

# The Parish Council of Whiteley

**The Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of the above Council held at the Meadowside Leisure Centre, Whiteley on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2003 7.15pm.**

## **Present**

Stephen Whetnall – Winchester City Council Solicitor and Secretary

Vivian Achwal, Don Bate, Gaye Chesterton, John Hall, Brenda Hatch, Ian McHugh, Caroline Watts, Pat Wright

Nine members of the public

Parish Clerk - Nicki Oliver

Stephen Whetnall, Winchester City Council Solicitor and Secretary, took the Chair

**1 To receive apologies for absence** – Tracey Barker (Whiteley Youth Club) Justin Chard (Co-option candidate), Felicity Hindson (County Councillor)

**2 To receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office** – received and signed by Stephen Whetnall

**3 To receive Register of Interests from each Councillor** – received and signed by Stephen Whetnall

**4 To elect a Chairman for the following year** – Don Bate was elected.

At this point Stephen Whetnall withdrew and Don Bate took the Chair and made a short acceptance speech.

**5 To elect a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year** – Vivian Achwal was elected.

**6 To appoint a Parish Clerk for the ensuing year** – it was resolved to appoint Nicki Oliver on the same terms as for Wickham Parish Council based on 10 hours per week.

**7 To adopt the Model Code of Conduct without amendment to take immediate effect. *Resolved***

**8 To co-opt councillors to fill three vacancies.** Ian Croft, Bob Backhouse and Kevin Gristock were co-opted.

## **9 To adjourn the meeting to allow participation of members of the public**

**9.1 Report from County Councillor** – a report from Felicity Hindson was circulated after the meeting.

### **9.2 Report from District Councillors**

Report from Mrs B Hatch attached.

Members expressed concern regarding the plans for WCC to consult residents over the proposals for the facilities on the recreation ground. It was felt important that the results from the Parish Appraisal questionnaire should be available before possible options are discussed. It was also asked that the Parish Council should be involved in the consultation process. **Action** Clerk will write to Steve Tilbury outlining this request.

Councillor John Hall wished to state that any proposals for a skate park could attract unwelcome attention from outside of Whiteley that could detract from the amenities currently enjoyed by residents. Graffiti was also mentioned as a foreseeable problem.

### **9.3 Questions from members of the public**

Resident Mrs Sue Hall congratulated the new Parish Council and wished it well for the future.

## **10 Meeting resumed to consider the following agenda items:**

- 10.1 *Proposal to make a precept request to Winchester City Council in the sum of £16,600. Resolved.*
- 10.2 *Proposal to consider a request for £500 towards set up costs for Whiteley Youth Club. Tracey Barker was unable to attend, It was agreed to discuss this item at a Finance Committee Meeting.*
- 10.3 *Proposal to progress a set up action plan. It was agreed to progress the setting up of the new council administration and constitutional arrangements . The formation of the following Committees was agreed: Standing Orders; Finance; Planning; Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment; Transport; General Purposes.*

**10.4** *To consider the new council becoming a member of HAPTC. It was resolved to take up membership.*

10.5 *Report on Parish Appraisal* - Vivian Achwal reported that 2500 questionnaires have been delivered to Wickham, Whiteley and Knowle residents. Whiteley has had a return of 400 so far, a response of 48%. The data input work is currently being undertaken, it is hoped the analysis and final report will be completed during August this year. Thanks must go to all the volunteers who have helped with delivery and collection of the questionnaires.

*10.6 Recent Planning Applications*

No comments were raised for the following applications:

WS00257/10 Lodge Green, Whiteley Lane, conversion of existing integral garage and raising of roof over garage to provide additional accommodation, two storey and single storey extension to rear with integral triple garage.

W18297 44 Thyme Avenue, conservatory to rear

W18306 16 Angelica Way, conservatory to rear

W18333 6 Gibson Close, conservatory to rear

10.7 *To consider questions and comments from Councillors –dealt with above*

**11 Recent correspondence** – a copy of the latest review of the Winchester District Draft Local Plan has been received.

**12 Accounts for payment** – small accounts will be paid through Wickham Parish until the new bank account is set up.

Next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> July 2003 7.15pm at Meadowside

Meeting closed 9.45pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....

## Councillor Colleagues : -

I am delighted and honoured to accept the Chairmanship of the new Whiteley Parish Council. I would like to thank those who voted for me, but trust that we will all work together to make our Parish Council one that we can be proud of . This Parish Council has a duty to the ratepayers of Winchester City Council, who provide our funding in the form of the Parish Council precept. This duty is primarily to provide these ratepayers with good value for money by striving to improve our environment and services in a selfless manner, regardless of personal needs, political beliefs or affiliations and not to permit the functioning of this Parish Council to be undermined in any way. To this end, attention is drawn to the green booklet entitled “The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Guide for Parish and Town Councils” page 7, restricting media communication with the press to the Clerk and Chairman. This had to be imposed when I served on the Wickham Parish Council and will be immediately adopted for this Parish Council. Any, Whiteley Parish Councillor approached by the press or media, to make statement or comment on any aspect of Whiteley Parish Council, shall refer the enquirer to the Clerk(or Chairman, if the Clerk is not available) and not risk embarrassing the Council in any way. The response to sensitive questions from the press, may well be formulated by a full Council meeting.

During June and July last year, a petition was signed by a majority of the Whiteley residents paying their rates to Winchester City Council and with overwhelming support for a Whiteley Parish Council, an application was made to the Office of the Secretary of State, who earlier this year authorised the establishment of the Whiteley Parish Council. The Council was to consist of 11 Parish Councillors and notices posted for applications for an election to be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> , only 8 persons applied and as a consequence an election was not necessary. This situation prompted one of our local daily newspapers to print a wholly inaccurate and ill informed article aided by unnecessary damaging comments by the Chief Executive of a neighbouring authority. One who does not permit Parish Councils and who would be a poor expert. Basic journalistic research and an even-handed approach would have provided a more informative and constructive article of benefit to all. I will not dwell further on this regrettable article, except to point out, that subsequent applications for co-option to the Parish Council exceed the available unfilled seats and indicate that either there was a failure to apply for election before the deadline, or a wish to avoid an election campaign, so much for the article charging the Whiteley residents with apathy. Representatives for the press are welcome to any of this Councils publically attended meetings and this Council looks forward to an amicable relationship with an even handed, fair, and accurate standard of reporting.

I would now like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new City Councillor(Caroline Watts), who is also a member of this Parish Council and to

welcome the valuable support and contributions both our City Councillors will no doubt make to Whiteley Parish Council and the well being of Whiteley. Whilst, mentioning our City Councillors, I would like to thank Councillor Pat Wright (who was unsuccessful in re-election for a second term) for his unstinting efforts over the past year. My final “thank-you” must be to Wickham Parish Council, who welcomed with open arms the new Whiteley Parish Councillors some 4 years ago and who patiently listened to the problems rampant in Whiteley at that time, who lent the weight of their considerable Parish Council experience and helped the Whiteley Parish Councillors to achieve a substantial amount for example – improved traffic flow, retention of the bus service which was under very real threat of being withdrawn, introduction of safe crossings to mention but a few.

We are grateful for their “on the job” training and for the experience gained by those inexperienced Parish Councillors who served with you, some of which are now serving on this Whiteley Parish Council.

Thank you all for your patience in listening to me and to the public for attending this meeting. Your support will be our strength! Please make the best use of your Parish Council, discuss your problems with a Parish Councillor, there will be one near you.

Thank you.

Don Bate