



BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th April 2008

PRESENT:

Keith Taylor (Chair)
John Godbold
Fenella Jarvis
Ian Tait
Daniel Phelps
Sarah Keene

APOLOGIES:

Ray Stannard

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson
Cllr Charlotte Bailey
Cllr Brian Collin
Cllr David Spender
ACSO Mike Rice
1 member of the public

27. Introduction

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those attending the Assembly.

28. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous assembly meeting held on 14 April 2007 were **AGREED** and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

29. Parish Council – Chairman's Report

The following is the text of the Chairman's report read to the meeting by **KT**:

Firstly I would like to thank the councillors and all those who attend Parish Council meetings for their contributions over the last year.

I would like to divide this report into three parts; the first dealing with law and order. The new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have been in our area (South Winchester and Twyford) for almost a year now. I believe that they have improved the level of policing, and yet we still suffer problems from nuisance and vandalism.

Last year we had problems with motorbikes both around Badger Farm and on Bushfield Camp. With the warmer weather coming soon, we could well see this as a problem again. In the meantime we are still getting local damage to property and some under-age drinking in the Parish, particularly round the Central Kick-about area. It seems that just when we need the police to attend an incident, they are all busy elsewhere. Badger Farm has become part of the alcohol exclusion zone in the city. This means that there are restrictions on anyone drinking alcohol in public places. In practice, this is not likely to affect many people, but it has given the authorities additional powers.

The second topic is to do with planning. There have been several planning applications from Sainsbury's in the last year, concerning a car wash and some extensions to the store and petrol station. They are planning an increase in floor space by about 20%, and various other new facilities. As you know, the work on the store is well underway, and should be complete in about three months time. The work on the petrol station is yet to get its final approval. We have been kept fully informed by Sainsbury's about their plans.

A larger planning issue is the Local Development Framework. This is a "plan for a plan" concerning the future housing strategy for Winchester City and other areas. Our position is that the planned boundaries, including Barton Farm, will provide as good a solution to the affordable housing problem as would the "step change" option (which could involve a large new development near Badger Farm and Olivers Battery). If the existing size of Barton Farm is insufficient, then we propose that the size of development at Barton farm is increased

The third topic is the environment. At one level, we have had concerns over dog fouling in the Parish, and in particular on Whiteshute Ridge. We are lucky to have this large open space so close to us, and it is a great benefit both to dog-walkers and also to families who want to enjoy the open space, or take a more interesting route to school or shops. I have had representations from both sides on this issue, and the question of providing more "dog bins" often comes up. We regularly look into the siting of the bins, but they are very expensive to empty and maintain, and they have to be accessible by vehicles for maintenance. We will look into this again, but in the mean time, we continue to ask dog owners to please be mindful of our environment.

Also on the environment, despite some concerns, the alternate weekly collection seems to be working satisfactorily, and I find the garden waste collection particularly useful. I know there are some people who cannot be bothered, but most people think of the benefits of recycling. I know Winchester got some bad press on environmental issues recently, but this should make us all the more vigilant. I have recently attended a meeting of Winchester Action on Climate Change, and I know that Olivers Battery are taking some action themselves. I believe we have a Green Party candidate in the local election, and it will be interesting to see how much support they get.

30. Presentation of Parish Council Finances for 2007/2008

The Parish Clerk reported that the accounts for the year 2007/2008 had been prepared but not yet audited. He went on to outline that:

a) During 2007/2008 the Parish Council had received a total income of £27,590. This was made up of a Precept from the City Council of £25,500, £1,124 interest on investments, a £714 insurance claim for vandalised play equipment repair and a £252 incentive payment for filing tax returns online.

b) Expenditure amounted to £23,696. This consisted of:

(i)	Clerk's Salary, PAYE & NIC	£ 6,217
(ii)	Administration	£ 4,104
(iii)	Litter	£ 1,158
(iv)	Open Spaces	£ 402
(v)	Play Equipment	£ 3,831
(vi)	Whiteshute Ridge	£ 5,284
(vii)	Donations	£2,700

The surplus on the year was therefore £3,894. Significant savings had been made on the maintenance of Whiteshute Ridge but he warned that these are unlikely to be made again next year.

c) Donations had been made to the following:

Vitalise	£ 100
Carroll Youth Centre	£ 2,000
BF & OB Residents Community Association	£ 100
Winchester CAB	£ 250
Young Carers Project	£ 200
Victim Support	£ 50

d) All this resulted in a final balance of £20,490 with a further £14,500 held in reserve for the lease of Whiteshute Ridge and £1,022 in the Pension Fund.

31. Question Time

There being no questions from the Public the Chairman closed the meeting at 1945.

Signed

Date