

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th June 2008

PRESENT:

Keith Taylor (Chair)
John Godbold
Daniel Phelps
Fenella Jarvis
Ray Stannard
Sarah Keene

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson (Clerk)
Cllr David Spender
Cllr Charlotte Bailey
PC Mark Smith
ACSO Sam Godbold
8 members of the public

APOLOGIES:

Ian Tait
Will Hawthorne
Cllr Brian Collin

769. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2008 were **AGREED** and signed as an accurate record after two minor amendments.

770. Co-option of New Councillor

It was unanimously **AGREED** that Dr Will Hawthorne should be co-opted onto the Parish Council. **WH** had completed the Declaration of Acceptance, which was countersigned by the Clerk and placed on file. Forms for Registration of Gifts and Hospitality and for the Register of Financial and Other Interests have also been completed by **WH**.

771. Reports and Recommendations from Working Parties

a) Police

MM reported that:

- (i) The next Parish Partnership Forum will take place on Tuesday 2 September at 7.30pm in the Bianchi Room, Otterbourne Village Hall. Details had been forwarded to **KT**.

PC MS reported on the monthly crime figures. There had been:

- (ii) 1 House theft (opportunity)
1 public order offence
2 cases of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour (Community Centre)
1 suspicious caller (trading standards resolved)

In addition he reported that 1 Quad Bike had been seized and crushed for traffic offences on Whiteshute Lane.

ACSO SG reported that:

- (iii) Fly tipping in the lower MayTree Close garage area.

- (iv) Graffiti on the Barley Down Drive bus shelter and vandalism on the St Anne's Close bus shelter. **DS** will follow up with WCC.

JG reported that:

- (v) Sainsburys contractors had taken to parking on the pavements in Meadow Way again. **MS** undertook to look into it.

b) Open Space

MM reported that:

- (i) The grit bin in Elder Close will be replaced by SERCO very shortly, invoicing BFPC.

Councillors raised the following issues:

- (ii) The trees behind Kestrel Close require trimming. **DS** will follow up with WCC.
- (iii) Grass cutting. The quality of the service provided by the sub-contractors, SERCO, to WCC is unacceptable. **DS** will follow up with WCC.

A group of resident teenagers raised the issue of goal posts on the Central Kickabout:

- (iv) They explained that they were having difficulty when kicking footballs on the Central Kickabout area because the present goal was unsatisfactory since it had no netting, was the wrong size and sited in the wrong place. They explained that since the kick wall had been removed they had had to resort to kicking against the surrounding garage walls which in turn raised complaints from residents about noise and parents of young children about safety. As a result of these problems they have, with help from **DP**, made an application to the Youth Opportunity Fund for money to purchase a 5-a-side goal and football strip with a view to entering a local league. This application was successful at round one scrutiny.
- (v) After considerable discussion **KT** commended them on both their responsible and considerate approach to the problem and their initiative in seeking funding. He explained the Council's dilemma in this issue in balancing the justified aims of local residents who demanded peace and quiet and the banning of all ball games on the one hand and the teenagers legitimate aspirations for sports facilities on the other.
- (vi) Council **AGREED** to await the outcome of their funding application and if this was successful to assess whether Council could also provide some money to purchase a new kick board or 5-a-side goal. **DP** stated that he was investigating with WCC ways of releasing some Open Space Funding money. In the meantime he was tasked to investigate available equipment options.

c) Planning

MM reported that:

- (i) 2 new applications had been received:

Broad Chalke Down Sainsburys	Conservatory to rear Demolition of Kiosk and canopy and erect replacements (resubmission).
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- (ii) No applications had been approved:

- (iii) No applications had been refused in the last month.

d) Play Equipment

MM reported that:

- (i) Play Equipment inspections were up to date.

DP reported that:

- (ii) Further to the discussion at the last meeting he had now drawn up a list of equipment to be bought and rough order costings. These were:

Fawn Play system	£5,248
Installation	£1,223
Woodland swings	£1,097
Installation	£ 476
Wet Pour surfacing – make good	£1,200
Raise existing Trim Trail	£ 100
Provide ground artwork	£ 200
Move bench	£ 500
Provide Bark chippings on beds	£ 50
Side netting for existing goal	£ 300
Total	£10,394 ex VAT

- (iii) After a brief discussion Council **AGREED** these plans and authorised purchase to go ahead provided that:

- (a) Reassurance that the safety surfacing was both thick enough and resistant to certain chemical treatment.
- (b) The costs of the work shall be proved to be “best value” in accordance with the Parish financial regulations.

e) Transport

MM reported that:

- (i) The next Southampton Airport's Community & Stakeholders conference will take place on Friday 4 July from 0900 until 1230 in the Mathew Le Tissier Suite, St Mary's Football Stadium.

KT reported that:

- (ii) He had attended a useful meeting of the HCC Transport Forum.

f) Parish Website

Councillors were asked to look at the Website and make any proposals for improvement to the next meeting.

g) Finance

MM reported that:

- (i) The bank balance remained healthy and expenditure remained within budget.
- (ii) The bank statements and reconciliation for May 2008 were signed by the Chairman.
- (iii) The internal audit for 2007/08 had been conducted by Mrs Eleanor Greene and completed on 4 June 2008. No problems had been identified. Copies of the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account at 31 March 2008 had already been circulated and remained unchanged. He summarised the "Significant Variances" return and the "Supporting Statement".
- (iv) The Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2008 and the Statement of Assurance and Governance Statements were **APPROVED** by Council. The Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account, Asset Register, Supporting Statement and Explanation of Variance (including the Reconciliation of Statement of Accounts) were signed by **KT** and **MM** prior to their being forwarded to District Audit in Plymouth.
- (v) The Auditor had recommended a number of minor actions which will be implemented. The two most significant were:
 - (a) Closure of the National Savings Account which is "insecure" and no longer provides a competitive rate of interest.
 - (b) The bank should be requested to issue bank statements at calendar month end as opposed to the 30th of each month as at present. This change would make cut off accounting and administration simpler.
- (vi) The annual insurance policy had been renewed. The policy remained with Allianz plc but had been brokered by Aon who had offered a 15% discount. This had resulted in a saving of £160 on last year.

h) Community Project

SK reported that:

- (i) She had produced a draft questionnaire for circulation to residents seeking their views on concerns about life in the parish and their priorities for improvements. Council proposed a number of minor amendments but supported her draft. It will be circulated in the Autumn newsletter but in the meantime **MM** will investigate options for email response and **SK** will seek residents initial views at the forthcoming BFOB RCA open day.

i) Community Centre Lease Compliance

NTR

i) Whiteshute Ridge

MM reported that:

- (i) At the last meeting it was **AGREED** that Council should investigate the siting of a single bin in the centre of the Ridge near to the central seat. SERCO had quoted £220 plus VAT for siting and £3.10 a week for emptying however having now inspected the site they state that vehicular access is not good enough to permit regular emptying. In view of this **MM** was tasked to investigate the siting of a sign drawing attention to the location of existing bins.
- (ii) The work to replace the worst 15 rotting steps from the open space between Lowden Close and Honeysuckle Close up to the ridge had now been completed.
- (iii) He updated Council on the repair of seats on the Ridge.

k) County Council Rep

CB reported on:

- (i) Bushfield Camp. The consultation period on the claim for Village Green status will close at the end of June.
- (ii) Falcon View. The raised beds need re-pointing and **CB** is arranging a meeting with HCC to take this forward.
- (iii) Badger Farm Road. She is attempting to get the Highways department to trim back the overgrown vegetation.
- (iv) Temporary Flashing Signs. HCC is making signs available to parishes to buy. Purchase and maintenance is expensive.
- (v) Rogue Traders. EC Home Security is operating in the area and approaches should be passed to the police.

l) City Council Reps

DS reported on:

- (i) The footpath behind the Plough Way garages will be repaired by WCC.

m). Notice Board Rep

KT reported:

- (i) The glass in the notice boards is becoming opaque and requires replacing.
MM to investigate the original manufacturer.

n). Newsletter Rep

NTR

o). WDAPC

NTR

772. Correspondence

The following correspondence was discussed:

- a) WCC had informed BFPC that the cost of the recent uncontested election would be £83.25. This consists of the Returning Officer's fee and expenses incurred for printing and postage.
- (b) A request from Brendon Care Clubs for a donation. Council **AGREED** that this was not appropriate.

773. Payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved and signed:

Cheque	Payee	Details	Amount	VAT
1362	M D Macpherson	Clerk Salary & Expenses	£ 433.33	£ 0.77
1363	WDAPC	2008/09 Levy	£ 15.00	-
1364	Allianz Insurance plc	2008/09 Premium	£ 1,652.61	-
1365	Eleanor S Greene	2007/08 Internal Audit Fee	£ 400.00	-
1366	WCC	Election Fee	£ 83.25	-

774. Any other business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2155.

Signed

Date