

## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> 2014.

Present.

Ms R Cottingham. Chairman

Mr D. Brown, Mr R. Burgess , Mrs M. Goodman, Dr J. Lawler, Mr R. Marr,  
Mr B. Willis, Mrs K. Willis.

Mr C.W.Goudge. Clerk.

There were two members of the public present.

#### **17 Public Forum.**

*There is the possibility of broadband coverage in the Village, for those who will not be covered by any improved BT service, through wireless rather than by fibre .This would be in addition to any improvements through the WBC project. Forty signatures would be needed to provide the contractor with a solid public base, for a very much estimated cost of £40 per month.*

*There is a suggestion for a Nature Trail through the enclosed area at Furze Hill. The idea would be to have an informal way which would not be so neat and tidy as a formal right of way, but which would allow a sense of closeness to Nature. A sum of £100 from S.106 funding would start the project off.*

#### **18 Apologies for absence.**

There were apologies for absence from Mrs Russell, Mr Pask and Mr Webb.

#### **19 Minutes of the meetings held on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2014.**

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

#### **20 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meetings not referred to elsewhere**

Minute 9.

i Village Vision.

There have been no meetings since May.

ii Broadband.

The comments by the Broadband Champion were welcomed.

iii Village website.

This is deferred.

iv Twinning.

There has been no further activity.

#### **21 The report from the West Berkshire Councillor.**

Mr Pask and Mr Webb had presented apologies for absence.

**22 Planning.****Decisions from the Planning Authority**

1400507/HOUSE	20, Briants Piece, Hermitage Extension	<b>Approval</b>
14/00585/HOUSE	Melrose, Deacons Lane. Extension & windows	<b>Approval</b>
14/00746/REM	Garden to North of Tumbleweed Reserved matters	<b>Approval</b>

**New applications.**

14/01274/DEMO	27, Briants Piece, Hermitage Demolish garages	<b>No objections</b>
14/011129/HOUSE	27, Briants Piece, Hermitage Double garage	<b>No objections</b>
14/01277/HOUSE	Yasmine, Yattendon Road. Extension, garage & shed	<b>No objections</b>
14/01131/FUL	White Horse, Newbury Road. Shelter at rear	<b>No objections</b>

**23 Burial Ground.**

There was nothing further to report.

**24 Finance.**

- i Receipts.  
None
- ii Payments authorised.
 

Contractors	Maintenance	£559.41
Thames Water	Burial Ground	£6.80
Triangle Landscape	Open area maintenance	£385.20
WBCS	Donation	£75.00
R. Cottingham	Mesh & paint	£16.88
C.W.Goudge	Sal & exes	£383.53
- iii Other payments.
 

West Berkshire Council	Two years Furze Hill maintenance	£17,064.00
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This invoice relates to an oversight by WBC.  
 When the Council took ownership of Furze Hill in May 2013 from WBC an amount of £225k was transferred with the land to this Council. This amount of £225k was obtained by WBC from Miller Homes to pay for 25 year's maintenance of Furze Hill. WBC neglected to deduct maintenance for the period from January 2011 to May 2013 when transferring the £225k to this Council.  
 This Council is under no legal obligation to pay back to WBC the amount of the invoice, but it was decided to do so in recognition of a genuine mistake by WBC.
- iv Other matters.
  - i The Statement of Receipts & Payments to date was noted.
  - ii Due to the receipt in the year of funds over £250k, information to complete an extended audit has been requested by the External Auditors. This information has now been supplied to the Auditors.

## 25 Highways.

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

#### **Minute 9.**

- i School parking.  
Police were involved in a parking incident at School. A neighbour reported a particular problem. There seems to have been little further movement towards settling the parking difficulties at peak times..

#### **New matters**

- i Doctor's Lane sign.  
It was decided to ask WBC to make the Lane a cul de sac.
- ii Pinewood Crescent.  
The name sign at the Hampstead Norrey's entrance has vanished. It would be reported to WBC.
- iii WBC road permit scheme.  
It was decided to look at this in detail on the WBC website and bring comments to the next meeting.

## 26 Environment.

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

#### **Minute 10.**

- i New Village Hall.
  - i Funding.  
The cash flow is brought up to date each meeting with the Architects and changes reported to the Village Hall CIO. It is not yet clear when the Council will be requested to pay a proportion of the first invoice.
  - ii Access.  
It was felt to be essential that full access to the playground was maintained during Hall construction, as well as full access to the recreation area. Volunteer's cars will also need adequate parking space. These matters would be monitored under the authority of the CIO.
- ii Recreation area and Furze Hill.  
The project of a Nature trail was agreed.  
The concept of a perimeter path was also agreed.  
Payments needed for the longer term for both these would be evaluated as they arose.  
A quotation for a survey of Furze Hill in the sum of £ 990 including VAT was agreed.
- iii Pinewood play area.
  - i The area has benefitted from recent care and is looking good.
- iv GPO site.  
Ongoing.

**New matters**

- i Footpath flooding.  
Details are needed for exactly what was flooded so that responsibility can be decided and action put in hand.
- ii Verge cutting at Pinewood Crescent.  
An enquiry had been made to WBC as to who should cut verges. Investigation showed that this Council does not own or have responsibility for the verges and will not cut them.

**27 Correspondence received since the last meeting not referred to elsewhere.**

NALC – LCR newsmag.

**28 Reports from Parish Council Representatives who had attended meetings of Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council.**

Dr Lawler had attended a meeting at the Downlands Practice. The notes from the meeting are available and on the website.

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

There were no matters raised.

**30 Date of the next meeting.**

Thursday July 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Adelaide Room, Holy Trinity Church.

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Chairman

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Date