

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
5th AUGUST 2013
AT 07:45PM IN OWSLEBURY PARISH HALL**

PRESENT

Parish Councillor John Chapman (in the Chair)

Parish Councillors: Gerry Tull, Mark Egerton, Roger Page, Sally Tattersall, Paul Phillips, Will Martin.

IN ATTENDANCE

County and District Councillor Rob Humby (left 9.15pm)

District Councillor Laurence Ruffell (left 9.15pm)

Clerk: Michael Cleary

5 members of the public (left at varying times, the last being 9.45pm)

139/13 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies to report.

140/13 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Councillor Phillips noted his personal interest (as a resident) in matters directly concerning Pitcot Lane.

141/13 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH JULY 2013

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th July 2013 had been previously circulated. There was one amendment to the draft Minutes to correct a spelling error. There being no other amendments the Chairman asked they be formally adopted and his proposal was unanimously approved.

142/13 POLICE REPORT

PC Mike Richards was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency call-out. He submitted a written report to the Clerk setting out the incidents in the period 10th June – 5th August. These included:

- a) 1 report of theft (Scivers Lane) and 1 attempted theft (Marwell Zoo)
- b) 2 burglaries (Hensting Lane and Belmore Lane)
- c) 1 report of criminal damage at a property in Belmore Lane

143/13 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

a Planning Applications – statement of intent from owner or agent and public comment.

Mr Digby Cooper (Marwell Activity Centre) commented on his application for the construction of portable visitor accommodation (5 timber lodges and 7 eco-pods). He explained the background to the proposals and noted amongst other matters that the replacement of the stables with the portable accommodation should result in fewer traffic movements and greater safety. He responded to questions from Councillors in relation to sight lines and sewerage issues. He noted the accommodation would be subject to short term holiday let conditions.

Mr James Green (Land opposite Humbee's Nurseries) commented on his application for change of use from a plant and retail centre to a mixed use horticultural, ancillary retail and commercial landscaping contractors yard and the erection of a barn and aggregate bays. He outlined the background to his family business and his plans for the future. Amongst other matters he noted traffic movements would be few in number (vehicles mainly kept at clients – deliveries of aggregate estimated at 1 per week), and that most plants would be grown for his business use rather than for retail (although this may expand in the future). Councillors noted their concern over 'creeping industrialisation' and whether the Planning classification was sufficiently restrictive to preclude this.

b Other agenda items –public comment.

There were no other questions from members of the public.

144/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) Pitcot Lane drainage.

County and District Councillor Humby reported he had met with Hampshire Highways to discuss the budgeting process and would be meeting them again shortly to discuss specific issues in the County including Pitcot Lane.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Pitcot Lane drainage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County/District Councillor Humby to discuss issue and options with Hampshire Highways. 		RH

b) Bridleway 9 process and procedure

The Clerk reported most Councillors had informed him of the additional question they would like to put to the Officer. These were mainly in relation to transparency in the costs of the works and assurance that changes in procedure would ensure the Parish Council is given earlier and better information about projects of a similar nature. The Clerk noted County and District Councillor Humby would be arranging a meeting with the Officer, together with the Chairman and Clerk, to consider the remaining questions. County and District Councillor Humby commented on the actions he had taken to assist the Parish Council in obtaining the information it sought. Councillor Tull felt the report prepared by the Officer and circulated to Councillors at the last meeting was inadequate, notably in relation to financial transparency. He felt this long drawn out saga could have been dealt with earlier by HCC if they had followed procedures in the first instance, provided financial transparency and apologised for the way the Parish had been treated. The Chairman, whilst understanding the concerns expressed, reminded Councillors to focus on the matters germane to the Parish Council rather than as individual Council Tax payers.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Bridleway 9 process and procedure and related issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman and Clerk to meet with County and District Councillor Humby and the Officer to discuss relevant issues. To consider outcome of review of the complaint by Councillor Tull (in his private capacity) and to determine whether the Council should take up the matter with HCC. 	September September	JC/RH/Clerk All Councillors

c) Kerbing at Hurst Lane

The Chairman reported he had discussed the matter with owners of the two properties concerned where water from the highway was unduly damaging the frontage of the properties. A broad estimate of the costs involved was c£4,000. In one case the owner had agreed to make a financial contribution at a level the Chairman was minded to recommend to the Council, but in the case of the other property, the Chairman felt the proposed contribution was on the light side and asked for Councillors views. Councillors felt great care must be taken to ensure any expenditure was fair and did not unduly benefit any one parishioner. They also commented the kerbing needed to be functional rather than decorative. They advised the Chairman to seek a greater personal contribution and to bring the matter back to Council for further consideration.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Kerbing at Hurst Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss level of personal contribution with local residents and discuss options open to Council 		JC

d) Finial Lower Bayridge/Whaddon Lanes

The Clerk reported he had made contact with the original manufacturers and the cost estimate for a new finial, painting and installation was £395. He had made a claim on the Council's insurance company and was awaiting their decision.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Finials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to update Council on outcome of insurance claim 	ASAP	Clerk

e) Signage on Bridlepaths

The Clerk reported he had made contact with a Park Ranger who undertook to investigate the matter and return to him.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Signage on Bridlepaths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with HCC erection of signage on major rights of way re cyclists responsibilities. 	ASAP	Clerk

f) Sports Clubs/Cricket Pavilion

Councillor Egerton noted the positive discussion within the Football and Cricket Clubs for strengthening relations and he would report further, as previously agreed, at the September meeting.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Sports Clubs/Pavilion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint committee to be formed of Cricket and Sports Clubs to consider matters outlined in Chairman's note including proposed operation of facilities, construction and funding of new pavilion (including outline planning permission), Health and Safety including potential injury/damage from cricket balls) and related considerations on current pavilion, and short term arrangements. 	September meeting	ME/Clerk

g) The Ship Inn

The Clerk noted he had submitted a request to WCC for the Ship Inn to be registered as a Community Asset. WCC had acknowledged the request and would give its approval or otherwise by the end of August.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Ship Inn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to update Council on outcome of request to WCC to register The Ship Inn as a community asset.. 	September	Clerk

h) Dangerous Trees at Jackman's Hill process and procedure

The Clerk reported he had had a frank conversation with Peter Eade of Hampshire Highways. Mr Eade had readily acknowledged there had been undue delay in dealing with the original issue of dead trees at Jackman's Hill. He was keen to avoid a repetition and suggested that should there be a similar public safety issue which the Council felt was taking too long to resolve through traditional routes, the Clerk should contact him direct. Councillors noted the Clerk's comments.

i) Hampshire Highways

The Clerk reported a meeting (involving the Chairman) had been arranged for 10 September with Peter Eade to discuss a range of highways issues.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Hampshire Highways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To request HH to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> safety requests in relation to culvert at Hurst Lane loose kerb stone in Whaddon Lane verges on LHS Longwood Road acquisition of 20 is plenty signs clearing of drains and gullies (notably Whaddon Lane signage/sight lines re Marwell Activity Exit and Greener Landscapes 	Report back at October meeting	Clerk

j) Trees

The Clerk reported he had not been able to secure assistance from WCC for advice on the Bank Tree and the tree by the Jubilee Table. Councillor Tull suggested in the first instance informal advice should be taken from a particular local tree expert with a business in the Parish. Subject to that advice it may be necessary for a formal assessment. District Councillor Ruffell also offered to make enquiries within WCC to see whether they could assist in this matter.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To seek informal advice on health of Bank tree and tree by Jubilee table and report back to Council. 	ASAP	Clerk

k) Track at Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported Enviroplant had been instructed to undertake the work which should be complete by the end of August.

l) Draft Parish Plan

The Clerk reported he had had a discussion with Steve Lincoln of WCC as to the best way to progress the Plan. He had been advised to ensure the Plan was comprehensive in scope incorporating views expressed during the Blueprint public consultation as well as the later consultation, and preliminary outcomes from discussions with WCC and HCC departments on the main action points in the draft Plan. In this way the Plan would have greater credibility with Departments within HCC and WCC. In response to a question District Councillor Ruffell noted Departments did take account of credible Parish Plans; whilst Officials would have to abide by policy decisions, District and County Councillors can and do over-rule them on occasion, in part, on the basis of local views expressed in local plans.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Draft Parish Plan To prepare final Plan after seeking final comments by the end of September.	October	Clerk

m) Beech Grove

District Councillor Ruffell commented on the work undertaken in Beech Grove. Some 11 new parking spaces had been created and with one exception he was happy with the outcome of the work. Councillor Tull noted it was still not possible for the Lorries to access the bottle bank and some residents were unhappy with the arrangements. District Councillor Ruffell commented the bottle bank issue could quite easily be resolved by 'blanking-off' one particular spot where a parked car would inhibit access to the bottle bank and he had recommended this course of action to WCC.

145/13 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillor Ruffell commented on a number of matters including the timely emptying of the Bottle bank and the investment being made in social housing in the Winchester area.

County and District Councillor Humby noted or commented on the following matters.

- the withdrawal of the 63 and 63A bus services. WCC were seeking new tenders for the service and hoped to announce alternative arrangements by the beginning of September. He, like Councillors, was surprised by the short notice given to users and would make enquiries;
- the major road works necessary to replace the water main between the Queen's Head traffic lights and the Colden Common roundabout would take place primarily in January. A meeting would take place shortly to consider the diversionary routes. Councillors also noted the long term problem of a bottle-neck on Fair Oak Road/Colden Common and enquired whether this would also be addressed. County and District Councillor Humby would keep the Council informed of developments;
- the empty property in Beech Grove which had been reported to the Housing Department- he had asked for their comments and would update the Council in due course;
- the level and sources of grants which may be available to the Parish Council. The County Councillor grants resources had been augmented by an additional £10,000 for environmental and minor highways improvements. Whilst such grants were open to all parishes in his division, it may enable him to consider minor improvements to highway related matters in Owslebury. He also noted other grants which may be available including for Sports related matters (which could include cricket nets);
- the roll out of faster broadband services. He acknowledged the excellent work of Peter Facey in researching and monitoring broadband in the area. Concern was expressed as to the need to update the exchange equipment to '21st Century' so as to enable broadband speed to be increased from c8 megabytes to up to 24 megabytes. However this did not appear to be on BT's agenda at present. Moreover the installation of the appropriate 'cabinet' in the exchange would enable the use of fibre optics with a potential further upgrade to 50 megabytes for those in the centre of the village living within 1 kilometre of the exchange/cabinet. County and District Councillor Humby

agreed to look into this matter further and suggested the Chairman join him and Peter Facey at a meeting (to be arranged) with BT to consider these matters.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Broadband services To arrange a meeting with BT, County and District Councillor Humby, the Chairman and Peter Facey to discuss the upgrade of telephone exchanges, installation of broadband cabinet and fibre optic cabling.	ASAP	RH/JC

146/13 HIGHWAYS

The principle item on the agenda had been the issues of speed limits, enforcement and the use of Speed Watch as means to help reduce speed in the area. The Chairman noted the meetings with the Police and Hampshire highways had been delayed and it was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting of the Council.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Traffic management		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Owslebury Newsletter to publicise traffic management issues and to help gain public support for the reporting of traffic incidents Request review of approach to Speed Watch as part of gaining credible evidence. Review of outcome of meetings with Police and HCC (Andy Smith) 	September September On going	ST/Clerk JC/Clerk JC/ST/Clerk

147/13 RIGHTS OF WAY

No matters were raised by Councillors.

148/13 PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

SDNP 13/03035/FUL	Marwell Activity Centre, Owslebury, Winchester
Proposal:	Use of land for siting of portable visitor accommodation: 5 no. Timber lodges and 7 no. ecopads
Closing Date SDNPA:	08/08/13
Closing Date OPC:	08/08/13

Councillors expressed concerns about a number of matters most notably in relation to traffic movements and sight lines. Councillors agreed with the Chairman's summary that whilst the Council had no overall concerns, Hampshire highways and the owners should work together to improve the sight lines on the exit from the site. (The following comment on behalf of the Council was submitted to SDNP: "*Whilst the Council has no objection in principle to the Application, it wishes to bring to your attention its strong concerns as to the sight lines on the exit from the property, particularly in view of the speed of the traffic using the lane. The Council would like to see Hampshire Highways and the property owners work together on this matter to improve safety.*")

SDNP 13/03079/HOUS	Stoneycroft, Hensting Lane, Owslebury, Winchester
Proposal:	Render external existing brickwork and windows.
Closing Date SDNPA:	13/08/13
Closing Date OPC:	13/08/13

OPC decision: no comment

SDNP 13/03487/FUL WCC 13/01456/FUL	Greener Landscapes Ltd, Humbee Nurseries, Thomsons Lane, Owslebury, Winchester
Proposal:	Change of use from a plant and retail centre to mixed use horticultural, ancillary retail and commercial landscaping contractors yard and erection of a storage barn and aggregate bays.

Closing Date SDNPA:	15/08/13
Closing Date OPC:	15/08/13

Councillors expressed concerns, most notably over the potential for ‘creeping industrialisation’ which would be contrary to the draft Parish Plan. In this regard they were concerned about the use of the Sui Generis classification and wanted assurance the current and future owners would require specific planning permission to develop activities which fell under other classifications, notably retail and contractors yards. Concern was also expressed over traffic movements and sight lines. Councillors agreed to the Chairman’s summary to the effect that whilst there was no objection in principle to the Application, assurance should be sought that change of use by the current or new owner would require specific planning permission. Furthermore, concern should be expressed over the access to the site. (The following comment on behalf of the Council was submitted to SDNP and WCC “*The Council noted that the statement in the report prepared by Southern Planning to the effect the Council and local community had been consulted on the proposed Application was incorrect. The Parish Council was most concerned with potential future use of the site, and indeed this is reflected in the Parish Plan which the Parish Council is currently preparing. Whilst the Council has no objection in principle to the Application it requires assurance that any material variation in the nature of activities carried on at the site by the current or future owners would need Planning Permission and that the Sui Generis classification could not be used by the present or future owners to develop a retail operation or contractors yard without specific Planning Permission. Indeed, the Parish Council believes that strong constraints should be applied to the use of the site in the event of either the land being re-sold or further change of use being requested. The Parish Council also has strong concerns about the access to the site, particularly in the light of the speed of the traffic using the Lane. The sight lines need to be improved for public safety. Furthermore, the Parish Council is concerned about traffic movements in this area and would wish to see a restriction on the vehicular movements and that such movements be restricted to the working week (Monday-Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm).*”.)

b) Planning Decisions

Councillors noted the planning application for Whaddon House had been approved.

c) Enforcement issues

The Clerk noted he had not been informed of any new Enforcement matters. However, in relation Woodland View Stable he noted the application to remove one of the conditions imposed following the appeal hearing (previously reported to Council), had been withdrawn. However a new application is likely to be submitted for the retention of the kennels (but the owners have not yet paid the necessary fee for the application to proceed). Finally, Enforcement action was in progress to remove the mobile home.

d) Golden Common housing developments

Councillors noted 2 of the potential housing development sites were in Hensting Lane and as such bordered on Owslebury and Morestead Parish. However there was some considerable way to go before the actual development sites were selected and it was agreed the matter should be kept under review.

149/13 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION

a) Hampshire County Council Pension Fund

Councillors noted the Council was contracted to the HCC Pension Fund in respect of a former employee and was obliged to contribute to the recovery of the pension scheme deficit of the fund (OPC share £300 for 2013/14) and agreed to a back-log payment of £100 and £25 per month thereafter for the rest of 2013/14.

b) Payments and receipts

Councillors noted the payments made since the last meeting (and approved at that meeting) and the payments to be made subject to the approval of the Council, together with the actual receipts since the last meeting:

Voucher	Amount (£)	Payee	Purpose
PAYMENTS			
36	48.00	G Tull	Already paid: Urgent work on Glebe Field approved by Minute 127/13 (g)
37	35.00	Office of Information Commissioner	Already paid: annual fee under Data Protection Act
38	25.00	S Gill	Already paid: Parish Plan raffle winner Minute 132/13(c) refers
39	25.00	I Nagle-Taylor	Already paid: Parish Plan raffle winner Minute 132/13(c) refers

40	158.38	Cannon	Grass cutting (April) - £131.98 + VAT £26.40
41	32.50	TLC	Website maintenance
42	245.12	M Cleary	Net pay July
43	162.80	Post Office Ltd	Clerk's PAYE July
44	19.69	M Cleary	Exps July (travel £7.21; printer paper £9.98; postage £2.50)
45	100.00	Hampshire Pension Fund	Pension deficit contribution (unbudgeted)
46	20.00	J Chapman	Chairman's expense allowance May- July (as per budget)
RECEIPTS			
	100.00	SSE	Substation rent for 2013

The Clerk has received notification of a grant of £250 from Hampshire Playing Fields, but it has not as yet been credited to the OPC account.

The Cash book balances (reconciled to the latest bank statements) at 5th August were £34,401.76 (including ring fenced funds, of which Alternative Community Projects Reserve is £14,906.02).

150/13 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Councillors determined that responses to the SDNP Strategic Plan questionnaire should be on an individual basis.
- b) Councillors decided not to submit comments on the NALC 'Developing Strategy' paper
- c) Councillors noted the new Open Spaces Strategy prepared by WCC and had no comments to submit to WCC.
- d) Councillors noted the email from Cathy Fox about aircraft noise. Whilst this (and aircraft taking 'short cuts' on the approach to the airport) was not a widespread concern at this time, the position would be monitored.
- e) Councillors noted the Flood Insurance consultation. Concern was expressed at the proposed obligation of all households in the country to contribute to the proposed Flood Re insurance scheme, whilst at the same time government allowed developments to take place on flood plains, so increasing the flooding risks and the future premiums to Flood Re. The Chairman suggested this matter be raised at the forthcoming AGM of HALC.
- f) Councillors noted the updates on Boom Town, the Horticultural Show and the Winchester Transport Forum.

151/13 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

There were no additional items suggested by Councillors for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.

152/13 DATE OF NEXT TMEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be on 9th September 2013 at the Parish Hall commencing at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 10pm

Chairman..... John Chapman..... Date: 9th September 2013