

WEST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th March 2010.

Location: Hagbourne Primary School

Present: Phil Taylor (PT), Sue Totterdell (ST), Marion Judd (MBJ), Tom Barker.
D Totterdell (Clerk).

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence** – Cllr P Greene.

2. **Declarations of interest** - None

3. **Public participation session** – Nick Swanzey attended to discuss the developments on the issue of maintenance of local footpaths etc by landowners since the last meeting. M Sumner (Oxfordshire County Council) and others had inspected the local paths and his comments are contained in a report sent to the parish Chair. This discussion centred on the paths between East/West Hagbourne and Blewbury and the extension of Moor lane.

MS has discussed his concerns with the landowners and indicated changes to be made which he will monitor going forward. Also discussed were the maintenance of the 12ft footpath from West Hagbourne to Coscote and the footpath from the centre of West Hagbourne northwards through York Farm.

4. **Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising**

- The Council passed the minutes as a true and correct record. Signed by the chair.

5. **District and County Councillor's reports:**

There was no report from Cllr Greene

6. **Planning Consultations:**

- P09/W0916 10 Manor Close, planning appeal upheld. The clerk will raise the apparent inconsistencies of the planning appeal process with Cllr Greene
- Housing need survey – the possible site for this housing is no longer available, however the council asked the clerk to clarify any outstanding planning options as a basis for any future survey.
- The council is aware of an additional 400 dwellings intended for the Harwell site and will monitor this development for any impact on the village infrastructure.

7. **Finance:**

- Expenditure - A full statement of expenditure for the year (this was almost the end of the financial year) together with individual cheque items was submitted to the meeting and accepted. Any reconciliation issues were addressed.
- Charities – the clerk has received a large number of requests for donations from many charities. It was agreed that the decision regarding such donations would be deferred to the annual meeting.

- ORCC – The council agreed to renew this subscription, noting a small increase for 2010 (up to £30).
- The council agreed to renew the website domain subscription for 5 years.

8. Consultations:

- LTP3 – the council has responded where relevant.
- The Didcot Summit meeting on 26th March will be attended by a representative of the council. The meeting intends to explore the interaction of local resources and communities in the future development of Didcot. In addition the council agreed to increase its interaction with nearest neighbour communities for our mutual benefit in the future.
- The Great Western Park liaison meeting on 25th March will be attended by a representative of the council.

9. Village Maintenance:

- BT telephone box – BT has removed the telecommunication equipment from the kiosk which is now the responsibility of the Parish Council. The clerk will arrange insurance for the kiosk assuming a value of £2k. It was agreed to look into locking the kiosk as a security/anti vandalism measure.
- Rights of way issues – addressed by item in public participation session.
- The clerk was actioned to confirm the extent of the grass cutting activity for the coming year and to invoice SODC accordingly.
- It is intended to hold another “Litter Pick’ day on April 10th – this will be advertised in the Newsletter.
- The area of common land adjacent to Thatch Cottage has become eroded by vehicular activity. PT will discuss with Michael Field the best way to proceed.

10. Highways Issues:

- Following on from the local flooding by Wycherts the council were successful in getting the Highways dept to again empty the gulleys in that area. This has proved beneficial, such that subsequent heavy rain did not result in further flooding and it was not necessary to engage in extensive excavation of the ditch in Moor Lane as had been originally suggested.
- The clerk will request the Highways dept. to address the issue of mud etc on the footpath near to Broomsticks and on the corner by Appledore and the bigger issue of the erosion of the road edge here on the corner and the damaged bollard.

11. Transport:

- Terry Pritchard has accepted the position of Parish Transport Representative. He will formally report annually to the council. Any queries on these issues should, in the first instance, be raised with him (terry.pritchard@westhagbourne.org).
- X32 – the clerk has raised a possible route modification with the authorities. These route are due for review in 2011 and no decision will be taken before then.

10. Communications:

- John Baile has requested assistance in running the village website – an advertisement for this role will appear in the Newsletter. Regarding the content of the website, the council feels that a rolling events calendar (eg. Cornerstones) would be inappropriate.

Comments made by villagers regarding the content of items on the website have been considered at length and the council believes that the only responsibility of the council and of the webmaster in such circumstances is to ensure that, as far as possible, the item is factually accurate. It was agreed this should be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting.

11. Any other business:

- Following the resignation of Ruth Webb, the new Village Hall representative for this village is Janet Cockburn.
- The Parish Council has been invited to contribute to the “birthday book” of ORCC giving details of the village – Marion Judd will draft the response.
- The recently published Settlement List again ignores the wishes of the village and the council in describing the status of the village. It was agreed that a response would be appropriate to underline the qualifying aspects of this community. Marion Judd will respond on behalf of the council..
- Rosie Gardner has ask the council for permission to erect a Dragon around the chestnut tree in the middle of the village for the forthcoming ST George’s event – the council wish her well.
- The council had previously been led to believe that obtaining additional Green recycling bins should not be a problem. This has not proved to be the case. The clerk will raise this issue with Cllr Greene.
- The clerk to ask the electoral office for an estimate of the costs to be incurred by the council for next year’s election.

The meeting closed at 21:10pm

Date of next meeting – **Thursday 13th May 2010** 7.30 pm at Hagbourne School

Chairman..... Date.....