

GROVE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON 24th APRIL 2007 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr F D Parnell (Chairman)
Cllr W Evans (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr W R Ackers
Cllr K R Clarke
Cllr P L Hadcroft
Cllr A Harker
Cllr K Jones
Cllr M Mellersh
Cllr J Nunn-Price
Cllr J M Stock
Cllr B Williamson

In attendance: 3 members of public

Clerk: Mr G M Mundy

146 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from parish councillors S Cotton, D Hadcroft, R Hicks-Greens and A Lunn and district councillor P Westwood.

Cllr J Nunn-Price arrived

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

There were no declarations of interest. The chairman suggested that any declarations may be given as the meeting proceeds.

148 Sign minutes of the council meeting held 13th March 2007

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

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

149 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

150 Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

151 County and district councillors' reports

No reports were received. The chairman explained that due to a family bereavement district councillor P Westwood had sent her apologies for this meeting. He also informed the council that Cllr Westwood had informed the council that she is not standing again as a district councillor.

152 Local Plan

a) Current status – The chairman informed the council that Neil Boddington had attended a

1005

meeting with Steven Sensicall of Kemp & Kemp. Neil Boddington had also attended the recent forum meeting.

- b) Newlands Drive Workshop – The chairman stated that he and other forum members had attended the Newlands Drive Workshop on Monday 23rd April. Three options were discussed regarding Newlands Drive.
- Retain as it is with significant traffic measures.
 - Close Newlands Drive between Savile Way and Mallard Way.
 - Completely close Newlands Drive and make into a footpath/cycle way etc.

These were discussed and various suggestions made as to the solutions for each option together with the groups views on them. Jeff Bishop will be producing a report and feedback to the developers.

- c) Millbridge Allotments Associations – The chairman informed the council that the allotment holders from the Millbridge allotments had formed an association. The main reason for this is to voice their concerns regarding the development. It was suggested and agreed that the clerk write to the chairman of the association and arrange for the council chairman and others to meet them at their next meeting.

Clerk

153 Council Chairman's Communications

- a) Revised Model Code of Conduct – The chairman informed those present that the revised Model Code of Conduct which is effective 3rd May will be distributed to all elected members on the 8th May 2007.

154 Annual Council Meeting

Following discussion it was generally agreed to leave the date for the Annual Council Meeting as the 8th May 2007. The clerk was asked to distribute the following documents to all candidates for election:

- Agenda for the Annual Council Meeting
- Council Standing Orders
- Selection of Committee's
- Outside bodies list

Clerk

155 Grant Applications

Discussion on the applications took place regarding their support for Grove residents. It was generally agreed that the wording on the application should specifically ask for the numbers of Grove residents helped for future applications as the current wording had not been interpreted as expected.

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

“that Grove Parish Council award grant aid as follows:

- **Grove Horticultural Society - £100**
- **Root and Branch - £100**
- **Junior Citizens Trust - £50**
- **Home Start Southern Oxfordshire - £50**

The total grant aid awarded for the first half year was £300. The second half-year applications will be awarded at Full Council on 23rd October 2007.

Clerk

156 County Council proposals as follows

- a) Power to remove unauthorised signs – The chairman and clerk signed both copies of the agreement.
- b) Grass cutting service – The clerk informed the council that the proposed agreement stated that the OCC grass areas would only have to be cut five times a year. The clerk sought advice from the maintenance staff who have said that to only cut OCC grassed areas only 5 times a year would have a detriment effect on the machinery used to cut the grass, the grass itself and would also use more fuel, this is due to the grass being longer between cuts. At present the maintenance staff cut the grass as and when required during the cutting season (weather dependent). The clerk also informed the council that according to the proposal the parish would only be required to cut OCC grassed areas within areas of the highway that are within 30mph restrictions. This would have an impact on the monies received from OCC. The clerk was asked to write to OCC and inform them of the councils concerns. The chairman was given delegated authority to sign the agreement once a satisfactory answer had been received.

Clerk

157 Committee recommendations

“The Finance and General Purposes Committee recommends to Full Council to adopt the following policy regarding future Civic visits:”

- Parties should consist of at least six, and no more than ten, participants.
- Parties should be made up from councillors and community representatives.
- That there is a need for reasonable notice to be given concerning whether the visits should proceed or not in order to enable the host town to make arrangements.
- That the hosts should offer selected dates, which visitors can select from.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The clerk is to inform Wantage Town Council accordingly.

Clerk

158 Annual Parish Meeting

The chairman informed the council that Gillie Tracey was no longer available to be guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting. Dave Parry had volunteered to be guest speaker and give a talk on the Youth Justice System and Individual's Rights.

The chairman also informed the council that the WI were no longer available to provide refreshments at the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillors M Mellersh and B Williamson volunteered to do the refreshments with help from other councillors on the night.

159 Purchase of water carrier and pump

The clerk informed the council that there is a requirement to purchase a water carrier and pump in order to be able to water flowerbeds, newly planted trees and also to water areas of the sports pitches following maintenance work.. The quotes were:

SCH Supplies – 600 Lt towed water trailer 12v electric pump – £797.00 Plus VAT)
 SCH Supplies – 900Lt towed water trailer 12v electric pump - £822.00 (Plus VAT)

After discussion on the need for this as well as the costs and merits of different types of water carriers.

It was **MOVED** Cllr P Hadcroft **SECONDED** Cllr W Ackers and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“to purchase a 900 litre towed water trailer with a 12v electric pump from SCH supplies Limited at a cost of £822 (Ex VAT) plus carriage.”

1007

The council then agreed to share the cost of this purchase across the Environmental Services, Leisure and Recreation and Finance and General Purposes Committees in proportion to its usage.

Clerk

160 Report on matters relating to the following:

- a) Joint Environmental Trust for Grove – Cllr A Harker reported that the last trust meeting was held on Thursday 19th April 2007, and the following was discussed: Letcombe Brook Project Officers report and Cow Lane. Cllr A Harker also reported that the trust are planning to place a memorial bench in memory of the late Councillor Roland Bashford along the footpath at the rear of the Health Centre adjacent to the wild flower planting. The council generally agreed to contribute to the bench.
- b) Wantage Joint Economic Forum – No meeting had taken place since the last Full Council.
- c) Fair Trade Village update – Cllr M Mellersh stated that there was nothing further to report at this time.

161 Committee reports:

- a) Report of Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 20th March 2007 – The report was presented by Cllr K Clarke.
- b) Report of Planning Committee meetings held on 27th March and 17th April 2007 - The reports were presented by Cllr J Stock.
- c) Report of Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting held on 3rd April 2007 - The report was presented by Cllr R Ackers.
- d) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17th April 2007 - The report was presented by the vice-chairman..

0 **162 Accounts for payment as per Appendix**

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

“that the accounts for the sum of £13,479.00 be adopted.”

163 Confidential items

It was **PROPOSED** the chairman and **AGREED** 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 8.50 pm

Confirmed 8th May 2007

Chairman