

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2010

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson (Clerk)
Cllr Charlotte Bailey (HCC)
Cllr Lynda Banister (WCC)
Keith Taylor
PCSO Warren Carne
1 Member of the Public

APOLOGIES:

Dean Upton

968. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2010 were **AGREED** and signed as an accurate record.

969. Reports and Recommendations from Working Parties

a) Police

PCSO WC reported on the monthly crime figures. There had been:

- (i) Harvest Close Theft. A broken tumble dryer left at end of driveway removed by unknown person in a van.

A member of the public complained that:

- (ii) During the snow, residents from some of the lower roads on the estate had taken to parking on Meadow Way thereby preventing grit reaching the pavements. **JG** and **WC** responded that this was both legal and understandable behavior although parking close to the junctions was to be discouraged.

b) Open Space

JG reported that:

- (i) He had attended the HCC sponsored discussion on Council response to severe winter weather. HCC had increased their salt holdings by 50% and had also purchased new smaller gritting machines suitable for use on the Ashbarn Crescent loop.

c) Planning

MM reported that:

- (i) No new applications had been received:

(ii) No applications had been approved:

(iii) No applications had been refused.

d) Play Equipment

MM reported that:

(i) All play inspections were up to date.

WH reported that:

(ii) He intended to continue looking for contractors to repair the safety surfacing on the Central Kickabout and would obtain quotes in the New Year.

JG reported that:

(iii) There was a build up of green slime on the safety surfacing on the Davis Kickabout that required pressure hosing. Action **MM**.

e) Transport

KT reported that:

(i) He had attended the Southampton Airport stakeholders conference on 19th November. The new airport manager, David Lees is in post. Complaints about noise are generally down, although there was a peak in June, following the quiet period caused by volcanic ash. The airport is planning for extra traffic during the Olympics. Flybe continues to upgrade its fleet with quieter, more efficient aircraft.

(ii) He also attended an HCC transport forum. Bus punctuality was discussed, and he had again complained about the No. 5 service. The Traffic Commissioner expects 95% of services to arrive no more than 5 minutes late. The minimum acceptable standard is that 70% arrive not more than 5 minutes late. He again requested that the Park and Ride Bus make an extra stop at Badger Farm in the evenings.

(iii) During the snow only the No. 5, the Park and Ride, and the Spring services ran although the No. 5 service was curtailed on occasions by slippery conditions and parked cars on Meadow way. Southwest and Cross Country trains ran a restricted service, but did much better than Southern or South Eastern trains.

f) Parish Website

NTR

g) Finance

MM reported that:

- (i) At the end of the third quarter of the financial year (31 December 2010) actual income & expenditure compared with budgeted income & expenditure will be:

Income				
Category	Budget to date	Actual to date	Shortfall	Surplus
Precept	27,900	27,900		
Other Income	108	1,052		
Total Income	28,008	28,952		
Expenditure				
Category	Budget to date	Actual to date	Overspend	Surplus
Business	3,150	3,557	407	
Clerk Salary	4,914	4,819		95
Donations	1,575	200		1,375
Litter	1,368	1,471	103	
Open Space	378	0		378
Play Equipment	1,125	2,160	1035	
Whiteshute Ridge	7,497	5,351		2,146
Total	20,007	17,558	1,545	3,994

Income is £944 higher than predicted caused by the payment of an insurance claim which will be netted off against increased Play Equipment expenditure. Expenditure is £2,449 under budget caused by the fact that Council have yet to authorise £1,900 worth of Section 127 Donations. Whiteshute Ridge costs are also likely to be offset by £1,294 by a Biodiversity Grant.

Total predicted expenditure for 2010/11 is currently £22,009 against an authorised budget of £26,925 giving an underspend against budget of £4,916. Council **AGREED** that this situation is entirely satisfactory.

- (ii) The cleared bank balance on 1 December 2010 was £ 50,019.60. There were no un-cleared cheques. The bank statements and reconciliation for November 2010 were signed by **JG**.
- (iii) The new bank mandate had eventually been implemented by NatWest.
- h) Parish Proposals and Action Grid

JG reported that:

- (i) Once the effects of the Localism Bill became clear it would be necessary to rejuvenate the PPAG to identify Parish Council capital spend intentions.

i) Community Centre Lease Compliance

NTR

j) Whiteshute Ridge

MM reported that:

- (i) He had taken advice from Mr Damian Offer (WCC Head of Landscape Services) about the trimming of trees behind Honeysuckle Close – Minute 961 j) (ii) Page 718 refers. Mr Offer had confirmed that the trees in question were subject to TPOs.
- (ii) After discussion with **JG**, he had written to the two separate complainants on 26 November explaining this and stating that the Parish Council had no objection if the two residents sought planning permission to trim the trees where they overhung their property but that the Parish Council would not support such action financially.
- (iii) He had given Mr Nathan Smith (07825 015816) of Scottish and Southern Energy consent to use a forestry flail under the three spans of 11 Kv network that run along the south eastern edge of the Ridge and to trim back trees that encroach on the cables to 3 metres.
- (iv) Biodiversity Grant. On 1 December he had informed Jo Thornton of HCC that the Autumn cut and new growth removal work had been completed. She inspected the work on 7 December and is content to approve the payment of the bio diversity grant of £1202.00 once she has received the receipted invoices for the work.

k) County Council Rep

CB reported on:

- (i) Localism Bill
- (ii) HCC Grit Bins. There may well be a second tranche of free grit bins. Application should be made to CB.

l) City Council Reps

LB reported on:

- (i) She intends to hold Blueprint meetings in the Community Centre on Wednesday 15 December at 7.30pm and Friday 17 December at 2.00pm.

m). Notice Board Rep

NTR

n). Newsletter Rep

NTR

o). WDALC

NTR

970. 2011/12 Budget & Precept

MM reminded the Council of the overall financial policy that had been followed for the last few years. The aim was to maintain a Balance of £10K as a contingency against unexpected expenditure. On top of this Council needed to maintain Reserves of £14.5K in accordance with the terms of the Whiteshute Ridge lease and sufficient funds to meet their liability for the Clerk's gratuity on retirement. Any surplus should be maintained as a Large Project Fund for longer term capital expenditure.

He went on to explain that the best prediction for the Balance at the end of the current financial year (2010/2011) is a total Income of £30,286 and total expenditure of £22,009 giving an in year surplus of £8,277. This translates into a gross carried forward balance at 31 March 2011 of £40,901 consisting of:

Whiteshute Ridge	£14,500
Clerk Gratuity	£ 1,669
Capital Project Fund	£14,732
Contingency	£10,000
Balance	£40,901

He went on to propose that in setting the budget for 2010/2011 Council should aim to raise the Reserves (Whiteshute Ridge and Clerk's gratuity) to £16,400 to cover the increased liability, maintain the contingency at £10K and attempt to maintain the sum available in the medium term for capital project spend at £15K. The balance sheet at 31 March 2012 should therefore be:

Whiteshute Ridge	£14,500
Clerk Gratuity	£ 1,900
Capital Project Fund	£15,000
Contingency	£10,000
This will require a balance of :	£41,400

Council **AGREED** this strategy.

Council then discussed expenditure for 2011/2012 which they **AGREED** should be capped at £27,451 as follows:

Salary	£ 6,706
Business Expenses	£ 4,400
Litter	£ 2,050
Open Space	£ 1,338
Play Equipment	£ 2,640
Whiteshute Ridge	£ 7,067

Donations	£ 3,250
Total	£27,451

To afford this level of expenditure and achieve an end of year balance of £41,400 it will be necessary to receive an income of £27,950. Assuming interest payments of £50 Council unanimously **AGREED** a Precept demand of £27,900. A zero rise on the 2010/11 demand.

971. Grit Bins

MM reported that:

- a) 2 New Grit bins had been provided at the end of November by WCC as follows:
 - (i) Lowden Close. Behind the garage adjacent to number 52 next to lamp post No. 11.
 - (ii) Broad Chalke Down. By the brick wall behind the street sign to service both hills
- b) 1 New Grit bin had been provided at the end of November by HCC as follows
 - (iii) Harrow Down. Beside the garage block next to lamp post No 2.
- c) Negotiation is in progress with local residents about locating 1 further WCC bin in:
 - (iv) Harrow Down. This will be either beside lamppost no 9 in front of No 20 or opposite in front of Houses 45/46. Fiona Davidson has undertaken to consult with the owners and agree the optimum site.

972. Rubbish Bins

MM reported that:

- a) A resident in Broad Chalke Down had requested that a second rubbish bin be sited on the Central Kickabout.
- b) This proposal would incur significant additional costs. A 240 litre bin will cost in the order of £150 (plus VAT) and the emptying cost is currently £6.30 per week or £328 (plus VAT) per year.

JG reported that:

- c) The rubbish bin on the Davis Kickabout that had been set on fire by vandals should also be replaced.

Council **AGREED** to purchase two new bins (one for each Kickabout Area). **MM** was tasked to arrange siting and emptying.

973. Correspondence

The following correspondence was discussed:

- a) The Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed that the sum for Section 137 Donations for 2011/ 2012 will be £6.44 per voter.
- b) A Notice of Election for a District Councillor for the Ward of Oliver’s Battery & Badger Farm was passed to **JG** for display on Notice Boards from 17 to 30th December. Should the election be contested polling will take place on Thursday 27th January 2011.

974. Payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved and signed:

1488	M D Macpherson	Clerk Salary (Nov)	£ 444.24	-
1489	SERCO	Play Inspections	£ 152.37	£ 22.69
1490	SERCO	WSR Maintenance	£ 5,917.25	£ 881.29

975. Any other business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2110.

Signed

Date