

**GROVE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
ON 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2006 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

**Present:**

Cllr F D Parnell (Chairman)  
Cllr W Evans (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr W R Ackers  
Cllr R Bashford  
Cllr K R Clarke  
Cllr S Cotton  
Cllr D M Hadcroft  
Cllr P L Hadcroft  
Cllr A Harker  
Cllr R E Hicks-Greene  
Cllr K Jones  
Cllr A P Lunn  
Cllr M Mellersh  
Cllr J M Stock

**In attendance:**

Mrs D Reeves (Letcombe Parish Council)  
3 members of the public

**Clerk:**

Mr G M Mundy

**19     Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from parish councillors J Nunn-Price and B Williamson, county councillors Z Patrick and Jim Moley and district councillors D Phillips, G Stock and P Westwood.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**21     Sign minutes of Annual Parish meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

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

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

**22     Sign minutes of Annual Council meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

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

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

**23     Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

Items 13 a) and b) – Council Insurance – The clerk informed the members that the quotation from Allianz-Cornhill had been accepted for both general insurance (£7448.73) and motor insurance (£3875.21). The quotation received from Zurich Municipal were deemed too

expensive in comparison and were declined.

**24 Election of two members on to the Finance and General Purposes Committee**

It was **MOVED** Cllr K Clarke **SECONDED** Cllr K Jones and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“that Cllrs R Hicks-Greene and P Hadcroft both be re-elected onto the Finance and General Purposes Committee.”**

**25 Questions from the public**

Mr Graham Brown asked council ...“If Persimmons Homes was trying to obtain a freehold of the Recreation Ground/Wasbrough Field, what are parish councils intentions?” The chairman responded by stating that Persimmons Homes had drafted a plan of suggested routes for an access road into the southern side of the development. Two of the suggested routes would go across the Recreation Ground which the parish council owned, Wasbrough Field was still owned by Mr Wasbrough, but was leased to the parish council. The chairman further explained that nothing had been decided or discussed and the council would only enter into any agreement if the outcome would benefit the community. Mr Graham Brown then asked the council not to accept anything from Persimmon Homes west of Newlands Drive, as this would have a serious effect on the sports provisions for clubs in and around Grove.

**26 County and district councillors’ reports**

No county or district councillors were present to report to council. District councillor P Westwood had informed the clerk that she was attending a South East Area Committee meeting.

**27 Local Plan update**

- a) The chairman introduced Mrs Dee Reeves who was Letcombe Parish clerk and now chair of the Working Group set up to advise their parish council on planning issues. Mrs Reeves gave an overview of work to date from Letcombe Parish council and their experiences in using professional planning consultants.

Following the presentation Mrs Reeves took several questions regarding funding for consultancy work.

Following the questions the chairman thanked Mrs Reeves for the presentation, which all of the members found interesting and useful. Mrs Reeves left the meeting.

There then followed discussions concerning the presentation. The clerk was asked to investigate the cost of planning consultants and obtain contacts for different planning consultancy firms.

Clerk

- b) Local Development Forum Update – The chairman gave an update on the following from the last forum meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006:

Surveys undertaken, trees, topic workshops, plans, access road options. The chairman also informed members that Persimmon Homes would give a presentation to an informal Full Council meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006, commencing at 7.00 pm.

Clerk

- c) Petition from Grove Challengers – Cllr R Ackers informed members that he had received a petition of 242 signatures from Grove Challengers. The petition was in support of the parish councils request to the Vale to change the areas of playing field

space from 11.25 hectares to 23 hectares. The petition also raised concerns over the consultation process with the Vale, developers and sports clubs.

Clerk  
Clerk

The clerk was asked to write to BDOR on behalf of the clubs and copied to the Vale and ask what arrangements have been made for the developers to meet with sports clubs. The clerk is also to request that BDOR start maximising the publicity for the next stages of public exhibitions by using the local press, parish notice boards etc.

## **28 Council Chairman's Communications**

There were no council chairman's communications.

## **29 Report on matters relating to the following:**

- a) Joint Environmental Trust for Grove – The next meeting is on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006.
- b) Wantage Joint Economic Forum - No report had been received.
- c) Vale Strategic Partnership - No report had been received.
- d) Fair Trade Village update – there was nothing new to report.

## **30 Committee reports:**

- a) Report of Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006 - The report was presented by Cllr K Clarke.
- b) Report of Planning Committee meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006 - The reports were presented by Cllr J Stock
- c) Report of Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2006 - The report was presented by Cllr R Ackers.
- d) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2006 - The report was presented by the vice-chairman.

## **31 Schools**

- a) Report from the Schools Committee meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006 – The chairman reported that he had attended a recent Schools Committee meeting at Wantage Town Council to discuss secondary school provisions for Grove and Wantage. The Head of KA's is seeking foundation status for his school and is currently engaged in a consultation process. The committee is seeking further information regarding the timetable of the consultation process and its implications.
- b) The future of school provisions from the LAE – The chairman informed members that a leaflet drop to all Grove and Wantage residents will be taking place and an initial consultation meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> July at Millbrook School, Grove. The clerk informed members that Michael Mills from OCC will be present at the Development Exhibition on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> July at the Old Mill Hall.

## **32 South East England Plan**

Following discussion the following observations/comments were identified for submission:

Core Document page 315 – Grove Parish Council disagree with the comment in paragraph

2.2, “They are well located in terms of existing transport networks provided that these are upgraded to support development”.

Core Document page 316 – Paragraph 2.4 (Housing Distribution) states 3,400 houses to be built at Wantage and Grove between 2006 and 2026. Clarification and breakdown of numbers is required.

Core Document page 317 – Policy CO4: Affordable Housing states at least 50% of all new housing should be affordable. Please state when a decision will be taken to determine exactly how much housing will be affordable.

Core Document page 320 – Policy CO7: Grove Parish Council agreed with the policy that the infrastructure should be delivered in time to meet the needs of the population, but request that it is stressed that this should be provided before the population arrives.

Sustainability Appraisal Document page 26 (conclusions) – Grove Parish Council agreed with the conclusion, but feel that there needs to be an answer and want to know what is going to be done to remedy this.

**33 Invitation to visit UKAEA 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Clerk

The clerk informed members that a date had been set to visit UKAEA for 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006. This visit would be from 6 pm to 8.30 pm. The clerk advised members that some parts of the tour may be arduous because of staircases etc. The clerk said that he would send a memo to all parish councillors asking if they wished to attend.

**34 Minutes from Wantage Town Council**

The minutes were noted.

**35 Correspondence from Thames Water re, The Upper Thames Major Resource Development**

The correspondence was noted.

**36 Accounts for payment as per Appendix**

It was **MOVED** Cllr J Stock **SECONDED** Cllr R Ackers and **RESOLVED** unanimously  
“that the accounts for the sum of £38,075.34 be adopted.”

**146 Confidential items**

There were no confidential items for discussion.

The meeting closed at 9.04 pm

Confirmed 1<sup>st</sup> August 2006

---

Chairman