

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
9th SEPTEMBER 2013
COMMENCING 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.

IN ATTENDANCE

District Councillor Laurence Ruffell (left 8.55pm)
Clerk: Michael Cleary
3 members of the public (left at 9.30pm)

153/13 APOLOGIES

County and District Councillor Rob Humby
Parish Councillor Will Martin.

154/13 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Councillor Phillips noted his personal interest in matters directly concerning Pitcot Lane and in St. Andrews Church. Councillor Page noted he is a neighbour of Mr and Mrs Halewood of Woodland View Stables. Councillor Egerton noted he is Secretary of the Cricket Club.

155/13 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH AUGUST 2013

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th August 2013 had been previously circulated. There were no amendments to the draft Minutes. The Chairman asked they be formally adopted and his proposal was unanimously approved.

156/13 POLICE REPORT

Police representatives were unable to attend the meeting and there was no written report. However, the Clerk noted the national Crime Statistics web page recorded the following incidents in Owslebury and Morestead for the month of July: 1 incident of anti-social behaviour and 1 of criminal damage in Baybridge Lane, a burglary in Hensting Lane, 1 incident of anti-social behaviour in Main Road and 1 of criminal damage in Pitcot Lane.

157/13 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

a Planning Applications – statement of intent from owner or agent and public comment.
Mr Ian Donohue (Southern Planning), Mrs Halewood and Mr Halewood (applicants) all commented on the Planning Application for Woodland View Stables. Amongst other matters they noted:

- the current Application addressed the 3 main conditions required by the Inspector for the continuation of the kennels, following an Appeal on a previous application: landscaping, septic tank installation and fencing
- Mr and Mrs Halewood were unable to comply with the conditions during the original period set by the Inspector due in part to illness and personal issues
- Mr and Mrs Halewood were working with WCC to ensure they complied with planning conditions
- the business involved the rearing of Boxer dogs for selected homes and was not a 'puppy farm'. They had 'tidied up the place' and Mr and Mrs Halewood noted recent animal welfare inspections had been satisfactory.
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Mrs Halewood provided the Council with a copy of letter from Mr Lacey withdrawing a complaint he had made against a previous application (letter already on OPC files).

b Other agenda items –public comment.
There were no questions from members of the public on other matters.

158/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) Pitcot Lane drainage.

The Clerk understood the matter had been discussed in principle by County and District Councillor Humby with Hampshire Highways, but no conclusions had been reached. The issue would be considered at a meeting to be held the following day between Hampshire Highways, the Chairman and the Clerk. Councillor Tull commented the Lane was a recognised footpath and as such should be maintained by HCC. The Clerk noted HCC acknowledged (many years ago) the Lane was an Ancient Highway and the maintenance implications would be discussed again with them at the meeting on 10th September.

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. Clerk and Chairman to discuss options with Hampshire Highways 	10/09/13	RH Clerk/JC

b) Bridleway 9 process and procedure

In the absence of County and District Councillor Humby, District Councillor Ruffell noted that County and District Councillor Humby was in the process of arranging a meeting involving the Officer, County and District Councillor Humby, the Clerk and Chairman.

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 key 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. 	October October	JC/RH/Clerk All Councillors

c) Kerbing at Hurst Lane

The Chairman reported that cost estimates were currently being prepared and a final decision could be taken shortly.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Kerbing at Hurst Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree level of personal contribution with local residents and final costings 		JC

d) Finial Lower Bayridge/Whaddon Lanes

The Clerk reported that whilst the insurance company was prepared to pay for a new finial, subject to the insurance excess of £100, as the finger post was owned by the Council, Hampshire Highways may be prepared to maintain the post and hence incur the cost of a new finial. The matter would be included on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting with HH.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Finials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to update Council on outcome of discussion with Hampshire Highways re maintenance of finger post 	October	Clerk

e) Sports Clubs/Cricket Pavilion

Councillor Egerton reported there had been 2 meetings of the Cricket and Football Clubs and a further meeting would take place shortly. The meetings had been constructive and the participants were working towards greater integration of the 2 clubs. In response to questions he noted health and safety considerations and the possible funding for a new pavilion would be included in future discussions, and he would report-back to Council in due course.

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 		ME

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.		
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f) The Ship Inn

The Clerk reported WCC had agreed to the designation of the Ship Inn as a Community Asset.

g) 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 To request HH to consider: a) safety requests in relation to culvert at Hurst Lane b) loose kerb stone in Whaddon Lane c) verges on LHS Longwood Road d) acquisition of 20 is plenty signs e) clearing of drains and gullies (notably Whaddon Lane f) signage/sight lines re Marwell Activity Exit and Greener Landscapes	Report back at October meeting	Clerk

h) Broadband services

The Clerk noted County and District Councillor Humby would be arranging the meeting with BT.

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

159/13 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

In the absence of County and District Councillor Humby, District Councillor Ruffell reported on the new bus service for Owslebury following the withdrawal of Xelebus. Councillors noted there was substantial concern and unhappiness about the reduction in the frequency of the service. There was a clear danger that in time people without cars, notably older people, would simply not be able to live in the Parish. Councillors asked the Clerk to send a letter to HCC stressing the importance of the bus services, and for HCC to work towards a better longer term solution for the needs of the Parish.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Bus services To submit a letter to HCC noting unhappiness with new arrangements and need to work towards a longer term solution.	ASAP	Clerk

District Councillor Ruffell noted the resurfacing of Beech Grove would take place during the October half-term period and would include 'keep clear' lines so as to allow access to the bottle bank.

160/13 HIGHWAYS

- a) The principle item on the agenda related to issues connected with speed limits, enforcement and the use of Speed Watch as means to help reduce speed in the area. The Chairman noted the meeting with Andy Smith of Traffic Management would take place on 10th September 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"> • To review role of future development of Speed Watch • To review outcome of meeting with Police and Traffic management • To use Owslebury Newsletter to publicise traffic management issues and to help gain public support for the reporting of traffic incidents 	October	JC/ST/Clerk

- b) The Clerk reported he had received complaints about over-hanging hedges and in one case, a reduction in the sight-line at a junction. Whilst understanding the concerns expressed, Councillors recognised that hedge cutting would generally take place in late autumn. They asked the Clerk to request a 'reminder' to cut hedges be included the next Newsletter.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Hedges To request a 'reminder' be included in the next edition of the Newsletter	ASAP	Clerk

- c) Councillors Tull and Phillip reported on their attendance at the Colden Common Parish Council meeting during which Hampshire Highways, Southern Water and the contractors, Clancy DOCWRA gave a presentation on the road closures and diversions relating to the replacement of the water main on the Main Road between the Queen's Head pub and the Colden common roundabout. There was considerable concern as to the impact on Owslebury and Morestead, as whilst not sign-posted as a diversion route, it would inevitably be used as such. It was agreed the matter should be raised with Hampshire Highways, where possible steps should be taken to reduce volume and speed of traffic, and that Parishioners should be provided with as much information as possible.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Diversion route: Main Road water main <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To obtain further information from Hampshire Highways • To ensure Parishioners are better informed of extent of road closure and diversionary routes • To consider the practical steps, if any, to be taken to reduce the risk of Owslebury and Morestead being used as 'rat runs' during the road works. 	ASAP	Clerk

161/13 RIGHTS OF WAY

The Clerk reported he had received a number of complaints about the state of certain footpaths and bridleways. He had reported specific complaints to HCC and in some cases action had been taken. In addition the Lengthsman had undertaken work to clear footpaths in the village centre and to repair a stile. Councillor Tull requested he be informed of complaints. He would endeavour to keep footpaths and bridleways clear, within reason. However there were a few bridleways where access would be difficult or unsuitable for his tractor.

162/13 PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

W21592/05	Woodland View Stables, Portsmouth Road, Fishers Pond, Eastleigh
Proposal:	Retention of kennels
Closing Date WCC:	05/09/13
Closing Date OPC:	10/09/13

There was an extensive debate on the Application and at times the discussion became 'heated' with Mr and

Mrs Halewood shouting at Councillors, including insults and maligning the character of one of the Councillors. Having restored calm, the Chairman asked for a vote on the submission to be made by the Parish Council. 3 Councillors 'opposed' the Application and 2 preferred 'no comment'. The remaining Councillor felt the applicants should be 'given a fair crack of the whip' and for that reason he felt the Council should express 'no comment' in its submission to WCC. After further reflection it was agreed the Council's response to WCC should be 'no further comment' given the Council had already expressed substantive comment on the previous applications and there had been no material change in circumstances.

SDNP 13/039016/LDE	Hensting Hall, Hensting Lane, Fishers Pond
Proposal:	The use of Hensting Hall as a dwelling house (Class C3) with associated residential garden (certificate of lawfulness).
Closing Date SDNPA:	09/09/13
Closing Date OPC:	10/09/13

OPC decision: no comment

SDNP 13/02582/FUL	Marwell Wildlife, Thompsons Lane, Owslebury
Proposal:	New animal house with enclosures and solar PV bank (retrospective).
Closing Date SDNPA:	19/09/13
Closing Date OPC:	09/09/13

OPC decision: no comment

b) Planning Decisions

Councillors noted the Planning Application for the relocation of the reception portacabin at Marwell Wildlife had been withdrawn.

c) Old Wells Cottage – SDNP 13/03664/HOUS

Councillors confirmed OPC's submission on the above Application should be 'no comment', as notified to the Clerk by email following the last Council meeting.

d) Report-back on Clerk's conversation with Planning Officer re Land adjacent to Humbee's Nurseries (SDNP 13/03487/FUL)

The Clerk noted the key points from a note he had previously circulated to Councillors on his conversation with the Planning Officer to highlight the concerns expressed in the Council's submission. In particular the Sui Generis classification was in many ways more restrictive than the other Planning classes and would not permit a 'free for all' as had been feared by Councillors. He and the Chairman had stressed that serious consideration should be given to traffic related issues notably the sight lines. Councillor Tull remained sceptical about the precedents set by the 'Sui Generis' Application and wished it to be recorded that he had 'warned the Council'.

e) Enforcement

The Clerk reported on his conversation with the Enforcement Officer in connection with Woodland View Stables, and Councillor Tull commented on his own conclusions on reading the various papers and his discussions with the Mr and Mrs Halewood. He would be attending the meeting between the Halewoods and the Enforcement Officer in his private capacity. There was a heated debate on the matter with pronounced differences of view. At the conclusion of the discussion it was agreed to await the outcome of the review by the Enforcement Officer.

162/13 TRAVELLERS

The Clerk and Councillor Tull reported on recent problems experienced in neighbouring parishes in connection with unauthorised use of publicly owned land by Travellers. It was agreed to monitor developments and for the Clerk to report-back at the next meeting.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Travellers To consider any further issues in connection with Travellers and steps to be taken should a problem arise in the Parish.		Clerk

163/13 BOOMTOWN FESTIVAL 2013

Councillor Tattersall and other Councillors expressed concern at the organisation and management of the 2013 Festival. There were material issues in connection with traffic disruption and public safety (one person had died through a drugs overdose, another required emergency treatment and another had either been seriously injured or killed in a road accident). Councillors recognised the financial contribution the Festival brought to the area as well as the enjoyable participation of many people. However the Police and Licensing Authority should enforce the law. The organisers needed to ‘sharpen their act’ generally and most certainly before any approval be given to an increase in the permitted number attending the Festival in future years. The Clerk was asked to write to WCC and the organisers.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Boomtown Festival To submit a letter to WCC and the organisers expressing the Councils concerns.	ASAP	Clerk

164/13 BANK TREE

The Clerk reported he had received advice from a tree expert as to the best way to preserve the life of the Bank tree, a key feature in Owslebury. Whilst very old and coming to the end of its life, measures could be taken to preserve the tree for a while longer. Whilst immediate steps had been taken to fertilise the tree, the dead branches would need to be removed to lessen the strain on the tree and to avoid branches falling onto the road. This would need to be undertaken before the tree lost its leaves. EnviroPlant, as part of its community contribution, had agreed to undertake the work without labour charges (third party platform hire and related charges would be incurred by the Council). In view of the immediacy of the necessary work and the limited amount of hire charges involved (c£500), the Council agreed to accept the offer from EnviroPlant and asked the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements and to thank EnviroPlant for their help in this matter.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Bank Tree To accept the offer from EnviroPlant to remove dead branches from the Bank tree and to arrange for the work to be undertaken.	ASAP	Clerk

165/13 PARISH PLAN

The Clerk noted the Plan would be amended and updated over the next few months so as to incorporate the outcome of discussions with WCC, HH and HCC on matters raised in the Plan.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Parish Pan To amend and update the draft Plan to include comments from discussions with WCC, HCC and HH, and to take account of advice received from Steve Lincoln (WCC Officer).	October/ November	Clerk

166/13 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION

a) Payments and receipts

Councillors noted the payments made since the last meeting (and approved by Councillors) 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			
47	240.00	BDO	Audit fee 2012/13 (VAT £40)

48	55.20	EnviroPlant	Fertiliser (VAT £9.20)
49	1440.00	EnviroPlant	Refurb. Work on track as per Estimate (VAT £240)
50	597.18	Cannon	Grass cutting June (VAT £99.53)
51	200.00	OPHMC	Contribution towards purchase of shed (Minute 212/12(b))
52	798.50	Cannon	Grass cutting May (VAT £133.08)
53	25.00	Hampshire Pension Fund	Monthly contribution towards pension deficit of former clerk
54	32.50	TLC	Webmaster monthly payment
55	348.89	M Cleary	Clerk's net pay August
56	88.50	M Cleary	Clerk's expenses August (includes quarterly home working allowance £31.25, phone/broadband £30.95)
57	232.40	Post Office re PAYE	Clerk's PAYE for August
58	500.00	St Andrews Church	Contribution towards notice Board acquired by Church, franked by receipt of grant from HCC in 2012/13 (Minute 225/12 refers)
RECEIPTS			
7	127.92	OPHMC	Grass cutting May+June

- b) Councillors confirmed the renovation of the track at the Recreation Ground should be charged against the Alternative Community Projects Reserve.
- c) Councillors noted the unqualified opinion by BDO (external auditor) on the 2012/13 Return and confirmed the 2012/13 Annual Return had been approved and accepted by the Council.
- d) Councillors approved the Clerk's recommendation that application be made for grants in connection with the Bank tree and the additional grass cutting costs incurred by the Church.

167/13 GLEBE FIELD

- a) Councillors gave their approval to the use of the field for the Church Summer Fete (21st June 2014) and the Horticultural Show (26th July 2014 and related preparatory days) on the usual terms, most notably the organisers prepared their own risk assessments and procure their own public liability insurance.
- b) Councillors approved the replacement of the broken gate post as soon as possible (Health and Safety) at the entrance to the Field. 2 quotes had been obtained. Councillor Egerton noted he would provide at his own cost an Oak post, and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Replacement gate post To arrange for new Oak gate post to be installed as soon as possible		Clerk

168/13 OWSLEBURY NEWSLETTER

Councillors noted the importance of the Newsletter to the Parish and asked the Clerk to monitor developments in connection with any change in editor and report-back at the next meeting.

169/13 CORRESPONDENCE

Councillors noted a recent communication from WCC in connection with training relating to the Code of Conduct and it was agreed all Councillors would make every effort to attend the course on 13th November at the Guildhall.

170/13 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed the agenda items should include the 'litter pick'.

171/13 DATE OF NEXT TMEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday 9th September 2013

The next meeting of the Council will be on 14th October 2013 at the Parish Hall commencing at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 10pm

Chairman: John Chapman Date: 14th October 2013