

HORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Council
held in Champney Hall
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 6th January 2009

Present: Councillor D. Burkin (in the Chair), N. Bell, Mrs. F. Bovingdon, N. Cole, D. Davies, Mrs. M. Hodgson, P. Manning, C. Rayner, Ms. A. Young and the Clerk.

1 member of the Public was present.

09/001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received. However the Chairman welcomed Councillor Manning to the meeting as a newly elected Councillor.

09/002 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Being a member of the Development Control Panel, Councillor Rayner took no part in the decision making process.

The Council discussed the following planning applications and made representations to the local authority as under:

08/02882 MR. SHERGILL, 116 COPPERMILL ROAD, HORTON:

No objections to the wall, railings and gates as these have now been permitted on appeal. However the extension was considered to be overdevelopment in the Green Belt and area liable to flood and it was noted that the Planning Inspector had refused permission on appeal. This latest application is little changed.

08/02999 MR. BRAR, 100 COPPERMILL ROAD, HORTON:

Objections - over development in the Green Belt and area liable to flood.

08/02809 183 COPPERMILL ROAD, HORTON

It was noted that this Certificate of Lawfulness had now been allowed.

The results of planning applications as detailed on the agenda were noted.

09/003 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4th November 2008 after making the following amendment:

Minute 08/143 Recreation Ground

The words 'for insurance purposes' to be added at the end of the second paragraph

The minutes were then signed as a true record.

09/004 MATTERS ARISING

08/141 Planning Application 28/30 Coppermill Road

The relevant Planning Officer noted the comments of the Parish Council regarding developers' contributions but stated that no such funds would accrue from this development as it was basically a like for like construction.

08/148 Stanwell Road Re-surfacing

The Chairman observed that some speed humps and road markings had yet to be replaced following the re-surfacing. Councillor Rayner replied that an inspection of Stanwell Road was being carried out on the following day and speed cushions will be installed. The Chairman will ask the Highways Manager to inspect the speed humps installed by Cemex as these are thought to be possibly detrimental to vehicles and road safety.

Councillor Rayner reported that Coppermill Road would be re-surfaced in 2009 with some associated traffic calming measures.

08/093 Drainage Ditches in Datchet Road

Following lengthy correspondence the Royal Borough's stance remains that the ditches in Datchet Road are riparian owned in this case by Thames Water. They are writing to request that they inspect and clear any debris that may inhibit the flow of water. It was stated that every drainage gully is cleaned by the Royal Borough on a regular basis.

08/148 Horton Road Railings

Councillor Rayner reported that he was continuing to chase the matter of replacement.

09/005 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that all internal e-mail communications should be through the Clerk and always be polite.

He stated that Councillor Ms. Young had undertaken to provide a risk assessment for the Christmas lights on the Green having undertaken a Health & Safety course. The assessment had been completed but unfortunately this was not made clear at a subsequent meeting of the Council and thus Councillor Cole had taken similar action. The Chairman's advice was 'please tell us' when you have completed a specific project. He thanked everyone who contributed in any way to the Milton celebrations with special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Lenton.

Councillor Ms. Young undertook to produce news leaflets for display on notice boards. These will provide the latest information on Parish Council and village matters.

Councillor Bell reported that the Neighbourhood Action Group was producing leaflets for distribution of every house in the Parish.

09/006 REPORTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Borough Councillor Rayner reported that bridleway 4 would be closed for 4 weeks commencing 5th January 2009 for replacement of water mains.

He further reported that PC James Endean had been transferred out of the area without prior notification or replacement at the present time.

Councillor Rayner stated that the recent Milton celebrations had, to his knowledge, been the very first civic event held in Horton. This had been an excellent opportunity for Councillors to meet members of the cabinet and the village was 'now on the map'. The blue plaque erected at Berkyn Manor will shortly be re-located on to a gate post.

Councillor Rayner confirmed that the balance of the £15k allocated by the Royal Borough for highways would be carried forward to the next financial year, some having already been spent. He stated that this would be an ideal source of funding for moving the 30mph speed limit on Horton Road.

Replying to a question from the Chairman, both Borough Councillors stated that they had no knowledge of any proposals in the draft Berkshire Minerals & Waste Development Control Policies & Preferred Areas Development Plan for further waste uses including recycling prior to landfill at the Jayflex and Kingsmead sites. This despite Councillor Mrs. Hodgson's clarification of its inclusion in a document presented to cabinet by Ward Councillor Alison Knight on 27th November 2008. Borough Councillor Rayner stated that he would have declared an interest so could not comment. However Borough Councillor Lenton undertook to obtain details, monitor and report back to the Council. Assurances were given by both Councillors that the Parish Council would be fully consulted before any decision is made.

Councillor Davies reported on matters discussed at the last meeting of DALC.

09/007 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The following accounts were then notified to members of the Parish Council, proposed, seconded and accepted for payment:

Date	Cheque	Payee	Memo	Category	Gross Amount	Net Amount
6.1.09	215	Mr. R. Marlow	Salary	ADMIN.	367.89	367.89
6.1.09	216	Mr. R. Marlow	Office	ADMIN.	39.65	39.50
6.1.09	217	Garden Designs	Grass cutting	OPEN SPACES	243.81	207.50
6.1.09	218	Garden Designs	Grass cutting	OPEN SPACES	290.38	252.50
6.1.09	219	Mr. R. Marlow	Broadband	ADMIN.	135.86	118.74
6.1.09	220	Mr. D. Burkin	Expenses	ADMIN.	20.00	20.00
6.1.09	221	Inland Revenue	Tax/NI	ADMIN.	278.38	278.38
6.1.09	222	Mrs. E. Marlow	Remembrance Sun	ADMIN.	13.79	13.79
6.1.09	223	Mr. D. Burkin	Expenses	ADMIN.	45.00	45.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS					1,434.76	1,343.30

TRANSFERS

Date	Cheque	Payee	Memo	Category	Amount	Amount
6.1.09			Transfer Base Tracker to Current		1,400.00	

09/008 **PARISH PRECEPT**

Details of Management Accounts for 2008/9 together with the budget projection for the year 2009/10 were circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that the budget for 'grass cutting' be reduced to £1,900 and a sum of £2,000 be added for 'highways' which will benefit from matching funding from the Royal Borough. The Chairman will contact his counterpart in Wraysbury with the suggestion that they might like to contribute 50% (£500) towards the cost of the summer playscheme so that young people of that village might also benefit. It was then proposed by Councillor Cole that a budget of £23,560 be set with a sum of £3,500 being taken from the projected free funds of £4,006. The parish precept was thus set at £20,060 which equates to £41.46 per band 'D' equivalent property this being an increase of 1.3% over last year. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Manning and accepted without dissension.

09/010 **SALARY OF CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

The Chairman reported that the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks had agreed to new National Joint Council pay scales effective 1st April 2008. If accepted by Horton the basic salary of the Clerk would be increased by £10.18 per month. The Clerk and the member of the public were asked to leave the meeting at this time although no formal proposal to go into part II was made. During the ensuing discussion Councillor Rayner expressed the opinion that an increase in salary could be considered inappropriate in the current economic circumstances. However it was proposed by the Chairman that the salary be increased as indicated above. This was seconded by Councillor Davies and a vote taken by a show of hands indicated approval by all Councillors with one abstention.

09/011 **PROTECTION OF GRASS VERGES**

The Chairman reported that he was able to purchase metal bollards at a cost of £15 each. Although they were second hand they were still in good condition. It was agreed that 12 be purchased to protect the grass verge between the Five Bells and the Church. Work will be carried out once the weather improves.

09/011 **VILLAGE PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE**

It was agreed that Councillor Cole would produce a final draft of the questionnaire for circulation to all Councillors prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council. It was agreed that Councillor Ms. Young would take over the administration of the new web site from Councillor Cole.

09/012 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would adopt the new model publication scheme of the Freedom of Information Act in so far as it relates to the core classes of information.

09/013 **VILLAGE GREEN & RECREATION GROUND**

Councillor Ms. Young reported that through a Royal Borough Youth Committee young people have the opportunity of bidding for funds for specific projects. After discussion the Council were pleased to give their permission for bidding to take place for the re-surfacing of the Recreation Ground and the purchase of new football posts. However the Parish Council will need to give their final approval before completion.

The Chairman reported that the Christmas lights have been switched off in order to comply with insurance cover. The aim is to have a Christmas tree in place next year.

Despite the receipt of correspondence, Councillors had no recollection of a plaque ever being on the village green to commemorate the death of a child whilst maypole dancing. Councillor Cole will investigate further.

It was agreed that two flowering cherry trees will be purchased and funded from the David Bartram memorial fund to replace two existing on the grass verge in Stanwell Road.

09/014 **CORRESPONDENCE**

It was noted that the next Parish Conference would take place in the Guildhall at

Windsor at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 25th February 2009.

Representatives of Colne Valley Groundwork would like to meet with Councillors in the near future to discuss a number of matters including the Colne Valley Trail, Circular Walk, Pickens Piece and the Rural Development Forum. It was agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Davies would represent the Parish Council on a date to be arranged.

A resident gave details of a question submitted to the meeting of the Berkshire Fire & Rescue Authority held on 10th December 2008. He alleged that the response given means that in the future there will be a longer wait for fire appliances in Horton and outlying areas of Windsor.

Receipt was acknowledged of the Royal Borough's 'Public Rights of Way – Milestones Statement 2009/10'.

09/015 ITEMS FOR PLACEMENT UPON FUTURE AGENDAS

It was agreed that the following be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Parish Council:

- Village Fete
- Spring Clean

09/016 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE MEETING

There were no questions from the Public nor were any motions submitted to the meeting.

09/017 DATES AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING/S

It was agreed that future meetings would be held as follows:

3rd February & 3rd March 2009

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Chairman

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Date