

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

Meeting held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford, on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.45 p.m.

**Present:** Mr D. Hymers (Chairman), Messrs, R Mantel, C Smith, J Bowley, J Jarvis, A Dimmock, B Rogers, C Tennant, S Clark, N Crush, Mrs K Peck, Ms S Doughty, Mrs S Harriott-Kerr 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 M Shepherd.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – Mr S Clarke declared an interest in the recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee to make a loan to Little Acorns Pre-School.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009** -. Proposed by Mr J Jarvis seconded by Ms S Doughty - approved 11 for, 3 abstentions.
5. **Matters arising and action points**
  - 5.1 The Clerk to report the faulty street light in Troutbeck Close to SEC. Completed.
  - 5.2 The Clerk to put Public Conveniences for KGVR on the agenda of the March meeting of Planning and Amenities. Completed.
  - 5.3 The Clerk to place the order for repairing the ventilation at Stanlake Pavilion. Completed.
  - 5.4 Mrs K Peck to prepare the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting and submit it to Mr D Hymers for comment. Completed.
  - 5.5 The Clerk to check with the landlords of J W Greens regarding the lighting in the passage. Completed
  - 5.6 The Clerk to check with WBC regarding notification of planning applications. Completed.
6. **Borough Council Matters.** Mr S Conway reported on the following: He understands the planning application for 30 Winchcombe Rd is being refused due to the impact on neighbouring properties and he concurs with the Parish Council's concerns about another access road off Wargrave Rd for the proposed development at 55-57. The planning application is expected soon for the proposed Bridge House development and he hopes to have a look at the plans in WBC offices in the near future. It has been confirmed that TVP will lose their funding and he has had discussions with WBC regarding the effect this will have. He is hoping to have a meeting with the Leader of the Council to discuss this further. A further meeting has been held with Borough Councillor Keith Baker regarding the request for a pedestrian crossing at the top of Wargrave Rd and he has agreed to look at the possibility of a pedestrian crossing on the A4. A further meeting has been arranged with WBC Chief Executive to discuss the library. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are meeting later this week when it is hoped to finalise the report relating to the WBC Icelandic Bank investments. He has written to Nationwide regarding the proposed closure of the Twyford branch.
7. **Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council.** Mrs C Bulman reported on discussions about the proposal to consider extending the Twyford News distribution to include Ruscombe. The Annual Parish Meeting has been arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> April and Peter Baveystock of WBC is going to talk about waste disposal. Mr Bardwell is standing down as a member of NAG. There have been some problems with fly tipping. A planning application for a development at 122-132 London Rd is being considered.

There were insufficient funds to include the resurfacing of St James Close when Northbury Ave was resurfaced.

## **8. Reports:**

- 8.1 Planning and Amenities Committee 02.03.09.** Mr J Jarvis reported on the meeting. He noted that since the changes in the planning regulations fewer applications are being received for comment. Consideration is being given to increasing the circulation of Twyford News to include Ruscombe. The street lighting maintenance contract is to be moved from Southern Electric to Balfour Beatty from 1<sup>st</sup> April, which will give cost savings. WBC has been asked to consider the provision of public toilet facilities for the users of KGVR. The Highways Winter Maintenance Schedule relating to Colleton School area was considered. It is included in the schedules but needs to be monitored to make sure it is carried out. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council to install a streetlight halfway between London Rd and Loddon Hall Rd in the public footpath running between these roads. Approved. 13 for, 1 abstention. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that this streetlight be a wind/solar-powered version. Not approved 4 for, 8 against, 2 abstentions. Ms S Doughty asked about speed controlled traffic lights. Information will be available about this after it has been discussed at the April meeting of the committee.
- 8.2 Parish Lands Committee 04.03.09.** Mr J Bowley reported on the following: It has been decided to replace the older water supply feed at Hurst Rd allotments due to its age and condition. The landscaping around the skate park and ball court has been completed and a safety inspection has been booked for April. The damaged section of fencing on the Longfield Rd boundary of KGVR will be replaced by a metal five bar gate. Further correspondence has been received from Mr Bounds regarding the stile on the Waltham Rd boundary of Stanlake Meadow. It has been decided to take no further action. The feasibility of building additional changing rooms on the NW corner of KGVR is being considered. Ideas for what to include will be welcomed from councillors. Mrs Bulman asked about the provision of allotments for Ruscombe residents. The Clerk explained that this is not possible at present as there is a considerable waiting list for Twyford residents.
- 8.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee 10.03.09.** Mr R Mantel reported on the meeting. Compulsory pension arrangements will come into force from 2012, which could affect the costs for employing the Village Ranger and the Clerk. The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full council to adopt the changes to the Council's Standing Orders, details of which have been circulated. Agreed unanimously. The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that the hourly wage rate for the Village Ranger, Park Warden and Cleaner be increased by 2.75%. Agreed 12 for, 2 abstentions. The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that Little Acorns Pre-school be offered a £2000 loan repayable over 4 years. Agreed 13 for, 1 against. The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that a section 137 grant of £100 be made to the Mobile Information Centre. Agreed unanimously.
- 8.4 Meet the Public 14.03.09.** Mrs B Ditcham reported that only 1 member of the public came. This was a resident of Hilltop Rd who complained about the increased amount of dog faeces left on KGVR. The Clerk to ask the Park Warden to concentrate more on this area and to put it on the agenda of the next Parish Lands Committee meeting for further discussion. The Clerk to inform the resident about the action being taken.
- 8.5 Other Representatives reports.** Written report received from the Governors of Polehampton Infants School – noted. Mrs B Ditcham reported that following interviews the Governors of Colleton School have decided not to appoint a new Head

Teacher. The post has been re-advertised and further interviews will be held in the near future.

**8.6 Clerk's report.** The Clerk reported that he has written to a resident of Hermitage Drive asking for rubbish left on KGVR, when their fence was replaced, to be removed. A request has been received from a resident of Brook St for the streetlight outside their house to be shaded. Referred to Planning and Amenities Committee.

**9. Annual Parish Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009.** The format of the meeting was discussed and the Chairman asked all councillors to attend. Reports are required from the chairmen of the committees. The Clerk to put this on the agenda of the committee meetings for April. The Clerk to arrange refreshments.

**10. Councillors Questions.** Mr J Jarvis commented on the progress of the replacement of the footbridge at Twyford Railway Station. Mr D Hymers raised the proposed closure of the Nationwide Twyford branch. He proposed that the Council writes to Nationwide objecting to the loss of a village amenity and pointing out the problems this will create for older residents. Agreed The Clerk to send a letter.

**11. Correspondence -**

VAWB – Training Bulletin 17.02.09 – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.2 VAWB Training Bulletin 03.03.09 – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.3 VAWB Flyers that might be of interest – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.4 VAWB Community Lunch 4<sup>th</sup> April – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.5 BALC – update 05 and 06 – circulated on e-mail. Noted

11.6 WBC Town and Parish News Feb 09 – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.7 WBC Request for Discussion Topic Suggestions for 2009 Town and Parish Conference. – circulated on e-mail. Following discussion it was agreed the Clerk submits the following two suggestions. What is the affect of the recent changes to the planning rules on the number of applications that need to be submitted for comment? The affect on local amenities of the WBC decision to close all public toilets.

11.8 WBC Full list of council tax rates – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.9 Parish Emergency Planning - circulated on e-mail. Proposed by Mr C Smith, seconded by Mr A Dimmock that the Parish Council takes no action on this. Agreed 8 for, 5 against and 1 abstention.

11.10 WBC Community Conference – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.11 Mr Burke's suggestion that TPC moves from WBC to Windsor and Maidenhead. Mr D Hymers explained the background to this and reported that Mr Burke is carrying out further research on the legal position so no action is required at present.

11.12 Invite to join Towlands Hospital Action Group. Mr Jarvis to put his name forward.

11.13 WBC Annual Review Spring 09. Noted.

11.14 WBC Official Guide. Noted.

11.15 Invite to Keep Mobile AGM. Noted.

**12. Authorisation of payments – see list dated 17.03.09.** Proposed Mr J Jarvis, seconded Mr C Smith. Carried unanimously.

**13. Dates of meetings:**

Planning and Amenities Committee	06.04.09
Parish Lands Committee	08.04.09
Finance Committee	14.04.09

**14. Date of next meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009**

**The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.**