



Minutes of the Hanborough Parish Council

38/2014

At the meeting of Hanborough Parish Council held at 7.15 pm on Tuesday 11th November 2014 in the Pavilion Greenway Room, the following were present:

Mr Mike Baggaley (Chair) Mrs Gill Battams Mr Peter Brittin Mr Hugh Burton
Mr Niels Chapman Mr Philip Earnshaw (Vice Chair) Mr Colin James

In attendance: Mr Adrian Edwards, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), Mr Jon Gammage (Clerk) and District Councillor Colin Dingwall.

Members of the public attending: 5 members of the public were present.

139. Public participation session: Road safety in Lower Road

Dr Lidia Arciszewska along with a representative from the Lower Road nursery presented a detailed report outlining specific issues along the road including narrow sections, blind bends, dips and junctions/access points from residential properties. She went on to describe the different users of the road and poor road markings, drainage and at times overgrown verges. She questioned the current speed limit and enforcement and quoted police reports for the last 3 years listing 12 traffic-related accidents (37 incidents in total) including her own car being crashed into once and 4 other road accidents which resulted in damage to her property

Lidia suggested that this unacceptable situation will deteriorate further as rapidly developing local housing schemes, planned and implemented, will result in a huge increase of local traffic. Furthermore, as the A40 and A44 become progressively more congested, Lower Road will be taking more through traffic. Lidia noted that a Department of Transport circular published in January 2013 advises traffic authorities to consider road geometry, condition, actual traffic and presence of vulnerable road users to determine the appropriate speed limit on single carriageway rural roads.

Lidia urged the Parish Council to support her plea for necessary measures to be undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council to improve traffic safety on Lower Road specifically requesting:

- a max speed limit of 50 mph for the whole road [note the A4095, with similar density of entrances outside built up area has a max speed limit of 50/40mph between Bladon and Witney despite being much wider and straighter and in much better condition, similarly road from the Eynsham roundabout to Botley via Farmoor].
- a max 40 mph speed limit zone encompassing Willow Cottage nursery entrance, Church Rd intersection, down to the bottom of the dip in the north and a section of Church Rd near the junction
- a 'no overtaking' markings on the road for this 40 mph zone.
- regular monitoring and enforcement of these speed limits
- a better signage and road markings, improvements to drainage and road verges, and proper hedge maintenance

Councillors discussed the presentation and **agreed** to support the request by writing to our County Councillor Louise Chapman, OCC Deputy Director Commercial - Mark Kemp (Highways falls under his remit), OCC Cabinet Member for Environment - Councillor David Nimmo-Smith, and Eynsham Parish Council as part of the road is in their parish.

Action: Clerk to write to each presenting the case as outlined.

140. To receive apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were received from Mr Christopher Ball, Mrs Vicky Field, Mr David Tee and Mr Steve Nicholls.

141. To sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2014

RESOLVED: That minutes of the meeting of 14th October 2014, copies of which had been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

142. To receive declarations of pecuniary interest from Councillors relating to agenda items: None received.

143. Matters of report arising from the previous minutes

143.1 (114) Co-option to council: The chairman reported that the other candidate offered a co-opted place on council had declined for personal reasons.

143.2. (213.2) Railway bridge safety markings: The clerk reported that he has been chasing our County Councillor since February for the promised markings to be installed. In the last few weeks a commitment has been received from OCC.

144. Planning and Environment Working Group Cllr Chapman circulated a report ahead of the meeting outlining the current situation and view of the working group going forward.

144.1. 14/1102/P/OP

Parish Council opposed this planning application as submitted by Savills on behalf of Corpus Christi. Council objection has always been that the number of dwellings proposed (up to 68) was too large and that the consequent influx of new residents would place unsustainable demands on Hanborough Manor School (whose capacity is for 210 pupils), Long Hanborough Surgery, & local roads. Council did not object to a manageable level of development on the site. Corpus Christi representatives have recently indicated that they are sensitive to our concerns and that they will endeavour to scale down their proposals.

Councillors were receptive to the idea of a legally binding contract as part of the land sale limiting the site to around 40 dwellings which would potentially require 10-12 extra places at the school, but no expansion of the site.

144.2. 14/1234/P/OP

Parish Council opposed this planning application as submitted by West Waddy on behalf of Pye (in association with Blenheim). Council objected to the proposals outlined on the grounds that they would have severe adverse impacts on our villages and would not represent sustainable development under the terms of local and national planning policy. Councillors considered that West Waddy made little attempt to allay our concerns at the WODC Planning Committee hearing on 3rd November 2014. Instead of complying with the District's planning criteria, they are trying to excuse themselves by resorting to recent legislation (ref. NPPF). In the absence of WODC being able to identify 5 years' supply of land on which houses could be built (ref. SHLAA & Local Plan) Pye hope to exploit a permissive government regime. The developer's attitude came across as: knowing 169 new houses would be economically, environmentally and socially detrimental for Hanborough residents; yet offering money to pay for mitigation without serious attention to whether that mitigation is actually feasible or desirable. For instance, offering to pay for an extra GP consulting room when the surgery has no space for it and offering to create a new route into Long Hanborough by cutting through Hurdeswell. The traffic this development would generate is a major problem. Having first tried to dismiss it, West Waddy now admit to an inevitable "variance in flow" that would "lead to wider perturbations and delay" (see their Technical Note of 30th October, 2014). However, they hope to persuade Highways that enough residents will walk, cycle or catch a bus to avoid the problem becoming unmanageable. They also rely upon road improvements near Wolvercote roundabout more than compensating for extra traffic being encouraged onto the A4095 via slip roads to be built near Shores Green. Lack of school capacity is another barrier to development confronting Pye. Forty two primary-aged pupils (rising to 54 according to the relevant County officer) would be generated by 169 new houses, so a new four-classroom block would not be sufficient to accommodate them (in contrast with Corpus Christi's case). A much more substantial block would have to be built on the school's grassed sports and play area, necessitating replacement of that area to the south of the school grounds.

Council understands that the HPFA will refuse to yield its adjacent play space, which leaves the previously rejected "pit" area (County property but leased to the parish council for 60 years) as a possible replacement. An agent working for Pye/Blenheim, has suggested that the pit could be filled in and levelled up for inclusion in an expanded school boundary. He says Blenheim might also compensate the Parish Council for loss of the skateboard park, by donating a piece of land at the back (south) of the Riely Close development currently under construction.

Councillors were opposed to this idea which would break up the area and noted that the area had been considered unsuitable for development in the past. Councillors also agreed that this area should be registered as a Community Asset.

144.3. The HPFA are in the final stages of producing a position paper which shows that it is against breaking up the current playing fields area which works well as an integrated facility catering for all ages.

144.4.1. Applications received, PC response pending: None

144.4.2. Applications received and PC response made

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| 14/1102/P/OP | Land to east of Church Road Long Hanborough.
Erection of up to 68 dwellings, public open space and ancillary enabling works together with access from Church Road.
Response has been detailed before. |
| 14/1234/P/OP | Land south of Witney Road Long Hanborough.
Erection of up to 169 dwellings including new access, open spaces and associated works.
Response has been detailed before. |
| 14/1268/P/FP | The Log Quarry Church Road Long Hanborough
Erection of steel framed structure for the storage of compost and logs.
No Comments Made. |
| 14/1364/P/FP | 16B Millwood End Long Hanborough
Erection of single storey rear extensions and insertion of three roof lights (To allow erection of one dormer window to South West elevation).
No Comments Made. |

14/01490/HHD 220 Main Road, Long Hanborough
Erection of wall with piers.
No Comments Made.

144.4.3. Planning application decisions notified by WODC:

14/1309/P/FP Olivers Garage 80 - 82 Main Road Long Hanborough
Installation of storage container (Retrospective)
No Comments Made.
Grant Subject to Conditions.

144.4.4. Planning applications pending decision

LP.0010/14 OCC: Minerals and waste consultation.
14/1102/P/OP Land to east of Church Road, Long Hanborough.
14/1234/P/OP Land south of Witney Road Long Hanborough.
14/1268/P/FP The Log Quarry Church Road Long Hanborough
14/1364/P/FP 16B Millwood End Long Hanborough
14/01490/HHD 220 Main Road, Long Hanborough

144.5. Hanborough Action Group report: Cllr Earnshaw reported that over 500 residents had now written to WODC in relation to the Pye application. The group were analysing all responses so that they could better understand the key concerns raised.

145. To discuss creating a dedicated Parish Council website

This item was brought forward at the chairmans discretion.

Councillors considered that there is an opportunity to modernise the current site to allow for greater flexibility of layout and speed of update or change. The chairman had been contacted by a number of parishioners who have the necessary skills to develop a new site and may be interested in a long term voluntary commitment.

Action: Chairman to discuss options with candidates.

Councillors clarified that any changes would not affect the Hanborough Herald. Councillors went on to recognise and show appreciation to the current web master Stephen Braybrooke-Tucker who has maintained the current site for many years and it was hoped that he would welcome the opportunity to hand the reins on. It is anticipated that a new web master would engage in discussions with Stephen to ensure a smooth transfer and continuity.

Action: Cllr Battams to discuss initial thoughts with Stephen Braybrooke-Tucker.

146. To consider setting priorities/initial activities for the working groups

Councillors voiced concerns about how well the new working groups are working, the memberships and the resulting frequency of meetings.

Action: Cllr Battams and Earnshaw to exchange ideas and report at next meeting.

147. Report from Community and Leisure Working Group:

147.1. A meeting date had been set for late November.

147.2. Fireworks event. Councillors were pleased that this event is a success but were concerned about the traffic chaos. Correspondence had been received on this and were in agreement that better plans need to be in place in the future. Councillors understood that the organisers also realise that improvements need to be made and they will review this ahead of next years event.

148. Report from Parish Projects Working Group:

148.1. Tennis courts: Cllr Brittin reported that the lights are refurbished and pointed further down to reduce light pollution. The main works are due to start on 17th November. Councillors **agreed** that the tennis court side should have a green surface and the multi-sports side blue.

148.2. WW1 Project: Cllr Burton reported that the group are considering 3 options for combinations of trees and/or benches and will report back in December.

149. Report from Business Working Group:

The group had met on 3rd November to discuss the budget for next year which forecasts a small deficit. The RFO presented an overview of the plan which was circulated in the meeting. He also asked that working groups considered any potential budget requirements so that these are included in the final version. The precept will be set in December.

150. Financial Matters

150.1. The monthly financial summary was circulated at the meeting and reviewed.

150.2. To approve the monthly payment schedule of accounts from 15/10/2014 to 11/11/2014

RESOLVED: To make payment of the following Schedule of Accounts.

Receipts:

03/10/2014	Cooperative Interest	Interest	0.24
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03/10/2014	Cooperative Interest	Interest	33.32
06/11/2014	Greens Funeral Services	Cemetery Fees	70.00

Payments:

11/11/2014	103116, 103117, 103118	Staff Salary & Expenses	
11/11/2014	103113 West Oxfordshire District Council	Grass Cutting	1,008.01
11/11/2014	103114 Oxfordshire Playing Fields Assoc.	Subscription	50.00
11/11/2014	103115 Royal British Legion	Wreath	15.00
11/11/2014	103119 Cancelled - -		
11/11/2014	103120 Post Office	HMRC PAYE	145.80
11/11/2014	103121 Oxfordshire County Council	Pension Fund	340.46
11/11/2014	103122 A Edwards	Boxes for Storage	15.00
11/11/2014	103123 J Gammage	Land Registry Fee	6.00
11/11/2014	103124 Sutton Fencing	Pinsley Wood	270.00
11/11/2014	103125 Giles Eadle Electrical Limited	Tennis Courts Lighting	4,735.20

151. To agree funding a memorial for John Edwards in conjunction with the HPFA

RESOLVED: To contribute 50% of the cost incurred by the HPFA which is understood to be around £400.

152. To agree future financial support for the Hanborough Show

Due to the late running of the meeting and non-urgency of this item it was agreed to defer to December.

Action: Clerk to add to December agenda.

153. To discuss arrangements for the Christmas event

As reported in October, West Oxfordshire Academy of Performing Arts (WOAPA) have kindly agreed to support our carol event again this year which is confirmed to be on Sunday 14th December at 5:45pm in the Recreation Hall. Laminated posters were circulated for display and the clerk will contact councillors for volunteers nearer the time.

Action: Clerk to request support from councillors.

154. To approve quote for installation of lights on tree

RESOLVED: To place to order for the installation work at £240 with Andrew Booth.

155. To discuss what actions can be taken to address the number of weeds on parish roads and pavements

It was **agreed** that the Planning and Environment Working Group would look into this.

156. To receive a report on the co-option interview

As reported the candidate interviewed last month had declined the role. Councillors were asked to encourage any potential candidates to contact the clerk.

157. To adopt NALC's new model standing orders

RESOLVED: To adopt the new model standing orders subject to the modifications suggested by the clerk.

Action: Clerk to update and circulate.

158. To consider a grant application from Hanborough Community Association

Councillors considered a grant request to install a replacement loop amplifier at the Recreation Hall.

RESOLVED: To make a grant of £431.12 to the Hanborough Community Association.

159. To discuss future financial support for the Hanborough Fireworks event

Due to the late running of the meeting and non-urgency of this item it was agreed to defer to December.

Action: Clerk to add to December agenda.

160. To discuss parking in Church Road

Due to the late running of the meeting and non-urgency of this item it was agreed to defer to December.

Action: Clerk to add to December agenda.

161. To discuss fly tipping at the allotments

Due to the late running of the meeting and non-urgency of this item it was agreed to defer to December.

Action: Clerk to add to December agenda.

162. Reports from Community Groups & Organisations

162.1. HPFA: Ken Field had written to council to report that the problems of the doors and changing room floor are not being addressed either adequately or in a timely manner by the contractor.

HPFA commented as follows.

“The doors are not fit for purpose and are either not considered secure, or falling apart. The changing room floor is not suitable to withstand the impact of the studs on cricket boots.

Apparently there is a clause in the contract that provides a certain amount to cover architect's errors. However, when I had informal discussion with a solicitor and a retired professional with long experience of such contracts, both raised a metaphorical eyebrow and suggested it is legitimate to ask if such a clause really does protect the architect from such a basic error of specification.”

The RFO confirmed that council owes the builders about £10,500 and the architects £736.02. The retention money is in now due and is waiting for the architect to sign off on the work, which he will not do until the remaining problems are resolved. Council understands that the builder is responsible for the doors and that the floor is down to the specification given by the architect.

Action: Clerk to take this up with contractors and seek resolution by the end of January.

163.2. Dementia Support Group: Cllr Chapman reported that initial training was once again delayed.

164. At 9:30pm members voted to suspend Standing Orders so that the main business remaining could be completed.

165. Report of Clerk: Correspondence

165.1. Pinsley Wood access: The clerk reported that that within 4 weeks of installing the new fence it has been pulled down. We spent 6 months explaining through the Hanborough Herald and with local posters what we were trying to achieve and did not receive any objections. This action has not only wasted parish tax payers money, but also puts in jeopardy continued access through the gate, the agreed permissive paths which were going to be left un-ploughed and the hard core which Blenheim had agreed to put around the other gate to the woods to improve wet weather access. Council had received a number of letters from residents expressing their dismay at this.

165.2. ROAR: Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally are an independent group recently convened to discuss and to resist, in all possible ways, the newly exploding threat of rampant development encouraged by the national government's sudden abandonment of 'localism' as a principle informing its policy on planning. Council was invited to join the group to ensure local needs are heard but felt that as HAG were involved, the parish would be represented.

165.3. WODC: Councillors were invited to a general meeting expected to cover budget strategy, local plan and broadband on 3rd December and to a emergency planning event on 24th November.

165.4. Bowls Club: A request for a grant was received and passed to the RFO to seek further information before consideration.

Action: RFO to request further information.

165.5. SLCC: The clerk reported that he had completed a SLCC course consisting of 6 modules covering all aspects of the role.

166. Report of District Councillor: District Councillor Dingwall agreed that it was a good idea to register The Pit as a community asset and also noted that Network Rail are investigating expansion of the station car park.

167. Miscellaneous items from Members: None

The meeting was closed at 9:45pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th December in The Greenway Room.

The Chairman. 9th December 2014