

Twyford Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Meeting held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford, on Tuesday 21st April 2009 at 7.45 p.m.

Present: Mr D. Hymers (Chairman), Messrs, R Mantel, M Shepherd, A Dimmock, B Rogers, C Tennant, S Clark, N Crush, Mrs K Peck and Ms S Doughty.

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

1. **Public Questions** – None
2. **Apologies** – Mr J Bowley, Mr J Jarvis, Mrs B Ditcham and Mr C Smith.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – None
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2009** - Proposed by Mrs K Peck seconded by Ms S Doughty - approved unanimously.
5. **Matters arising and action points**
 - 5.1 The Clerk to write to the resident of Hilltop Rd regarding the action being taken about dog faeces on KGVR. Completed.
 - 5.2 The Clerk to put shading a streetlight in Byron Rd on the agenda of the April meeting of Planning and Amenities. Completed.
 - 5.3 The Clerk to put chairmen's reports to the APM on the agenda of the meetings of all committees in April. Completed.
 - 5.4 The Clerk to write to Nationwide regarding the closure of Twyford branch. Completed. Reply from Nationwide reported to meeting.
 - 5.5 The Clerk to submit suggestions for discussion topics at the Annual Parish/Town Conference to WBC. Completed.
 - 5.6 Mr J Jarvis to put his name forward to join the Townlands Hospital Action Group. Completed.
 - 5.7 Mr D Hymers reported that Mr John Finch has passed away. Mr Finch was a previous chairman of the Parish Council and a councillor until 1984. He was also the founder and chairman of the Local History Society and was very involved with activities in Twyford. Mr D Hymers proposed that the council sends a letter of condolence to his daughter and buys flowers or makes a contribution to charity, as appropriate. Agreed.
6. **Borough Council Matters.** Mr S Conway reported on the following: The planning application for 55-57 Wargrave Rd has been refused. As the main reason was the site being too congested it is likely to be re-submitted. The Bridge House planning application is probably going to be submitted prior to a decision by WBC on the Core Strategy relating to the village boundary. Discussions are on going in relation to TVP funding. He is due to have further discussions with WBC Chief Executive about the library and will also be raising issues caused by changes to the concessionary fare scheme and the removal of dog waste bins.
Mr N Crush raised the problem caused by the installation of a set of seats and a table in the play area at the back of Broadwater Rd. This is being used by late night drinkers and is near to houses. Referred to Planning and Amenities Committee to consider.
7. **Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council.** No report as Mrs C Bulman and Mr C Smith were not present.
8. **Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Planning and Amenities Committee 06.04.09.** Mr M Shepherd reported on the meeting. He commented on the objections made to the planning applications for 72 Wessex Gdns, 6A Jarvis Drive and St Mary's Church Centre. Extending the distribution of Twyford News to include Ruscombe was discussed and the basis for

charging agreed. Further discussions are to be held with Ruscombe. The street lighting maintenance contract has been transferred to Balfour Beatty. Concerns have been raised with WBC regarding the proposal to implement part night lighting in various locations. A request to shade a streetlight in Byron Rd was refused.

8.2 Parish Lands Committee 08.04.09. Mr B Rogers reported on the meeting. The landscaping around the skate park and ball court has been turned down by the WBC planning department so further discussions are to be held. A scheme has been agreed for replacement equipment in the children's play area and quotes have been requested. Due to the WBC decision to remove dog waste bins it has been necessary to arrange a new contract to have the parish council bins emptied. Discussions have been held with Yellow Brick Nursery regarding the proposed increase in rental fees. Mr A Dimmock asked what was happening about the closure of the toddler's play area at Waltham Chase. The Clerk reported that WBC has said the equipment should be transferred to the junior play area before the summer holidays.

8.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee 14.04.09. Mr R Mantel reported on the meeting. The budget expenditure, capital and expenditure and budget figures to be handed out at the APM were distributed. These have been discussed and agreed by the committee. The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full council to adopt the proposed Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures for staff, details of which have been circulated. This recommendation is withdrawn as further guidance has been received from BALC and the committee need to reconsider the implications. The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that the council signs the WBC Parish and Town Councils' Charter, details of which have been circulated. Agreed unanimously. The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that a section 137 grant of £100 be made to The Berkshire Blind Society. Agreed unanimously.

8.4 Other Representatives reports. Written reports received from the Governors of Polehampton Infants School and Age Concern – noted. Invite from Twyford Wargrave and District Volunteer Centre to AGM on 13th May - noted.

8.5 Clerk's report. Nothing to report.

9. Annual Parish Meeting – report from the Chairman of the Council. Mr D Hymers reported he is still waiting for reports from committee chairmen so he can complete his report. He will circulate it to councillors when he has written it.

10. WBC – Removal of Dog Waste Bins. This has caused considerable anxiety amongst residents. Concerns were expressed about the lack of consultation, whether there will be sufficient capacity in normal rubbish bins and health risks particularly where rubbish bins are located in children's play areas. The whole exercise appears to have been done in a rush without much thought. Agreed the Clerk to write to WBC raising the various concerns discussed.

11. Councillors Questions. None

12. Correspondence -

12.1 Berkshire Links Election Newsletter – circulated on e-mail. Noted

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

12.3 WBC Mayors Charity Dinner – circulated on e-mail. Noted

12.4 Wokingham Borough Strategic Partnership Briefing – circulated on e-mail. Noted

12.5 BALC – update 07 and 08 – circulated on e-mail. Noted

12.6 WBC List of Powers available to Town and Parish Councils – circulated on e-mail. Noted

12.7 John Heggadon – Re WBC Strategic Partnership – circulated on e-mail. Noted

12.8 Fields in Trust National Family Week – circulated on e-mail. Noted

SLCC Invite to Branch AGM and Training Day - circulated on e-mail. Noted

CCB Impact of the Economic Downturn – circulated on e-mail. Noted

VAWB – The Volunteer – circulated on e-mail. Noted

WBC – Putting People First – circulated on e-mail. Noted

13. Authorisation of payments – list dated 21.04.09. Approval proposed by Mr M Shepherd, seconded by Ms S Doughty carried unanimously.

14. Dates of meetings:

Planning and Amenities Committee	05.05.09 (Tuesday)
Parish Lands Committee	06.05.09
Finance Committee	12.05.09
Annual Parish Meeting	14.05.09

15. Date of next meeting – 19th May 2009 – Annual Meeting of the Council

The Chairman reminded councillors that the first item of business at the meeting would be the election of a Chairman. He indicated that, having served for 10 years, he would not be a candidate for election.

The meeting closed at 8.59 pm.