

Drayton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Drayton Parish Council, Held on Monday 1st June 2009 at 7.30pm At the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton.

Present: Mr Scharf, Mrs Morrison, Mr Williams (arrived @ 7.50pm), Mr Webber, Mrs Pooley, Mr Butler, Mrs Morris, Mrs Hind, Mr Cook, Councillors Mike & Marilyn Badcock

74/09. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Mrs Morrison.

75/09. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

76/09. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

77/09. APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES/REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2009/2010

Mrs Pooley was confirmed as the Chair of the Rights of Way & Conservation Working Group. Mr Andrew Wright had confirmed with the Clerk that he was happy to join the Leisure & General Purposes Working Group and to be the PC's representative for the DAMASCUS Project. The Clerk had given Mr Wright's details to Rita Atkinson.

78/09. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 11TH MAY.

Mr Scharf proposed and Mrs Pooley seconded that the Minutes were a true and accurate record. Mr Butler then signed the Minutes.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON 11TH MAY.

Mrs Pooley proposed and Mr Butler seconded that the Minutes were a true and accurate record. Mr Scharf then signed the Minutes.

79/09. NEWS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Badcock said that the Parish Council will be re-consulted regarding the proposed incinerator at Sutton Courtenay.
- Councillor Mike Badcock had received a reply from Mark Sumner concerning the PC's request to have bollards installed along the Kiln Lane bridleway. Councillor Badcock to email the Clerk a copy of the letter.

80/09. MATTERS ARISING

40/06 Topple testing: After the last meeting the Clerk had arranged for the memorial inspection report to be copied to all PC members. The Clerk had received several phone calls from concerned next of kin about their memorial, which had failed the test. The Clerk had also visited OCC Archives and traced a number of next of kin, so that the PC could try and contact them to let them know about the testing and the outcome. Mr Scharf had spoken with Abingdon Stone & Marble, who had said that they might be able to give the PC an estimate as to how much it would cost to fix the unsafe memorials. Mr Williams mentioned that PC members might be interested to read the Local Government Ombudsman Report 2006, dealing with cases where lawn memorials are found to be unsafe. Mr Williams also spoke about the report from the Ministry of Justice (January 2009).

(Mr Wright arrived at the meeting).

Mr Webber said that the PC should focus on 2 issues; what should be done now that the testing has been carried out and what should be done in the future.

Mr Scharf proposed that the PC should obtain 3 quotations from BRAMM registered stone masons to have the unsafe memorials fixed.

The draft letter which would be sent to next of kin, whose memorial had been found to be unsafe, was then discussed by members at some length.

Mr Williams mentioned the Ombudsman Report again, as this detailed what other councils in a similar position had done and gave examples of good practice.

Mrs Pooley proposed that Mr Scharf draft a letter to be sent to relatives and email this to all members for comments. **Decision** – It was agreed unanimously that Mr Scharf should draft the letter. **Action** – Mr Scharf to draft a letter and email it round for comments. Councillors would need to reply asap so that the letter could be finalised for the Clerk to send out.

129/07 HGV's using bridleway: Carried forward.

APA 11: Play/recreation facilities: Deferred.

165/08 PC/Village Hall agreement document: For the benefit of new members, Mr Scharf explained the history relating to the agreement document.

The Clerk had received a reply on 20th May from the solicitor, which had been copied to Mr Scharf and Mr Butler.

Mr Webber mentioned that the Football Club and Village Hall Committee are now working much better together. Mr Scharf said that the reason the PC had asked their solicitor for advice was because it wasn't clear to anyone what the PC's formal agreement with the Village Hall Committee was. Mr Scharf went on to say that the letter from the solicitor confirmed that there is no positive need for the PC to do anything and that the PC do not have any obligations concerning the village hall. Mr Scharf proposed that going forward the PC is not liable, but would probably receive requests for money from the Village Hall Committee. Mr Butler explained that any such request would be treated as an S137 grant/donation request and the village hall would need to complete an application form. Mr Butler added that the PC is capped by how much they can spend under S137.

Mr Webber asked who physically owns the recreation ground. Mr Scharf replied that the PC does and that the Football Club is specified as a member of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee.

Action – For the next PC meeting Mr Scharf to draft a letter to the Village Hall Committee, which would be sent with a copy of the solicitor's letter.

10/09 Cutting back the hedge around the Village Hall carpark: Carried forward.

21/09 Annual payment to Custodian Charities: Mr Scharf still hadn't looked through the document.

41/09 Litter around the village: The Clerk had written to VWHDC, but had yet to receive a reply. **Action** – The Clerk to write to the County Council, and copy the letter to W&S Recycling, about concerns raised over the litter which blows from Drayton tip into the village and the woodland area the other side of the tip.

50/09 Letter to Countryside Services – FP21: The Clerk had received a reply from Mr Sumner, which was read out. Mrs Pooley proposed that the PC write again to Mr Sumner to request that the old broken stile is removed and replaced with steps and a handrail and that the PC's main concerns are the slope down to the busy road where visibility is poor and traffic often travelling too fast. Mrs Morris seconded the proposal. **Action** – The Clerk to write to Mr Sumner again.

62/09 Meeting of the L&GP Working Group: The group to meet on 11th June, 7.30pm, at Mr Scharf's house.

68/09 Invitation to VWHDC Planning to attend PC Meeting: The Clerk had written to VWHDC and invited them to attend to talk about the publication of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. The Clerk had yet to receive a reply.

69/09 Trees for removal at Sutton Wick and burial ground: The dead tree in the burial ground had now been removed. The village caretaker to remove the tree in Sutton Wick Lane later in the year.

69/09 Calor Villages of the Year Competition: Mr Scharf had completed the form and sent it in.

71/09 OCC Street Lighting: The Clerk had received a letter from OCC, which detailed initiatives it was considering to reduce the amount of carbon and energy it uses. The County Council was asking the PC for its views on switching off lighting for part of the night for all, or some, of the street lights in the Parish. The matter was discussed by members. The Clerk was then asked to write back to OCC to say that the PC thank them for the letter, note and support the measures they wish to take, but do not think that turning off street lights in villages will help. Mr Webber added that this measure should be led by cities and Mr Cooke by reducing motorway lighting. **Action** – The Clerk to write back to OCC and copy the County Council's original letter to Councillor Badcock for information.

71/09 VWHDC Tree Preservation Order no. 10: **Action** – The Clerk to get all TPO's photocopied for all PC members.

72/09 Lyford Close play area: Mr Webber requested that all PC members familiarise themselves with the area of land at Lyford Close before the next PC meeting. He felt the area to be a wasted space and wanted to discuss it further next month. **Action** – All Councillors to visit the area before next month.

72/09 Noticeboard for young people: **Action** – The Clerk to look back in the records to find out who made the lockable noticeboard. A noticeboard for young people would be discussed at the L&GP Working Group meeting on 11th June. The village caretaker to fix the broken noticeboard on the Green this month.

81/09. FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE BUSINESS

All invoices, payments and receipts had been checked by Mr Butler, prior to the cheques being signed.

A Payments

M Sellwood	Clerk's Salary	£586.30
Inland Revenue	NI & tax	£49.02
M Sellwood	Expenses	£70.97 (£5.61 VAT)
Julian Cook	May caretaker - £343.00	TOTAL PAYMENT
	May grass cutting - £550.00	= £893.00
Copycat	Photocopying for May	£49.54 (£6.46 VAT)

Receipts

Allotment rents	2009-2010	£245.00
VWHDC (by BACS)	1 st half precept for 2009-2010	£16000.00
HMRC (by BACS)	VAT claim 13/11/08-31/3/09	£275.09

B. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Clerk's holidays** – The Clerk would be absent at the next PC meeting. Mrs Morris volunteered to take the minutes and Mr Scharf to hold the burial book.
- **Donation requests S137** – Mr Webber said that the Community Day Committee would be applying for a grant from the PC in the near future. Any funds raised by the Community Day would go towards the Village Hall development fund.

82/09. RIGHTS OF WAY & CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

- Mrs Pooley reported that a tree was down by Haywards Farm. There were also a number of footpaths that required clearing. **Action** – Mrs Pooley to speak with the village caretaker to carry out the work.

83/09. PLANNING COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6/09 DRA/14013/2	2 THE GREEN	ERECTION OF A DWELLING WITH PARKING & ALTERATIONS TO ACCESS (LAND AT 2 THE GREEN).	OBJ	REF
7/09 DRA/10949/5	LITTLE SMITHS FARM	ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT 3 BED DWELLING	NO OBJ	PER
8/09 DRA/20832	6 MARCHAM ROAD	DEMOL. OF EXISTING SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTEN. & CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTEN. WITH CONVRTED LOFT SPACE TO EXISTING & PROPOSED ROOF SPACES WITH SMALL DORMER ROOF EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING ROOF.	NO OBJ	PER
9/09 DRA/3960/1	26 STEVENTON ROAD	ERECTION OF FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION ABOVE EXISTING GARAGE & 2 STOREY REAR EXTENSION.	NO OBJ	

84/09. LEISURE & GENERAL PURPOSES WORKING GROUP

- (i) Village caretaker June recommendations – Mr Cook said that for the month ahead he would be starting to mow the footpaths and re-building the broken noticeboard.

85/09. CORRESPONDENCE – to be noted

Helping mark the Centenary of the North Berks Football League 1909 – 2009

(The letter had been mislaid – the Clerk to contact them & ask for a copy)

Thames Valley Police

Monthly updates from Neighbourhood Team

Mr Scharf asked Mr Webber if the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) could inform the Parish Council of future events/meetings.

Oxfordshire County Council

Home2 School – Summer 2009

VWHDC

Tri-signs for car parks – *Mr Webber to take the letter to the Village Hall Committee.*

Vale Community Safety newsletter

Review of the Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement
(comments to VWHDC by 8th July)

Draft Supplementary Planning Document *(to VWHDC by 8th July)*

(The Draft Supplementary Planning Document was taken by Mr Butler, who would forward to Mrs Morrison)

86/09. Any Other Business

- Mr Cook said that 2 concrete marker posts had been knocked down; 1 on the Village Green and the other opposite the Wheatsheaf. **Action** – The Clerk to contact Thames Water.
- Mrs Pooley requested that the Community Day and what the PC would do for the day be included on the next agenda.
- Mr Scharf said that the bus service had recently changed to an X2 service.
- Mr Cross had contacted Mr Scharf about the PC donating funds towards the re-surfacing of East Way. Mr Cross said that a letter from OCC should be with the PC for the July meeting.

87/09. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as MONDAY 6TH JULY at 7.30PM, to be held in the CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE, Gravel Lane, Drayton.