

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2007
AT 8.00 PM. IN THE CHURCH ROOM, WEST WYCOMBE

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs Mrs V. Smith, Chairman, Mr R. Seymour, Mr F. Downes, Mr D. Callaghan, Mr N. Timberlake, Mrs C. Dakin, Mrs S. Henson, Clerk

3 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE ACCEPTED FROM:
Cllr Mrs A. Harris Mr N. Phillips – The National Trust.

CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING

These were agreed by those Councillors present and signed by the Chairman

TO DECLARE ANY PECUNIARY, NON-PECUNIARY, PERSONAL OR
PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

Cllr Downes declared anon-pecuniary interest in the planning application for Flint House.

REPORT ON PROGRESS ON ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. Cllr Seymour and Clerk attended the BCC Accessibility forum.
2. Cllr Mrs Smith attended the WDC Imagine the Future planning meeting and felt that WDC were well organised in producing the Government required document which will eventually replace the Local Plan. There is concern that the government are considering taking the use of brownfield sites out of the equation of building 300 homes pa, which could have a knock on effect and require the release of green belt, which WDC certainly do not want to do.
3. Cllr Seymour and Clerk attended the BCC Chairman's lunch for Area 8 Speed Review Parishes. It was a good opportunity to ask questions of Officers and County Councillors and was a good networking session.
4. Clerk attended the Official Opening of West Wycombe Community Library.
5. BCC Officers have advised the Clerk that there may still be issues regarding the right hand filter lane required for the planning application for 473 West Wycombe Road as the main corridors to High Wycombe should not be restricted and should be kept at the current width.

MEETING CLOSED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS

MEETING REOPENED

- 126.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM 12th January – 8th February
1. BCC Invitation to a follow up meeting on the Transportation & Accessibility Study at Longburrow Hall, 6th February
 2. BCC letter providing information on a new bus service and other proposed changes – circulated to all Councillors.
 3. Notification of WDALC Meeting on 29th March, Agenda and Minutes – Steven Orchard of BCC will be present talking about devolved powers.
 4. WDC Information on the dates and procedures for the May elections – passed to Councillors
 5. Invitation from the Farmland Advisory Group to join at a cost of £42pa (leaflet given to Cllr Mrs Smith) – it was felt that this was not appropriate for this Parish Council.
 6. NatCrag report from Cllr Downes circulated to all Councillors.

7. Copy letter from WDC to BCC pushing for more gully emptying (on our instigation)
8. Appeal decision from Secretary of State re 473 West Wycombe Road – approved, one condition is that the right hand filter lane has to exist and we have written a very strong letter to BCC at Aylesbury stating our concerns at their lack of care and site visits in responding to planning applications where highways issues are concerned.
9. Payment from WDC for the electricity used for the Air Pollution Monitor
10. BT confirmation of our direct debit instructions
11. Email from Stephen Harris asking if we could do anything about the mud at the Recycling Bins – WDC has spread the Christmas tree chippings in front of them and this has improved the situation considerably.
12. Copy of the minutes of the School Travel Plan meeting – they are trying hard to address the issues of bad parking habits.
13. Letter from Mr Begg of The National Trust stating that the meeting we asked for is being set up and a very senior officer has carried out a site visit.
14. The Playing Field Newsletter
15. Imagine the Future Newsletter
16. Imagine the Future Consultation – comments by 21st March
17. WDC Rural Activities Newsletter
18. Update letter from The Chilterns Conservation Board
19. BCC acknowledgement of our letter re Highways involvement in Planning Applications.

126.2 PLANNING

Applications

SDN/07/05118 5118/LBC – Flint House, Bradenham Road – construction of replacement covered area and entrance lobby – no objection

MJD/07/05191/FUL – Amina House, 373 West Wycombe Rd – engineering alterations to create ambulant disabled access necessary to support planning permission 05/06401/FUL for 6 flats – no objection

Decisions

Appeal decision from Secretary of State re 473 West Wycombe Road – approved, one condition is that the right hand filter lane has to exist

126.3 TO REPORT ON HIGHWAYS ISSUES INCLUDING PAVEMENTS/KERB STONES IN THE HIGH STREET AND TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT ON THE LOCAL AREA MEETING

It was agreed that we would bid for pavement resurfacing along the south side of the High Street. Loose kerb stones outside George and Dragon and Mr Turner's house.

Cllrs Mrs Smith and Mr Callaghan attended the Local Area Committee meeting. The grass cutting budget will be reduced by £30,000 pa. BCC are going to try an experiment of turning off some of the street lights to reduce light pollution and cutting costs, the first area will be by Hughenden Manor where 'intelligent' studs have been installed. WDC are considering extending the Special Parking Area which we must be alert to. BCC talked about the waste procurement policy. Recycling in Bucks has increased incredibly. They will be purchasing an incinerator which will produce electricity

126.4 TO DISCUSS INSTALLING STUB POSTS ON THE VERGE AREA OPPOSITE THE PEDESTAL GARAGE

An option to stop parking on this section of verge was discussed – erecting small stub posts. Costs for plastic posts would be £900 and £3550 for cast

iron. Councillors were against any more street furniture and also felt it was too expensive to consider. Clerk will investigate if established shrubs could be planted to prevent parking.

126.5 TO DISCUSS ANY AMENDMENTS REQUIRED TO THE WEBSITE

No major changes were suggested. Clerk will work with webmaster on the updating process. Councillors asked how well it was being used. Statistics are sent through every week – some weeks its very high usage and others in the 40's (last weeks was 48, 39 of which were new visitors). Clerk always refers to it in Contact but new posters will be put up to encourage usage. Waste collection times have been listed and when the new bus timetable is available this will be put up.

126.6 TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON THE TIMETABLE FOR THE MAY ELECTIONS

The first notices will be put up on March 26th, and nomination papers have to be submitted before noon on April 4th. Clerk will hand at nomination packs at the March meeting. Clerks have to attend a meeting on 8th March. Once the election process has commenced and Councillors have submitted nomination papers to stand for election Councillors should not make use of Parish Council facilities e.g., email addresses cannot be used.

126.7 RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR FEBRUARY 2007 AND SIGNING OF CHEQUES

Cheques and standing orders for Mrs S. Henson, Bucks County Council Crossing Patrol, Jacobs Babbie balance on Bradenham Road lights, Mike Henson Presentations – annual hosting fee and domain name, Chiltern Paving Ltd

It was resolved to approve the accounts.

126.8 MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Cllr Mrs Smith had been asked if the new Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the High Street could put up 3 signs. It was agreed that one on either end of the High Street and one near The Caves could be erected

2. Cllr Downes was concerned about the appearance of an A5 leaflet which on first appearance would seem to have come from the Parish Council, which was asking for people to come forward as Parish Councillors. It was produced by Cllr Timberlake and was imprinted with the Liberal Democrat address and came across that was a Liberal Democrat leaflet. This appeared at the same time as a Liberal Democrat newsletter. He stated that it was a time honoured tradition that Parish Councils were not political and he was concerned that the 'Parish Councillor' leaflet had not been discussed at a Parish Council meeting. Cllr Timberlake felt that his statements were not contentious and that the authority of the Parish Council would be enhanced by the public taking affirmative action.

Cllr Mrs Smith stated that Councillors were very hurt and surprised by the content of the leaflet and felt Cllr Timberlake had been discourteous to the other Councillors to put the leaflet out.

Cllr Callaghan felt that the Liberal Democrat newsletter indicated that it had been a Liberal Democrat achievement for the Rider on Call project when in fact the Parish Council had worked as a team for over 4 years with BCC. He felt that all the Parish Council's achievements were team efforts.

Cllr Timberlake felt that he had acknowledged the achievement of the Parish Council but had highlighted his contribution as a transport expert.

3. Councillors were concerned about the amount of cardboard boxes sitting by the side of the recycling containers.
4. Cllr Mrs Smith asked that we should indicate that our Standing Orders are to be read in conjunction with those produced by NALC.
5. Cllr Mrs Dakin reported that she had been invited to a School Governors meeting, but that it had been cancelled due to one of the recent frequent power cuts.
6. Cllr Timberlake reported that the Official Opening of the Library had taken place on 3rd February and this had been a very successful and well attended event. The current opening hours are Monday 3.30 – 7.00pm; Thursday 2 – 5pm; Saturday 10 – 1pm. There had been a steady stream of visitors on Monday.

126.9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 8th March in the Church Room at 8pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm and thanked Councillors and members of the public for turning out under such bad weather conditions.