

WEST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11th November 2010.

Location: Hagbourne Primary School

Present: Phil Taylor (PT), Michele Thornhill (MT), S Totterdell (ST), D Totterdell (Clerk).

1. **Apologies and reasons for absence** – Cllr P Greene, T Barker, M Judd.

2. **Declarations of interest**- None

3. **Public participation session** – John Baile attended to participate in a discussion about a high speed fibre optic broadband connection for the village. The Parish Council supported the activity to publicise the need for this link. JB reported that some people had already registered with BT but there was a need to canvass the village to maximise the response and optimise our chances of succeeding. A leaflet will be produced (PT) and a schedule will be set up (JB,DT) by which each of the volunteers can canvass a group of households.. A deadline of 15th December was identified for the completion of this exercise.

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.

- Actions raised in minutes of last meeting -
After the last council meeting the Clerk wrote to the solicitors of Greene King in an attempt to establish the status of the discussions regarding the acquisition of the land opposite to the Horse and Harrow public house. No reply had been received at the time of this meeting and PT agreed to pursue this via his contact with the brewery.

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

Unfortunately P Greene (District Councillor) was unable to attend and no reports were submitted.

6. **The Clerk:**

D Totterdell resigned the position of clerk on 1st November. Anyone interested in taking up this position should contact Phil Taylor (Chair). PT thanked DT for his contribution as clerk. The vacancy will be advertised.

7. **Planning consultations:**

P10/W0626 - Downs Farm	Granted
P10/W0629 Ditto	Granted
P10/W0642 Ditto	Responded 24/08/10
P10/W0680/LB Ditto	Responded 24/08/10
P10/W1049 - Rowan York Road	Granted
P10/W1150/RM - GWP	Granted
P10/W1274/SCO - GWP	Responded 26/09/10
P10/W1299 - Ivy Farm	Granted
P10/W1300/LB - Ivy Farm	Granted
P10/W1328/RM - GWP(amended)	

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the development of Didcot e.g. Great Western Park, and will respond accordingly to those planning applications which may impact on West Hagbourne parish.

8. Finance:

- The financial statement and cheques for this financial year were presented, and accepted by the councillors. It was agreed that part of the money currently held in the Business account (attracting interest) should be ring fenced and identified as a source of meeting place funding.
- The council has been made aware of the possibility to increase the area of land for rental associated with Ragged farm - this will be pursued further.
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- **The Budget** - a draft budget was presented to the council. This draft was discussed and amended in line with council intentions to minimise any increase in precept for 2011/2012.
- Significant high value items on the approved budget are,
 - no salary increase for the Clerk
 - an agreed 3 yr fixed rate for the grass cutting
 - reduction to 1 x green skip per year
- Savings on other items has enabled the adopted budget to have the same total value as for 2010/2011.

9. Consultations/ Meetings:

- The Clerk to pass the documentation for the LTP3 draft consultation response to Terry Pritchard (PTR). It was agreed that subsequently Marion Judd and Terry Pritchard will respond on behalf of the council.
- The Town and Parish Council forum (10th November) was attended by MJ. MJ to report back to the council at the next meeting.
- **Core strategy:** Councillors attended the SODC seminar on the Core Strategy, held on 18th October, as part of the consultation process on the future development of South Oxfordshire. The Council responded to this consultation and urged residents to do so too. The short consultation period meant that there was therefore no opportunity to hold a council meeting before this review.
- The scrutiny committee review (9th November) of the Core Strategy was attended by council members. Several of the villages (DROP - Didcot ring of parishes) surrounding Didcot supported a common cause to seek a reduction in the immediate house building programme and to amend any plans to reflect the current economical and financial situation. ST reported verbally on the meeting proceedings.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council will be represented at the forthcoming Cabinet meeting and the following Full Council meeting on this issue.
- The Clerk to invite Nick Laister RPS to discuss with the Parish Council the housing developments going forward.
- Details of the Concessionary Fares review have been posted on the Notice Boards and villagers have the opportunity to submit their comments.
- The Didcot Community Forum was attended by councillors - a brief report was given by ST. The Clerk has circulated the slides etc provided by SODC after the meeting.
- The upcoming meeting Runaway Climate Change - Oxford, will be attended by Sheila Taylor who will report back to the council.

10. Village maintenance:

- The Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers will be working in Moor Lane on 13th November.

11. Highways Issues:

- The Parish Council continues to express concern for pedestrian safety on the road by Green Thatch. The white lines defining the traffic area need to be updated since the road surface dressing. The Clerk to contact the Highways Dept. regarding this issue to seek improvements for the safety of villagers.

12. AOB:

- The council has been approached by East Hagbourne for funding assistance for the electrification of the Church Clock winding mechanism. This was deemed to be outside of the council's spending remit. The request will be passed on the village history society as they may feel able to help..
- At the Core Strategy scrutiny meeting a view was expressed 'that the residents of West Hagbourne (and other villages surrounding the town) do not like Didcot Town Council'; no substantiating evidence was presented, but it was agreed that ST will draft a letter to Didcot Town Council on behalf of West Hagbourne Parish Council to indicate that the Parish Council does not consider that there is any general animosity between WH residents and either the Town Council or the people of Didcot. However, their growth threatens our way of life, and safety, and all we have ever asked is to be safe as the town grows.

The meeting closed at 21:50pm

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

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