

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th February 2012

PRESENT:

John Godbold (Chair)
Fenella Jarvis (Vice Chair)
Chrissie Sanders
Nicola Blencowe
Heather Nicholson
Dean Upton
Will Hawthorne

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson (Clerk)
Cllr Charlotte Bailey (HCC)
Cllr Brian Laming (WCC)
Cllr Lynda Banister (WCC)
Cllr Brian Collin (Chair of Winchester Town Forum)

APOLOGIES:

Ian Tait

1050. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2012 were **AGREED** and signed by **JG** as an accurate record.

1051. Reports and Recommendations from Working Parties

a) Police

No Report – This is the third consecutive meeting the police have failed to forward a report and they have not been represented in person since September 2011. **MM** will take up with North Walls.

b) Open Space

JG reported that:

- (i) He had received a request for additional planting to be carried out at the back of Broad Chalke Down on the Central Kickabout. Council **AGREED** that this was unaffordable this year but could be included in the 2013/14 Budget.

FJ reported that:

- (ii) Some of the bushes in Ashbarn Crescent had developed significant suckers that urgently required pruning. **BL** will action with WCC.

c) Planning

MM reported that:

- (i) 4 new applications had been received.

Falcon View
Plough Way
Elder Close
Charfield Close

Wheelchair access ramp (retrospective)
Rear Conservatory
Front Entrance Porch
Single storey side extension

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

d) Play Equipment

MM reported that:

- (i) “In-house” fortnightly play equipment inspections are up to date.
- (ii) The most recent Vita Play inspection took place on 3 February 2012. The following defects were identified with higher levels of risk (eg A - potential for death, B - severe or C - minor injury):

Equip	Defect	Action	Risk
Central Kickabout			
Trim Trail	Traverse ropes worn to core	Replace	C
Wicksteed Multi Play	2 post caps missing 1 post cap broken	Replace	C
Trim Trail	D Shackles are worn	Replace asap	B
Davis Kickabout			
Flat Seat Swings	Cracks in frame	Monitor/Fill	C
Cradle Swings	Cracks in frame	Monitor/Fill	C
Multi Play	Cracks in frame	Monitor/Fill	C
	Rope on Incline ladder worn	Replace	C
Safety Surfacing	Algae & Moss	Clean	C

- (iii) Two further issues were noted:
 - (a) The Play Area Sign on the Central Kickabout requires cleaning
 - (b) Soil erosion in front of the Kompan Goal and Junior Goal
- (iv) The worn (and rusty) D shackles on the Trim Trail (Log Chain Crossing) reported above are cause for concern. The Log Chain Crossing fitted is obsolete and the new model (RecordRSS EC201 Amazon Basin) does not use the same chain and shackle arrangement. The options are therefore:
 - (a) Permanently decommission this part of the Trim Trail.
 - (b) Engage RSS to repair the existing chain arrangement – likely to be very expensive.
 - (c) Engage RSS to replace the existing chain structure with the EC201 arrangement – likely to be very expensive.
 - (d) Attempt to find a local contractor who would attempt to repair chain arrangement – high risk and possibly not acceptable to insurers.

In debating this issue Council were also aware of the cracks already reported as “D” risk items in the frame. Council **AGREED** that the Log

Chain Crossing should be decommissioned. **JG** will investigate the removal of the chains.

JG reported that:

- (v) It was now clear that there would not be enough money in the Capital Projects budget to upgrade the play equipment on the Davis Kickabout in 2012/13 as originally planned. He asked Councillors to bear this in mind and tasked **MM** to look for a source of grant income.

e) Transport

KT had forwarded a report covering the following:

- (i) Blue Star have taken advantage of the smartcard technology which reads over-60's passes to introduce "the "Key". The Key is a smartcard, on which you can load tickets in advance instead of buying paper tickets. Key users also save about 20% on Southampton and network freedom tickets.
- (ii) Stagecoach will change the No 1 service from February 19th to cut out the detour past the station, and also reduce the service to Tesco.
- (iii) On the trains, engineering work affects Winchester on February 19th and subsequent Sundays. There will be no trains south from Winchester and only a shuttle service to Basingstoke.

In subsequent discussion it was suggested that:

- (iv) The poor night time service to Badger Farm could be improved if WCC were prepared to authorise the Park & Ride bus to make one extra stop in the vicinity of the Sainsbury Roundabout / Ridgeway. **JG** undertook to ask the transport rep, KeithTaylor, to take the matter up with WCC.

f) Communications

DU gave an impressive demonstration of the new web site he had developed. **JG** thanked him for his work on this development. Council **AGREED** that we should buy a "dot Gov dot UK" domain address for some £100. **DU** will arrange this and pass the receipted invoice to **MM**.

g) Finance

MM reported that:

- (i) The cleared bank balance on 1 February 2012 was £46,572:07. There were no un-cleared cheques. The bank statements and reconciliation for January 2012 were signed by **JG**.

h) Parish Proposals and Action Grid

NTR

i) Community Centre Lease Compliance

NTR

j) Whiteshute Ridge

MM reported that:

- (i) David Denby had felled trees 219 and 224, removed the crown and reduced tree 193 and crown cleaned tree 271 as agreed (Minute 1039 j) (i) page 788 refers. He had also removed four trees that had been brought down in the recent gales and were blocking Whiteshute Lane for an additional £150.
- (ii) On 2 February 2012 he had forwarded a copy of Scandor's invoice (03/02) for the supply and planting of the replacement hedge to James Flood of S & SE requesting payment into BFPC's bank account. This sum of £1,821 will represent full and final settlement. Minute 1039 j) (iv) page 789 refers.

k) County Council Rep

CB reported on:

- (i) Buses. The No 5 service is very unreliable and Councillors have taken this up with Stagecoach without any discernable improvement.
- (ii) Replacement Street Lights. There is little chance of getting extra lights in low crime areas. Council should report "black spots" to **CB**.
- (iii) Bushfield Village Green. Full public enquiry is likely to take place in the summer.
- (iv) School Crossing People. New employees should start work in two weeks time.
- (v) HCC Young People's Plan. Now available for consultation at www.hants.gov/cypp.

l) City Council Reps

LB reported that:

- (i) She had contacted the new manager for Stagecoach but he is unable to give any assurance as to when the No5 service will improve.
- (ii) Velvet No2 Bus Service. Passengers on the new No 2 bus are very positive about the operator. The buses are clean and modern and the drivers are pleasant. It is to be hoped this will encourage more people to use the service.
- (iii) Pitt Manor Appeal. The appeal was successful and 200 homes will now be built at Pitt Manor.

- (iv) Play Equipment. Local residents and parents have been asking about the provision of play equipment. She had referred them to the Parish Council.
 - (v) Disturbance of the Tumulus on Oliver's Battery. WCC planning enforcement officers had warned an individual reported digging on the ancient site.
 - (vi) WCC Budget Meeting for 2012/13 will be discussed at the next Full Council meeting on February 23rd.
- m). Notice Board Rep
NTR
- n). Newsletter Rep
NTR
- o). WDALC
NTR
- p) 2012 Diamond Jubilee

JG reported that:

- (i) After careful consideration he had come to the conclusion that despite the earlier decision to celebrate the Jubilee by providing one of the beacons on Whiteshute Ridge and arranging a community event this was impractical.
- (ii) He considered that the cost was prohibitive as the Council could not afford the following additional requirements:
 - (a) Additional Public Liability Insurance
 - (b) Cost associated with Health and Safety requirements
 - (c) Cost of a Beacon
 - (d) Cost of policing the event

Council unanimously **AGREED** that the event was unsustainable and should be cancelled. **JG** added that he greatly regretted this decision but considered it financially irresponsible to continue.

1052. Appointment of Auditors

Council **AGREED** to appoint Do the Numbers Ltd to act on behalf of Badger Farm Parish Council in relation to the Internal Audit for 2011/12. Fees will be in the order of £300 reviewed annually. **JG** signed the Letter of Engagement. The next audit will be conducted by Nick Caiger on Tuesday 10th April 2012.

1053. Briefing on Options for Evening Bus Services

Brian Collin, the Chair of the Winchester Town Forum, informed Councillors that:

- (i) Imaginative tenders to provide late evening bus services to Stanmore, Harestock and Kings Worthy had been sought in view of the cuts imposed on the existing services.
- (ii) It looked as if the costs would be in the order of £18K upwards.
- (iii) The Town Forum had earmarked £10K and were now seeking partnership funding from the University, Business Groups and Parish Councils.

Council discussed this approach, noting that no firm decision was required yet. They were however unanimous that funding was only likely to be forthcoming if the Stanmore service was extended to include Badger Farm.

1054. Donation

MM reported that he had received a request from the Carroll Centre for a donation. 37 children from Badger Farm had attended their youth evenings, after-school club and holiday Play-scheme in the last term. They also offer family activity evenings each term which 4 families from Badger Farm have attended and parent and adult education sessions which 3 from Badger Farm have attended. They also have 2 local parents employed as session workers, a student from Badger Farm on a college placement at the centre, 4 school students (residents of Badger Farm) from Kings School on work experience placements, 2 volunteers from Badger Farm and a trustee on our board of directors who is a resident of Badger farm. Council **AGREED** to make a donation of £500.

1055. Parish Lengthsman

MM covered the following points:

- a) By 14 February Badger Farm must:
 - (i) Supply Parish contact names and details of Clerk and Councillor heading the project.
 - (ii) Return the Agreement or email commitment.
- b) Lead Parish (Twyford / Otterbourne) will advertise and engage a Lengthsman.
- c) Depending on contract likely to be about 2 days every 4 months.
- d) Work to be identified 28 days in advance.
- e) Work to be identified / discussed at beginning of working day and signed off in person at the end of each day.

MM pointed out that participation in the scheme required individual Parishes to have £10M public liability insurance. Currently Badger Farm only has £5M so participation will require an increase in insurance premium which is likely to be in the order of £100 pa.

After discussion Council **AGREED** to:

- f) Nominate **JG** as Lead Councillor
- g) Take part in the scheme
- h) Confirm that they are content with the wording of the Agreement
- i) Increase the public liability cover

1056. Correspondence

The following correspondence was discussed:

- a) The pre-submission version of the Winchester District Local Plan – Joint Core Strategy was published on 25th January and will remain open for representations until 12 March. Copies are available at www.winchester.gov.uk/jointcorestrategy and a CD was passed to **FJ**.
- b) Parish Council Elections 2012 will be held on Thursday 3rd May to coincide with the District Elections. Under the rules the Badger Farm Annual Meeting must take place within 14 days of the election. This means that the Parish Assembly will have to take place on Monday 14 May rather than in April as has been the custom in the past. Nomination papers and forms of consent must be deposited at the City Offices between 10.00am and 4.00pm from 28 March to 4 April. Forms will be passed to Councillors for completion at the next meeting.
- c) **JG** had received a complaint about the very poor standard of open space maintenance that had been carried out last year. Council **AGREED** that it had been very poor. **BL** will take up with WCC whose responsibility it is.

1057. Payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved and signed:

1561	M D Macpherson	Clerk Salary (January)	£ 427.80	-
1562	Vita Play	Play Equipment Inspection	£ 76.80	£ 12.80
1563	Scandor	WSR – Plant Hedge	£ 2,185.20	£364.20
1564	Winchester City Council	Install new seat and re-site	£ 926.40	£154.40
1565	British Telecom	Clerk Telephone	£ 57.34	£ 9.56
1566	The Carroll Centre	Donation	£ 500.00	-
1567	David Denby	Whiteshute Ridge (Trees)	£ 2,090.00	-

1058. Any other business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2140

Signed

Date