

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th March 2013

PRESENT:

John Godbold (Chair)
Heather Nicholson
Dean Upton
Chrissie Sanders

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson (Clerk)
Cllr Lynda Banister (WCC)
Cllr Brian Laming (WCC)
One member of the Public

APOLOGIES:

Fenella Jarvis
Will Hawthorne (Vice Chair)
Cllr Charlotte Bailey (HCC)
PCSO Gavin Cooper

1132. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2013 were **AGREED** and signed by **JG** as an accurate record.

1133. Reports and Recommendations from Working Parties

a) Police

PCSO GC was unable to attend but had forwarded a written report.

(i) The following crimes have been reported in the last month:

Anti-social Behaviour

Sainsbury's car park
Whiteshute Ridge

Youths playing football
Quad bike riding – rider subsequently visited
and warned by police

Burglary

Lowden Close
Kestrel Close
Silverwood Close
Unknown address

Theft of bicycle from garden shed
Theft of bicycle from garage
Theft of 4 bicycles from garage
Theft of bicycle from garage

The police received good information from the public and have subsequently mounted covert surveillance operations resulting in a number of arrests for theft of bicycles and handling and receiving stolen goods.

Suspicious Behaviour

Sainsbury's car park

Occupants of car possibly attempting theft of clothes from charity bins

b) Open Space

JG reported that:

- (i) Councillors have now agreed areas within the parish that they will be responsible for monitoring for open space issues.

c) Planning

MM reported that:

- (i) 2 new applications had been received:

Lowdon Close Conservatory to west of property with an integral south facing bay window. Move associated fence and gate.

Ashbarn Crescent Conservatory to rear of property

- (ii) No applications had been approved:

- (iii) No applications had been refused

- (iv) 1 application had been withdrawn

Silverwood Close Build out at ground level existing suspended bay window; first floor side extension.

LB reported that:

- (v) WCC had recently bought the site of the Queen’s Head in Stanmore to protect it from unwelcome planning applications. They were defining options for the development of the entire area including the Carroll Centre. Consultation will start soon and the Town Forum will meet in the Guildhall on 21 March to discuss the issue. **JG** and **DU** will attend.

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 2 March 2013. 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) A member of the public addressed the meeting seeking Council agreement to provide a set of goalposts for the Central Kickabout. **MM** explained the background to this debate and why the current arrangement had come into being. **JG** said that nothing was stopping her founding a small group of interested parents and seeking funding through the HCC "Have Your Say" grant scheme. Should they be successful the Parish Council would willingly act as "banker" but could not afford to fund the proposal.

e) Transport

KT had forwarded a written report covering:

- (i) Rail. There are no major disruptions planned until Easter when services to Birmingham will be disrupted by continuing improvements at Reading.

f) Communications

NTR

g) Finance

MM reported that:

- (i) At the end of the last quarter of the financial year (31 March 2013) 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	698	705	7
Total Income	29,098	29,105	7
Expenditure			
Category	Budget to date	Actual to date	Balance
Business	4,484	4,579	(95)
Clerk Salary	6,439	6,418	21
Donations	1,250	950	300
Litter	2,501	3,155	(654)
Open Space	0	0	-
Play Equipment	1703	1903	(200)
Whiteshute Ridge	7,593	7,040	553
Total	23,970	24,045	(75)
Capital Project	0	5,021	(5,021)
	23,970	29,066	(5,096)

Although no Capital Project expenditure was budgeted this year there is £15,697 available to service the £5,021 debt. Day to day expenditure at the end of the year is expected to be £75 over budget. Council **AGREED** that the situation is entirely satisfactory.

- (ii) The cleared bank balance on 1 March 2013 was £41,662.72. There were no un-cleared cheques. The Current Account statement and reconciliation for February 2013 were signed by **JG**. The Business Reserve Account statement had yet to be received.
- (iii) The internal audit for 2012/13 will be conducted by Mr Nick Caiger on Tuesday 16 April 2013 at 0930.
- (iv) The annual Financial Risk Assessment requires that the Council reviews whether the surplus funds held are satisfactorily invested. Despite the low interest rates in recent years Council should consider if now is a good time to seek a suitable investment vehicle for the £14,500 held on account for Whiteshute Ridge. **MM** stated that in accordance with Government Guidelines Councillors must satisfy themselves that:
 - (a) Deposits are only made in secure organisations.
 - (b) The Parish Council is left with sufficient liquidity once the deposit has been made to satisfy its obligations during the term of the investment.
 - (c) Only once they have satisfied themselves that the criteria at (a) and (b) above have been met should they seek the best yield.

After some discussion it was **AGREED** that whilst discussions were underway with WCC about the future of Whiteshute Ridge (see Minute 1133 j) (ii) below) the Council might be unable to satisfy the liquidity requirement for investment and that the money should therefore remain on deposit in the bank.

- (v) He had purchased a DCP 7055 Brother All-in-One Laser Printer for £134:22. This included a spare toner cartridge and VAT. (Minute 1131 a) on page 867 refers). He had informed Aon Insurance of the change on 26 February.

h) Parish Lengthsman

MM reported that:

- (i) The Lengthsman had attended on 26, 27 and 28 February and had carried out a satisfactory job.

i) Community Centre Lease Compliance

NTR

j) Whiteshute Ridge

MM reported that:

- (i) The fallen tree blocking Whiteshute Ridge Lane by the new temporary fence was cut up and cleared by D Denby on 13 February.

JG reported that:

- (ii) At the informal meeting held on 27 February Councillors had agreed in principle that the Parish Council could undertake management of the Ridge using a grant provided under the DEFRA Higher Level Stewardship scheme to provide winter grazing for cattle with a view to restoring 50% of the scrubby woodland to chalk grassland. This will require 14 kissing gates, 3 field gates, fencing, a stock pen and the provision of water. Council would need assistance from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to develop the proposals. Some additional funds might be raised by renegotiating the terms of the WCC loan. These aspirations will require agreement at a formal Parish Council Meeting in due course.

k) County Council Rep

CB was unable to attend but had provided a written report covering:

- (i) Grit Bins. No decisions had yet been made about new bins for Ivy Close, Elder Close, Kestrel Close and May Tree Close.
- (ii) Lengthsman. HCC will fund the scheme for another year.
- (iii) "Have Your Say" Scheme. Grants for up to £1,000 are available – details at www.waca.org.uk/haveyoursay . Applications by 25 March.
- (iv) HCC continues to advertise for a school crossing patrol for Sainsbury's roundabout.

l) City Council Reps

LB reported that:

- (i) Stanmore Development. See Minute 1133 c) (v) above.
- (ii) WCC Core Strategy. Approved by government inspectors with no significant changes.

m). Notice Board Rep

MM reported that:

- (i) He had surveyed the two notice boards that the Council had **AGREED** should remain. These are at:

- (a) The junction of Ivy Close and Ashbarn Crescent. The board is in reasonable condition, is mounted on two "rail posts" 17" apart and does not require replacing immediately.
- (b) By the bus stop at the junction of Harvest Drive and Meadow Way. The board is in adequate condition, is mounted on a single central pole but will only last for a maximum of one year.

Council **AGREED** that the budget should reflect the requirement to replace Meadow Way board in April 2015 and the Ivy Close Board in April 2016.

- (ii) The boards sited on the Ridgeway opposite Elder Close and on Rooks Down Road opposite Wheatlands Close (Minute 1122 m) (ii) page 860 refers) have now been removed.
- n). Newsletter Rep
NTR
- o). WDALC
NTR

1134. Correspondence

The following correspondence was discussed:

- a) A request from Oliver's Battery Primary School for a donation to allow children to attend the Calshot Activity Centre in June 2013. Councillors **AGREED** that a donation of £100 was appropriate. This will be paid in April 2013.
- b) Copies of an HALC leaflet outlining its roles and services were passed to Councillors.

1135. Payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved and signed:

1633	M D Macpherson	Clerk Salary (February)	£ 562.22	£ 22.36
1634	Vita Play	Play Inspections (March)	£ 76.80	£ 12.80
1635	D Denby	WSR – Fallen Tree	£ 220.00	£ -
1636	J Godbold	Staples – Stationary	£ 22.39	£ 3.73
1637	Biffa	Litter	£ 755.40	£ 125.91

1136. Any other business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2100.

Signed

Date