

Wherwell Parish Council

A meeting took place in the Village Hall on **9th March 2010**

1. Present: Cllrs J Andrews (Chairman), S Hutton, G Hampson, L Broadbent, S Shean, P Bryant, L Blakemore (Clerk), D Cllr Neil, HCC Cllr Gibson and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr S Horne

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 12th January 2010

These were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

3. Open Session

- The ongoing concern about vehicles continuing to park close to the junction with the High Street and Fullerton Road was discussed. *Clerk to contact PC Jewell and refer to his letter of 17th March 2009*
- The question was asked about the procedure for allocating property owned by Testway Housing. It was confirmed that anyone interested should register with TVBC after which homes are allocated on a point's basis.
- The poor condition of the unadopted roads at Chant Close and Beech Grove was noted. These remain the responsibility of Testway Housing and residents should approach them in the first instance.

4. Declaration of Interests: None

5. Planning Matters

The following applications were considered and supported unanimously

- **10/00218/Fulln:** Riverside House, Fullerton Road; alterations to existing detached garage to create garden room/studio.
- **10/00265/LBW,** Windwhistle Cottage, Winchester Road; Internal alterations.
- **10/00382/Treen:** The Mowle House, High Street, reduce spread of flowering cherry, elm and ash trees
- **Windwhistle Cottage, Winchester Road** – Outcome of appeal still awaited
- **Purver's Patch** – it was concluded that regardless of the historical use of the land the site adversely affects the amenity of the area (Section 215 Town & Country Planning Act 1990). *The Clerk will provide key information to DC Neil who will take the matter up with the Planning Department.*
- The Playing Field's Committee have paid £85 to TVBC and provided samples of materials to be used on the new Implement Shed but have been told a decision will take 8 weeks. *DC Neil to chase this up and report back.*

6. Correspondence

- HALC survey relating to continued membership of NALC was received completed and returned.
- Letter from MP Sandra Gidley regarding unspent Section 106 funds. Reply drafted and sent.
- TVBC Leisure Questionnaire completed by the Chairman.

7. Finance

- Monitoring report up to 31st March 2010 was circulated and attached to these minutes
- The Council unanimously agreed to provide a further £500 for the ROSPA safety inspection prior to the opening of the new Play Area.

8. District Council Matters

- Enquiries regarding the notification of Road Works in Fullerton Road, although sent out by TVBC, should be addressed to HCC Highways West
- Concern about litter and mud on the A3057 particularly between the Golf Course and Fullerton Road should be made to the Road Cleansing Team at TVBC. *Clerk to follow matter up and report back.*

9. Village Repairs and Maintenance

- Winchester Road junction B3048/B3420 road sign has been repaired
- Cockatrice – it was unanimously agreed that this should be placed on the Village Hall as no positive response from Testway Housing had been forthcoming about placing it on The Old Chapel. The Council also noted a letter from the resident of The Old Chapel who had expressed concern that she had not been advised of the Council's intentions. The Chairman has now spoken to Mrs Goss and apologised for not speaking to her sooner. *Cllr Bryant to obtain costings for commissioning and erection of the Cockatrice on the Village Hall roof.*
- HCC Lengthsman Scheme – potentially this could provide some 40 hours of work in the Village on tasks identified by the Council. These should be booked with the Scheme Co-ordinator who will arrange for the work to be carried out.
- More snowdrops have been acquired for planting around the Village. *Matthew Bryant to be asked to plant them and also take responsibility for planting up the Trough on the cobbled area at the top of the High Street.*

10. Traffic and Parking Issues

- HCC Cllr Gibson advised that an audit of local transport was to be undertaken to establish whether any improvements could be made to current provision.
- The quality of Highways work is a problem and Cllr Gibson said there were real concerns about the nature of the contract negotiated with the contractor Amey. This is being investigated.
- Chant Close Footpath – making contact with Punch Taverns (from whom permission is required to encroach on their land and enable HCC to build a retaining wall adjacent to the route of the proposed footpath) is proving difficult. *Cllr Andrews will continue her endeavours in this respect and report back at next meeting.*

11. Housing

The Council was advised that rents at Mill Court were subject to an increase of 2% from 1st April 2010 which was substantially less than last year when the increase was in the order of 10%.

12. Parish Organisations

- The Village School has just been subjected to an Ofsted report
- Playing Fields – the new Play Area is well underway. The sale of land (site of the existing tennis courts) is now being negotiated with HCC.
- Parish Church – ideas for the Auction of Promises are now being sought. Permission has been granted to move the old grave stones in order to create more burial ground space.

13. Special Projects – Footpaths

- Cllr Andrews reported back on her meeting with Steve Bailey from HCC Countryside Services. The plan to improve the Fullerton part of the Testway including clearing the undergrowth from the two bridges in the location and providing rustic seating to enable walkers to enjoy river views was well received. *Cllr Bryant will make an assessment on what is required to clear undergrowth.*
- An application is being prepared for Maps and boards walk leaflets and 3 seats to Countryside Service Small Grants Scheme for consideration in March. *Cllr Andrews to progress the application.*
- The footpath between New Barn and the school is under consideration and it is hoped that Lord Camden may be persuaded to support the venture which will include improving access to the Mount and the descent to the school. *Cllr Shean to arrange a meeting with Lord Camden and Cllr Andrews.*

14. Parish Administration

- Cllr Andrews reported of the ongoing saga with mobile phone companies in an effort to improve reception in the area. To date little progress had been made.
- Website – Richard Rowles agreed that improvements could be made to the Wherwell site to make the Parish Council page more prominent. *The Clerk to send minutes of meetings to Richard for inclusion on the website.*
- **Next meeting 13th April followed by AGM and Parish Assembly on 11th May 2010.**

Cllr Andrews thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.