

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 31st JANUARY 2006 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present:	Cllr K R Clarke (chairman) Cllr D M Hadcroft (vice-chairman) Cllr R Bashford Cllr W Evans Cllr P L Hadcroft Cllr A Harker Cllr K Jones Cllr J Nunn-Price Cllr B Williamson
In attendance	Cllr A P Lunn Cllr M Mellersh Cllr J Stock County Cllr Z Patrick Inspector Hinchley – Thames Valley Police
Clerk	Mr G M Mundy

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Hick-Greene and F Parnell. Belated apologies from Cllr S Cotton.

2 Declaration of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting

Cllr A Lunn declared an interest in items 4 d) and 5 b). Cllr J Nunn-Price declared an interest in item 12 d).

3 Sign report of committee meeting held 13th December 2005

The chairman explained that he had received an e-mail from Cllr A Harker outlining an amendment to the minutes from the previous meeting. He suggested that in item 17 the sentence starting ...”the clerk is also to...” be deleted and replaced with...”the clerk is to obtain the standard condition of service delivery for street cleaning from the Vale and a guide to costs. The Environmental Services Committee would then decided the level of cleaning which should be appropriate for Millbrook Square. The clerk would then write to the Waste Management companies/local firms for quotations for delivery of the specified service. When theses were obtained the committee would then hold a meeting with the shopkeepers to present the results and seek their co-operation.”

Because the chairman and the clerk were uncertain if this amendment was for the minutes of the committee meeting or the minutes of the meeting with Vale officers....

It was **MOVED** the chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“that the report be signed as a true record of the meeting.”

4 Matters arising from the previous meeting

- a) Item 6 a) – Fares and Ticketing Strategy – The clerk informed the meeting that this was completed by the chairman and submitted by the deadline of 6th January 2006.
- b) Item 6 b) – Oxfordshire’s Local Transport Plan Consultation – The clerk informed the meeting that this was completed by the chairman and submitted by the deadline of 6th January 2006.
- c) Item 8 a) – Cemetery shelter – Following the advice received it was generally agreed not to take this action further.

- d) Item 9 – Highway matters – potholes along School Lane, Grove – This matter was moved and discussed under Item 9 on this agenda.
- e) Item 17 – Millbrook Square – Cllr Harker will contact the Vale officers regarding the standards of street cleanliness required for Millbrook Square.

The chairman then broke from proceedings and introduced Inspector Terry Hinchley – Wantage Sector Commander, Thames Valley Police. The chairman welcomed the Inspector to the meeting.

Inspector Hinchley gave a brief insight into the background of staffing issues within his sector and also informed the meeting that from April 2006 the following officers would be available within the Grove/Wantage area beat – 1 x Beat Officer Sergeant and 1x PCSO.

The Inspector also informed the meeting of the changes in contact telephone numbers. 999 had not changed and is still used for emergencies only. In addition to the 999 number, Thames Valley Police have centralised its non-emergency call handling and have adopted a single non-emergency number (08458 505505), this number is answered by the two Police Enquiries Centres based in Kidlington and Windsor. Inspector Hinchley stated that members of the public calling the non-emergency number will still receive a guaranteed response.

County Councillor Z Patrick arrived

Inspector Hinchley informed the meeting of a new neighbourhood policing initiative which has started at Milton Park with 9 newly appointed PCSO's, the next phase would be Faringdon and then later on in the year, Grove and Wantage.

Cllr A Harker arrived

The chairman then asked for questions from the floor and the Inspector received questions from councillors. Various questions were asked to the Inspector ranging from levels of policing in Grove to fixed penalty notices. One of the main concerns councillors felt should and could be addressed is that of information being passed from the police to inform the local community as to what the police are doing. The inspector said that he would look at this issue and see if crime data statistics could be released through the local press to inform the local community.

Another area to be looked into is to set up a working party involving councillors, police and youth workers. The Inspector was keen to get this working party up and running. This matter is to be taken forward from the Leisure and Recreation Committee. The clerk was then asked to pass the contact details of Garry Kingett to Inspector Hinchley.

Clerk

There being no further questions the chairman thanked the Inspector for attending.

Inspector Hinchley left the meeting

5 To receive reports from representatives of outside bodies

- a) Independent Advice Centre - Cllr J Stock reported that she had attended the meeting on 19th January. The IAC is running very well but were still asking for more volunteer drivers. Cllr J Stock also reported that funding from OCC was to continue until the next review.
- b) Wantage, Grove & District Traffic Advisory Committee - Cllr J Stock reported a meeting had taken place on 15th December and had been a quiet meeting due to low attendance. Cllr J Nunn-Price raised the issue of the bus shelters on A338 and it was generally agreed the clerk write to the OCC requesting that the bus stops be moved to a safer location the other side of the roundabout and bus shelters be erected.
- c) Robert Stiles Almshouses - There had been no meeting.

Clerk

- d) Grovelands Shoppers Service - The OCC letter regarding the continued funding was noted.

Cllr P Hadcroft raised the issue of an estimated shortfall and the clerk briefed the meeting that it was estimated that the shortfall would probably be in between £20 - £30, depending on the usage over the next two months. The chairman stated that last year Finance and General Purposes Committee agreed to fund any shortfall and felt sure if necessary they would do so again..

- e) Vale & Downland Museum Trust - Cllr K Jones informed the meeting that minutes from the last meeting would be forwarded to the clerk for wider distribution.
- f) School governors' reports - Cllr K Jones stated that the next governors meeting for North Drive School is to be held on Thursday 2nd February.

6 Transport Matters

- a) The OCC letter regarding the Wantage/Grove Strategic Transport Study was noted.
- b) Bus Strategy Consultation – The chairman invited County Councillor Z Patrick to inform the meeting of the recent consultation she had with Stagecoach and OCC. County Councillor Z Patrick reported a new service which would be the X30 – a half hourly service from Wantage to Oxford, running along the Botley Road into Oxford and a new service to take in surrounding villages. It is hoped that both new services would commence on 26th March 2006.

7 Health matters

- a) Wantage Hospital Committee – No meeting had been held. The next meeting is due to take place on 16th February 2006.

8 Cemetery issues

- a) Sub-Committee – general report – No meeting had taken place
- b) Update regarding damage to the Cemetery Memorial Wall – The clerk informed the meeting that he had still not received a reply from either the Vale or Redlime Construction Ltd as to what specification was asked for when the wall was first built. He said that he would raise the matter with Mary Lambe at the next JET meeting.

Clerk's note: Mary Lambe was not present at the JET meeting due to holidays. The clerk will contact her on her return.

Clerk

9 Highway matters:

The clerk informed the meeting that the school had been in touch with their contractors who were to affect the repairs to the potholes on the path in School Lane.

Cllr A Lunn said the problem would not be resolved unless lorry's stopped using the junction as a turning point when making deliveries. Cllr R Bashford said that a sign informing drivers of the turning point at the rear of the shops was still required. It was generally agreed the clerk make up the sign and also write to the shop keepers and tell them to inform their delivery drivers of the turning point.

Clerk

10 JET Matters

The next meeting is to be held on 2nd February 2006.

11 Removal of Royal Mail post box at Roman Way

The clerk reminded the meeting of the post box that was situated at Roman Way had

been removed by Royal Mail at the request of one of the residents there. Other residents have subsequently complained that there is now no post box near Roman Way and they would like one re-installed. After speaking to the Royal Mail at Abingdon, they are also keen to re-instate a box there and have asked local councils for their opinion as to its location. Mr Tony Gilhorne of Roman Way had volunteered to canvas residents to ascertain where the post box should go. It was generally agreed that the post box should be re-instated and the clerk is to write to Mr Gilhorne and ask him to canvas residents the findings are to be reported back to Royal Mail.

Clerk

12 Correspondence as follows:

- a) Thames Valley Police – Guiding principles for sharing the costs of PCSO’s – It was generally agreed that this matter be brought back to this committee at a later date.
- b) Thames Valley police – Changes in contact telephone numbers and invitation to visit a police control room – The changes in police contact numbers were noted. The following councillors expressed an interest in visiting a police control room: Cllrs R Ackers, D Hadcroft, A Harker K Jones, and J Nunn-Price.

It was generally agreed that the clerk make enquiries to formulate a visit preferably on a Wednesday evening.

Clerk

- c) NALC – Draft Guidance on the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 – This was noted.

Cllr J Nunn-Price left the meeting

- d) Westmill Wind Farm Co-operative Ltd – This was noted.

Cllr J Nunn-Price returned to the meeting

13 Invitations to the council reception 2006

The guest list for the last council reception was scrutinised and added to. The list will be passed to the other committees for completion.

14 Acts of Vandalism

This was noted.

15 Chairman’s urgent communications

The clerk informed the meeting that Cllr F Parnell had attended a presentation by a newly formed environmental group called “the Little Green People”. Following discussion it was agreed to recommend to Full Council to invite this group to speak at the Annual Parish meeting.

20 General correspondence

Dragonfly Magazine – Winter 2005/06 – This was noted
CAG –Oxfordshire – This was noted

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Confirmed 14th March 2006

Chairman