05 Yattendon Road 30mph signs

The trees have been cut back appropriately.

8. Villagers' Open Forum

Note was made of the West Berkshire Council Highways safety audit that has been carried out throughout the village. As a result, several villagers have received letters asking them to cut back shrubs/hedges that overhang the pavement.

One resident has written to the Parish Council asking whether it would be willing to support an appeal to WBC against the cutting back of their hedge. It was agreed inappropriate for the Parish Council to intervene, this may set a precedent for other householders to make similar requests.

A complaint was received about the metal railings (used by the contractors laying the gas main) which have been left partially blocking footways.

Comment was made about the poor condition of footways at the north end of the village (near school) – they have been repaired but left in an unsatisfactory condition. As they were considered to be in a dangerous state **Cllr Webb** agreed to report the matter.

Lighting at the new Priors Court roundabout is still considered unsuitable by residents of a nearby property.

9. Planning

9.1 Cementation Site Development

09/Nov09 Report of the public exhibition held on Tuesday 09 August 2005. The report contained no controversial information and no further action is required.

10/Nov05 Notification of additional s106 monies. The allocation of the additional s106 funding has been notified by West Berkshire Council. **Cllr Webb** agreed to provide an electronic copy of the letter. **Mr Neil Pearson** agreed to contact Dave Pearson at WBC for further information and to try and arrange a meeting to discuss the matter.

Mr Gover agreed to ascertain from the Downland Practice exactly what the s106 funding monies awarded will be used for.

9.2 Arena Site Development

Floodlights have been installed at the foot of the Banner Homes advertisement hoardings. As the lights have not actually been switched on it is inappropriate to complain at this stage.

An underground stream near the Arena site is no longer free flowing and a pool has formed where a footbridge is over. The depth of water is giving cause for concern as a safety issue. If a watercourse has been blocked there may be repercussions and the Clerk will contact Mr Beech the Enforcement Officer at West Berkshire Council.

9.3 Other Planning Matters

05/02254/HOUSE The Beeches, Slanting Hill – no objections.

05/02315/HOUSE 2 Oare View – no objections.

05/02434/HOUSE Touch Wood, Drove Lane – no objections.

05/02474/FULD Box Cottage, Eling – no objections.

05/02493/FUL Thames Water Reservoir, Slanting Hill – no objections to location but concern that it is not aesthetically pleasing.

05/02494/HOUSE Elm Lea, Deacons Lane – no objections.

05/02496/FUL Home Park, Slanting Hill – support, existing dwelling of poor quality and proposal will be an improvement.

10. Correspondence

In circulation

West Berkshire Council:

Consultation of Draft Quality Design – West Berkshire – Supplementary Document

West Berkshire Local Development Framework Options Consultation feedback

The Rural Housing Trust – Seminar, Friday 16 December, Hampstead Norreys Village Hall

Campaign to Protect Rural England – How to Respond Planning Applications

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service – An invitation to engage in consultation –
‘A Safer Berkshire’

Community Council for Berkshire – Affordable Housing in Hermitage

Community Action West Berkshire – Parish Plan News

Highways Agency – M4 Accommodation Bridges between 8/9 and 15

Clerk & Councils Direct

Local Council review

Other

West Berkshire Council:

Speed Indicator Device (SID) Training – 11 January 2006

Kennet & Pang Valley Area Forum – Thursday 16 February 2006

District Parish Conference – Thursday 23 March 2006

Countrywise Consultants – Statutory Duty of ‘Relevant Authorities’ to have regard to the purposes of National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Norfolk & Suffolk Broads

11. Representatives’ Reports

11.1 Village Hall

05/Jun05 Purchase of chairs for Village Hall (section 19). The village hall committee requested that a donation of £1500.00 be made directly to hall funds (instead of the Parish Council purchasing

and donating chairs) so that chairs may be purchased. As the total PC funds donated do not change and was approved in May 2005, this was agreed and a cheque signed.

Burns night is planned for 04 February.

11.2 Play area (*incl. inspections*) – no problems to report.

05/Oct04 Play area/BT fencing – ongoing (**Mrs Knightley** to pursue).

11.3 Footpaths – nothing to report.

11.4 Downland Youth Network – report to come after next meeting.

11.5 Hermitage Primary School – a meeting is planned for Monday to discuss the feasibility of the pre-school moving to the school site.

12. Burial Ground

09/Oct04 Review of burial ground regulations (including schedule of fees)

Dr Lawler presented a schedule of fees that was approved to be effective from 01 January 2006.

The Clerk will prepare an interment form.

13. Any Other Business

Dangerous egress from Chapel Lane onto Yattendon Road was discussed. As West Berkshire Council Highways are usually reluctant to install mirrors, other possible improvements were discussed. In view of concerns raised about cementation site vehicles 'rat running' through Chapel Lane, improvements will be discussed at the potential meeting to discuss s106 monies.

Dr Lawler has published a request on the village website that anyone who wishes to be informed of planning meetings should provide him with an e-mail address. This request will also be added to the Annual Parish Assembly leaflet.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Hermitage Parish Council will be on

Thursday 19 January 2006 at 7.45pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church

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

Lynne Riordan
Clerk, Hermitage Parish Council


19/1/06.

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT NOVEMBER 2005

1. The West Berkshire Primary Care Trusts PCTs are required to create one organisation. Newbury and Community, Reading and Wokingham will all merge. The time scale has still not been clarified by the Department of Health, which may impact on the planning of future services locally. The proposal is to have federal arrangements which are based on unitary boundaries, and which create a local Strategic Joint Panel. Each Council will nominate three Local Authority Members to its local Strategic Joint Panel. It is recommended that the west of Berkshire PCTs work towards an implementation date of April 2006.
2. West Berkshire Council has successfully bid for, and won from the Government, £12 million towards the re-building of Denefield Secondary and the co-locating of Long Lane Primary and Brookfields Special Schools in Tilehurst. This grant could give a significant boost to education in the area by providing purpose-built modern accommodation to replace substandard buildings which are at the end of their life and proving costly to maintain. It could also address the need to better integrate pupils with severe special educational needs while retaining the specialist facilities they need which cannot be provided in mainstream schools. West Berkshire has succeeded amid stiff competition from the 149 local education authorities in the country which were also able to bid for cash. The money has been granted under the Government's national 'funding schools for the future' programme. It is believed that considerable favour was found with the proposal that any future project would include new sport and leisure facilities open to the whole community, and a range of 'extended schools' activities for local people.
3. **Nick Carter** has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council appointment being warmly welcomed by the members.
4. **Nicky Linihan-Mardon** has now left the Council to take up a new role as Head of Planning & Transport at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. **Tim Slaney** has agreed to move into the now vacant Planning & Transport Policy Manager post. Starting on 6th December 2005. A replacement for Tim's current post, Development Control Manager, will now be sought.
5. Plans for a new resource centre to replace Newbury Day Centre in Newtown Road have been approved by West Berkshire Council. The centre will offer people with learning disabilities the opportunity for learning, leisure and employment with fully accessible and inclusive facilities. This is a new way of providing services to benefit both the community and people with learning disability. The building will also house the Morpheus Theatre, one of the UK's first fully accessible theatres. This will provide day centre users in a range of work including scenery and artwork, playing an active part in creating a successful commercial product and experiencing the rewards of artistic creation.

Quentin Webb
Joint Bucklebury Ward Member

