

Twyford Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Meeting held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford, on Tuesday 20th March 2007 at 7.45 p.m.

Present: Mr D Hymers (Chairman) Mrs L Dane, Mrs B Ditcham, Messrs, R Mantel, J Rowe, J Fort, C Smith, N Crush, J Jarvis and Dr M Garrard.

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr J March, District Councillor Mr S Conway and 1 member of the press

1. **Public questions** – Mr Conway passed on a request he had received from the football club to have the grass cut on the pitch in KGVR. The Clerk replied that he would be dealing with this in his report.
2. **Apologies**- Mrs S Harriott-Kerr and Mr J Bowley.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda**- None.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2007.** Proposed Mr J Jarvis seconded Mr C Smith, approved unanimously
5. **Matters Arising** –
 - 5.1 Mr J Jarvis to raise the issue of traffic “jumping” the traffic lights at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Policing Committee. The police and WBC are checking the phasing on the lights. Councillors reported that changes appear to have been made to this already.
 - 5.2 Mr Jarvis to draft a letter to the police about the secondment of PC S. Loudwell. Completed and sent to the police by the Clerk.
 - 5.3 The Clerk to inform WDC the council is in favour of a newsletter. Completed.
 - 5.4 The Clerk to Write to WDC Highways Department regarding the London Rd /A4 junction. Reply received from WBC read to meeting. The Clerk to reply asking for the council to be involved in any future discussions and expressing their concern about the knock on affect to traffic in Twyford from any changes.
 - 5.5 Mr Fort to check the location of stands of Japanese Knotweed and pass details to the Clerk. Mr Fort unable to confirm the exact location as the Knotweed has died back in the winter.
 - 5.6 The Clerk to report the Japanese Knotweed to the authorities. The Clerk has downloaded information from the Internet and spoken to a consultant. There is no obligation to report or remove Knotweed. Action only has to be taken to avoid it being spread.
 - 5.7 The Clerk to arrange for the Village Ranger to install a temporary path in the children’s play area. Completed.
 - 5.8 The Clerk to arrange for the lines to be repainted in Loddon Hall car park. Completed.
 - 5.9 The Clerk to arrange for the graffiti to be removed from Stanlake Pavilion. Completed.
 - 5.10 The Clerk to write to Berkshire Fire Brigade about a possible fire station in Twyford. Completed. A questionnaire has been received from the fire brigade but it is not clear if this is in response to the Clerk’s letter. The Clerk to follow up if no further response is received.
 - 5.11 Mrs Dane to ask the church to provide refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting. Completed.
6. **Borough Council Matters**- District Councillor Stephen Conway reported. WBC will now be making a bid for lottery funding for library facilities. He is not sure if this will be just for Twyford or shared. Progress is being made on his efforts to get CCTV at the station and a temporary installation may be put in place in the near future. Discussions have been held with the highways department about the traffic lights and the A4/London Rd junction. Action has been taken by WBC to clear the drains in Waltham Rd following his report of flooding from the run off from Stanlake Meadow. He also reported on the following planning matters: Enforcement action is being taken on 63 London Rd and the Haweli in Church St. He shares the council’s

concerns about the development at 99-101 Wargrave Rd. On a public protection matter he is involved in trying to get the fence repaired between Ruscombe Business Park and Springfield Park, as at present there is open access to the deep lake. Having expressed his concerns at the proposals for the review of the Social Services Eligibility he has now been taken off the WBC working party dealing with this. Mrs Dane asked if there was any news regarding the allocation of Section 106 funds to funding for a new library. Mr Conway replied he has had discussions with the Head of Planning and is waiting to hear back.

Mr Hymers raised the problem of all day parking at the top of Broad Hinton that had been brought to his attention by a resident of Coleridge Close. Mr Conway will take this up with the Highways Department at WBC.

7. **Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council.** Mrs L Dane reported they are still working on their Village Design Statement and will be having an exhibition relating to this before their Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May.
8. **Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Planning and Amenities Committee 05.03.07** Mr Jarvis reported on the meeting including the long awaited consultation document on play areas, the revised proposals relating to the extension built on Mulberry Mead and the indication that a planning application will be submitted in the near future for the proposed Bridge House site development. He also mentioned the concerns expressed about the misleading article by Ann Berne in the Reading Chronicle about how the council deals with planning applications and the support for the campaign against the closure of Post Offices. A spate of vandal attacks around the village where ball bearings were fired at property is being taken up with the police.
 - 8.2 **Parish Lands Committee 07.03.07** Mr Hymers reported on the meeting including the proposed timetable for the installation of the ball court and skate park on KGVR. Details of the sources of funds for the project were provided. He also outlined the decisions that had been made covering the tarmac and fencing for the ball court and lighting and CCTV for the whole project.
 - 8.3 **Finance and General Purposes Committee 13.02.07.** Mr Mantel reported on the meeting. A review of staff wages has been carried out and increases agreed.
 - 8.4 **Meet the Public 17.03.07.** Mrs Dane and Mr Jarvis reported that two residents from Station Rd and Waltham Rd had raised a number of issues in their area relating to abuse of parking, taxis, allocation of parking permits and vandalism by late night revellers who get off the trains. There is concern at the speed of traffic and the lack of action by traffic wardens. They also reported that at night taxi drivers are urinating in the footpath leading from the station to Waltham Rd. Agreed the council will continue to press WBC for information about the residents parking scheme. The Clerk to raise the other issues with the police and with the railway authorities.
 - 8.5 **Other Representatives reports – none.**
 - 8.6 **Clerk's report –** The Clerk showed the meeting a thank you letter and poster that have been received from the Twyford Toddler Group for the new equipment in the KGVR children's play area. Advice has been received about the smoking ban and it will be necessary to put a no smoking sign on Stanlake Pavilion. A suitable sign has been purchased. The football club have requested that the pitch on KGVR be cut and rolled. The estimate for this from the contractor is £180 to cut and £160 to roll. Proposed Mr D Hymers, seconded Mr J Jarvis that the grass cut is carried out and then the pitches are checked to see if rolling is required. Carried 9 for, 1 against. Two of the tenants at Twycombe Lodge have given notice and will be leaving on 14th April.
9. **Councillors Questions –** Mrs Dane raised a point about the proposed change to the last collection from the main post box in London Rd. Referred to Planning and Amenities Committee. She also reported there is graffiti on Polehampton House. Mr Fort replied he would get Polehampton Charities, who own the property, to deal with it. She has received a letter from Mr Bounds regarding the public footpath past the Silk Mill. Referred to Planning and Amenities Committee.

Mrs Ditcham reported that she has raised the graffiti on the hoarding round Mulberry Mead with the estate agents dealing with the site and will follow this up if no action is taken in the near future. Dr Garrard reported that the alley beside J W Greens is getting very untidy and the fencing round the rear garden has been knocked down. Agreed the Clerk to contact the agents dealing with the property. Mr N Crush asked if a sign for the Millennium Garden could be placed at the front of the church. Referred to Parish Lands Committee. Mr Hymers reminded councillors about the Annual Parish meeting on 25th April and asked them to make every effort to attend.

10 Correspondence

- 10.1 Parking in Broad Hinton – dealt with under point 6.
- 10.2 CVA Wokingham District – Interfaith Conference – noted.
- 10.3 BALC -Being a Good Councillor Module 4 – distributed to councillors.
- 10.4 Westminster Briefing – proposed Third Sector Conference – noted.

11. Authorisation of payments – list dated 20.03.07. Proposed Mr J Rowe seconded Mr J Fort and carried unanimously.

12 Dates of meetings:

Planning and Amenities Committee	02.04.07
Parish Lands Committee	04.04.07
Finance Committee	10.04.07

13. Date of next meeting 17th April 2007

The meeting closed at 9.09 p.m.
