

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th November 2012

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson (Clerk)
Cllr Charlotte Bailey (HCC)
1 member of the public

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Lynda Banister (WCC)
Cllr Brian Laming (WCC)
Dean Upton
PCSO Gavin Cooper

1106. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th October were **AGREED** and signed by **JG** as an accurate record.

1107. Reports and Recommendations from Working Parties

a) Police

- (i) **PCSO GC** was unable to attend but had forwarded a written report on the single crime that had been reported in the last month up to 4 November:

Anti-Social Behaviour Youths playing football in Sainsbury's car park

Since that report **MM** had reported vandalism and criminal damage to the play equipment on the Central Kickabout. See minute 1107 d) (iii) below.

b) Open Space

Various Councillors reported that despite repeatedly reporting Open Space problems little action appeared to be taken. They concluded that either the City Councillors were not passing on the complaints or the City Council was ignoring them. Either way the situation was totally unacceptable. **MM** will follow up with **LB**.

c) Planning

MM reported that:

- (i) No new applications had been received.

- (ii) 2 applications had been approved:

Fallow Field	Conservatory
Wheatlands Close	Single storey rear extension

- (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 5 November. 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) One of the posts supporting the rope bridge on the Central Kickabout play area was broken out of the ground on the night of either Wednesday 31 October (Halloween) or Thursday 1 November. This case of criminal damage was reported to the police on 6 November and allocated crime number 44120433079.
- (iv) Council discussed whether this damage should be repaired and **AGREED** that it should not be. This decision is in line with Minute 1101 d) (iii) page 839 and will hopefully provoke some sort of community discussion.

e) Transport

KT had forwarded a written report covering:

- (i) Railways. There will be work around Romsey and Bournemouth over the coming weekends.
- (ii) Buses. Stagecoach will continue to operate route 46 to Southampton hospital until next January. The extended 5A service on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings is on a two-year trial. All Stagecoach and Blue Star buses now have smartcard readers and use them to check concessionary travel cards.
- (iii) Passenger Transport Forum. The government grant to support sustainable transport, including cycling, walking, buses and car-sharing will be used for bicycle stands, bus information signs and improved services to and from the New Forest and South Downs.

f) Communications

MM reported that:

- (i) Since the last meeting he had re-posted all the information on the website in pdf format as discussed at the last meeting.

g) Finance

MM reported that:

- (i) Income and Expenditure remained within budget.
- (ii) The cleared bank balance on 1 November 2012 was £53,986.54. There were no un-cleared cheques. The bank statements and reconciliation for October 2012 were signed by **JG**.
- (iii) The play equipment insurance claim of £575.00 was paid into the bank on 26 October 2012. This represents settlement of Vita Play invoice 03/10 for £870.00 less £150.00 excess and £145.00 VAT (reclaimable).

h) Parish Lengthsman

MM reported that the Lengthsman would be back in the Parish during the first week in December. His work package will consist of:

- (i) Completion of Whiteshute Ridge work on the new hedge.
- (ii) Cut back the bushes by the Barley Down bus stop
- (iii) Cut back the bushes on the May Tree Close side of Meadow Way

i) Community Centre Lease Compliance

WH reported that:

- (i) The recent heavy rain had revealed defects in the Surgery's drainage and guttering. He had arranged a meeting with the partners.

j) Whiteshute Ridge

JG reported that:

- (i) The site meeting with Damian Offer (WCC), City Councillors, Parish Councillors and other interested parties to view Shawford Down on Saturday 10 November had been postponed.

MM reported that:

- (ii) The annual tree survey had been carried out by Dave Denby at the end of October. All trees were assessed as being in "good" condition except the following:

Number	Species	State	Notes
188	Field Maple (Acer Compestre)	Poor	Heavy lean over road

190	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	Fair	Rot pocket at base
193	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	Poor	Reduce to hulk, heavy weight over bench
206	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	Fair	Included bark at base
213	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	Fair	Rot pocket at base
238	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	Fair	Cavity
271	Field Maple (Acer Compestre)	Fair	
285	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	Fair	Left side missing
313	Field Maple (Acer Compestre)	Fair	
315	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	Fair	
322	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	Fair	Ivy
338	HawthornCrategus Monogyna	Fair	Ivy

Council **AGREED** that trees in a “Fair” condition should be monitored for further detonation. Trees 188 should be felled and 193 should be reduced.

The following 25 trees have excessive ivy growth and should be “ringed”: 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 212, 239, 247, 248, 249, 253, 261, 291, 292, 293, 294, 296, 307, 311, 322, 327, 328, 330, 338, 355. Council **AGREED**.

All the trees on the Ridge require re-tagging. This has not been done for over 12 years and should be done this winter. Council **AGREED**.

k) County Council Rep

CB reported on the following topics:

- (i) Leaves. Report problem areas to **CB** as well as WCC.
- (ii) Flooding. HCC are aware of the problems at Pitt and Bushfield roundabouts.
- (iii) Hockley Cycle Way. Work progresses well.
- (iv) Troubled Families in Winchester District. New government funded programme about to start.

l) City Council Reps

No Report.

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

1108. 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.

1109. Code of Conduct and Register of Interests

MM explained that the Localism Act 2011 places a duty on each council to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of the Parish Council and to adopt a Code of Conduct. The Act requires that this code must be consistent with the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. The Act also requires the new code to include the provisions the Council considers appropriate in respect of the registration and disclosure of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. WCC have now produced a model Code of Conduct and Register of Interest Form for Parish Councils and recommend that these be adopted.

Council **AGREED** to adopt the Model Code of Conduct which had been distributed by email prior to the meeting. Copies of the Register of Interest Forms were distributed to Councillors for completion.

1110. New Councillors.

Nicola Blencowe reluctantly tendered her resignation as a Parish Councillor since she has recently moved from Badger Farm to Alresford. It was **AGREED** that this will become effective after the December 2012 meeting. **JG** thanked Nicola for her hard work as a highly effective Councillor.

MM reported that the resignation of Ian Tait earlier in the year and the forthcoming resignation of **NB** had created two vacancies. These will now be advertised on the Parish notice boards and on the website. If no election is sought by potential Councillors it will be necessary to appoint two new members by co-option.

1111. Correspondence

The following correspondence was discussed:

- a) A request for a donation from Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau. They reported that last year they had received a total of 148 enquires from clients in Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery. They also reported that WCC had cut their grant by 25%. Council **AGREED** that a donation of £400 was all that was affordable this year.

1112. Payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved and signed:

1609	M D Macpherson	Clerk Salary (October)	£ 545.88	£ 14.91
1610	Vita Play	Play Inspections (November)	£ 76.80	£ 12.80
1611	Vita Play	Play Equipment (New Handles)	£ 72.00	£ 12.00
1612	WCC	Dog Bin Emptying	£ 455.00	£ -
1613	Scandor	WSR – Maintenance Contract	£ 4,686.00	£ 781.00
1614	CommuniCorp	Subscription	£ 12.00	£ -
1615	British Telecom	Clerk Telephone	£ 54.65	£ 9.11
1616	Winchester CAB	Donation	£ 400.00	£ -
1617	D. Denby	WSR – Tree Survey	£ 700.00	£ -

1113. Any other business

A member of the public reported that he had tripped on the slippery, leaf covered steps on the path from Sainsbury's car park to Harrow Down. **JG** pointed out that the steps were owned by Sainsburys and were their responsibility. He advised him that he should take the matter up with the store manager.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2055.

Signed

Date