

GROVE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON 2nd AUGUST 2005 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

- Present:** Cllr F D Parnell (Chairman)
Cllr W R Ackers
Cllr R Bashford
Cllr S Cotton
Cllr D M Hadcroft (part meeting)
Cllr P L Hadcroft (part meeting)
Cllr A Harker
Cllr R E Hicks-Greene
Cllr A P Lunn
Cllr J Nunn-Price (part meeting)
Cllr M Mellersh
Cllr J M Stock
- In attendance:** County Cllr Z Patrick
District Cllrs D Phillips (part meeting) and V Stock (part meeting)
Mr Peter Scatchard (item 48 only)
2 members of the public
- Clerk:** Mr G M Mundy

37 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs K R Clarke, W Evans and B Williamson and from District Cllr P Westwood. Apologies for late arrival were received from Cllr J Nunn-Price.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

39 Sign minutes of council meeting held 21st June 2005

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

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

Cllrs D and P Hadcroft arrived

40 Matters arising from the council meeting held on 21st June 2005

- Clerk a) Item 29 a) – Discipline & Grievance procedures The clerk informed the meeting that since Discipline & Grievance procedures had been adopted by the council, these would be given to all members of staff with a copy placed on employees’ files.
- Clerk b) Item 29 b) – Advertising on parish council web-site The clerk informed the meeting that a sub-committee had been formed consisting of the chairman, vice-chairman, and all committee chairmen. A meeting would be convened as soon as NALC advice had been received.

- c) Item 30 – Broadband for the council office The clerk informed the meeting that the Tiscali option had been ordered and should be installed within the next ten days.

41 Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

42 County and district councillors' reports

County Cllr Patrick gave a verbal report. A written report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

District Cllr Stock arrived

District Cllr Phillips gave a verbal report.

District Cllr Stock gave a verbal report.

43 Council Chairman's Communications.

There were no council chairman's communications.

44 Council's internally audited accounts

- a) Balance sheet as at 31st March 2005 - Members had received copies of the internally audited accounts and the clerk spoke on these.

It was **MOVED** Cllr Stock, **SECONDED** Cllr Hicks-Greene and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“to sign the council's balance sheet as at 31st March 2005.”

The balance sheet was duly signed by the chairman and clerk.

Cllr Nunn-Price arrived

- b) Internal auditor's matters arising from the audit – The clerk read out the comments made by the internal auditor and it was generally agreed that the items detailed as requiring action, be dealt with.

Clerk

- c) Sign Annual Return for external audit

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

“that the Annual Return as prepared by the clerk be signed.”

The Annual Return was duly signed by the chairman and clerk.

- d) Statement of small accounts 2004/2005 – The clerk had prepared a statement of small accounts. However these accounts would not be subject to audit. Members were satisfied with the statement.

Clerk

The clerk was asked to ascertain what, if anything, could be done with the money in Grove Cricket Club's account, since the demise of the club.

45 OTP Seminar – Common Land and Village Greens (an introduction to the law and discussion of current issues) to be held at Kidlington on Tuesday 27th September 2005

It was **MOVED** Cllr Stock **SECONDED** Cllr Ackers and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk

“that Cllr Nunn-Price attend the seminar on behalf of the council at a cost of £20 plus VAT.”

46 Correspondence from UKAEA

The chairman outlined the correspondence regarding proposed development at Didcot West and Rowstock Junction, which was noted.

47 OCC - ‘Emergency Plan for Local Councils

The document was noted.

48 VWHDC – Parish Planning Boost

The document was noted.

The chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Mr Peter Scatchard to update the council on the efforts so far regarding the Wantage, Grove and District Healthcheck. At the conclusion of the update the chairman thanked Mr Scatchard for attending and reinstated Standing Orders.

49 Local Plan issues – latest update

Cllr D Hadcroft left the meeting

The chairman explained that whilst attending the Local Plan Inquiry at the Vale, he had discovered that Persimmon Homes, Gallagher Estates and Gleeson Homes had reached an agreement which supported a northern link road, as provided in the terms set out in Policy H5xiv)a) of the Local Plan second deposit draft (change C8/69) June 2004. He further explained that because of this agreement he had changed the submission prepared and agreed by council, to other objectors’ proofs to the Inquiry, by deleting the section referring to the northern link road.

The Inquiry Inspector had agreed that objectors to this agreement had until 19th August 2005 to submit their objections. To that end the chairman informed the meeting that there would be special council meeting immediately following the Planning Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 16th August to discuss the matter further.

50 Mably Way recreational area

Cllr Ackers explained the ongoing discussions with the Vale regarding the Mably Way recreational area and it was unanimously agreed that negotiations should continue. The clerk was to inform the Vale that, subject to agreeing head of terms to the lease, the parish council was willing to enter into a 25 year lease for the land off Mably Way in order to provide and maintain football pitches and associated landscaping.

51 Parish council representation at Grove CE School

Cllr Hicks-Greene explained that until recently she had been sitting on the Board of Governors at Grove CE School as a minor authority representative. However due to a reconstitution she now sat as a foundation governor and therefore there was a vacancy for a minor authority or newly titled community governor.

The chairman suggested that details be circulated to all councillors and that this item be brought back to the next council meeting for further discussion. Any councillor willing to sit on the board should contact the clerk.

All

District Cllr Phillips left the meeting

748

52 Committee recommendations

Amendments to Standing Orders – After general discussion

It was **MOVED** Cllr P Hadcroft, **SECONDED** Cllr Cotton and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk **“to amend Standing Orders to the effect that members of the public be allowed to speak or ask questions at committee meetings up to a maximum of four minutes.”**

53 Matters relating to the following:

a) Joint Environmental Trust for Grove – There had been no meeting.

b) Wantage Joint Economic Forum - Cllr P Hadcroft would attend the next meeting.

c) Vale Strategic Partnership - County Cllr Patrick reported on this.

Clerk d) Meetings of the Wantage Secondary School Committee – There had been no meeting and at the chairman’s suggestion it was generally agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

e) Fair Trade Village update – There was nothing to report.

f) Wantage Hospital Committee - Cllr Harker reported on this.

54 Committee reports:

a) Report of Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 28th June 2005 – In the absence of Cllrs Clarke and D Hadcroft the report was presented by the chairman.

b) Report of Planning Committee meetings held on 5th and 26th July 2005 - The reports were presented by Cllr Stock

c) Report of Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting held on 12th July 2005 - The report was presented by Cllr Ackers.

d) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19th July 2005 - The report was presented by the chairman.

55 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 £20,393.45 be adopted.”

56 Confidential matters

It was **MOVED** 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

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

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Confirmed 13th September 2005

Chairman