

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

Meeting held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford, on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009 at 7.45 p.m.

**Present:** Mr R Mantel (Chairman), Messrs, J Jarvis, J Bowley, M Shepherd, A Dimmock, B Rogers, C Smith, N Crush, S Clark, Mrs B Ditcham and Ms S Doughty. from item 8.2.

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

**1. Public Questions** – None

**2. Apologies** – Mr D Hymers, Mr C Tennant and Mrs K Peck

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

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009** - Proposed by Mr J Jarvis seconded by Mr C Smith - approved unanimously.

**5. Matters arising and action points**

5.1 The Clerk to report the faulty streetlight to BB. Completed.

5.2 The Clerk to report the potholes in Springfield park and on the railway bridge to WBC. Completed.

5.3 The Clerk to follow up on the request to have highway markings renewed. Completed.

5.4 Mr R Mantel to reply to Mr Burke. Completed.

**6. Borough Council Matters.** Mr S Conway was unable to attend. The Clerk read out the report he submitted. At the last council executive meeting I asked a question relating to the way in which concessionary travel tokens were distributed this year, and was given an assurance that the whole process would be reviewed with a view to improving it for next year. Quite what that means in practice, I don't know, but at least I had an acknowledgement that this year's distribution was not handled very well. At last week's council meeting a large petition was presented asking the council's executive to rethink its decision to do away with dedicated dog waste bins. Later in the meeting, one of my colleagues proposed a motion to the same effect. The motion was defeated, and there was no sign that the executive is about to reverse its decision. At the same meeting I asked the executive member responsible for libraries - who is new to the executive - to meet with me to discuss how the council was going to honour its commitment to provide a new library in Twyford. She agreed, and a meeting should be taking place soon.

Meanwhile, I have been having further (and quite encouraging) talks with council officers on the same subject. There has also been another meeting of the finance panel, of which I am a member, to investigate how the council can better provide affordable housing for those in need of such accommodation. At tomorrow evening's planning meeting there are no Twyford applications for determination, but I expect the Bridge House care village scheme to be formally submitted very soon.

**7. Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council.** Mr C Smith reported they have received a letter from a Knowl Hill resident regarding the continuing problems at the A4/A3032 junction. They are experiencing problems with Banner Homes regarding their proposed development off Northbury Lane.

**8. Reports:**

**8.1 Planning and Amenities Committee 06.07.09** Mrs B Ditcham reported on the meeting. She commented on the planning applications received and approvals and noted the recent increase in the number of applications. A member of Ruscombe PC is to be invited to join the editorial team for Twyford News but the Planning and Amenities will retain overall control of editorial policy if there is a dispute.

**8.2 Parish Lands Committee 08.07.09.** Mr J Bowley reported on the meeting. He commented on the decision to carry out maintenance work on the football pitch at KGV, the decision to make a site visit before making a decision on the proposal for landscaping at Jubilee Corner and the continuing waiting lists for allotments at both sites. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that authorisation be given to spend up to £20,000 on essential repairs and refurbishment at Twycombe Lodge. Mr Bowley explained the background to this recommendation. Mr C Smith asked about the amount of work required and was given a brief outline. Mr S Clarke asked if a rewire was necessary and Mr Rogers explained the position regarding the faults found when an inspection and test was completed on the electrical installation. Mr M Shepherd asked why there was a need to authorise this sum before quotes are obtained. Mr Bowley explained the need to act quickly as the building should not be left empty longer than necessary as well as the loss of income for every month it is not let. Approved unanimously.

**8.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee 14.07.09.** Mr J Jarvis reported on the meeting. Firstly he covered the discussions relating to "Flu Friends" raised by Mr Phillips in public questions. Mrs Ditcham had raised this with TVP who are going to discuss it at their next meeting. Her understanding is they would form part of a team of co-ordinators who would hold names of local contacts, which would be given to persons requiring help. Mr R Mantel has spoken to the Volunteer Centre who is circulating details to see what can be done. However, they are concerned that the age of the volunteers may restrict what they can do. A page has been reserved in the next issue of Twyford News for an article about this and it was agreed that once details are obtained they are added to the information on the village website. He then pointed out the current position relating to the council's finances. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that no grant be given to Loddon Valley Action. Approved unanimously. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that a section 137 grant of £1670.42 be made to WBC Twyford Youth Worker. Mr B Rogers asked if the street workers could be asked to attend a full council meeting to talk about the work they do. Agreed the Clerk to make this request to the Youth Worker. Approved 10 for, 1 against. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that funding up to £20,000 FOR Twycombe Lodge can be made available from existing reserves and that this amount is precepted back over a period of 10 years. Approved unanimously.

Item 10 deferred to end of meeting, as this will require the exclusion of the press and public.

**8.4 Other Representatives reports.** Mr S Clark reported that Little Acorns Pre School have demolished their old building and work is in progress. Mr J Jarvis reported on a WBC Planning Strategy meeting he attended where they were shown the proposed sites and given information about the proposed major areas of development in WBC area. Once final government approval is received the plan will be developed further.

**8.5 Clerk's report.** The Clerk reported that the timer controlling the electricity supply at Stanlake Pavilion has failed. Agreed the Clerk arranges for an electrician to investigate and repair the fault. The parish council photocopier has developed faults recently and due to its age some of the spare parts required are no longer available. The Clerk has spoken to IOT, the company who maintain the copier. They have agreed to reduce the monthly service charge to £15 from £25 due to the low number of copies made and offered to supply a reconditioned basic copier sufficient for current needs for £825+VAT. Proposed Mr C Smith, seconded Mr B Rogers that this copier be purchased. Carried 10 for, 1 abstention.

**9. Councillors Questions.** Mr S Clarke asked if the figures in this year's budget allowed for 12 months income from Twycombe Lodge. Mr J Bowley replied that it does because at the time the budget was prepared there was a tenancy agreement in place but agreed that the position regarding the length of tenancy agreements will be considered for future years. Mrs B Ditcham asked why all agendas and minutes are not sent out by e-mail. Mr J Bowley pointed out the additional printing cost this would pass on to councillors who require hard copies when attending meetings. Agreed the existing arrangements to continue. Mr B Rogers asked what is happening about the cladding on the footbridge at the railway station. Mr J Jarvis explained the background to this. An e-mail has been circulated to planning committee members from Stephen Conway explaining that a meeting was held between WBC planning officers and network rail where the type of cladding was agreed.

**10. Correspondence -**

- 10.1 BALC – updates 26<sup>th</sup> June – circulated on e-mail. Noted
- 10.2 VAWB Training Bulletins 22.06.09 and 06.07.09 – circulated on e-mail. Noted
- 10.3 WBC Town and Parish News June – circulated on e-mail. Noted
- 10.4 VAWB Micro Enterprise Event – circulated on e-mail. Noted
- 10.5 NALC Leadership Academy - circulated on e-mail. Noted
- 10.6 WBC Community Cohesion Conference 20<sup>th</sup> July circulated on e-mail. Noted
- 10.7 SLCC training Courses. Noted
- 10.8 NALC Awards for Local Councils. Noted
- 10.9 VAWB Training Bulletin 20.07.09 – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

**11. Authorisation of payments – list dated 21.07.09.** Approval proposed by Mr J Jarvis, seconded by Mr J Bowley. Carried unanimously.

**12. Dates of meetings:**

Planning and Amenities Committee	03.08.09 and 07.09.09
Parish Lands Committee	09.09.09
Finance Committee	15.09.09
Meet the Public (Library)	12.09.09

Mr J Jarvis and Mr S Clark to attend. Reserve Mr A Dimmock

**13. Clerks Remuneration – item 10 referred from Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting 14.07.09.**

As the Clerks person remuneration is to be discussed the Chairman invoked Standing Order 66 “That in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw” The Clerk also left the meeting whilst this item was discussed. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council that the Clerk be advanced one point on the salary scale and that the Clerk's working hours be increased to 4.5 hours per day. Approved unanimously.

**14. Date of next meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.**

**The meeting closed at 9.03 pm.**