

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th September 2010

PRESENT:

John Godbold (Chair)
Fenella Jarvis (Vice Chair)
Will Hawthorne
Ian Tait
Daniel Phelps
Dean Upton
Nicola Blencowe
Heather Nicholson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson (Clerk)
Cllr Charlotte Bailey (HCC)
Cllr Lynda Banister (WCC)
PCSO Warren Carne
Chrissie Sanders
2 members of the public

APOLOGIES:

Cllr David Spender (WCC)

943. Co-option of New Council Member

The resignation of **Ray Stannard** had created a vacancy on the Parish Council which had been advertised on parish notice boards between 5th July and 23rd July. No by-election had been claimed by members of the parish. It was unanimously **AGREED** that **Heather Nicholson** should therefore be co-opted onto the Parish Council. **HN** completed the Declaration of Acceptance, which was countersigned by the Clerk and placed on file. Forms for Registration of Gifts and Hospitality and for the Register of Financial and Other Interests were also completed by **HN**.

944. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2010 were **AGREED** and signed as an accurate record. **JG** informed Council members that in future the draft minutes of the previous meeting will be forwarded ten days before the next meeting. Members should email any comments or amendments they may have to **JG** or **MM** before that meeting

945. Reports and Recommendations from Working Parties

a) Police

(i) PC **JZ** had forwarded a report on the July crime figures. There had been:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Elder Close | Assault / Public Order. 2 males arrested and bailed for fighting in the street. |
|-------------|---|

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Elder Close | Vandalism to play equipment. Minute 945 d) (ii) below. |
|-------------|--|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sainsbury | Possible theft from Charity Clothes and books collection point. |
|-----------|---|

(ii) PCSO **WC** reported on the August crime figures. There had been:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Lark Hill Rise | Youths drinking in Davis Kickabout. Police attended. |
|----------------|--|

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| Ivy Close | Rowdy youths congregating |
|-----------|---------------------------|

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Harvest Close | Complaint about noisy neighbour |
| Badger Farm Road | Lead stolen from non-residential premises |
| May Tree Close | Theft from garage |
| Elder Close | Theft from garage |

MM reported that:

- (ii) After the vandalism to the play equipment on the Central Kickabout on 25 July he had written to the HCC Community Safety Manager (Paul Hayes) seeking a greater PCSO presence on the ground in the parish during the summer holiday evenings. He had received no response.

DU reported that:

- (iii) The Silverwood Close Neighbourhood Watch team intended to establish a “No Cold Calling Zone”.

b) Open Space

MM reported that:

- (i) **WH** had reported that the trees on the central walkway from Sainsbury’s were very overgrown and needed cutting back. The problem had been passed to David Taylor (WCC) who had been somewhat dismissive. The matter had been taken up by **LB** who had subsequently had a site meeting with David Taylor. He had undertaken to investigate further, noting that street lamps were now obscured, there were dangerous overhanging branches and some “marked” trees had not been dealt with.

c) Planning

MM reported that:

- (i) 2 new applications had been received:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Silverwood Close | 2 storey side extension – Council had no objections |
|------------------|---|

| | |
|----------------|---|
| St Annes Close | Replacement of existing phone mast with new 11.8m. mast |
|----------------|---|

LJ gave an update on objections to the proposed mast received by WCC so far:

- (a) There had been five objections to date.

2 Members of the public expressed their concerns about this application. Their doubts centred on:

- (b) Visual amenity
- (c) Health & Safety – the proposed mast would be too close to the kerb and bus stop.

JG undertook that the Parish Council would try to represent these concerns in their response. A subcommittee of three members was formed (**JG**, **FJ** and **DU**) to formulate the Councils response to the planning application, as the deadline for comments was before the next council meeting.

- (ii) No applications had been approved:
- (iii) No applications had been refused.

d) Play Equipment

MM reported that:

- (i) Play Equipment inspections were up to date.
- (ii) One of the support posts on the rolling log on the Central Kickabout Play Area was damaged by vandals on the evening of 25th July. SERCO were contracted on 26th July to remove the damaged post and rope.
- (iii) The Police were informed on 26 July and logged the report under Ref: 44100313475. Allianz Insurance Claims department were informed at 1110 on 26th July who authorised the repair (Claim reference BH2\208285). Photos of the damage must be forwarded with the invoice on completion of the repair.
- (iv) Record RSS Ltd quoted £1,166.72 (ex VAT) for the repair and associated safety surfacing on 28 July. After consultation with **JG** this was accepted.
- (v) The repair was completed during the week beginning 6 September and the claim for insurance payment was sent to Allianz on 11 September.

e) Transport

KT had forwarded a report:

- (i) Thompson (Holidays) will be running a limited service from Southampton Airport to Mediterranean resorts next summer. This will be restricted to a few flights a week, and should not substantially affect noise.
- (ii) Pensioners bus passes (From notes from Brian Collin), following meeting on July 27th:
 - (a) The Government wants bigger and therefore more efficient schemes and has decided that County Councils will replace Districts for administration of the concessionary fares scheme from 1st April 2011.

- (b) The statutory minimum will remain 09:30am till 11pm giving free travel on local buses (not coaches or trains). There is no provision for bus tokens in the statutory scheme. This means that the money WCC spent on extending the scheme to 09:00am will be lost.
- (c) In pooling the monies from Districts, the Government is likely to decide that an element of operational efficiency can be obtained by administration of a bigger scheme and will therefore top slice some of the money it collects.
- (d) Brian Collin will be campaigning for the County scheme to have a 09:30 arrival (not departure) time, which will help those people in rural areas with more limited bus availability and longer journey times. Consensus of opinion is that there will be no room for the County to manoeuvre and the statutory minimum will apply.

f) Parish Website

NTR

g) Finance

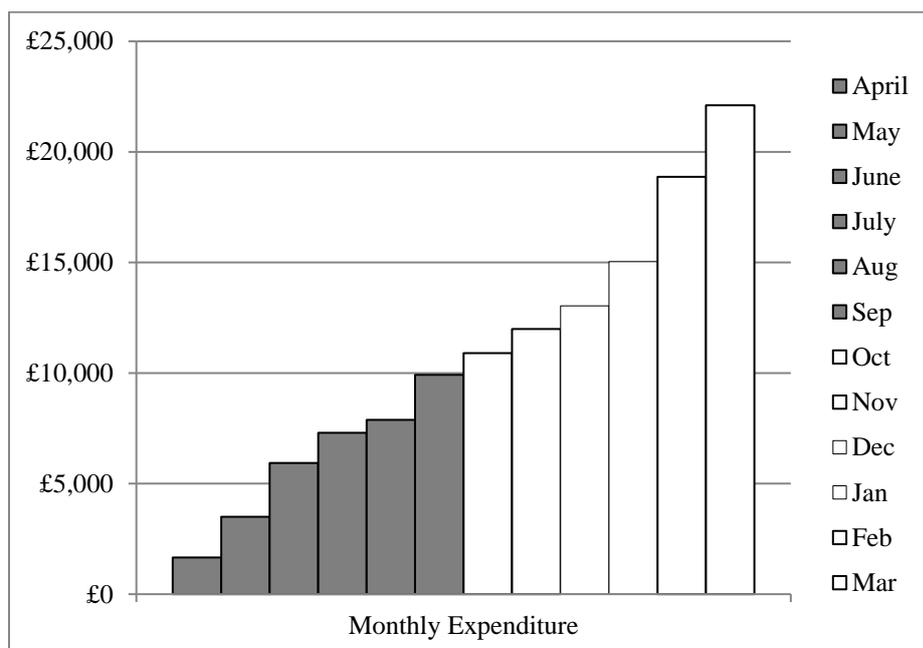
MM reported that:

- (i) At the half way point of the financial year (30 September 2010) actual income & expenditure compared with budgeted income & expenditure will be:

| Income | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Category | Budget to date | Actual to date | Shortfall | Surplus |
| Precept | 13,950 | 13,950 | | |
| Other Income | 72 | 10 | 62 | |
| Total Income | 14,022 | 13,960 | | |
| | | | | |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Category | Budget to date | Actual to date | Overspend | Surplus |
| Business | 2,100 | 3,042 | 942 | |
| Clerk Salary | 3,276 | 3,185 | | 91 |
| Donations | 1,050 | 200 | | 850 |
| Litter | 912 | 1,307 | 395 | |
| Open Space | 252 | 0 | | 252 |
| Play Equipment | 750 | 1,868 | 1118 | |
| Whiteshute Ridge | 4,998 | 315 | | 4,683 |
| Total | 13,338 | 9,917 | 2,455 | 5,876 |

Income is £62 below predicted levels caused by low interest rates. Expenditure is £3,421 under budget caused by the fact that the

maintenance bills for Whiteshute Ridge are not expected before December. The overspend on Play Equipment will be offset by payment of an insurance claim of £950.



Culmanative monthly expenditure and predicted expenditure for 2010/11

Total predicted expenditure for 2010/11 is therefore £22,170 against an authorised budget of £26,925 giving a predicted surplus of £4,755.

Council **AGREED** that this situation is entirely satisfactory.

- (ii) The second half Precept for 2010/11 of £13,950 will be paid into the bank on 15 September 2010.
- (iii) The VAT claim for a refund of £258.21 for the first half of financial year 2010/11 was forwarded to Customs and Excise on 31 August 2010 and paid into the bank account on 6 September 2010.
- (iv) The bank statements and reconciliation for July 2010 were signed by **JG**. The cleared balance on 31 July 2010 was £39,948.54. There were no uncleared cheques.
- (v) The bank statements and reconciliation for August 2010 were signed by **JG**. The cleared balance on 1 September 2010 was £39,328.66. There were no uncleared cheques.
- (vi) The annual return for 2009/10 had been returned by the Audit Commission with a request to alter the accounting treatment of the provision made for Whiteshute Ridge Tree Felling. This amendment to the return was made by **MM** and **JG** on Monday 19th July and returned to the Audit Commission on 20th July. The change makes no difference to the balance figure at the end of the accounting year and merely presents the balancing entry for the particular provision differently. The Audit Commission had subsequently

certified the 2009/10 Internal Audit on 2 September 2010. They raised no matters of concern with regard to the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements nor did they wish to draw the attention of the Council to any matter. They made no comments in Section 3 of the Annual Return.

- (vii) Notices of Conclusion of the Audit and Rights to Inspect the Annual Return were passed to **JG** for display on Notice Boards. The Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and sections 1 & 3 of the 2009/10 Annual Return have been placed on the website.

DU reported that:

- (viii) He had attempted to deliver the new bank mandates together with proof of identity (Minute 926 g) (v) Page 693 refers) but had been informed that a further form was required by NatWest. Councillors signed the additional form and **MM** and **DU** will return them to the bank.

h) Parish Proposals and Action Grid

JG reported that:

- (i) He felt that it would be unwise to continue to action items on the grid for the time being and imprudent to incur additional project expenditure until the scale of WCC budget cuts had become clear. It might be necessary to curtail Parish Council spending and re-prioritise the budget. Council **AGREED** that the Action Grid should be put into abeyance for the time being.

i) Community Centre Lease Compliance

NTR

j) Whiteshute Ridge

MM reported that:

- (i) SERCO had now felled trees 204 and 225 and crown cleaned tree 306 as recommended in the Tree Survey (Minute 905 j) (ii) page 675 refers).

JG reported that:

- (ii) A small clump of Field Maple trees had died during the summer. **MM** will get SERCO to recommend what action to take.

k) County Council Rep

CB reported on:

- (i) The Bushfield Camp "Village Green" application that remains extant.
- (ii) Park & Ride (S). She remained concerned about lighting and asked Councillors to report if they remained at full brilliance after 10.00pm.

- (iii) Rural Challenge. She drew attention to a new HCC pamphlet.
- (iv) A new pilot scheme for a Parish Lengthsman will start in September.
- (v) Consultations. The following are ongoing:
 - (a) Concessionary Fares
 - (b) Older People's Well-being Strategy
 - (c) Joint Mental Health Commission Strategy

l) City Council Reps

No Report

m). Notice Board Rep

MM reported that:

- (i) CSS Locksmiths inspected the notice board on the Ridgeway beside the Elder Close bus stop on 20 August and will now replace the two worn securing clips.

JG asked:

- (ii) If notices for display could in future be printed on A5 Paper.

n). Newsletter Rep

NTR

o). WDALC

NTR

946. Bench Seats

JG reported that:

- a) Further to the discussion at the last meeting (Minute 934 b) Page 700) he had established that the plastic composite picnic table was flammable and would therefore investigate further.
- b) In view of the budget discussion at Minute 945 h) (i) above he wished to defer further action on this item.

947. Biodiversity Grant

MM reported that:

- a) At the last meeting Council had **AGREED** that rather than create a new biodiversity plan they should seek a grant aimed at defraying the current substantial maintenance costs. (Minute 935 Page 700 refers)
- b) He had met Jo Thornton, HCC Ecology Group, on the Ridge on 18 August and established that a grant application for maintenance and scrub clearance would be acceptable.
- c) He had forwarded an application for a grant of £3,005.42 to HCC on 21 August. This sought a grant of £1,672 for the autumn medium grass cut and £1,333.42 for the annual removal of new growth.
- d) HCC had requested further financial justification for the grant as well as justification for the existing SERCO quote. He had provided this on 7th September.
- e) An offer of a grant of £1,202 had been received from HCC on 13 September. Council **AGREED** to accept it.

948. The Parish Councillor's Guide

MM reported that:

- a) He had now obtained 8 copies of Edition 20 of the Parish Councillor's Guide (Minute 937 page 701 refers). He distributed copies to Councillors.

949. Correspondence

The following correspondence was discussed:

- a) An Invitation to the Carroll Centre AGM which will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th September.
- b) The HALC AGM will take place in The Performing Arts Centre, St Swithun's School on Saturday 23rd October 2010 at 1000.
- c) The annual Cross country race using Whiteshute Ridge, normally held in January, will this year take place on Sunday 17 October.
- d) Badger Farm Pre-School will hold an opening of their underpass repainting on Tuesday 14 September at 10.15am. **JG** will attend.

950. Payment of Accounts

The following payments had been approved and signed since the last meeting:

| Cheque | Payee | Details | Amount | VAT |
|--------|-------|-------------------|----------|---------|
| 1473 | SERCO | Play Inspections | £ 164.91 | £ 24.56 |
| 1474 | SERCO | Whiteshute Ridge | £ 370.27 | £ 55.15 |
| 1475 | BT | Clerk's Telephone | £ 45.74 | £ 6.14 |

The following payments were approved and signed:

| | | | | |
|------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|----------|
| 1476 | M D Macpherson | Clerk Salary (Aug) | £ 564.16 | - |
| 1477 | WCC | Dog Bin Emptying | £ 445.00 | - |
| 1478 | Record RSS | Play Equipment Repair | £ 1,370.89 | £ 204.17 |

951. Any other business

DP reported that he had now moved out of the Parish and was no longer eligible to stand as a Parish Councillor. He therefore tendered his resignation. **JG** thanked him most sincerely for all his hard work and this was endorsed by other members of the Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2140.

Signed

Date