

Minutes of Over Wallop Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th February 2013 in the Wallops Parish Hall at 8pm.

Present : Cllr Mrs L Murray-Twinn - Chairman
Cllr Mr J Taylor Firth - Vice Chairman
Cllr Mr T Burden - Councillor for Palestine
Cllr Mr P Bengler
Cllr Mr G Cairns
Cllr Mr G Gates
Cllr Mr M Glover
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
Cllr Mr P Bye - Grateley Parish Council
Mrs R Cartwright - NHW
Members of the Public -12

Apologies : Cllr Mr J Francis, County Cllr Mr A Gibson, Borough Cllr Mr T Hope.

WELCOME. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Cllr Glover declared an interest in Planning Application 13/00062/FULLN.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Bengler and seconded by Cllr Burden.

The Chairman asked the Vice Chairman to chair the meeting before the resumption of the main agenda.

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

The Parish Council received letters from neighbours of Quarley Hill View in Streetway Road regarding the manner in which Over Wallop Parish Council handled Planning Application 13/00062/FULLN. .

The Chairman read out the following statement :-

Parish Councils are merely consultative bodies, they do not have executive powers. They can, to quote a developer, 'be a nuisance', but they cannot make decisions on planning applications.

It is the overriding duty of a councillor to represent the whole community. As Palestine is a Ward of Over Wallop Parish, it has an elected councillor who represents the wishes of the parishioners in his/her area. If there are other parish councillors resident in Palestine, they must represent the views and concerns of the whole parish, not just a specific area. If a Palestine resident has a problem or query, this should be passed to the elected parish councillor for his/her information and action.

It is his duty to voice the concerns of relevant parishioners at parish council meetings, or directly to the Chairman or the Parish Clerk in the periods between parish meetings.

These can be included on the agenda to be addressed in the public venue of the meeting, in full public view. At times, the person may wish to remain anonymous but still have concerns discussed. This anonymity must be honoured. Regardless of influence and the opinions of others, a parish councillor has the responsibility alone to decide on what view to take when it is time to discuss the matter in full view of members of the public.

The Code of Conduct makes specific provision requiring councillors to disclose both direct and pecuniary interests which they may have concerning any matter coming up in council. It prohibits them from speaking on that matter. The councillor must withdraw from the meeting while the matter is discussed. In planning matters, the councillor must leave the room for the duration of the discussion.

In non-pecuniary matters, there may be a time when personal interests may influence decision making. These include the interests concerning family or friends, as well as association with societies, clubs and charitable organisations. Councillors must not allow the impression to be created that they are using their position to promote this interest to other members of the parish council. Nor must they give any impression that they have applied pressure on other members of the parish council to influence their decisions.

Site visits: There is a need for consistency by the way it is decided that a site visit should take place. The Chairman and Parish Clerk must be advised at all times. This cannot be seen as an attempt to lobby opinion covertly. Site visits should be rare and relate to contentious applications. Site visits must be conducted in open space. The applicant must be made aware that there will be no comments on the application. Visits are informal, should take place in open air, regardless of weather conditions. They are not meetings and are not the venue for decisions or debate. Local residents may attend, but will not be able to comment as this is neither the time nor place for discussion. Residents' objections must be made directly to the planning authority. These objections may be copied to the parish council and will be noted before the start of the relevant planning discussion.

Councillors must take care over attending meetings with objectors. These can only be carried out on the understanding that a councillor may not make comments. He/she may record the views of the objectors, but he/she must not support or oppose opinions when speaking to objectors outside parish meetings. These meetings cannot take place in public houses.

If a meeting takes place within a property, the Chairman and Parish Clerk must be informed beforehand. It is recommended that any private meetings should take place in a neutral venue, such as the parish hall. Once again, the Chairman and Parish Clerk must have prior knowledge of the meetings. It is advisable that one other councillor attends these meetings to witness that correct procedure is adhered to at all times.

The Vice Chairman read out the letters received from Dr and Mrs Madahar and Mr and Mrs Middleditch. The letters centred on two issues.

1. That Cllr Burden influenced the decision made by the Parish Council to support this planning application.
2. Over Wallop Parish Council did not follow correct procedure.

STATEMENT FROM Cllr BURDEN

Cllr Burden stated that the applicant had approached him regarding the building of his proposed dwelling; due to work commitments he gave a lead time of 2 ½ years. There was no discussion of financial costs. When the planning application was discussed in November, he was not considered to be in the running for the work and therefore did not declare an interest. However, he remained in the room and did not comment when the planning application for Quarley Hill View was discussed. He did not participate in the voting procedure.

After the November meeting the applicant approached Cllr Burden and stated that he was prepared to wait for a break in his work schedule and asked him to quote to build his proposed dwelling. On the 21st December he was asked to quote, he informed the Chairman and then declared an interest.

At the January Parish Council Meeting when the revised planning application for Quarley Hill View was discussed, Cllr Burden declared an interest and left the room. Cllr Burden denied influencing the Parish Council and stated that he had not spoken about the application prior to that meeting.

Cllr Taylor Firth stated that the Parish Council had followed the correct procedure, the Parish Council are merely advisory bodies and play no part in the final decision made by the local planning authority.

Cllr Taylor Firth stated that the Parish Council had noted the letters. If parishioners are not happy with the response given, they have the right to make a full complaint to Test Valley Borough Council.

A vote was taken and all agreed that no further action was necessary.

The Chairman resumed the Chair

URGENT ITEMS

TREES - Cllr Taylor Firth reported that the contract is underway. 6 of the 9 trees have been done, the woods is to be removed off site. Richard Jannetta will be contacted to start with the additional work and woodland management.

HIGHWAYS - The Chairman reported a meeting with Cllrs Taylor Firth, Burden, Benger and Mr Irving and Mr Clarke from Highways to discuss various highways issues in the parish.

The following was discussed :-

Zion Road - Mr Irving is to ask his team to research the status of Zion Road; he is sure that Zion Road has not been adopted by HCC. The Chairman asked for urgent clarification.

Mt Carmel Road - Order Dec 2012 - to be re-surfaced.

Printers Place - The verge damage to King Lane caused by heavy construction traffic is to be looked at.

Station Road - HCC have admitted they made a error; an order has been placed for the road to be repaired and re-surfaced.

Parish Hall - The problem with surface road water flooding the car park will be investigated.

The Parish Council has been asked to report highways issues directly to Mr Irving.

SCHOOL BUS - The Chairman reported that she spoke to the Head Teacher of Test Valley School regarding the changes to the rural school bus provision. All attempts have been made to re-instate the bus service, but the new entrance to John Hanson School places it within the Grateley and Palestine catchment area for John Hanson School under current legislation. Cllr Gibson fought for the decision to be revoked but was unsuccessful.

STREET LIGHTS - After many months the issue of street lighting in Pound Road is resolved. Mr Irving produced a picture of a severely damaged junction box in Pound Road. No parishioners had reported this to the parish council.

PAVILION - The Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk met with a planning officer to discuss the future project of replacing the pavilion. As it stands, there is no problem replacing the pavilion as this would be classed as a community project even though it is technically development in the countryside.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Mrs Cartwright asked if the street light in Evans Close would be re-connected. The Chairman stated that there are problems with this street light and there would be a considerable cost involved to get it working again.

Mrs Cartwright reported that heating oil thefts are on the increase in the area and urged residents to take extra precautions in securing their tanks. There has also been an increase in lead thefts. St Andrew's Church had lead stolen from its roof. Fuel hose pipes were cut and the fuel drained from Pinchbecks.

FINANCE.

CHEQUES and PAYMENTS ISSUED IN FEBRUARY 2013

R.N. Waterman	Wages	
£423.00		
R.N. Waterman	Expenses	
£ 46.78		
DMJ Butler Country Services	Tree Works Playing Field	£1500.00
DMJ Butler Country Services	Tree Works Playing Field	£1500.00
Amberol	VAT	
£256.00		
Metroplan	VAT	
£39.12		
Test Valley School	Use of Sports Hall (WYF)	
£340.00		

BANK ACCOUNTS BALANCES.

After above payments have been deducted

Current Account	£ 3,031.56
Premier Interest	£ 6,526.04
	<u>£ 9,557.60</u>

Proposed by Cllr Gates and seconded by Cllr Cairns

2013/2014 PRECEPT

The Clerk briefly explained the new Local Council Tax Support Scheme. A one off payment for the financial year 2013/2014 and funded by TVBC so there will be no cost to the parish.

PLANNING

13/0062/FULLN - Demolition of former dairy barns and erection of a dwelling house, continued access from bridleway number 18, landscaping , sewage treatment plant, rainwater harvesting system, pedestrian access onto Orange lane and associated works - Land at The Old Dairy, Orange Lane, Over Wallop.

Cllr Glover declared an interest in this Planning Application and left the room.

The Parish Council discussed this planning application at great length and voted on the response to be made to TVBC. There were 2 objections and 4 votes for No Comment. The Parish Council made **NO COMMENT** on this planning application, the objections were noted in the submission.

13/00111/FULLN - Erection of two storey extension to enlarge study and bedroom above, single storey extension to provide dining room linked to utility/outbuildings and provision of first floor bathroom window - Rose Cottage, Suddern Farm Cottages, Salisbury Lane.

The Parish Council **SUPPORTED** this planning application.

13/0005/FULLN - Erection of replacement shop with offices, staff facilities, meeting room and storage over, erection of replacement coach workshop, removal of car wash and re-siting of existing jet wash, reconfiguration of car parking spaces, extension of petrol filling station canopy, installation of underground 9000 gallon diesel storage tank and new high speed diesel pump, extensions and alterations to Mia Holme to create first floor living accommodation - White Horse Service Station, Kentsborough, Middle Wallop.

The Parish Council **SUPPORTED** this planning application.

Proposed by Cllr Cairns and seconded by Cllr Taylor Firth.

REPORT FORM THE LEISURE COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that the telephone box by the War Memorial is to be re-painted up and fitted with shelves. The WI are going to trial the telephone box as a book library. The WI suggested that other societies could use the facility. Cllr Cairns asked if a provision for children's books could be considered.

Cllr Francis reported that a two football matches had to be cancelled to prevent excessive damage to the field. Cllr Mr Taylor Firth reported that the Parish Hall is now being used by the football team for winter fitness training.

The Chairman will contact the Commandant, Army Aviation Centre to ask about future use of the gym facilities.

REPORT FROM THE PARISH HALL

Cllr Taylor Firth reported that hall bookings are good. A management meeting is planned for later in the month. There is a problem with road surface water flooding in the car park.

FOOTPATHS REPORT.

OVER WALLOP - Cllr Cairns stated that despite the recent wet weather the footpaths in Over Wallop are passable. A tree is down on the path behind his property; he will clear it at the weekend.

PALESTINE - Cllr Bengier reported that the footpaths in Palestine are clear, some damage has been caused by 4X4s. There has been no reported incidents of motorbikes. Cllr Mr Bengier stated that he hoped that work on the Olive Grove may start weather permitting.

PALESTINE.

Cllr Burden had nothing new to report that had not already been discussed. Cllr Bengier requested that additional grit bins and the use of a snow plough for Mt Carmel Rd and Mt Hermon Rd. The Clerk was asked to put in a formal request to Highways for two additional grit bins for Palestine.

KENTSBOROUGH

Cllr Mr G Gates had nothing new to report. The new notice board will be put up by the week-end.

CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Wildlife Map Toolkit Evening on the 19th March 2013 at the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall, Wherwell. Cllr Cairns stated that he would like to attend.

The Chairman reported that otters had been seen in the brook last summer. Before Christmas a cub was found dead on the road near Winton House. A mother and cub were later found dead on the side of the A343 near Salisbury Lane. She reported this to the police wildlife division who are investigating the matter.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Dr Madahar stated that he had raised the matter of procedures and conflict of interests in a professional level. There are concerns from some residents in Streetway Road over planning application procedures for Quarley View Hill. He stated that he raised these concerns with the Parish Council in October 2012.

Mrs Madahar felt snubbed when she had asked the Chairman to come onto her property to see the effect the proposed development would have. The Chairman refused the request. Mrs L Page, TVBC Planning Officer was invited and came to look at the site and took photographs. The Chairman apologised that it was not her intention to cause personal offence. She was following procedure.

Mr and Mrs Madahar felt unrepresented by the parish council over this issue. Cllr Cairns stated that he understood their feelings but assured them that there was no snub; the Parish Council were trying to do the best and follow procedure.

Mr Middleditch asked for confirmation on the declaration of interest that parish councillors report at meetings. The Clerk gave a brief overview and this was expanded by the Parish Councillors.

Mrs Cartwright reported that the police have asked that dogs are kept on leads when out walking the countryside, there have been several incidents of dogs worrying sheep.

Cllr Bye asked if Grateley could be included if the use of the Army Aviation sports facilities for the young people was permitted. The Chairman stated that she pass on this request to the Commandant

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

11th March 2013 in the Parish Hall at 8pm.