

GROVE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON 30th JANUARY 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 D M Hadcroft (part meeting)
Cllr P L Hadcroft
Cllr A Harker
Cllr K Jones
Cllr A P Lunn
Cllr M Mellersh
Cllr J Nunn-Price
Cllr J M Stock

In attendance: County councillor Z Patrick
County councillor J Moley (part meeting)
2 members of public

Clerk: Mr G M Mundy

111 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from parish councillors S Cotton and R Hicks-Greene and district councillor P Westwood.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

113 Sign minutes of the council meeting held 5th December 2006

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

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

114 Sign minutes of the special council meeting held 9th January 2007

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

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

115 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting

- a) Item 102 – Letters of thanks and acknowledgements – Letters of thanks from Fitzwaryn School, Grove Scouts and The Thames Valley & Chilton Air Ambulance Trust were noted.
- b) Item 106 – Acknowledgement for the grant received by the IAC – The acknowledgement from the IAC was noted.

116 Questions from the public

No questions were received from the public.

117 County and district councillors’ reports

- a) County councillor Z Patrick gave a verbal report. A written report is attached as an appendix.

- b) County councillor J Moley reported that the consultation preference forms on the future of Secondary Education in the area were due to be returned to the County Council by the 19th January 2007, however he had received concerns and complaints from parents and others about thousands of copy preference forms apparently issued by King Alfred's on 15th January, with canvassing material attached in favour of the King Alfred's preferred option of a school of 2500 plus, managed by KA's. It was reported that this material went to all feeder primary schools as well as KA parents. The concerns raised, included a suggested disorienting impact on the consultation process and even perhaps on the MORI type poll. Councillor Moley had reflected these concerns to the County Council in view of their apparent gravity.

No reports had been received from the district councillors.

118 Local Plan

- a) Current status – The chairman reported that a meeting had taken place with the council's Planning Advisor and the following issues were discussed:

- Neil Boddington to meet with Steven Sensicall of Kemp & Kemp
- Ask Neil Boddington to make enquiries as to a valuation of the Recreation Ground.
- Southern access road.

The chairman also informed the council that a note had been received from Jeff Bishop of BDOR stating that the route for the southern access road is almost confirmed as option 1 and that meetings will soon take place between the development team and affected parties (allotment holders, Park Homes Estate residents) and a further meeting with the "Keep Newlands Drive" campaign.

Harker/
Clerk

Cllr A Harker spoke regarding the scoping option and baseline studies. Cllr A Harker agreed to send the clerk his points, who would in turn send them to the district council.

119 Council Chairman's Communications

- a) Invitation for the chairman (plus one other parish representative) from the Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council to attend a reception to be held on Wednesday 28th February 2007 at 6.30 pm – The chairman and vice-chairman agreed to attend this function. The clerk is to forward copies of the invitation to the chairman and vice-chairman and also to reply to the county council.

Clerk
Clerk

District councillor J Moley left the meeting

- b) Invitation to the Chairman to attend the Community Reception on Saturday 17th February 2007 – The chairman informed the council that he could not attend this function because of a prior engagement. He had already responded to the invitation.
- c) Information regarding the Wantage Town Mayors Charity ball on 20th April 2007 – The date was noted.

Cllr D Hadcroft left the meeting

- d) Letter of thanks from Fitzwarren School re The Christmas Tree collection - The letter was noted.
- e) Invitation to the chairman to attend a Celebration Evening at King Alfred's School on Thursday 8th February 2007 - The chairman said he would be attending. The clerk was asked to inform the school.
- f) UTMRD – Stage 2 – Cllr A Harker spoke regarding this. He also added that he had prepared a report (copy attached) and requested that the parish council respond. It was generally agreed that this issue is raised at each committee meeting to gauge the committee's response prior to the councils' response to be submitted to Thames Water by 3rd March 2007.

Clerk

Clerk

120 Wantage Town Council minutes

The minutes were noted

121 Meetings timetable for 2007/08

The meetings timetable for 2007/08 was accepted. The clerk is to ensure that copies are sent to all county and district councillors, parish newsletter, What's On in Wantage publication and the Wantage and Grove Review.

Clerk

- 122 Approval of agreement from Primesite Media for the provision and installation of bus shelters in Grove**
- Parnell/
Evans
Clerk
- Following discussion it was agreed that the chairman and vice-chairman sign the agreement on behalf of the council for the provision and installation of bus shelters in Grove. The clerk was asked to obtain the statutory consents from the Highway Authority to allow Primesite media to erect the shelters.
- 123 Approval of expenditure arising from the Mably Civic visit**
- Clerk
- The chairman explained that the total net cost of the Civic visit from Mably was £976 (split between Grove Parish Council and Wantage Town Council) equalling £488. Because Grove Parish council had already incurred expenditure of £300.80 the total amount owed to Wantage Town council was £187.20. The clerk is to prepare payment to Wantage Town Council.
- 124 Donation in memory of the late councillor Roland Bashford**
- Cllr R Ackers thanked members who attended Cllr Bashford's funeral.
- It was **MOVED** the chairman **SECONDED** Cllr J Stock and **RESOLVED** unanimously
- "to donate £50 to each of Cllr Bashford's chosen charities; the RSPB and Muscular Dystrophy."**
- Clerk/
S137
- The clerk is to inform Mrs Marjorie Bashford.
- 125 Correspondence from the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council regarding unitary councils**
- Clerk
- The contents of the letter was discussed and councillors were drawn to the second to last paragraph, which states "The County Council believes it would be far better to improve joint working arrangements within Oxfordshire's existing structure to provide a more effective and seamless service and we would like to get started as soon as possible." With this statement in mind councillors agreed to defer a response to the letter until after the next Wantage & Grove Traffic Advisory meeting (Thursday 1st February) and parish councils Environmental Services Committee meeting (Tuesday 6th February).
- Clerk
- The clerk was also asked to send an e-mail to the minister responsible and ask if local authorities (parish and town councils) will be consulted. The clerk was further asked to forward a web link to councillors with internet access to the Government Bill.
- 126 Location of Grove (Letcombe Brook) Interpretation Boards**
- Clerk
- Following discussion it was agreed that the suggested locations for the new boards should be; Village Green, St Ives Bridge and the Dairy site footbridge. Council also agreed that council maintenance staff should install them. The clerk is also to inform Sally Wallington to swap the photo of Grove Middle Bridge and the picture of "the steps at Village Green" around so they depict the correct locations.
- 127 Grove RFC**
- Clerk
- The chairman informed council that a meeting between the parish council and Grove RFC had taken place on Thursday 25th January to discuss floodlight issues and pitch usage. The chairman further explained that because the Grove RFC chairman could not attend only the pitch usage issue was discussed. A further meeting to discuss floodlight issues is to be arranged.
- Cllr R Ackers then spoke regarding pitch usage and reported that GRFC and or football clubs have used the pitches when they have been placed out of bounds by council staff. Clarification from the RFU is being sought on their rules relating to their affiliate clubs playing on local authority pitches without permission. It was agreed that the conditions of use will be reviewed at the next Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting on 20th February. It was further agreed that the clerk write to all clubs informing them of the councils decision on pitch inspections
- Friday pm inspection to carry on.
 - Clerk to advise all clubs as to the condition of the ground.
 - Saturday pitch inspection be clubs and match officials.
 - Notification from all clubs to inform the parish council who played and where.
 - Monday am pitch inspection to determine state of ground.
 - Decision to see if additional ground maintenance work is required to re-instate ground and if so levy charges on appropriate club if the clubs were advised that the pitches were not fit for playing on.
- Clerk

128 Clerks Training Courses

Clerk Following discussion the clerk is to arrange informal discussions with chairs and vice-chairs of committees and any other councillors who volunteer.

129 Report on matters relating to the following:

- a) Joint Environmental Trust for Grove – The trust have asked the council to consider purchasing and installing a dog waste bin along the A338 opposite the dairy site and also a waste bin opposite Pound Green by the wooden bench. This will be discussed at the next Environmental Services Committee meeting.
- b) Wantage Joint Economic Forum – The next meeting is scheduled for 8th February 2007. Cllr P Hadcroft said he would be able to attend.
- c) Fair Trade Village update – Cllr M Mellersh reported that a Fair-Trade event would be held on Saturday 10th March between 2 and 5 pm in the Old Mill Hall. A ready, Steady Cook style competition will be incorporated in to the event

130 Committee reports:

- a) Report of Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 12th December 2006 - The report was presented by Cllr K Clarke.
- b) Report of Planning Committee meetings held on 19th December 2006 and 23rd January 2007 - The reports were presented by Cllr J Stock.
- c) Report of Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting held on 9th January 2007 - The report was presented by Cllr R Ackers.
- d) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16th January 2007 - The report was presented by the chairman.

131 Accounts for payment as per Appendix

Following clarification of some items on the accounts for payment...

It was **MOVED** Cllr J Stock **SECONDED** Cllr K Clarke and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“that the accounts for the sum of 27,934.79 be adopted.”

132 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 9.03 pm

Confirmed 13th March 2007

Chairman