

## Twyford Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Meeting held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford, on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 7.45 p.m.

**Present:** Mr. D. Hymers (Chairman) Messrs R Mantel, J Jarvis, C Smith, S Clark J Bowley, N Crush, M Shepherd, C Tennant, Mrs S Harriott-Kerr, Mrs B Ditcham, Ms S Doughty and Mrs K Peck.

In attendance: Mr J March Clerk and one member of the press.

1. **Public Questions** – None
2. **Apologies** – Miss C La Trobe.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – None.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008** – proposed by Mr J Jarvis seconded by Mrs B Ditcham - approved unanimously
5. **Matters arising and action points**
  - 5.1 The Clerk to liaise With PC Glyn Wildey regarding vehicle speed checks. Checks carried out and information circulated to councillors.
  - 5.2 The Clerk to contact WBC about getting the flagpoles at the Mulberry Mead development removed. Request made and acknowledged by WBC.
  - 5.3 The Clerk to put marking lines on the highway on the agenda of the Planning and Amenities Committee. Completed.
  - 5.4 Planning and Amenity Committee members to look out for areas where line marking needs refreshing. Completed.
  - 5.5 The Clerk to obtain a price to repair the entrance to Stanlake Meadow in Waltham Rd. Quote requested but not received to date.
6. **Borough Council Matters** – Borough Councillor Stephen Conway was not able to be present so the Clerk read out the report he had submitted. He has spent a considerable amount of time dealing with issues relating to local refuse collection, the planning application for the new station footbridge, tenants in their dealings with the council's tenants' services department and the continuing problems created by the council's decision to withdraw the grass cutting and hedge trimming service for elderly and disabled tenants who cannot carry out this work themselves. He has also had discussions with a number of persons about the library. The Council's executive committee will consider the matter as part of the draft capital programme submission, hopefully at the October meeting. The interest in acquiring the top floor of J W Greens has been conveyed to the owners. The Chief Executive is hopeful that the executive decision will be made before the determination of the recent planning application to use this area as a gym.
7. **Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council.** –Mr C Smith reported that Banner Homes have now received planning approval for the development off Northbury Ave. They suggested painting the inside of the Youth Shelter white to make it easier to see what is happening in it. There have been problems with representatives from Scottish Power visiting residents and trying to sell them power contracts. Mr C Smith has followed this up and received a reply from Scottish Power.
8. **Reports:**
  - 8.1 **Planning and Amenities Committee 05.08.08 and 01.09.08** Mr J Jarvis reported on the meetings. In August Mrs Peck attended and explained about the process of preparing the Village Plan. Volunteers from the Parish Council are needed to assist the various working groups. Any interested councillors were asked to contact Mrs Peck. More advertisers are required to help cover the cost of Twyford News. The committee noted the decision to close the Broad Hinton play area and are waiting for

contact from WBC prior to the equipment being removed, and a report is to be submitted to WBC detailing various faded markings on the highway in the village. In September the committee considered the planning application for the replacement footbridge at the railway station and Mr Jarvis will be attending the Planning Committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September to make the council's views known. The Village Plan was discussed again and the need for volunteers from the council was re-iterated. Mrs K Peck asked if Jane Ireland from the WBC planning department could come to a meeting to make a presentation about Village Plans. Agreed she will be invited to attend the next Full Council meeting on 21st October. Mrs K Peck to contact her to arrange this.

**8.2 Parish Lands Committee 03.09.08** Mr J Bowley reported on the meeting including: the repairs to the damaged kerbs in the Loddon Hall car park and the inspection training provided for staff checking the children's play area, skate park and ball park. The safety area under the log play equipment needs to be replaced. The initial quote received for this is so high that the committee will now consider replacing the complete unit. A resident has replaced the damaged bench outside the allotments in London Rd without reference to WBC or the Parish Council. The structure is wooden and home-made so the committee will not accept any responsibility for it. The Clerk has carried out a risk assessment inspection of all council property and is preparing a list of items requiring further consideration. A number of tenants at Hurst Rd have had their tenancy agreements terminated and other have been warned about the condition of their plots. The ducting for the CCTV and lighting cables to the skate park is being installed. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full council to purchase two litterbins for the skate park area from Earth Anchors at a cost of £585 +VAT. Carried unanimously.

**8.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee 09.09.08** Mr N Crush reported on the meeting. He pointed out the large workload on the Clerk carrying out the risk assessment inspections. Following examination of the Polehampton Charity annual report the committee have decided to write to the Charity Commission about the high administrative costs they incur. Mrs C La Trobe's non-attendance at meeting was discussed and the Clerk was asked to try to contact her again to find out her intentions. The Clerk reported he has now received a reply from her saying she has decided to resign from the council. Agreed a vacancy is declared. The Clerk to put up a notice. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council to make a section 137 grant of £500 to Twyford Village Partnership. Carried unanimously. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council to make a section 137 grant of £200 to Berkshire Air Ambulance. Carried 12 for, 1 against. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council to make a section 137 grant of £500 to Readibus. Carried unanimously. Mr R Mantel asked why the letter was being sent direct to the Charity Commission without asking Polehampton Charity for an explanation. Mr D Hymers explained that this was done last year but nothing has changed.

**8.4 Meet the Public.** Mr N Crush and Mrs B Ditcham reported that one member of the public attended. He did not wish to give his name and complained about the high speed of traffic in Wargrave Rd. As the police were present and noted the complaint no further action is required by the council.

**8.5 Other representatives Reports.** – Mrs K Peck reported on the July meeting of the TRCA Council meeting. Items covered were a grant application to refurbish the toilets, problems with rubbish, vandalism and the use of the toilets by youths using the skate park. She asked for permission to raise the issue of conditions relating to

the acceptance of new members with them. Agreed. It was also agreed that Mr D Hymers would prepare a briefing note for councillors about the Community Association.

Mrs K Peck reported on the ongoing work of the TVP and the poor response to date to the request for volunteers to join the Village Plan working groups. Due to this they are considering just one section at a time. The first will be the Built and Natural Environment and councillors were asked to respond to the questionnaire relating to this. The meeting to discuss this is being held at Loddon Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 8pm.

**8.6 Clerk's Report.** – The Clerk reported the following: Woods Yard is cutting back on the items stocked and he has to find other suppliers. He is completing applications to open accounts at Hare Hatch Sheeplands and Countrywide. Countrywide require their account settled by direct debit and he asked for permission to set up this arrangement. Agreed 12 for, 1 against. He reminded the meeting that he will be on holiday from the end of October for 3 weeks and this will require arrangements to be made to cover agendas and minutes for several meetings. To be discussed at the October committee meetings and Full Council.

**9. Councillors Questions** – None

**10. Town and Parish Conference 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008.** It was noted that this clashes with a Parish Lands Committee meeting. Mr J Jarvis and Mr D Hymers to attend.

**11. Remembrance Day Arrangements.** As the Clerk will be on holiday when this occurs he asked for details of the numbers attending so he can reserve space in the church. He will also ask the Scout Leader Mr T Toy to advise Mr D Hymers about the route and arrangements for the march to the memorial.

**12. Correspondence** -

12.1 TVP Newsletter 2 and minutes of meeting 19.06.08 – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

12.2 WBC The Town and Parish News – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

12.3 VAWB – Training Bulletins July and August – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

12.4 BALC Newsletter July – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

12.5 BALC Newsletter August – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

**13. Authorisation of payments – list dated 16.09.08.** Approval proposed by Mr J Jarvis, seconded by Mr J Bowley agreed unanimously.

**14. Dates of meetings:**

Planning and Amenities Committee	06.10.08
Parish Lands Committee	08.10.08
Finance Committee	14.10.08

**15. Date of next meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008.**

**The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.**