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## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010**

**Present** Alice Wilkinson (Chairman), Jim Gillett (Vice Chair), Jackie Jeffery, Shirley Newman, Chris Drew, Liz Black, and John Illenden. and District Councillor Emma Hobbs and 7 residents.

**Apologies for absence** - Nick Ray, Michael Forrer, John Davies,

**5108/10 Open Forum** Five of the residents were young people who were present to make a case for better recreational facilities for the 13 to 18 age group. Three of the boys spoke to make their case particularly for a BMX track. They expressed the view that there are already three playgrounds for the 8 to 13 age group and any available finance should be used to provide an adventure playground which could be used by a wider age group. The Hawthorns Park is not a suitable location for such a facility it would be much better to be built at the wider open space of East Park Farm, far enough away from houses not to cause a nuisance. They produced a petition signed by 150 of their friends. They also produced photos showing the sort of scheme that they have in mind.

Discussion with the Parish Council followed, in which the District Councillor and the Borough Council area manager Nick Christo took part. During that discussion the boys were thanked for their very good presentation. They were assured by the Parish Council that their proposal to build an adventure facility for a wider age group would be supported and that the facility should be provided at East Park Farm, leaving the Hawthorns Park facility for the young and very young. It was explained that the Parish Council had been pursuing the provision of a Multi Use Games Area at East Park Farm for many years, regrettably without the promised support from Wokingham Borough Council. The composition of any proposed facility would need to match the both the requirements of the 'Playbuilder Scheme' and the wider needs of local young people. The District Councillor Emma Hobbs and the Wokingham Borough Council Area Manager Nick Christo also expressed support for the boys' proposal to provide a facility for a wider age group at East Park Farm. The boys were asked to prepare a detailed questionnaire including a proposal and with names and addresses as well as signatures and to include any supporting information. The Chair again thanked the boys for coming and for their very good presentation. The residents then left the meeting.

**5109/10 Discussion with Nick Christo**

Discussion of the facility proposed above followed.

The Chair asked for an update on the provision of a MUGA at East Park Farm and questioned whether all the supportive remarks made in the Open Forum are to be fulfilled. Nick Christo replied that he would actively pursue the proposals made at the Open Forum and did not rule out using Playbuilder money but could make no promises. Other Councillors asked: - Why is a skate park acceptable for inclusion in the Playbuilder scheme but a MUGA not? Why cannot the present scheme for a MUGA be modified to meet the Playbuilder requirements? Why is it insisted that Playbuilder money be used at the Hawthorns Park when our young people claim the money would be better spent at East Park Farm? Nick Christo explained that

the proposal can be modified to comply with the Playbuilder requirements and that a MUGA or Skate Park can be included in a comprehensive scheme. There will be an opportunity to consider this when the meeting to produce a design for the facility is arranged. It was pointed out that the meeting was supposed to have taken place early in the year and it was hoped that this will not be not delayed so long that it will then be claimed that there is insufficient time to fully consider the design of the facility.

In response to concern about rumours that the fishing rights had already been decided, Nick Christo stated that he had no knowledge of any agreement having been reached.

Nick Christo asked Council to note that the Transport Team would be contacting Council to arrange a meeting to consider a new Transport Plan.

The Chairman ended the discussion by thanking Nick Christo for attending and emphasised the expectation that all the good intentions expressed earlier be honoured.

**5110/10 Declaration Of Interest - None**

**5111/10 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 –The minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.**

**5112/10 Urgent Matters Arising from the above Minutes -  
There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.**

**5113/10 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING (ref 121)**

**a) New Applications for Information and Comment:**

0328 Single storey front extension to form porch at 32 Park View Drive South. – No Parish Council comment

0355 CLPU for a garden shed at 6 East Park Farm Drive. - Noted

**b) Applications Appealed**

2111 Two storey rear extension at Rose Cottage, Lands End Lane. - Comment not permitted.

**c) Applications Approved – The following approved applications were noted:-**

0107 Revised Plan for Summerhouse at 15 St Patrick's Avenue.

0092 Single storey rear extension at 149 East Park Farm Drive.

0001 Two storey side extension at 25 Gingells Farm Road.

0045 Two storey rear extension at Post Office, 36 Park View Drive South.

O/2008/1282 Development at Sandford Farm - Outline Permission Granted.

**c) Applications Refused on Appeal The following refused applications were noted:-**

0338 Replacement Pitched Roof to Summer House at 13 Charvil House Road.

2026 Two storey side/rear extensions, raise roof, convert garage, single storey front extension and change windows at 28 Strathmore Drive.

**d) Letter to Central Planning from LVAG. Noted**

**e) WB Local Development Framework 2009 Monitoring Report - Noted**

**f) Street Numbering - Redevelopment of 43 Old Bath Road - Properties to be numbered 39, 41 & 43**

**There being no further planning business the Planning Meeting was closed.**

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- 5114/10 Finance Reports** – In the absence of the Chair of Finance, the Vice Chair of Council reviewed the monthly financial reports which were unanimously approved.
- 5115/10 Authorisation of Payments** – Cheques as detailed, including the second part Home as Office payments to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk and repayment for the purchase of a replacement computer were approved and signed.
- 5116/10 Donations** - The Clerk had provided a list of S137 donations during the current financial year. Council considered requests from Twyford & District Volunteer Centre and from Berkshire Blind Society. Awards were deferred until the next financial year.
- 5117/10 Multi Sport Area** – Note Open Forum Comment
- 5118/10 Internal Audit** - The reappointment of G Weir as Internal Auditor was unanimously confirmed

**There being no further Finance business the Finance Meeting was closed.**

## **REPORTS**

- 5119/10 Village Hall Management Committee** – The minutes of a meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009 were noted.

Village Hall Insurance Council considered a quote for next years cover. The figure quoted by Aon our current insurer at £1588.27 was unanimously accepted..

Replacement Doors and Windows - It was agreed that the Parish Council would part fund the cost which was estimated to be around £20K.

- 5120/10 Amenities Committee** – The minutes of a meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009 were noted.

Vehicular Access onto St Patrick's Recreation Ground. Councillor Illenden reported that he had planted all the hedgerow plants and that they had all been protected by tubes.

Insurance Cover to be obtained for Roger Burns – The Clerk reported that Roger Burns had obtained a quote from his own Insurer and that for comparison he had asked the Parish Council insurer for a quote. The response was that as a 'paid volunteer' Roger Burns would be covered by the Council Insurer but with conditions. A copy of the letter from the Council's insurer was considered by Council but further clarification was required.

- 5121/10 Borough Councillor's Report** - Councillor Hobbs reported that the application to develop at 42-44 Old Bath Road has been refused and appears likely to go to appeal.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- 5122/10 Country Park Management and Fishing Rights** – See comment by Nick Christo.
- 5123/10 Replacement Tree planting at Village Hall** - Councillor Illenden informed the meeting that the trees have now been planted. On behalf of the whole Council the Chair thanked Councillor Illenden for his efforts in planting both the V Hall trees and the long length of hedging at the recreation ground.

## **HIGHWAYS**

- 5124/10 Scottish & Southern Energy** - We have confirmation that the letter sent to S&SE re street lights and V H Power contract has been received and is being considered..
- 5125/10 Incident at Lands End Ford.** - Council considered the increasing number of incidents involving cars occurring after heavy rain when the ford becomes impassable. One of the most recent was extremely serious and had resulted in the need for an emergency rescue followed by hospitalisation of the driver. Council discussed the quality of the

signage at the approaches and concluded that these were no longer adequate to warn strangers to the area directed through the ford by their Sat-navs. Following lengthy discussion it was agreed that there was no action that the Parish Council could take because the provision of signs is the statutory responsibility of Wokingham Borough Council as the Highway Authority. Borough Councillor Emma Hobbs expressed the view that the Borough Council was not likely to take any further action. Following further discussion the clerk was asked to write to The Borough Council Highways Department as follows: -

*Council recently considered the increasing number of incidents involving cars, occurring after heavy rain when the Lands End Ford becomes impassable. One of the most recent was extremely serious and resulted in the need for an emergency rescue followed by hospitalisation of the driver. Council discussed the quality of the signage at the approaches to the ford and concluded that these were no longer adequate to alert strangers to the area (directed through the ford by their 'Sat-navs' ) of the potential hazard ahead. Council therefore asks that Wokingham Borough Council as the Highway Authority institute an immediate review of the signs at the approaches to the ford, bearing in mind the increasing number of strangers to the area using the ford. Council considered that the signs can be made more readable and more graphic to make drivers immediately aware of the potential danger from flood water.*

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**5126/10 Lake Naming** – Council considered some late submissions but still considered the Mosquito crash recognition to be the best option.

**5127/10 Document Archive** - Nothing further to report.

**5128/10 CCB re Affordable Housing for Local people** - Noted

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

It was agreed that the circulation should cease.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**5129/10** Keep Mobile AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> May noted.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm**

### **PART 2**

Enforcement Notice (RFS/2010/00097) for Change of Use of land North of Inglewood, Beggars Hill Road. Discussed and Noted.

.....Signature  
Chairman of the Council

Signed on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010