

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th December 2012

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson (Clerk)
Cllr Charlotte Bailey (HCC)
Cllr Brian Laming (WCC)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Lynda Banister (WCC)
PCSO Gavin Cooper

1114. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November were **AGREED** and signed by **JG** as an accurate record.

1115. Reports and Recommendations from Working Parties

a) Police

- (i) **PCSO GC** was unable to attend but had forwarded a written report on the crime that had been reported in the last month.

Central Kickabout

Criminal Damage – vandalism to rope bridge play equipment.

Ivy Close

Anti-Social Behaviour – youths drinking alcohol in the street. Found to be incorrect report.

MM reported that:

- (ii) The next PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting will be held at the Carroll Centre on Monday 17th December at 7.15pm. This will be primarily for issues relating to Stanmore, Badger Farm, Oliver's Battery and St Cross.

b) Open Space

MM reported that:

- (i) The dog bin at the bottom of the Sainsbury to Harrow Down path had not been emptied recently. This was reported to WCC on 27 November.
- (ii) The 8 foot laurel hedge beside the Barley Down bus stop had been cut down by the Parish Lengthsman on Tuesday 4th December. It had originally been intended to trim it back in order to improve the line of sight from the bus stop however the Lengthsman reported that:

- (a) The hedge was very thick in the stem and these now risked damaging adjacent walls at the rear of the bus shelter.
- (b) The hedge was strewn with rubbish making it an attractive refuge for rats.

JG agreed that it should be cut back completely. He had subsequently received two complaints from residents. Council **AGREED** to leave the roots and allow them to re-shoot in the spring.

c) Planning

MM reported that:

- (i) 1 new application had been received:

Lark Hill Rise Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension.

- (ii) 1 application had been approved:

Ivy Close Lean to rear conservatory

- (iii) No applications had been refused

d) Play Equipment

MM reported that:

- (i) "In-house" fortnightly play equipment inspections are up to date.
- (ii) The most recent Vita Play inspection took place on Monday 3 December. The following defects were identified with higher levels of risk (eg A - potential for death, B - severe or C - minor injury):

Equip	Defect	Action	Risk
Central Kickabout			
Trim Trail	Two traverse ropes worn to core	Monitor /Replace	C
Davis Kickabout			
Multi Play	Rope on Incline ladder worn	Monitor /Replace	C

Council **AGREED** that these defects should be monitored.

- (iii) Vandalism had again taken place on the Central Kickabout on the evening of 27 November causing further damage to the rope bridge. VitaPlay had made the area safe and removed the damaged posts. Council **AGREED** that this damage should not be repaired in accordance with their decision taken at the last meeting. Minute 1107 d) (iv) Page 844 refers.

e) Transport

KT had forwarded a written report:

- (i) Bluestar will be running Saturday services during Christmas week with an hourly service on Boxing Day. There will be no service on New Year's Day. King Alfred buses will provide a skeleton service on New Year's Day. Stagecoach will not provide a service on Boxing Day.
- (ii) The trains will also run Saturday services during Christmas week with no service on 25th or 26th but will run on January 1st. There is no local engineering work planned.
- (iii) He had attended a stakeholder meeting with Southampton Airport recently. Noise complaints are down to a fraction of what they were a couple of years ago, mainly because the aircraft themselves are much quieter.

CB reported that:

- (iv) She was keen to encourage residents to continue to use the 5A service on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Usage figures showed that it had been used for 254 rides in the last 8 weeks and that the cost per passenger trip was £2.64 – almost self supporting. Greater use would guarantee the future of the service.

f) Communications

MM reported that:

- (i) He had yet to receive a pdf version of the Community News for publication on the web site and would chase up the RCA.

g) Finance

MM reported that:

- (i) At the end of the third quarter of the financial year (31 December 2012) actual income and expenditure compared with budgeted income & expenditure is expected to be:

Income			
Category	Budget to date	Actual to date	Balance
Precept	28,400	28,400	-
Other Income	70	692	622
Total Income	28,470	29,092	622
Expenditure			
Category	Budget to date	Actual to date	Balance

Business	3,432	4,364	(932)
Clerk Salary	4,814	4,814	-
Donations	1,875	550	1,325
Litter	2,231	2,071	160
Open Space	0	0	-
Play Equipment	699	1,336	(637)
Whiteshute Ridge	5,800	5,480	320
Total	18,851	18,615	236
Capital Project	0	5,021	(5,021)
	18,851	23,636	(4,785)

Overspend in the Business sector is caused by paying the insurance premium up front in May. Overall income & expenditure remain on track. Although no Capital Project expenditure was budgeted this year there is £15,697 available to service this debt. Council **AGREED** that the situation is entirely satisfactory.

- (ii) The cleared bank balance on 1 December 2012 was £46,984.21. There was one un-cleared transaction for £20.28. The bank statements and reconciliation for November 2012 were signed by **JG**.

h) Parish Lengthsman

MM reported that:

- (i) The Lengthsman had worked on the Barley Down bus stop during the first week in December. See Minute 1115 b) (ii) above.

CS suggested that:

- (ii) His work package for his next visit on 4th, 5th & 6th March should include the steps on the path from Ashbarn Crescent to Wren Close that are smothered in ivy.

i) Community Centre Lease Compliance

WH reported that:

- (i) The RCA had reached agreement with the Surgery about the problems with their roof and its drainage arrangements.

j) Whiteshute Ridge

MM reported that:

- (i) A large ash tree had come down in the gales on 25 November blocking Whiteshute Ridge Lane and causing some damage to the new fence. The

tree surgeon had cut up the tree and repaired the fence on 26 November. The newly planted hedge had survived.

- (ii) As **AGREED** at the last meeting D Denby will fell tree 188 (Field Maple) and remove the crown of tree 193 (large Ash) for a total of £690. The work will be done this month. The ivy ringing and re-tagging will be done in the New Year.
- (iii) D Denby has quoted £1,200 to remove the ash saplings on the Ridge and will conduct this work in the next two months. This job was done poorly last year by Scandor and as a result they will not be invited to quote again for this work.

BL will:

- (iv) Re-arrange the postponed visit to Shawford Down with Damian Offer (WCC) and other interested parties for the morning of either Saturday 19th or 26th January.

k) County Council Rep

CB reported on the following topics:

- (i) 5A Bus – see para 1115 e) (iv) above.
- (ii) Play Equipment. The new Community Infrastructure Levy arrangements might provide a source of funding.
- (iii) HCC are about to start an Apprentices scheme.

l) City Council Reps

BL reported that:

- (i) WCC had started their winter tree maintenance programme.

m). Notice Board Rep

No Report

n). Newsletter Rep

JG formally thanked **NB** for all her excellent work on the recent newsletter.

o). WDALC

NTR

1116. 2013/14 Budget & Precept

MM reminded the Council of the overall financial policy:

- a) To maintain a Balance of £10K as a contingency against unexpected expenditure.
- b) To maintain Reserves of £14.5K in accordance with the terms of the Whiteshute Ridge lease
- c) To maintain sufficient funds to meet their liability for the Clerk's gratuity on retirement.
- d) Add any additional surplus to a Large Project Fund for longer term capital expenditure.

The best prediction for the Balance at 31 March 2013 is a total Income of £29,098 and total expenditure of £28,991 giving an in year surplus of £107. This translates into a gross carried forward balance at 31 March 2013 of £42,492 consisting of:

Whiteshute Ridge	£ 14,500
Clerk Gratuity	£ 2,407
Capital Project Fund	£ 15,585
Contingency	£ 10,000
 Balance	 £ 42,492

MM proposed that in setting the budget for 2013/2014 Council should aim to increase the Reserves to £27,126 to cover the increased gratuity liability and maintain the contingency of £10K. Council have yet to define a Capital Project policy but whatever course is selected will require the Capital Project Fund to grow substantially. A figure of about £21K is probably achievable next year. The balance sheet at 31 March 2014 should therefore be:

Whiteshute Ridge	£ 14,500
Clerk Gratuity	£ 2,626
Capital Project Fund	£ 21,000
Contingency	£ 10,000

This will require a gross balance of : £ 48,126

Council **AGREED** this strategy.

Council then discussed expenditure for 2013/2014 which they **AGREED** should be capped at £23,318 as follows:

Salary	£ 6,439
Business Expenses	£ 4,048
Litter	£ 2,792
Open Space	£ 0
Play Equipment	£ 1,336
Whiteshute Ridge	£ 7,703
Donations	£ 1,000
 Total	 £ 23,318

To afford this level of expenditure and achieve an end of year balance of over £48,000 it will be necessary to set the Precept at £28,975. This represents an increase of 2% on last year but is

still less than the current rate of CPI. After much discussion Council **AGREED** that a precept demand of £28,975 would be appropriate. One Councillor abstained.

1117. Correspondence

There was no significant correspondence to discuss.

1118. Payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved and signed:

1618	M D Macpherson	Clerk Salary (November)	£	427.80	£	-
1619	Vita Play	Play Inspections (December)	£	76.80	£	12.80
1620	D Denby	WSR – Remove fallen tree	£	241.00	£	-
1621	Vita Play	Remove Play Equipment	£	90.00	£	15.00

1119. Any other business

JG thanked **NB** most sincerely for her hard work whilst on the Council and regretted that her move away from the Parish had necessitated her resignation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2115.

Signed

Date