

Twyford Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Meeting held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford, on Tuesday 20th January 2009 at 7.45 p.m.

Present: Mr. D. Hymers (Chairman) Messrs, R Mantel, C Smith, J Bowley, J Jarvis, A Dimmock, C Tennant, M Shepherd, S Clark, Mrs K Peck, Ms S Doughty and Mrs B Ditcham

In attendance: Mr J March Clerk, District Councillor Mr S Conway and Mrs C Bulman RPC.

1. Public Questions – None

2. Apologies – Mr N Crush and Mr B Rogers.

3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda – None.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2008 -. Proposed by Mr C Smith seconded by Mrs K Peck - approved unanimously.

5. Matters arising and action points

5.1 The Clerk to write to WBC about the village centre CCTV with a copy to Borough Councillors. Completed, WBC taking action to get the system fully operational again.

5.2 The Clerk to put portable speed activated devices on the January agenda of the Planning and Amenities Committee meeting. Completed.

5.3 The Clerk to reply to the letter from Mr Conway-Jones. Completed.

6. Borough Council Matters. Mr S Conway reported on the following: He may have difficulty attending meetings in future due to the new schedule for WBC meetings. He has spoken to M Redfearn of WBC about the village centre CCTV and has been assured that a maintenance agreement will be put in place for this. At the last planning meeting the application for a large residential development at Sandford Farm was refused. He has made enquiries about the progress on his request for a pedestrian crossing in Wargrave Rd and has had further discussions with WBC Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council about the library request. He is sitting on the Finance Panel Scrutiny Committee, which is looking into the WBC Icelandic banks investments and their policy for investments. The review of concessionary fares is under way and he is not sure what the outcome will be due to the pressure on WBC to make savings. The Joint Area Review Board on services provided by WBC highlighted some areas of weakness. One in particular, was the safeguarding of children so WBC is considering the best structure for the department dealing with this. Mr C Smith reported that the NAG would be speaking to Mr Conway about the pedestrian crossing in Wargrave Rd.

7. Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council. Mrs Bulman reported they have changed their meeting day to Wednesday to avoid the WBC meeting problem mentioned by Mr Conway. They have set their precept at a figure 1.8% above last years figure. They will be sending out a newsletter in the near future after the meeting with Wargrave and Twyford PCs to discuss the London Rd/A4 junction. They are still discussing a Village Design Statement. Northbury Ave is going to be resurfaced.

8. Reports:

8.1 Planning and Amenities Committee 05.01.09. Mr J Jarvis reported on the meeting including the planning applications, approvals and refusals. A revised quote has been received for printing Twyford news, which will reduce costs but higher costs are being incurred for street lighting maintenance due to the number of lamp failures caused by their age. Portable VADs were discussed but as they cost £2500 each and discussions have to be held with WBC about their positioning it was decided to take no further action at this time. The development at 62-64 Wargrave Rd will be named Stephenson Close after a local well-known resident. The proposed meeting

with Ruscombe PC about the London Rd /A4 junction has been deferred until February.

- 8.2 **Parish Lands Committee 07.01.09.** Mr J Bowley reported on the following: A meeting has been held with WBC to discuss the Waltham Chase toddlers play area and as WBC have indicated they are prepared to put toddlers play equipment in the spare space in the older children's play area it has been decided not to take the toddlers area over and to leave WBC to return it to grass. With regard to the Skate Park, Mr Bowley explained the current position and the lack of funds to allow WBC to complete the project. The committee **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council that the Parish Council pay for the required landscaping to complete the project at a cost not exceeding £6000. A general discussion took place on how this situation has developed and whether WBC should be asked to complete the project. A number of views were expressed on possible alternative actions that could be taken. A revised landscaping scheme has been discussed and a quote has been obtained for £3,208 although the planning department at WBC has not yet approved this. Mr R Mantel proposed that the value on the above recommendation be reduced to £3500, seconded by Mrs K Peck. Vote taken and amended recommendation agreed 8 for, 4 against. Revised recommendation then voted on and defeated 4 for, 8 against. This item referred back to the Parish Lands Committee to reconsider.
- 8.3 **Finance and General Purposes Committee 13.01.09** Mr R Mantel reported on the meeting. The committee **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council to adopt the New Model Publication Scheme. Agreed unanimously. A member of the WBC Standards Committee will be attending a future meeting of the council as an observer. A grant request was considered from Relate. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that a section 137 grant of £125 be made. Carried unanimously.
- 8.4 **Meet the Public 17.01.09.** Mr D Hymers reported that PC Terry Neblett and a PCSO were present so discussions were held with them about parking issues. They target various areas for a specific period. Their attention was drawn to the problem areas around the village. The police are setting up a pub watch scheme for the Twyford area. They are having difficulties at present with groups of youths gathering and causing criminal damage. PC Neblett would like to attend a Planning or Full Council meeting. It was suggested Full Council would be better as he could meet all the councillors. A resident raised the problem of vehicles going through the pinch point in Broad Hinton that should only be used by buses. The police agreed to investigate this.
- 8.5 **Other Representatives reports.** Mr D Hymers reported on a recent WDALC meeting where WBC Youth Service gave a presentation. There is a very low level of youth crime in the area. At present there are 20 youths with drug related problems. Mrs B Ditcham reported on a meeting of Colleton CP School Governors. The Head Teacher post is being advertised and they are hoping to have the new person in place by September.
- 8.6 **Clerk's report.** The Clerk asked permission to attend the SLCC Regional Conference to be held on 24th March. Agreed. The removable section of fence on the Longfield Rd boundary of KGVR has been pulled out of the ground. It has been taken to pieces and put in the storage shed for safekeeping. Referred to Parish Lands.
9. **Precept 2009/10.** Mr R Mantel explained the background to the proposed figures. The Finance Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that the precept for 2009/10 be set at £58,500. Agreed unanimously.

10. Councillors Questions. Mr C Smith asked that the Parish Lands Committee consider the various alternative proposals put forward in relation to the completion of the skate park when considering this matter further.

11. Correspondence -

11.1 VAWB – Wokingham Borough Community Safety Conference 2009 – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.2 John Heggadon – WBSP Briefing – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.3 VAWB Training Bulletin 09.12.08, 07.01.09 and 20.01.09 – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.4 VAWB –Dates for your diary 2009 – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.5 Help and Care - new event for Links Wokingham – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.6 BALC – updates – circulated on e-mail. Noted

VAWB Community Safety Conference – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

Independent Review Service – Social Fund. Noted.

12. Authorisation of payments – see list dated 20.01.09. Proposed Mr J Bowley, seconded Mr J Jarvis. Carried unanimously.

13. Dates of meetings:

Planning and Amenities Committee	02.02.09
Parish Lands Committee	04.02.09
Finance Committee	10.02.09

14. Date of next meeting – 17th February 2009

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.