

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th January 2006

PRESENT:

Keith Taylor (Chair)
John Godbold
Anne Church
Fenella Jarvis
Ian Tait
Ray Stanard
Fiona Davidson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson
Cllr Brian Collin
Cllr David Spender

APOLOGIES:

George Marits
Cllr Charlotte Bailey
WPC Wall

595. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2005 were **AGREED** and signed as an accurate record.

596. Reports and Recommendations from Working Parties

a) Open Space

DS reported that:

- (i) Following the Parish “walk round” by **DS** and **KT** in late November, the WCC environment team would conduct a rubbish blitz in the week beginning 9 January. He undertook to draw their attention to the rubbish, overgrown brambles and nettles off the Roydon Close footpath.

b) Play Equipment

MM reported that:

- (i) All play equipment inspections were up to date.
- (ii) An order for new ropes for the “Burma Bridge” on the Central Kickabout had been placed with Play World Systems on 18 December. The costs will be £233 plus VAT for replacement and delivery. Fitting will be extra once Play World have established the connection arrangements.
- (iii) Four new seats for the Davis Kickabout swings were delivered to **JG** on 31 December.
- (iv) The WCC Open Space Strategy for 2006 – 07 had been received. Should the Parish Council wish to seek financial support from the City Council’s Open Space Fund for assistance with new Play Ground projects it will need to be included in the Strategy. Council **AGREED** that there were no projects in the pipeline that required funding.

JG reported that:

- (v) The Central Kickabout replacement play equipment project was moving slowly. He suspected that either the suppliers or fitters were experiencing difficulties and would investigate.

c) Planning

KT reported that:

- (i) No new applications had been received:
- (ii) 1 application had been approved in the last month.
Silverwood Close Carport
- (iii) No applications had been refused in the last month.

d) Transport

MM reported that:

- (i) Since the last meeting he had received another complaint that the lack of a salt bin continued to cause problems and that two accidents this year had caused damage to a resident's property in Ashbarn Crescent. As a result **KT** and **JG** had **AGREED** that a bin should be sited on Rooks Down Road, opposite No. 11 and adjacent to the side of 2 Ashbarn Crescent. Work was completed by SERCO on 30 December.

e) Community Project

NTR

f) Parish Website

NTR

g) Finance

MM reported that:

- (i) The bank balance remained healthy and expenditure remained within budget. The monthly bank statements and reconciliation were signed by the Chairman.
- (ii) He had received a rebate of £91.67 on the Play Equipment insurance policy after removal of the equipment on the Central Kickabout.
- (iii) At the end of 2005 The National Savings Account stood at £4,562.78 having earned £141.46 interest last year.

h) Community Centre Lease Compliance

NTR

i) Whiteshute Ridge

MM reported that:

- (i) After discussion at the last meeting he had written to the resident of Honeysuckle Close informing him that Badger Farm Parish Council's policy is in accordance with the City Council's arboreal policy. This is that only trees (regardless of whether they are subject to TPOs or not) that are diseased or pose a health and safety risk to the public should be felled or lopped. Individual considerations about light and convenience are therefore irrelevant. He had also explained that the resident could trim the blackthorn and elder, should he so wish, but only to a height of a minimum of 5.5 metres. Before he undertakes this task he should inform the Clerk of his intentions and provide legal documentation that absolves WCC and BFPC of any responsibility of any sort for issues of any kind that should arise as a result of his actions.
- (ii) Since the last meeting he had received a response from WCC about the ash trees under consideration. This confirmed that the trees in question were not subject to TPOs and that there was no objection to their removal. He had placed this letter on file should the matter be raised again.

j) Police

KT noted that this was the fifth consecutive meeting that no Police representative had attended. **MM** was instructed to seek clarification of their future intentions.

k) County Council Rep

CB was not able to attend but had forwarded a brief report on the Park and Ride Situation. HCC are continuing to conduct a Consultation process and the Parish Council will be asked for their views in due course

l) City Council Rep

DS reported that:

- (i) As a result of the November Open Space walkabout both WCC and HCC now had a clearer idea of where responsibility lay for maintenance of shrub beds and borders adjacent to the highways. A draft list has been drawn up and a copy was passed to the clerk.
- (ii) WCC had received an allocation of £4k from their original bid for £20K and HCC will be contracted to carry out the work. A priority list will be produced and **DS** will report on progress at the next meeting.

m). Notice Board Rep

NTR

n). Newsletter Rep

NTR

o). WDAPC

NTR

597. Monthly Surgeries

KT reported that he had received a request from Councillors Collin and Spender to hold surgeries in the Community Centre Hall every second Monday of the month prior to the regular Parish Council Meetings. Council **AGREED** that:

- (i) Such meetings could take place provided that the surgeries were not used for political purposes and that the same arrangement is available to any Oliver's Battery or Badger Farm Parish City Councillors regardless of party.
- (ii) Surgeries would run from 1830 until 1915. Costs for the first 30 minutes will be met by the City Councillors, the remaining 15 minutes will come out the Parish Council's existing booking.

598. Correspondence

The following was discussed:

- a) An invitation to a presentation on the Recycling Pilot Results on Monday 16 January in the Guildhall at 2.00pm.
- b) A report of manipulation of the Electoral Process by a Parish Council.
- c) A letter from WCC pointing out that the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 required HCC and WCC to identify hazards to communities and produce a plan. Parish Councils were invited to contribute. Council **AGREED** that Badger Farm had no specific or unique hazards that required drawing to either Authority's attention.

599. Payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved and signed:

Cheque	Payee	Details	Amount	VAT
1230	M D Macpherson	Salary & Expenses	£ 356.92	-
1231	Inland Revenue	PAYE & NIC	£ 469.19	-
1232	Playground Services	Swing Seats	£ 297.37	£ 44.29
1233	WCC	Dog Bins Emptying	£ 201.50	-

600. Any other business

- (i) **JG** produced a specimen, photo, laminated ID card that he suggested Parish Councillors might find useful when conducting business on behalf of the Council. Arrangements will be made at the next meeting to procure such cards for those who want them.

- (ii) **FJ** mentioned that the travellers' site on Bushfield remained an eyesore (and possible health hazard) and that the owners (the Church Commissioners) had done little to clear it up. Despite not being within the Parish boundray **BC** undertook to follow this up with WCC environmental health department.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2105.

Signed

Date