

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 16TH 2008.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham	Chairman
Mrs M. Goodman.	Vice-Chairman.
Mr R. Allum.	
Mr M. Frost.	
Mrs F. Groves.	
Mr Q Webb.	District Councillor.
Mr C.W.Goudge	Clerk

Four members of the public.

76. Election of the Chairman to the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Mrs Goodman and seconded by Mrs Groves that Ms Cottingham should be elected Chairman of the Council until the Annual Meeting in May 2009.
The proposition was carried unanimously.

77. Public participation.

It is believed that the consultation to explore the possibility of giving up land for the footpath widening scheme has not been successful. It is also believed that there is to be a marking on the road for a slightly lesser amount of widening to gauge Parishioners' reaction.

Now that the drainage scheme has been completed, WBC have been asked for a speed survey for High Street and the roads leading to the High Street.

Mr Webb felt this might be impractical but would wait and see the response from Highways.

There is a VAS sign near the School. Would it be possible to have these in other places..

There are mobile signs which might be used, though the PCSO believed that there was not a speeding problem in the Village.

Mr Webb would progress this idea. It was worth noting that the VAS sign picks up a car signature some 100 yds before the actual sign itself. .

It was regrettable that Mr Brown had left the Council over what appeared to be a small matter and it was hoped this would not set a precedent. Both members of the public would have returned to the meeting had they realised the reconvened meeting was quorate.

The comments were noted. The Council also regretted the resignation of Mr Brown and recoded the Council's thanks for his time as Chairman..

There is a tree by Briant's Place which is dangerous and needs to be replaced.

The Council would progress this.

78. The election of the Vice-Chairman to the Council.

It was proposed by Mr Allum and seconded by Mr Frost that Mrs Goodman be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council until the Annual Meeting in May 2009. The proposition was carried unanimously.

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79. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

80. Minutes of the last meeting held on September 18th 2008.

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

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

Minute 65.

i Parish Plan.

Sarah Ward would be making a presentation about reviving the present Plan at the next meeting in November.

82. Planning.

Decisions from the Planning Authority.

		Decision
08/01257/FULD	The Old Vicarage, Marlston Road. Variation of conditions.	Approval
08/01519/FULD	Demolition of Thistledown Eight new dwellings	Withdrawn
08/01547/HOUSE	25, Stretcher Drive, Hermitage. Conservatory.	Approval
08/01570/HOUSE	Benamore, High Street. Porch & extension	Approval

New planning applications.

08/01847/HOUSE Benamore, High Street.
Replace garage with extension.

The Council objected to the application on the following grounds.

1. **This represents overdevelopment of the site.**
2. **It is out of keeping with the Village vernacular.**
3. **There is inadequate parking.**

08/01851/FUL Charlotte House, Charlotte Close.
Make permanent change of use 04/00037/TEMP

The Council returned "no objections".

Other.

i SEERA.
Partial review of the South East Plan for Gypsy and Travellers' accommodation
needs. The Council has responded. Mr Webb noted that the concept is to allow proper regulation of sites.

ii WBC

i Affordable Housing – Exception sites procedure.
The emphasis would be on houses being built for strictly local occupation.

ii Glengarth, Hampstead Norreys Road.
The Tree preservation Order was noted..

iii Local Development Framework.
The consultation was placed into circulation.

RC

- iii Joint Strategic Planning Unit.
 - i Minerals & Waste Core Strategy.
The consultation was noted.

New matters

- i The Old Vicarage site in Marlston Road.
It was reported that the planning condition for hours of working was being breached. The Enforcement Officer would be informed.

83. Highways.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 69.

- i VAS sign.
- ii Footpath widening.
- iii Speeding in the Village.

These matters had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

- iii Marlston bridge.
This is ongoing.
- iv No parking signs.
It appears that the signs which were purchased were not suitable for the originally intended use, and would be kept for Village events. It was decided to see if WBC could supply two signs.

New matters.

There were no new matters.

84. Environment.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 70.

- i Thatcham Outreach.
It was decided to contact the Outreach Youth Work group to establish if there is a need for more direct contact with the Youth who use the Park as a gathering place. There have been no recent environmental problems and it was suggested that perhaps a Youth Shelter would allow a focal point for Youth.
Mr Webb and the Clerk would progress this with Mrs Willis.
- ii CCTV for the new changing rooms.
It was decided to ask Mr Willard to look at the plans for an evaluation, though it was recognised the implementation might be some time away.
Mr Allum is now fully involved in the Planning routines of the Council, and it was decided to suggest to the Village Hall Management Committee that the Council Representative to the Committee should now be Mrs Groves.

85. Finance.

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|----|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| i | Receipts. | | | |
| | Bank of Scotland. | Interest | Aug / September | £259.21 |
| | WBC | Precept 50% | | £13,000.00 |
| ii | Payments for authorisation. | | | |
| | F.C.Lawrence | Grass & shelters | | £360.83 |

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	Sovereign Housing	Lease	£5.00
	Thames Water	Burial Ground	£5.21
	C.W.Goudge	Salary & exes	£373.44
iii	Other.		
	i	The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.	
	ii	Change of Bank to Lloyds TSB.	
		It was decided to take this forward to the next meeting.	
	iii	It was decided to download the Grant Application Form on to the Village website.	

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

Minute 72.

- i Grave spaces.
WBC have confirmed that fresh planning consent is not needed for the consecration of part of the unused site. The Registrar has been informed.

87. Items to be raised by Councillors.

Mr Frost asked whether the Pre School could use part of the Council room in the Village Hall for storage space. It was decided to ask Pre School to have a look at the rest of the Hall first, and, if necessary, come back to the Council. Concerns were expressed about the security aspect of unlimited access to the Council room.

Mr Frost asked whether there had been any resolution of the Hermitage Green play area question.

Mr Webb said that the definitive position is not yet clear because it has not been handed over to WBC. It would be apposite to contact Clive Inward to progress a solution.

There are also some trees which need attention, and it was decided to ask Mr Lawrence to look at them and give a quotation.

The Chairman reported that the football pitch should be seeded this week. The ecologist could not yet act against the ragwort.

The question of whether the Council should take over the responsibility for the pitch was briefly discussed, and it was decided to bring the matter forward for the next meeting.

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

BALC – AGM at Theale – November 8th.

BALC – news update – 7 article headings.

Safer Communities Partnership Team Letter.

Standards Board of England – newsletter.

Department of Communities and Local Government – consultation on the making and enforcement of bye-laws.

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

89. Date of the next meeting.

Thursday November 20th at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room Holy Trinity Church.

Chairman

09.12.08

Date