

GROVE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON 23rd OCTOBER 2007 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr F D Parnell (Chairman)
Cllr W Evans (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr W R Ackers
Cllr P L Hadcroft
Cllr K Jones
Cllr M Mellersh
Cllr J E Nunn-Price
Cllr C Philips
Cllr J M Stock
Cllr H Webb (part meeting)

In attendance: 5 members of public

Clerk: Mr G M Mundy

77 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from councillors I Caldicott, S Dexter, D Hadcroft A Harker. Apologies were also received from County councillors Z Patrick and J Moley and district councillor S Marchant.

The chairman explained that the district councillors were attending a South East Area meeting at the district council offices in Abingdon.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

Cllr H Webb arrived

79 Sign minutes of the meeting held 11th September 2007

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

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

80 Sign minutes of the special council meeting held 25th September 2007

The minutes were amended as follows:

Paragraph 2 b) – (v) fifth paragraph; delete consulters – insert consultees.

Paragraph 2 b) – (v) last paragraph; amend to read...“to see if Section 106 agreements...”.

Paragraph 2 b) (viii) third paragraph delete ‘a’ from area to make ‘are’.

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

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

81 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting

Clerk

a) From the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2007

i) Item 64 a) – Mary Green Play Area – The clerk informed the council that the new equipment had been ordered and now delivered. Installation will take place week commencing 5th November 2007.

ii) Item 67 – Remembrance Day Service – The clerk informed the council that two services will take place in Sunday 11th November; one at the parish church starting at 10 am and the other at 2 pm in the cemetery. Reverend Smithson has kindly agreed to lead the latter service. The clerk reminded those present that all councillors are invited to attend both services and would send out a reminder memo nearer the time.

b) From the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2007

i) Item 2 b (v) – various issues – The clerk informed the council that he had written to the district council regarding Section 106 agreements and also budgets for Environment Agency but no reply has been received.

ii) Item 2 b (vi) – Land North of Grove – The clerk informed the council that he had written to the district council stating an interest in land North of Grove, but to date no reply had been received.

iii) Item 2 b (xi) – Letter to the Environment Agency re Pill Ditch – The clerk informed the council that he had written to the EA regarding sewage being discharged into Pill Ditch but to date no reply had been received.

iv) Item 3 d) – Community Park and Southern Access Road – The clerk informed the council that the Community Park Workshop document had now been distributed to all parish councillors. He had also written to the district council and asked for a copy of their comments regarding the new proposed route for the southern Access Road.

82 Questions from the publicPlanning
Clerk

Mrs Gillott asked the council if the Bay Tree Public House was allowed to place their signage part on the public footpath in front of the pub. The vice-chairman said that council discussed this about a year ago with county council officers and they said that this practice was ok. Cllr Nunn-Price suggested and it was agreed that the planning clerk raise this matter with the planning department at the district council and ask for their comments. This matter will be passed to the Planning Committee for discussion.

83 County and district councillors' reports

The chairman read out a report from county councillor Patrick in her absence. The written report is attached as an appendix.

No other reports were received.

84 Local Plan

a) Current issues – The chairman briefed members on the recent Development Forum meeting held on 26th September. The chairman explained that the forum was shown a PowerPoint presentation which could then be presented to a wider public audience. He said that a special council meeting would be called to discuss the presentation when received. The chairman also mentioned that the first round of northern link road

design would be taking place shortly and that the outline planning application would not now be submitted until March 2008 at the earliest. BDOR are hoping to publish another community newsletter in the near future, all of the details will appear on the airfield website.

85 Council Chairman's Communications

- a) Invitation to the annual Stuart Rae presentation evening – The chairman said that he would attend.
- b) Letter of thanks from Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer – The chairman read out the letter from Cllr Mayhew-Archer. The contents were noted.
- c) Flooding – Following a short discussion it was generally agreed that committees nominate a representative each to form a sub committee to take this matter forward and discuss the options.
- d) Invitation from the South and Vale Carers Centre to their AGM on 6th November 2007 – This was noted.
- e) Wantage Arts Centre Campaign – The chairman informed members that the Wantage Arts Centre Campaign are holding a meeting in Friday 26th October and all members are welcome to attend.
- f) Letter of thanks to Mr Lamplough – It was generally agreed to write to Mr Lamplough and thank him for inviting councillors to the ceremony marking the unveiling of the De Haviland Venom jet.

Clerk

86 Committee Recommendations

On the proposition from Cllr Ackers seconded Cllr Dexter and resolved unanimously “to recommend to Full Council to review the policy of not selling pieces of council owned land.” – It was generally agreed to form a working group to review the policy. It was also agreed that the council chairman, committee chairman and Cllr Dexter would form the working group. The clerk is also to be in attendance. The clerk was asked to enquire with other local authorities to see if they have any similar policies.

Clerk

87 Code of Conduct training

The chairman suggested and it was agreed that because the district council had only offered training on council meeting nights that the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 20th November is re-scheduled to Monday 19th November 2007. The clerk is to inform all councillors accordingly.

Clerk

88 Parish Newsletter Grant

It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr P Hadcroft and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk

“to grant the sum of £800 to the parish newsletter.”

89 Tree Policy

The clerk distributed a copy of the draft tree policy to members present. Following a short discussion it was suggested and agreed to amend the draft policy as follows:

Paragraph 2 (Insert after) “County Tree Officer”, “and others as appropriate”.

Add new paragraph 6 (insert) – The parish council will investigate a tree bank to be grown on parish land.

It was also suggested and agreed that the date of adoption is added in the title of the document.

90 Ways of raising the council’s profile in the village

It was suggested by Cllr Mellersh a way of raising the councils profile was to accompany county councillor Patrick at her surgeries or have a council surgery. It was felt that accompanying county councillor Patrick would bring the parish council into the political debate, this was discounted. It was also felt that members of the public had access to councillors at council meetings and also the office is open Mon – Fri (9am to 3pm).

Clerk It was suggested and agreed to republish photos and biographies of councillors in the parish newsletter during the year. The clerk was asked to arrange this.

91 Sub dividing into areas of responsibility for individual councillors

Cllr Mellersh said that at a recent Full Council meeting a member of the public thought that it would be a good idea of sub dividing Grove into smaller areas which certain councillors would take responsibility for. The clerk suggested and it was agreed that Grove be sub divided into four areas, and those councillors living in those areas would be the councils point of contact for the residents who live there. The clerk was asked to draw up a list of those areas and send the list to the chairman.

Clerk

92 Local Development Framework and Community Strategy Area Forums

The clerk informed the council that he had received notification from the district council of a series of meetings to be held across the Vale regarding issues and options report for future Vale developments. The meeting applicable to the Grove/Wantage area is to be held on Wednesday 7th November from 7pm – 9pm at Wantage Civic Hall. The clerk was asked to post a notice on the notice boards to this effect.

Clerk

93 Council Objectives

This item was deferred until the next council meeting.

94 Recipient of the collection from this years Christmas Tree Service

It was **MOVED** Cllr Stock **SECONDED** Cllr P Hadcroft and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“to donate the proceeds of this years Christmas Tree Service to the Grove Day Centre for the Elderly.”

The clerk was asked to inform the Reverend Robertson, the Day Centre and the local press.

Clerk

95 Council Grants

Two applications for grants had been received. The Didcot & District Citizens Advice Bureau and the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind. It was unanimously agreed not to award the Didcot & District Citizens Advice Bureau a grant this time. The clerk was asked to inform them accordingly.

Clerk

It was also agreed that the clerk request more information from the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind regarding CCTV equipment for the visually impaired before deciding on awarding

Clerk any grants. This item was deferred until the next council meeting.

96 Reports from the following

- a) Joint Environmental Trust for Grove – The next meeting is to take place 29th October.
 b) Wantage Joint Economic Forum (2/8/07) – The minutes were noted. The next meeting is on 15th November 2007.

(i) – Correspondence from Wantage Town Council regarding membership of the forum – The correspondence had previously been distributed to all councillors. Following a short discussion it was agreed that Grove Parish Council would not consider full membership of the forum and remain as observers, because at this point in time the council can see no benefits of becoming full members. The clerk was asked to inform them accordingly.

Clerk

- c) Fair Trade Village update – Cllr Mellersh informed the council that the next event had been planned for Friday 9th November in Old Mill Hall.

97 Committee reports:

- a) Report of Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 18th September 2007 – The report was presented by Cllr J E Nunn-Price.
 b) Report of Planning Committee meetings held on 25th September and 16th October 2007 - The reports were presented by Cllr J Stock.
 c) Report of Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting held on 2nd October 2007 - The report was presented by Cllr R Ackers.
 d) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9th October 2007 - The report was presented by the vice-chairman.

98 Accounts for payment as per Appendix

It was **MOVED** Cllr Stock **SECONDED** Cllr P Hadcroft and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“that the accounts for the sum of £18,575.34 be adopted.”

99 Confidential items

It was **PROPOSED** the chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 ...

“that the press and public be excluded from the meeting to permit the committee to consider the confidential items.”

The meeting closed at 9.17pm

Confirmed 4th December 2007

Chairman

