

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON MAY 15<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Present.

Ms R. Cottingham Chairman.  
Mr D. Brown, Mr R. Burgess, Mrs M. Goodman,  
Mr R. Marr, Mrs S. Russell.

There were no members of the public present.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

Ms Cottingham opened the meeting.

**1. The Election of the Chairman for the coming year.**

It was proposed by Mrs Goodman and seconded by Mrs Russell that Ms Cottingham be elected Chairman for the coming year. The proposal was approved and Ms Cottingham was elected Chairman for the coming year.

Ms Cottingham then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**2. Apologies for absence.**

There were apologies for absence from Mrs Groves, Dr Lawler, Mrs Willis, Mr Willis, Mr Pask and Mr Webb.

**3. The election of the Vice Chairman for the coming year.**

It was proposed by Ms Cottingham and seconded by Mr Burgess that Mrs Goodman be elected Vice-Chairman for the coming year. The proposal was approved and Mrs Goodman was elected Vice-chairman for the coming year.

**4. The Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies.**

The following appointments were made.

Hermitage Village Hall Management Committee.	Mr R. Burgess
Hermitage Pre School	Vacant.
Hermitage School	Vacant
Neighbourhood Action Group	Vacant
BAYCP	Mrs Willis
WBCS	Ms Cottingham
Village Vision Group	Mrs Goodman

**5. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.**

The Standing Orders were approved in their present form.

Online banking was discussed in relation to the Financial Regulations. It was decided not to use the online service principally due to the fact that the Council did not have Bank Standing Orders or Direct Debits and a limited number of cheques to pay each meeting. It was felt that security is best served by the present arrangements for two Councillors to inspect the authorisation and sign cheques for each payment.

**6. Registers of Member's Interests.**

Members were reminded to make sure their Register is up to date.

## THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

### 7 Public Forum.

There were no members of the public present.

### 8 Minutes of the last meeting held on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2014.

The minutes had been circulated were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

### 9 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.

Minute 144.

- i Village Vision.  
There were no ongoing comments.
- ii Broadband.  
There would be a formal report at the next meeting.
- iii Village website.  
The rejigged website has been well accepted and is developing all the time.
- iv Twinning.  
This is ongoing.

### 10 The report from the West Berkshire Councillor.

Apologies had been received from Mr Pask and Mr Webb.

### 11 Planning.

#### Decision from the Planning Authority

14/00409/HOUSE      Ash Wood, Slanting Hill.  
Extension

**Approval**

#### New applications.

14/00321/HOUSE      9, Brick Walk, Hermitage.  
Conservatory.

**No objections**

14/00801/HOUSE      Bridge House, Hermitage  
Extension

**Objections**

### 12 Burial Ground.

There were no matters raised.

### 13 Finance.

i	Receipts.		
	WBC	Precept 50%	£21,000.00
	WBC	Tax base adjustment	£769.27
	PWLB	Loan	£250,000.00
ii	Payments approved.		
	PWLB	Loan set up fee	£87.50
	Contractors	Maintenance	£569.41
	WBCS	Donation.	£75.00
	Playground Services	Pinewood repairs	£6,150.00
	Triangle Landscapes	Grasscutting	£385.20
	Hermitage Village hall	Hall hire APA	£43.40
	BAYCP	Subscription	£135.00
	R. Cottingham	APA costs	£41.45
	Crescent signs	Furze Hill signs	£165.60
	C.W.Goudge	Sal & exes	£411.03

- iii Other matters.
  - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments for the year to March 31st was noted.
  - ii The Internal Auditor's report on the Annual accounts was noted.
  - iii The Annual Return for the Council was approved.
  - iv It was decided to roll over on June 9<sup>th</sup> the investment of the commuted sum for Furze Hill of £225k plus £25k of reserves with Lloyds Bank at the present rate of 0.6%  
Investment of the PWLB loan of £250k could not be clearly decided because the payments which might be needed in making a grant to the Village Hall CIO were not determined.

## 12 Highways

### Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 149.

- i School parking.  
it is hoped to get School involved. Precautionary notices are being posted.

## 13 Environment.

### Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Minute 150.

- i New Hermitage Village hall.
  - i Finance.  
The loan funds of £250k from PWLB have been credited to the Council account. An outline cash flow for possible spending during construction has been provided by the Village Hall CIO through the QS. It was suggested that the funds to be provided by the Contractor in purchasing the old Hall should be used before grant funds are requested. This is ongoing.
- ii Furze Hill open area and woodlands.
  - i The Furze Hill WP has given a report on actions since the last meeting.
  - ii Quotations are being sought for a reprint of the footpaths booklet.
  - iii It was decided to provide a budget of £50 for acquiring and placing new weld mesh.
  - iv The parked skip at the recreation area was a WBC Highways skip and has been removed.
  - v Golf.  
It was again emphasised that there were adequate public notices prohibiting golf being played on the recreation area. The Council believes that it has taken all reasonable steps to prevent accidents through the banned playing of golf.
- iii Pinewood park.  
A key to the area will be provided when Playground Services need to access it.
- iv Allotments.  
There has been no further interest in taking up the Cold Ash offer.

## 14 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.

Clerks & Councils Direct – newsmag.

**15 Items to be raised by Councillors.**

Mr Marr noted that trees had been lopped at the GPO site and raised the question as to whether the Council should put in a hedge.

**16 Date of the next meeting.**

**Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.**

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Chairman

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Date