

WEST HENDRED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 10th September 2009

Present:

Jonathan Barton (Chairman)
Amanda Axel-Berg (Parish Councillor)
Robert Clayton (Parish Councillor)
Julian Taylor (Parish Councillor)
Julia Evans (Clerk)

Mike Claydon (PCSO)
Martin McCourt
Sarah Lloyd

1. Apologies

Robert Williamson sent his apologies.

2. Minutes

- The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th July 2009 were reviewed and approved.

3. Declaration of Interests

None declared.

4. Playing Field Report

The clerk presented the report on behalf of Mr Hutchinson.

RoSPA visit – the issues raised were similar to last years.

- Chestnut paling not ideal as park fencing. This has been noted before and deferred as it is low risk. Recommendation is to defer again.
- Litter bins are recommended by RoSPA. This has also be previously considered and not actioned because of concerns about wasps and that the bin may discourage people from taking litter home. There would also be issues regarding emptying. Mr Hutchinson suggests that a bin in the Village Hall car park might be a solution.
- Bird fouling on swing seats. This is an ongoing maintenance issue.
- Grass under the spinning bowl. The recommendation is to monitor and instigate remedial work when necessary.

The meeting resolved to accept Mr Hutchinson's recommendations.

A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

Overhanging branches – Mr Hutchinson has cut these back and asked if RC could remove. RC agreed to do this.

Ropes on fort are to be monitored for fraying. No fraying currently present.

Still awaiting a quote from Trevor Stewart for replacement swing seats.

5. County Councillor's Report.

This was not available.

6. District Councillors' Report.

This was not available.

7. Police Report

This item was brought forward and was heard before item 2. PCSO Mike Claydon reported that an operation to curb hare coursing is due to start again in October. It was very successful last year. He also reported that there have been two burglaries in Blewbury. He urged that people ensure that sheds etc are properly locked. He stated that there were no issues in West Hendred at the moment. He agreed to ask PCSO Catherine Johnson for speed figures. PCSO Mike Claydon left the meeting at 19:35.

8. Matters Arising

- Outstanding OCC Highways items
 - Blocked Road Drains at Church View. This was cleaned out, but water is still not running away. Clerk to write to OCC. **Action: Clerk**
 - Footpath repairs at Brewer's Lane have been put in for assessment. Clerk to write asking for status. **Action: Clerk**
 - Road Cleaning on Ginge Road past the Church (from Church View up to Goldbury Cottages). Clerk to raise with Terry Fraser.
 - Ditch cleaning in The Greenway. IB to contact OCC Highways drainage. Clerk to remind IB. **Action: Clerk/IB**
- Speed Monitor on The Greenway. JT provided an analysis of speed monitor results:

- People tend to speed northbound
- The highest speed recorded was in the band 41-46mph
- There were some relatively low speeds recorded – this could be due to the location.
- The survey was compromised by parked cars

Item to be carried forward to the January meeting with a view to requesting another survey on the summer, in a different location.

- Phone Box outside the Village Hall – BT has stated that they will not remove the phone box. They have stated that vandalism should be addressed by the Police. When they were told that the phone box was no longer required they responded that they have now completed their removal program and would not be removing the box. WHPC agreed that there was no further action to be taken. Sarah Lloyd asked that the village hall committee be formally informed of the response. **Action: Clerk**
- Twilley Springs footpath - WHPC has received a request for this footpath to be improved, with hardcore or tarmac as it gets muddy during wet weather. WHPC discussed this and concluded that it would be unlikely to get funding from OCC. Furthermore, it was felt that such improvements would not be in keeping with this small rural parish.

9. Planning Applications

- Work to trees at The Barnyard. WHPC responded with no objections. This has been approved by the Vale.
- WHE/20883 – Construction of single storey link block and extension to the barn at The Barnyard. WHPC responded with no objections. This has been approved by the Vale.
- WHE/14514/4 – Alterations to dwelling at Northbrook Barn, Mill Lane. WHPC responded with no objections. This has been approved by the Vale.
- WHE/20826/1 – Revised plans for proposed new garage at 1 Yew Tree cottages. WHPC has responded with no objections. Mr McCourt and Mrs Lloyd wanted to know why WHPC had withdrawn the objection. They are concerned that the building is too large. All the residents in Manor Lane have objected. They feel that WHPC should consider resident's views. The Chairman informed Mr McCourt and Mrs Lloyd that no one informed WHPC of their objections to the revised plans. He empathised that the Vale do not inform WHPC of any objections they receive. This matter was discussed at length. The meeting resolved that a note should be put in the newsletter asking people to contact WHPC as soon as possible if they have objections to a planning application which affects their property. WHPC also agreed that it needs to re-consider it's procedures with regard to planning. For example there should be a site visit for potentially contentious application. There was some discussion about whether all neighbours are informed of planning applications, especially those whose properties are adjacent but are in different streets. The meeting decided to ask Terry Fraser at the next meeting.
- WHE/20932 – Erection of rear extension, front and side bay windows and alterations at 1 Brewer's Lane. WHPC responded with no objections, but asked for the number of first floor windows to be reviewed and reduced if possible.

10. Finance

Financial information is available on request from the Parish Clerk.

11. Miscellaneous Correspondence

None received.

12. More Powers to Parish and Town Councils. WHPC has been asked to support this petition. WHPC resolved not to do so.

13. Grass Cutting. This needs to be done more frequently. RC agreed to speak to Mr Soffe about this, and also about the rate paid. **Action: RC**

14. The Website. The Chairman raised the subject of payment for setting up the website and suggested a fee of £200. However he was not sure what the going rate is for this. AAB to check with Alex Dixon. AAB stated that further work is required on the website.

Action: Clerk

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15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 12th November 2009 at 7.30 in Village Hall.
The meeting closed at 9:05 pm.

Signed

Dated