

Twyford Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

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

Present: Mr. D. Hymers (Chairman) Messrs R.Mantel, C.Smith, J. Jarvis, N Crush, J Rowe, Mrs K Peck, Mrs S Harriott-Kerr, Mrs. B. Ditcham and Miss C La Trobe.

In attendance: Mr J March Clerk and three members of the public.

1. **Public Questions** – a member of the public asked whom to contact to get advice about the nuisance being caused by a neighbour lighting bonfires. He was advised to contact the Environmental Services Section at Wokingham Borough Council
2. **Apologies** – Mr J.Bowley and Ms S Doughty.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – None
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2007** – proposed by J Jarvis seconded by C Smith - approved unanimously.

5. Matters arising and action points

Mr Jarvis to provide an article about the Neighbourhood Action Group for the spring issue of Twyford News. Carried forward.

The Clerk to reserve pews in the church for the Remembrance Day service.

Completed.

The Clerk to book Loddon Hall for the meetings for 2008. Completed.

Miss C La Trobe and Mrs K Peck to submit draft priorities for the Local Area Agreement. Completed.

Mrs K Peck to raise the issue of racial abuse with the Area Youth Committee. Completed.

The Clerk to contact WBC with names of councillors who wish to attend the Environmental Team Induction. Completed.

- 5.7 Mr Mantel to attend the BALC AGM on Saturday 10th November. Completed, nothing to report.

- 6. Co-option of Councillor** – Mr Mark Shepherd has expressed an interest in joining the council and his details have been circulated to councillors. Mr Shepherd was co-opted on to the council by a unanimous vote. He signed his declaration of acceptance of office and took part in the rest of the meeting.

- 7. Borough Council Matters** – Borough Councillor Stephen Conway reported on the following: He is still concerned about the planning approval for the children's centre at Colleton School and hopes to be part of a group set up to deal with outstanding issues of concern, the failed lottery bid for the library and his concerns about the proposed development at 24 High St. He has chased District Councillor Keith Baker regarding progress on the request for a pedestrian crossing in Wargrave Road for children going to Piggott School. Following discussions with the police he has been told that a new officer will be appointed for the Northern Parishes in the New Year. A meeting has been held with Waitrose to see how they can make a bigger contribution to the local community; he has taken up the case for several residents following the WBC review of Social Care Services and is dealing with issues that have arisen as a result of WBC withdrawing the Mobile Youth Vehicle.

Mr C Smith asked about the proposed crossing outside Piggott School, which he felt should be a pedestrian crossing rather than a pelican crossing. Mr S Conway replied the type and location of crossing had been agreed with the school and he was concerned it would encourage pupils to cross the A4 opposite the New Rd junction instead of using the footbridge.

- 8. Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council.** Mr C Smith reported on their last meeting. No significant items were discussed.

9. Reports:

9.1 Planning and Amenities Committee 05.11.07 Mr Jarvis reported on the planning applications received and approvals given. Miss C La Trobe has agreed to investigate the preparation of a Village Design Statement. WBC have been contacted about the withdrawal of the Mobile Youth Vehicle, a questionnaire has been completed about children's play areas and it is proposed to replace a bench in London Rd that has deteriorated beyond repair.

9.2 Parish Lands Committee 07.11.07 In the absence of the committee chairman and vice-chairman Mr D Hymers reported on the following: A request from the village PCSO to reinstate the light in the Youth Shelter has been refused due to it being continually vandalised. The committee will wait to see the effect of the lighting scheme for the skate park. An order has been placed to repair the Burial Ground fence. A letter has been received from the Horticultural Society about unkempt allotments and the committee chairman and the Clerk will make an inspection and write to offending tenants. The start of the skate park construction has been delayed over issues relating to the disposal of contaminated land. Tennis Court cleaning and winter grass cutting were dealt with during discussions on next year's precept. Mr J Rowe asked about the process of obtaining quotes for work. The Clerk explained that he always approaches several companies about work to be carried out but it is very difficult to get them to quote.

9.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee 13.11.07 Mr Mantel reported on the meeting. Discussions were held on next year's precept and it was decided to just take out public liability insurance for the skate park due to the high cost of insuring the equipment. It was felt the risk would be quite low due to the robust construction of the units. The investment portfolio was considered and it was decided to cash in the Telefonica loan note and increase the investment in Charter Pan European trust fund, which has performed well since the council first invested in it. The committee **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council to make a Section 137 grant of £250 to Twyford Scouts for the Remembrance Day band. Carried unanimously. The committee **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council to make a Section 137 Grant of £225 to the Keep Mobile. Carried unanimously. The committee **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council to make a Section 137 Grant of £200 to the Henley CAB. Carried unanimously.

9.4 Meet the Public 17.11.07 – Miss C La Trobe reported on this meeting. One member of the public attended. She raised concerns about the unapproved development at 63 London Rd and the unauthorised felling of trees, the risk of an accident at the junction of the Waitrose car park entrance and London Rd and the noise from motorbikes at Bulldog Garage. All these items were referred to the Planning and Amenities Committee for further consideration.

9.5 Other representatives Reports. - Mrs K Peck reported on a meeting of the Northern Area Youth Committee where the light in the Youth Shelter, withdrawal of the Mobile Youth Vehicle and incident adjacent to the tennis courts were discussed. The possibility of painting the skate park and racial abuse were also considered. Mrs B Ditcham reported on the progress in setting up the Children's Centre. They are still waiting to hear details about the proposed changes to the structure of the buildings. She is still concerned about the poor standard of communication about this project.

8.6 Clerk's Report. – A broadband connection has now been established from the Clerk's residence to the CCTV system. The drains have been blocked again at Stanlake Pavilion. The Clerk has cleared the blockage and spoken to both the Nursery School and Comets about making sure inappropriate material is not put

down the toilets. The mixer tap on the bath at Twycombe Lodge cannot be turned off and is beyond repair. The Clerk has obtained a quote from J & W Services (UK) Ltd for £185 +VAT to have it replaced. Agreed the Clerk arranges for this work to be carried out.

10. Councillors' Questions. Miss C La Trobe asked what is to be done about getting a new library now the lottery grant application has been turned down. Agreed the Clerk writes to District Councillor Frank Browne to ask what WBC proposes. Mr C Smith asked if notices could be put on the Stanlake Meadow pavilion saying ball games must not be played against the walls. Referred to Parish Lands. Mr D Hymers reported cars parked on the pavement in Waltham Rd adjacent to the entrance to Stanlake Meadow near the railway line. It appeared to be parents of footballers. Agreed the Clerk to write to Comets to instruct parents to park in the car park and walk across the field. Mr D Hymers reported that the rubbish bin on the post at the junction of Winchcombe Rd and Waltham Rd is missing. The clerk to report this to WBC. Mrs s Harriott-Kerr reported finding several small covers in the pavement sticking up and causing a hazard for pedestrians. Mr C Smith replied that he had seen a youth going along the road opening the covers and leaving them sticking up. He has spoken to him and hopefully this will not happen again. Mr R Mantel reported there is a vacancy for a trustee on the Hurst Charities and asked if anyone was interested in applying.

11. Correspondence -

11.1 WBC Town and Parish News October edition - circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.2 VAWB Training Bulletin - details circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.3 VAWB Voluntary Sector Conference - details circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.4 WBC Parish and Town Conference Minutes and Evaluation. Noted.

11.5 VAWB Interfaith Conference – details circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.6 WBC Changes to Electoral Arrangements for Parish Councils – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.7 Defra booklet – Ways to Tackle Climate Change. Noted.

11.8 WBC Camera Club Exhibition 12.12.07. Noted.

12. Authorisation of payments – approval of expenditure on list dated 20.11.07 proposed by Mr J Jarvis, seconded by Mrs B Ditcham and carried unanimously.

13. Dates of meetings:

Planning and Amenities Committee	03.12.07
Parish Lands Committee	05.12.07
Finance Committee	06.12.07

14. Date of next meeting – 11th December 2007

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.