

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2010

PRESENT:

John Godbold (Chair)
Fenella Jarvis (Vice Chair)
Will Hawthorne
Ian Tait
Dean Upton
Heather Nicholson
Chrissie Sanders

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson (Clerk)
Cllr Charlotte Bailey (HCC)
Cllr Lynda Banister (WCC)
Keith Taylor

APOLOGIES:

Nicola Blencowe
PC Gareth McGaw

960. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2010 were **AGREED** and signed as an accurate record.

961. Reports and Recommendations from Working Parties

a) Police

MM reported that:

- (i) **PC Gareth McGaw** had replaced PC Joe Zubaidi as the responsible officer for Badger Farm. He will work in tandem with PCSO Warren Carne.

PC GM was unable to attend but had forwarded the monthly crime figures.

- (ii) There had been:

Broad Chalke Down	Theft of a garden shed
Lark Hill Rise	Theft of a mountain bike from a garage
Honeysuckle Close	Theft of a mountain bike from a garden shed

b) Open Space

NTR

c) Planning

MM reported that:

- (i) No new applications had been received:

- (ii) 1 application had been approved:

Ashbarn Crescent	Erection of garden shed (retrospective)
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- (iii) No applications had been refused.

d) Play Equipment

MM reported that:

- (i) All play inspections were up to date.
- (ii) The net for the Central Kickabout goal was now beyond repair. **JG** directed that it should be removed and disposed of. The spare net will not be erected until the Spring.

WH reported that:

- (iii) The repaired area of the safety surfacing again needed attention as did the repair round the new post. **MM** will obtain quotes.

e) Transport

KT had attended the HCC Transport Representatives meeting and forwarded a report:

- (i) A new rail timetable comes into effect on 12th December, with some minor re-timings and additional daily trains to and from Reading and the north-east.
- (ii) Winchester station has a new coffee bar on the down platform.
- (iii) Details of the new HCC arrangements for concessionary bus passes will not be available until December 1st.
- (iv) The age criterion for pensioner's passes will eventually be aligned to the retirement age, but people with a pass at present should not be affected.
- (v) Savings to meet Government targets could be taken against subsidised services in the evenings and on Sundays (including Stagecoach 1 and 5). He had suggested that the Park & Ride service might augment this service if subsidies were scaled back.

f) Parish Website

NTR

g) Finance

MM reported that:

- (i) Expenditure remained within budget.
- (ii) The cleared bank balance on 1 November 2010 was £50,611.87. There were no un-cleared cheques. The bank statements and reconciliation for October 2010 were signed by **JG**.

(iii) Natwest bank had again returned the new mandate (Minute 926 g) (v) Page 693 refers) because one of the two change sheets they had supplied had been on an incorrect form. **MM, JG, FJ** and **DU** signed the new form which **MM** will deliver to the bank.

h) Parish Proposals and Action Grid

NTR

i) Community Centre Lease Compliance

NTR

j) Whiteshute Ridge

MM reported that:

- (i) Two residents in Honeysuckle Close had complained that the TPO trees behind their property required trimming. He had responded that whilst it was impossible for Badger Farm PC to spend public money on cutting back these trees without planning approval they were entirely within their rights to cut back the limbs and branches that extended over their boundary.
- (ii) A third resident in Honeysuckle Close had coincidentally complained that crab apples and foliage were falling onto his patio from overhanging branches from trees on the ridge and alleging that this constitutes a health and safety issue. **MM** had also explained the situation to him.

Council discussed these issues and directed that **MM** should seek advice from Mr Damian Offer (WCC Head of Landscape Services) about the Parish Council's responsibilities in this matter. Council also noted that in their opinion falling crab apples did not constitute a Health & Safety issue.

- (iii) SERCO's performance in carrying out this year's maintenance contract had been unsatisfactory. The annual cut of medium cut grass was six weeks late and three other routine tasks had not been completed on time. He had complained to SERCO on 1 November and had subsequently received an apology. The ridge was inspected by the Supervisor on 3 November and remedial action is now in hand.

k) County Council Rep

CB reported on:

- (i) Legal responsibilities with regard to snow clearance by members of the public.
- (ii) Mobile Library Services – survey
- (iii) Police intentions to alter Neighbourhood Policing responsibilities.

- (iv) The “Village Green” application for Bushfield will shortly go to the Inspection phase.
- (v) Blueprint. She reminded council that the consultation phase will end at the end of the year. **JG** and **CS** will consider the way ahead.

l) City Council Reps

JG noted with sadness the sudden and untimely death of Councillor David Spender who had been an outstanding City Councillor on behalf of the residents of Badger Farm. Councillors unanimously **AGREED** these sentiments and were fulsome in their tributes.

CB and **LB** echoed these sentiments and noted that a Memorial Service will be held in Winchester Cathedral on 4 December at 2.00pm. Both Councillors paid tribute to the great assistance that David Spender had given them when they were first elected.

LB reported on:

- (i) Introduction of Sunday parking charges in Central Winchester car parks.
- (ii) Blueprint. See Para 961 k) (v) above.
- (iii) Trees. She will chair a sub-committee meeting to consider Tree Management in the District before reporting to the Environment Scrutiny Committee. She also noted that British Trust for Conservation volunteers could advise on voluntary maintenance schemes.

m). Notice Board Rep

NTR

n). Newsletter Rep

NTR

o). WDALC

MM reported that:

- (i) He had received notice on 16th October that a General Meeting of the Association would take place on 21 October in the Guildhall. Not surprisingly given the extremely short notice no Councillor was available to attend.

962. Grit Bins

Further to the discussion at the last meeting (Minute 954 Page 714) he had now confirmed with WCC (Neville Crisp) that two further grit bins will be installed shortly. This means that a total of three new bins will have been added this year as follows:

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|-------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (i) | Bottom of Harrow Down | Supplied and paid for by HCC |
| (ii) | Bottom of Lowden Close | Supplied by WCC – paid for by BFPC |
| (iii) | Broad Chalke Down | Supplied by WCC – paid for by BFPC |

963. Financial Risk Assessment

As part of the continuous internal financial risk assessment process **JG** checked the following:

- a) Clerk's salary – hours and rate to contract
- b) PAYE calculations
- c) Arithmetic on invoices

and then signed the Financial Risk Assessment and Management form.

964. Donation

MM reported that he had received the following request for a donation:

- a) The Hampshire Farming and Wildlife Group is a charity that seeks to provide support and advice to local farmers on a range of subjects, primarily relating to farmland conservation management. They are seeking a donation to enable them to continue to provide one-to-one farm visits. Council **AGREED** that a donation would be inappropriate.

965. Correspondence

The following correspondence was discussed:

- a) HCC will host an event to explore how services to counter bad winter weather (snow and ice) can be improved. This will take place at The Castle, Winchester on Tuesday 9th November at 6.00pm. **JG** will attend.
- b) WCC have invited the Chairman to a meeting to discuss the City Council's 2011/12 budget and the Government's "Big Society" initiative in the Guildhall at 6.30pm on Thursday 9th December. **JG** will attend.
- c) The next BFOBRCA Community Centre User Group meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th November at 7.30pm. **WH** will attend.
- d) WCC (Assistant Director Economic Prosperity) had written to Parish Councils informing them that WCC funding for voluntary organisations would be reduced next year. This could increase demand for Section 137 donations next year and should be borne in mind when setting the 2011/12 budget.

966. Payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved and signed:

1486	M D Macpherson	Clerk Salary (Oct)	£ 526.66	£ 10.50
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