

Minutes of the Over Wallop Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th February 2011 in the Wallop Parish Hall at 8pm.

Present : Cllr Mrs I Murray-Twinn - Chairman
Cllr Mr J Taylor Firth - Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs H Bird
Cllr Mr G Cairns
Cllr Mr M Cochrane
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
Mrs R Cartwright - NHW
PC Simon Beecroft
Borough Councillor Mr T Hope
County Councillor Mr A Gibson
Members of the Public - 5

Apologies : Cllr Mr T Burden, Cllr Mr M Hunnibell and Cllr Mr J Francis.

WELCOME. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Cllr Mr G Cairns declared an interest in the Youth Football.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Mr J Taylor Firth and seconded by Cllr Mr M Cochrane.

URGENT ITEMS. There were no urgent items raised.

POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

PC Simon Beecroft reported that there has been an increase in the number of non dwelling burglaries - sheds and farm buildings. Scrap metal and heating oil are being targeted, there have been several incidents reported in neighbouring parishes. PC Beecroft reported that two diggers had recently been stolen from the Northern Farm site.

PC Beecroft asked residents to be vigilant and report anything out of the ordinary to the 101 number or in an emergency 999.

PLANNING

11/00195/TREEN - T1, T2, T3, T4, T6 - Crown raise to 4m leaving branches with a diameter greater than 15cm. Fell T5 and reduce branches of T4 and T6 away from cables - Brooklands, Station Road, Over Wallop.

The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this Planning Application.

Tree Works in Pound Road by Testway Housing - Reduce Beech hedge that has got out of control. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this Planning Application

FINANCE.

CHEQUES ISSUED IN FEBRUARY 2010

Came and Company - Floodlights added to the Insurance Policy £25.00

R.N. Waterman Wages
£412.50

MONEY RECEIVED

£350 from Parish Hall - refund for maintenance - grass cutting etc.

BANK ACCOUNTS BALANCES

Current Account = £ 3,202,29

Premier Account = £18,776.41

= £21,978.70

SPORTS PROGRAMME FUNDING

Balance £2,922.01

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from the Hampshire Police Authority informing the Parish Council that at a meeting of Hampshire Police Authority in December 2010, the Authority considered the discretionary grants as part of its savings for the financial year 2011/12. The decision will not be taken until the budget setting meeting in February, however, it is anticipated that the Police Authority will reduce the discretionary grant budget by half for 2011/12. The implications of this should we wish to apply for a grant we will only be able to apply between 1st April and 30th September 2011, subject to the finance being available.

The Parish Council noted this and agreed that a grant for the sports programme will be applied for at the appropriate time.

2011/2012 PRECEPT.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council discussed the 2011/12 precept in a closed meeting following the January Parish Council meeting. A financial report was produced and each item was discussed, there was no pay increase for the Clerk and it was agreed that there would be no increase in the precept. The precept for the Financial Year 2011- 2012 was set at £23,150.00

REPORT FROM THE LEISURE COMMITTEE

Cllr Mr J Taylor Firth reported on the recent Leisure Committee Meeting:

1. Football is going well - A Football Fixtures list has been asked for but as yet has not materialized. A letter has been sent to the Wallop Wanderers Reserves about outstanding fees.
2. The Youth Football Teams and the Cricket are being run well and cause no problems.
3. Mary Cairns is organising Netball.
4. The MUGA is well used and to date there have been no problems. When the evenings start getting lighter the MUGA will be locked at 8pm - Tony Macey has offered to unlock it on his way to work in the morning. The Booking system will begin some time in March 2011. The MUGA can be hired for non village sports events at £20 an hour
5. Rabbits control has begun; two have been caught to date!
6. The Pavilion has been left in a clean state after Football matches since the problems late last year.
7. The flood lights will be tested on the evening of the 2nd March 2011 between 7pm and 9pm. An informal kick about will be held.

CLLR MR A GIBSON'S REPORT

Cllr Mr A Gibson stated that the last few months had been really busy and difficult as H.C.C

tries to meet its budget obligations amounting to a £55M funding shortfall, while minimising the effect on front line services. As an Audit Committee member he has close involvement in the process.

Regarding Test Valley, HCC managed to keep the roads gritted during the bad weather and has performed well trying to keep up with the maintenance work to combat the deterioration of the roads due to the snow and frost. However, there is always room for improvement. There has been a lot of positive feedback from the Parish Councils, for which he is grateful. The introduction of grit bins was also a successful initiative and has been really well received by villages and has had a significantly positive effect.

Key points Cllr Mr Gibson spoke on were :

1. Grit bins - This programme has been a great success and HCC are now embarking on one final purchase of bins to meet the reserve list and ensure that it is prepared for future bad weather. Parish Councils should notify Cllr Gibson about additional requirement for grit bins this week.

The Chairman pointed out that Over Wallop Parish (including Palestine) had not received any grit bins yet - Cllr Mr Gibson stated that he had not been made aware of this and he would look into this as a matter of urgency.

2. Pot Holes - The new portal for reporting pot holes, which he had been lobbying for, has proved a great success. The average response time for the website is approximately 48 hours. This is a great improvement on the previous verbal reporting process which could be inaccurate and take months to action. The website bypasses the paper systems and puts the complaint directly onto a work programme.

3. Solar Cells - There are a number of active solar cell project proposals in the Test Valley including Barton Stacey and Wherwell. These include installations covering many acres of land. Cllr Gibson believes in the need for sustainability but I would like to know what your views of these projects.

4. Village Conversations - There have been forums in several of the villages recently including Age Concern and TVBC to ask peoples opinions about buses and local volunteer group helping to take the needy to Hospital to meet appointments. I would welcome any feedback on these initiatives and whether they were received positively.

5. Members Devolved Grants - Cllr Gibson was pleased to say that it looks very likely that devolved grants will still be available in 2011/12. However the current scheme will close at the end of February. I have spent nearly all the grant money but I could have some funds for special projects.

QUESTIONS TO CLLR MR GIBSON FORM THE FLOOR.

Mr T Macey stated that he reported a pot hole to the H.C.C. hot line and it was repaired very quickly, however he also reported an overgrown hedge in Salisbury Lane over six weeks ago and the work has not been done. Cllr Mr Gibson will look into this.

Mr Flippance asked Cllr Mr Gibson if he had had his walk around Palestine and looked into the issue of the adoption of Mount Carmel Road past Zion Road? Cllr Mr Gibson stated that he has not yet had his walkabout.

Mr Flippance requested an additional grit bin for Palestine to be placed on the corner of Mount Carmel Road. Cllr Mr Gibson noted this and will add it to the list.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR T HOPE'S REPORT.

Cllr Mr T Hope reported that Test Valley Borough Council is busy discussing their finances for the year 2011/12 and there will be no increase in the Council Tax. Cllr Mr T Hope stated that he thought the road marking in Station Road are a great improvement. Work has started on Northern Farm and Over Wallop will retain its Shop and Post Office.

Cllr Mr Hope was happy to report that he has been around the village having his photograph taken by the MUGA, Parish Hall, and War Memorial as part of his promotional work for the forthcoming elections.

REPORT FROM THE PARISH HALL COMMITTEE.

Cllr Mr J Taylor Firth stated that the next Parish Hall Committee Meeting will be held on the 15th March. The mid-year report has been submitted to the Big Lottery. The Committee is looking at increasing the hall use for the young and elderly. Bookings are good. The foyer and outside lights are to be sorted out and it is planned to start work on the garden in March.

Cllr Mr T Hope stated that he receives a lot of comments on how good the Hall is from many of the hirers.

REPORT FROM THE FOOTPATH OFFICERS.

Cllr Mr G Cairns reported that there has been a complaint made about the state of the Bridleway behind Northern Farm. The farmer uses the Bridle Way to get feed to his cattle and hence the surface has been churned up by farm vehicles. Cllr Mr Cairns has spoken to Peter Watson at Hampshire Rights of Way. The farmer has the right to use the Bridle Way but is responsible to make good any damage. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Ian Clarke to ask him to make good the Bridleway when the weather improves

Cllr Mr Cairns reported that it has also been brought to his attention that horses have been ridden on one of the footpaths, it has been suggested that a sign is erected stating NO HORSES. Cllr Mr Cairns has walked the path in question and could see no evidence of continued use by horse riders, he thought that the incident reported may have been a one off and that he will monitor the situation.

Cllr Mr M Cochrane reported that all the footpaths in Palestine are walkable and most of the hedge cutting has now been completed.

TRAFFIC

The Clerk has reported the Wiltshire Waste Lorries coming through the village to the Wiltshire Waste depot who took note of the complaint. The issue of the Wiltshire Lorries using the village as a short cut was discussed. Cllr Mr T Hope suggested that it would be helpful if registrations numbers of the offending lorries were taken and that every time a lorry uses this route it is reported to Wiltshire Waste.

CORRESPONDENCE

A request to use the playing field for car parking for the Over Wallop Church Fete on Saturday 25th June 2011 has been received from Mr Peter Hope. The Parish Council all agreed to grant permission.

The Clerk reported that the Mobile Library Service plan to reduce its visits to the village from two to one as from June 2011. There is a consultation on these proposals under way at present.

POINTS OF THE FLOOR

Mr T Macey highlighted the increasing problems with parking at the Parish Hall; an ideal solution would be to have the car park tarmac with parking bays marked out. The Parish Council agreed, but pointed out that money was the issue at the moment and if users parked responsibly there would be plenty of room.

Mrs R Cartwright spoke about the possibility being discussed about having a Street party to celebrate the Royal wedding in April 2011. Venues under discussion are the Glebe Field, the area around the War Memorial and the White Hart Car Park.

Mr Flippance reported that the man hole covers in Old Stockbridge Road need to be looked at he feels that they are all loose. The Clerk will report this to highways.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

14th March 2011 in the Parish Hall at 8pm