

Whiteley Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held at the Meadowside Leisure Centre, Whiteley on Monday 4th December 2006 7.15pm.

Present: Mr M Evans (Chairman), Mrs V Achwal (Vice-Chairman), Mr D Bartram, Mr R Hooker, Mr G Swinburn.

16 members of the public, Parish Clerk Mrs N Oliver

1. **To receive apologies for absence:** Mr M Anthony, Mr D Jenkins, Mr P Wright, (Parish Councillors), Mr F Allgood (County Councillor)
2. **To receive declarations of interest regarding agenda items:** none.
3. **To adjourn meeting to allow participation by members of the public**

Members of the public raised concerns regarding agenda item 4.6.2, a planning application for a dropped kerb off Mollison Rise to allow access to a piece of land behind the play area.

The agent for the applicant explained the application to those present.

Members of the public confirmed their concerns that the proposal could affect wildlife and cause highway safety problems.

The Chairman advised that the PC can only object on material planning grounds. Further information on land ownership was requested.

A resident noted the ongoing problem of flooding on the R1 roundabout.

A resident contacted WCC Enforcement to request that the second telecom mast at the Solent Hotel should have a green mast and antennae as the condition of planning permission.

A resident raised concern that the proposed work on the Segensworth roundabout would increase traffic using Leafy Lane, details of how HCC intends to minimise the impact on residents were requested.

Residents were also concerned about the delay in providing the Yew Tree bus link. The developer responsible has asked FBC for an extension to the number of houses built before the link is opened.

3.1 Report from County Councillor: please see attached report.

3.2 Reports from District Councillors: please see attached report

3.3 Questions from members of the public: included above.

3.4 Chairman's announcements

Thank you letters have been received from Whiteley Primary School for £1500 grant towards a set of handbells and also from Meon Valley Home Start for £300 grant towards new display boards.

4 Meeting resumed to consider the following agenda items:

4.1 Proposal to co-opt councillor to fill vacancy: **it was agreed to refer this to the next meeting.**

4.2 To approve and sign the minutes of the October meeting (November meeting cancelled.) **Minutes approved and signed.**

4.3 Matters arising from the last meeting: **included below.**

4.4 To receive a report and recommendations from the School Working Party (Chairman): **The results of the HCC feasibility study on the Bunney Land are due out shortly.**

4.5 To receive a report and recommendations from the Recreation and GP Committee. (Chairman/Clerk)

4.5 1 To discuss issues / complaints regarding the Area K Management Contractor (Cllr Hooker) **It was agreed to research the possibility of setting up a residents association for Area K residents. (Action Clerk)**

4.6 To receive a report and recommendations from the Planning Committee (Chairman/Clerk)

4.6.1 To receive minutes of meeting 22nd November: **Minutes received.**

Outstanding applications:

4.6.2 Land at Mollison Rise (agent requested to speak to PC prior to submitting response) The following response was agreed: **Comment: The Parish Council is concerned that access provision to the site was not made when Mollison Rise was developed. Residents are concerned that the proposals will adversely impact on an important woodland gap between residential and business development**

4.6.3 FBC application Yew Tree bus link – request for extension in no. of houses that can be completed before bus link opens from 50 –150. **It was agreed that a response from the Parish Council would be inappropriate as it is a legal issue between the developer and FBC.**

4.7 To receive a report and recommendations from the Transport and Highways Committee. (Cllr Achwal)

4.7.1 To receive updated list of maintenance requests. **List received.**

4.8 To receive a report and recommendations from the Finance Committee (Chairman)

4.8.1 To receive minutes of meeting 22nd November 2006: **Minutes received.**

4.8.2 Proposal to make grant of £1500 to Whiteley Primary School for the purchase of an octave set of handbells: **Resolved.**

4.8.3 Proposal to make grant of £300 to Meon Valley Home Start for new display boards: **Resolved.**

4.8.4 To receive internal auditor's annual audit risk assessment. **Received.**

4.8.5 Annual review of Clerk's salary: proposal to consider 3% annual pay rise as NALC recommendations (to be confirmed) **Resolved.**

4.8.6 To consider draft precept request for 2007/8 (**Refer to next meeting, further information required**)

4.9 Report from the Newsletter Working Party (Cllr Achwal). **Whiteley Voice Edition No 13 comprises 16 pages and will be delivered shortly. A local resident has offered to deliver for a similar cost to the free paper delivery method, which will be more time efficient.**

4.10 Report on the Parish Council website (Clerk)

4.10.1 Proposal to upgrade website (Cllr Hooker). **It was agreed the Clerk's upgrading of the website was acceptable.**

4.11 Report from Councillors/Clerk on recent meetings attended including:

4.11.1 PC Chairs meeting with WCC Leader (Chairman)

4.11.2 Map board project (Clerk)

4.11.4 White paper seminar (Clerk) (HAPTC summary emailed to all Cllrs)

4.11.5 WCC Local Development Framework Officer Steering Group (Clerk)

4.11.6 Climate Change Action Planning Event (Cllr Wright)

Please see attached reports.

4.12 Proposal that Whiteley should support Fair Trade – update (Cllr Bartram). **The Chairman of the Business Forum has advised that Fair Trade is high on their agenda and has suggested the PC waits until the Forum has discussed it before proceeding further.**

4.13 To discuss future strategies and promotion issues for the Council and Committees including draft Corporate Strategy for 2007/8. (Chairman/Cllr Bartram/ Committee Chairmen)

The contents of the Draft Corporate Strategy for 2007/8 was approved, it was suggested that each Committee identifies a key objective for the coming year. Once these had been identified and agreed the paper would be formally submitted to Leader WCC . (Action Chairman/Clerk)

5 Recent correspondence

Introduction from new Whiteley First Responders; grant application – to next Finance meeting

WCC Community Safety Intelligence Researcher and Analyst request for crime stats

WCC Invite to Winchester District Climate Change Planning Event – emailed to all councillors

WCC Planning review invite to councillors to attend Wednesday 13th December from 10:30 - 12 at Avalon House Winchester. Emailed to all councillors

WCC Notes from recent meeting between WCC and Area K developers regarding play areas –copied to Rec & GP Chairman

WCC Notes from Planning Enforcement Training session – copied to all Planning Committee members

WCC Invite to drinks 20th December

WCC invite to Winchester Annual Housing Forum 24th November – emailed to all councillors

WCC street scene services questionnaire

WCC December key decisions

WCC Councillor visits to PC's (Planning issues)

WCC Scrutiny Work Programme 2007/8

WCC Updated enforcement list copied to Planning members

HAPTC White paper summary – emailed to all councillors

HAPTC Briefing from the Head of Legal Services at the Standards Board for England, Chris Boothman on the principal changes to the revised Code of Conduct - Emailed to all councillors

NPFA Study report on Meadowside Rec pitches

Quote for delivery of Whiteley Voice from local resident

HCC confirmation that footway from new crossing on Whiteley Way will extend to Round Coppice entrance

HAPTC beer mats to assist campaign to promote elections in 2007

Meadowside Leisure Centre Customer Forum minutes 4th October

WCC and East Hampshire Local Authority Areas – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study, survey of town and parish councils opportunity to set out deficiencies and wishes for the future. Copy to Rec & GP Chair.

6 Accounts for payment

Proposal to approve accounts paid in November 2006 (using Standing Order 54 which delegates power to Clerk/RFO, Chairman & Vice Chairman required as Full Council meeting cancelled) **Resolved.**

Inv No	Chq No	Recipient	Amount *Reimburse Clerk	Notes
1	196	Whiteley Primary School	£1500.00	Grant towards handbells approved at Finance meeting 2 nd October
2	197	Meon Valley Home Start	£300.00	Grant towards new display boards approved at Finance meeting 2 nd October
3	198	Portsmouth Publishing	£54.88	Deliver Whiteley Voice
4	199	Winchester City Council	£39.15	Room hire
5	200	Easily	*£46.94	Virtual Server for website
6	200	MSN	*£14.99	PC email account
7	200	Print Cartridge Direct	*£34.03	Ink for printer
8	200	Royal Mail	*£55.00	Postage
9	201	Inland Revenue	£646.14	Tax & NI
10	200	N Oliver gross £728.50		
		-Tax £160.27		
		-NI £28.24		
		-Pension <u>£43.71</u>	£496.28	Clerk's salary November
11	200		*£21.00	Home as office
12	200		*£27.00	Telephone/internet
13	202	HCC	£163.91	Employer/Employee pension contributions
14	203	Aqua Cleaning	£117.50	Clean bus shelters
		Total	£3,516.82	

Proposal to pay the following December accounts: **Resolved.**

1	204	N Oliver gross £728.50		
		-Tax £160.27		
		-NI £28.24		
		-Pension <u>£43.71</u>	£496.28	Clerk's salary December
2	204		*£21.00	Home as office
3	204		*£27.00	Telephone/internet
4	205	HCC	£163.91	Employer/Employee pension contributions
5	206	Queensbury	£693.26	Shelter fittings (insurance claim)
6	207	WCC	£62.50	Room hire
		Total	£1,463.95	

Meeting closed 9pm

Signed

Date

4.11 Report from recent meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk

1. Parish and Town Councils Meeting with Winchester City Council Cabinet

On 25 October the City Council hosted an informal meeting between Members of the City's Cabinet and Chairmen from 21 of the district's parish and town councils. The meeting was called at the suggestion of the District Association of Parish & Town Councils' Chair, Ken Yeldham, and aimed to discuss issues of common concern and explore opportunities for closer working.

The City Council's Leader George Beckett began the discussion by speaking of his Cabinet's commitment to working closely with local communities and listening to the 'local voice'. The priorities of the City Cabinet were to expand services into rural areas and he outlined the work done with New Alresford Town Council to establish an access point for parish, district and county services at the Town Council offices, and the commitment to roll out similar initiatives at other key 'hubs' such as Whiteley across the district. He also mentioned other important concerns over rural transport, the rural economy and affordable housing in our towns and villages.

Representatives of towns and larger parishes commented that plans for shared access points fit well with new arrangements for community policing and some have already been approached by the Police to discuss sharing premises and working more closely together. This new and more local way of working may become the norm for a variety of public services in the future.

Village Design Statements – their use by Development Control officers, and the process for updating them – provided a hot topic. Cllr Beckett agreed to look again at the way VDSs are used within the Council. The process for updating a VDS does not involve starting again from scratch (see the item below in this edition of Parish Connect). The Council also encourages

parishes to consider undertaking a parish plan or market town health check as this wider quality-of-life approach can also influence planning policies through

the new Local Development Framework, not to mention other plans and strategies of the Council and its partners. Updated guidance for communities on community planning is expected from DEFRA in December. The Council will be producing an additional chapter to this guidance which will give further information about community planning in the Winchester District.

White Paper on Local Government

The Government's long awaited White Paper on Local Government - "Strong and Prosperous Communities" was launched on Thursday 26 October. As expected, the White Paper promotes the empowerment of local communities - seeking more control over the running of local services, more consultation over matters affecting their lives and the ability to call local agencies to account if services fail. Winchester City Council will be looking at its provisions more closely and preparing a fuller briefing note.

As part of the Ministerial publicity surrounding the White Paper's launch. Phil Woolas MP, the Minister for Local Government, visited New Alresford Town Council's offices to see the newly installed Public Access Computer - a joint project between the City and Town Councils, with support from Hampshire County Council. The PAC provides access to information, advice and various services for local people, and the Town Council's staffs are trained to help local people use it. It is part of a joint City and parish initiative to provide services more locally which will be rolled out to other larger parish offices over the next 18 months or so.

Chairman Cllr Mike Evans

2. Map Board Project meeting 19th October

The project aims to provide 13 map boards around Whiteley in the residential and business areas as well as the woodland. The maps will show rights of way and suggested walks.

It is being carried out in partnership with HCC rangers, FBC rangers, the Forestry Commission the Parish Council and any local businesses prepared to offer sponsorship.

The project is progressing reasonably well, the artist preparing the map should have the draft ready by the end of December.

All the partners are actively seeking funding for the proposed 13 boards. When a prototype is available it will be easier to ask local businesses for support.

Clerk Nicki Oliver

3. The Local Government White Paper – what does it mean for Parish and Town Councils?

The Local Government White Paper – Strong and prosperous communities was published on 26th October 2006.

First analysis suggests that original proposals for the sector have at some point been 'watered down'?

There appears to be no appetite in Hampshire for any new Unitary Authorities to be formed.

It should be borne in mind that the following further pieces of work are also ongoing:

- *Review of the Code of Conduct – we await the Government’s timeframe for implementation of the revised Code.*
- *The Lyons Report – we await the Report.*
- *Review of the Quality Parish Scheme – Public Consultation due to begin this month.*

The more interesting issues for the parish and town council sector are:

1. The authority for creating parishes will be devolved to principal authorities with a presumption in favour of creation. There is of course an inherent danger, in that there will be the same power for principal authorities to abolish the same.

[How will the Government ensure that principal authorities do not abuse this power?]

2. Quality Councils will be able to use the ‘power of well-being’.
3. Local Services and Policies *should* be more shaped through community planning techniques including Parish Plans.

[How will the Government ensure that principal authorities consult and give due weight to community planning, including parish plans?]

4. Extending the range of names for parish councils. In future, they may be called community, village or neighbourhood councils.
5. Devolving power and budgets to ward councillors – an opportunity for parish and town councils to work in partnership with these individuals to improve the local quality of life. The quality of relationships will be key!
6. A new boost for Local Charters.....
7. Extending the power of local councils to pass laws (byelaws).
8. All parishes to be exempt from Best Value requirements.

It is strongly recommended that member councils attend the free South East Employers Workshop on 28th November, to be held in Winchester. Details have already been circulated.

It is recommended that those interested attend the NALC ‘Shaping Communities’ Conference on 13 Feb 07 in London. Details are on the NALC website.

The Association will try hard to ensure that member councils are kept informed as the debate develops. Contributions to the debate are welcome, and all comments should be copied to Ken Thornber, Leader of HCC and of the County Councils Network and Michael Green at NALC, who is Head of Policy and Parliamentary Affairs. It will be important for all District Associations to be proactive and engage quickly and effectively with their respective principal authorities.

I hope these thoughts are of use.

Steven Lugg
Director HAPTC

4. WCC Local Development Framework Officer Steering Group

I have been asked to sit on the above Steering Group to help represent the view of Parish Councils during the production of the Local Development Framework.

The Government has introduced a new planning system, which requires the Council to prepare a series of planning policy documents. These new planning policy documents will collectively be known as the Local Development Framework (LDF) and will manage growth and development in the Winchester District.

One of the documents WCC is tasked with producing is a Core Strategy, which sets out the vision, objectives and policies for managing sustainable future growth, change and development within the Winchester district to provide certainty over 10 years.

In what seems very similar to the South East Plan consultation process WCC must engage with the community to discover its visions. This will involve public meetings and consultation. Other evidence gathering exercises will be fed into the process including, I hope, parish plans and village design statements.

The plans for the consultation and evidence gathering process run from January to May 2007 with submission of the document to the government in December 2007. Following an examination in public April – June 2008 the document is expected to be adopted in June 2009.

Parish Clerk Nicki Oliver

5. Winchester District Climate Change – Action Planning Event Monday 27th November 2007

I attended this event along with some 30 plus people representing, County, City and Parish Councils, with other interested parties and City Officers.

An introduction was given by Councillor Frank Pearson, Winchester City Council Portfolio holder for Environment, health and safety. He gave a brief outline of the days events, which would consist mainly of becoming involved with one of four groups. These were Renewable Energy Generation,

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction, Community Involvement and Adaptation Planning. I chose Renewable Energy Generation, in fact it was oversubscribed and had to be split into two separate groups.

Each group had to come up with ideas and actions pertinent to it, needless to say there was no shortage of suggestions, so many in fact that it was not feasible to try and write down all the suggestions. Fear not however because as part of the whole event the actions recommended are to be circulated to all those attending, I shall of course ensure they are available for anyone wishing to look at them.

At the end of the day we briefly moved onto the other groups to look at what their suggested actions were and was able to add our own. It was a worthwhile and enjoyable day.

Cllr Pat Wright.