

Twyford Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Meeting held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford, on Tuesday 19th January 2010 at 7.45 p.m.

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

In attendance: Mrs C Bulman Ruscombe Parish Council and District Councillor Mr Stephen Conway.

1. **Public Questions** – None
2. **Apologies** – Messrs J Bowley, C Tennant and Mrs B Ditcham.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – None
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2009** - Proposed by Mrs S Harriott-Kerr seconded by Ms S Doughty - approved unanimously.
5. **Matters arising and action points**
 - 5.1 The Clerk to put Borough Litter Pick on the agenda of the Planning and Amenities Committee. Completed.
 - 5.2 District Councillor Mr S Conway to be asked about “Special Parking Areas” at the January meeting. See item 7.
 - 5.3 The Clerk to write to 1st Great Western about the disabled lifts at Twyford Station with a copy to MP Theresa May. Completed. Waiting for a reply.
 - 5.4 Mrs S Doughty to provide the Clerk with details of the 1st Great Western contact for item 3. Completed.
6. **Precept.** The figures have been discussed and agreed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee who **RECOMMEND** a precept of £59,552 to the Full Council for the 2010-11 financial year. Carried 9 for 1 against.
7. **Borough Council Matters.** Mr S Conway reported on the following: Special Parking Areas. He explained how the adoption of this would move the enforcement of parking restrictions from the police to WBC and contravention of regulations becomes a civil rather than a legal matter. WBC would appoint traffic attendants and the cost of these is covered by the parking fines, which WBC would keep. Enforcement would be more robust as this becomes the main priority rather than one of a number of areas dealt with by the police. A number of neighbouring councils have adopted this system. A discussion was held on the background and the pros and cons of this system. Agreed the Clerk to put this on the agenda of the Planning and Amenities Committee for further discussion.

The Bridge House planning application will probably come before the Planning Committee in March. The Overview and Scrutiny Finance Panel have prepared a draft report about possible assistance for residents suffering as a result of the recession. Police have made anti social behaviour a priority and action has been taken to control this. The meeting planned in January about the problems at the Golden Cross has been postponed to a later date due to the bad weather.

Mr M Shepherd asked if any discussions had been held on deciding the priorities for treating roads and footpaths in the Winter Maintenance Plan. Mr S Conway replied that a number of factors were considered when making the decisions. However the problem during the recent bad weather was caused by lack of planning and communication, which meant the gritting vehicles, got stuck in the depots by traffic and could not get out.
8. **Liaison with Ruscombe Parish Council.**

Mrs Bulman reported on the following: They have received more planning applications than normal for this time of year. St James churchyard is nearly full and an application has been received to convert an allotment and other spare ground to

create more space. They have set the precept at the same level as last year. They will be taking part in the spring litter pick. They discussed a proposal received regarding a bridle path linking New Rd Twyford with New Rd Ruscombe. The Clerk to ask the RPC clerk for details about this proposal.

9. Reports:

9.1 Planning and Amenities Committee 04.01.10 As neither the committee chairman nor vice-chairman were present Mr Mantel presented the minutes, which were noted. Mrs Peck asked for clarification of the lower age limit for insurance cover for public helpers at the proposed litter pick. The Clerk to check and let her know.

9.2 Parish Lands Committee 06.01.10. As neither the committee chairman nor vice-chairman was present Mr Mantel presented the minutes, which were noted.

9.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee 12.01.10 Mr R Mantel reported on the meeting. Staff wages will be increased by 2% from 1st April 2010. The committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Council not to make a section 137 grant to Home Start Wokingham District. Carried 9 for 1 against.

9.4 Meet the Public 16.01.10. Mr D Hymers reported. The police were present and the new PCSO Nicola Shepherd introduced herself. The area SGT Mark Smith also called in. They distributed a monthly newsletter, copies of which Mr D Hymers brought to the meeting. He asked for copies to be sent to the parish council. The police reported that about 40% of their time is spent on parking enforcement. They reported on the speeding problems in the High St, which is being discussed by the Planning and Amenities Committee. One resident, Mrs Moore, attended and raised the issue of parking outside Colleton School at drop off and pick up times which the police undertook to follow up.

9.5 Other Representatives reports.

None

9.5 Clerk's report. The Clerk asked for permission to attend the SLCC regional conference in March. The cost will be £55. Agreed. The Clerk has received notification from Mr G Weir that he is prepared to carry out the internal audit again. There is no increase in his costs. This has to be arranged within the next two months. Agreed the Clerk to arrange for Mr G Weir to carry out the internal audit.

10. Councillors Questions.

None

11. Correspondence -

11.1 WBC Wokingham Town Centre Master plan – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.2 BALC Update 21 – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.3 WBC Severe Weather updates 06.01 and 08.01 - circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.4 WBC Election of Town/Parish Representative to Wokingham borough Strategic Partnership - circulated on e-mail. Mr R Mantel reported that there is some discussion taking place about the format for voting and asked for this to be deferred to the next meeting.

11.5 WBC Wheels in Motion for the new Transport Plan - circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.6 VAWB Training Bulletin 06.01.10. Noted.

11.7 NALC Working Lunch Programme 2010 - circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.8 WBC Wokingham Information Network - circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.9 VAWB Community Safety Conference 10.02.10 – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.10 NALC Local Council Awards – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

11.11 Sustainable Communities Act amendment bill – circulated on e-mail. Noted.

12. Authorisation of payments – list dated 19.01.10 Approval proposed by Mr C Smith seconded by MR A Dimmock. Carried unanimously.

13. Dates of meetings:

Planning and Amenities Committee	01.02.10
Parish Lands Committee	03.02.10
Finance Committee	09.02.10

14. Date of next meeting – 16th February 2010.

The Clerk reported he will be on holiday for this meeting. Agreed the Clerk asks Mrs B Ditcham if she will take the minutes.

The meeting closed at 8.56 pm.