

WEST HENDRED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2009

Present

Amanda Axel-Berg (Parish Councillor), Jonathan Barton (Chairman), Iain Brown (County Councillor) from 8pm, Robert Clayton (Parish Councillor), Julian Taylor (Parish Councillor), Julia Evans (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman reported that over the past year the main issues in the village have been to do with planning, village roads and footpaths. Following a presentation and subsequent discussions on a housing needs survey, this was put in abeyance. WHPC has also responded to the Local Development Framework, highlighting concerns over the development in Wantage and the impact this will have on traffic in this area. The main expenditure for the year was in supporting the Village Hall and West Hendred Youth Club. The Chairman stated that support for the Youth Club should continue.

3. District Councillors Annual Report

This item was brought forward.

Terry Fraser sent his apologies. The clerk read his report on his behalf:

- The majority of the problems over the past year have been about planning.
- In 2009 VWHDC has managed to keep grant funding at the same level as 2008.
- The Local Government Association has received many complaints from all over the country regarding funding of the Bus Travel Pass. The government have stated that councils will receive top-up payments to cover the additional costs (over and above local subsidised travel schemes). However no such funding has yet been received.
- Terry Fraser's report then outlined all the committees he works on and thanked WHPC for their efforts in the last year.

A copy of Terry Fraser's report is filed with these minutes.

4. Presentation of the accounts for 2008/09

This item was brought forward.

The Clerk presented the accounts, which the meeting resolved to approve. The external audit report was also presented and approved.

4. Election of the Chairman

This item was brought forward.

RC proposed JB as Chairman for the coming year. AAB seconded and the meeting approved the proposal.

2. County Councillor's Annual Report

Cllr Brown reported the following:

1. New housing. There are plans for 1500 extra houses NE of Wantage, There will be no green space between Wantage and Grove. VWHDC are following the governments proposal's to the letter, but this could all change after the next General Election, which must take place next year.
2. Proposed Reservoir. VWHDC opposes the proposed reservoir. However it has also stated that there is a prohibition on planning in the area. This is a contradiction and will lead to a planning blight. IB has asked VWHDC for clarification on it's position. Parish Councils can still comment on the proposals, even though they have been postponed.
3. Weed Spraying. £600,000 was budgeted for weed spraying, but it wasn't done. It has now been absorbed into Highways Maintenance. The budget has been halved this year. Marcham parish council has asked for devolved funding for this.
4. Parish precept. IB advised that WHPC should increase the precept next year. It was not raised for 2009/10.
5. Election on 4th June. The elections office is short of helpers. The County Councillor will have a tough 4 years. The budget is tight and there will be a massive efficiency drive. However reserves are good and the rate of council tax increase is slowing.
6. Cllr Brown told WHPC that he has enjoyed the last 4 year although it has been a challenge.

3. Parish Council meeting dates for 2009/2010

The meeting resolved to retain the existing arrangement for meetings. Therefore the following meeting dates were agreed for the forthcoming year:

- 11th July 2009
- 10th September 2009

- 12th November 2009
- 14th January 2010
- 11th March 2010
- 13th May 2010

4. Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 13th May 2010, immediately before the ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting ended at 20:15

Signed.....

Date.....