

Woldingham Parish Council

MINUTES of a Meeting held at Woldingham Village Hall, Woldingham on 26 March 2009 at 7.30pm.

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| Present: | Greg Meekings (Chairman) | Andrew Barton |
| | Frank Myers | Alistair Pirie |
| | Nigel Cohen | Rodney Fuller |
| | Sally Marks | Bobby Johnson |

1. Apologies: Cllr Howe

2. Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2009 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Barton - Craigmyle Glebe, resident of Church Road
Cllr Meekings - Owner of the domain Woldingham.com
Cllr Marks - Member of another authority
Cllr Johnson - Company Secretary Woldingham Magazine
Cllr Fuller - Station Car Park

4. Matters arising:

The following points arose in discussion of the Action List:

Slines Oak island: Cllr Howe reported that contractors on TDC council approved list have been contacted for "expressions of interest" to be returned to the Parish Clerk by Monday 6 April. A selection of bricks will be provided for councillors to select the most aesthetically pleasing.

Signage: Sign has been put up and thanks were given to Cllr Fuller and Jeff Jeffery.

Barrier and information board at view point: Barrier has been fitted although it has already been damaged. The Clerk will contact company re padlock fitting. The information board is in the process of being made – this was delayed due to adverse weather.

Footpath along Northdown Road: Cllr Howe advised that contractors on TDC council approved list have been contacted for "expressions of interest" to be returned to the Parish Clerk by April 6.

Maintenance: Cllr Cohen advised the meeting that the Council had assessed its significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these. Cllr Cohen reported that the Noticeboard and benches need rubbing down and re-varnishing, a post in the Crescent needs replacing. It was agreed that Cllr Cohen would contact a local 'handyman' to obtain quotes to carry out these works.

Handing Baskets: Cllr Cohen advised that he had obtained costings re hanging baskets and troughs in the Crescent. A vote was taken and carried to spend £1,500 + VAT which would approximately purchase 10 baskets and 7 troughs with minimal maintenance.

5. Planning Matters:

- a. A copy of Appendix A was circulated to all members before the meeting and was ratified by the Council.
- b. **Infringements:** Cllr Pirie advised that the TDC website had been offline for a month and he had contacted Mr Blackwood the IT specialist at TDC who hopes that it will be up and running shortly.

Cllr Marks asked the Parish Council to support Woldingham School in applying for the relaxation of conditions with regard to the hiring of their Concert Hall. It was agreed

that Cllr Marks would contact the Head Teacher to advise that the Parish Council would support the school.

Cllr Myers advised the meeting that he had had a meeting with Paul Newdick, Head of Planning Policy at Tandridge District Council. This was in follow up to a meeting with Mr Evans in November. Cllr Myers gave an outline of the meeting and advised that Mr Newdick had suggested two options for the inclusion of policies relevant to Woldingham which would complement what is already in the Core Strategy. Cllr Johnson stressed that BE7 must be preserved for the benefit of Woldingham.

6. Finance:

- a. **Payments:** The payments as Appendix B were signed and approved.

7. Highways & Rights of Way:

Highways Monitoring and Reporting:

Cllr Fuller advised that in the main most residents had cut back their hedges along Slines Oak Road. He mentioned that there was still a couple of properties who have not carried out the work and these details will be passed to Steve Cullen of TDC who will write to the properties concerned.

It was agreed that Cllr Fuller would contact Woldingham School regarding their hedge which needs both the height and width reduced.

It was agreed that the next survey of hedges will be carried out along Lunghurst Road.

Cllr Barton advised that he had received complaints that the bus timetables were missing from the new bus stop. Cllr Marks advised that this had now been issued.

8. Reports:

Cllr Johnson advised that the Edgehill Appeal had been dismissed.

Cllr Marks attended a Village Hall Committee and advised that the AGM is being held on the 20 April at 8pm.

9. Miscellaneous Matters:

- a. **Airports:** It was confirmed that the meeting at Biggin Hill is going ahead on 28 April at 2.30pm. Cllr Myers advised that he had had a meeting with Mr John Phillips, Planning Officer at Tandridge District Council who has the responsibility of coordinating responses regarding Biggin Hill Airport.
- b. **Station Car Parking:** The questionnaire had been emailed to all Cllrs before the meeting. It was agreed that the questionnaire would be inserted in the newsletter and drop off points would be available at Fine & Country and the Village Shop.
- c. **Annual Parish Meeting:** The Chairman confirmed that Tim Harrold from CPRE would be coming along to speak on "Surrey in Crisis". Cllr Marks volunteered to co-ordinate food for the meeting.
- d. **Newsletter:** The Chairman advised that the newsletter is being 'laid out' at the moment.
- e. **Glebe Fun Day:** Cllr Marks proposed that the Parish Council supports the Glebe in the sum of £339 + VAT for the bouncy castle and Speed Radar Activity Centre and up to £500 for the Oxted Silver Band. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Johnson and the Parish Council voted to support this proposal.
- f. **Litterpick:** Saturday 25 April 10am on Woldingham Green. Cllr Barton advised that St. John's Ambulance had been contacted and it was agreed that Cllr Barton would find out training dates and costs for members of the Council to attend a First Aid Course.

10. Meetings to attend:

11. Correspondence:

9 letters had been received from one resident.

Cllr Barton advised that he had received a letter regarding the motocross bikes on Birchwood Farm – it was confirmed that they are allowed 14 days in one calendar

year.

12. Any Other Business:

- a) Diary: All Councillors completed diary dates for April 2009.

Meeting ended at 9.30pm

3 members of the public present part of the time

Statement to the Woldingham Parish Council – from County Councillor Sally Marks
26th March, 2009.

I wanted to make a statement about the terrible weather conditions that we all experienced at the end of January. As I was not able to attend the February meeting I had not been able to respond to Nicki Howe's comments. I would like to do so now.

The extreme weather conditions made life difficult for all of us and I want to assure the Parish Council that Surrey County Council's Constructors were working flat out to cope with what turned out to be the worst snowfall in 18 years. All the primary routes in the County had three salting runs and the secondary routes were also salted. There is some misperception about when a road has or has not been 'salted' as the new type of salt is for the most part invisible once laid down. However in the conditions that we had NO salting would have prevented the snow from settling. For the record Surrey did NOT run out of salt.

The County council's website was fully and constantly updated on the weather conditions and what was being done to alleviate matters.

The County council's contact centre was inundated with call from people including those who most inappropriately were demanding that their drives be cleared!

The main problem appeared to have been abandoned cars which were blocking many routes and also in places preventing our vehicles and those of the emergency services reaching the places they need to be. Unfortunately many drivers attempted to drive in conditions that were not suitable and many people went out without taking any precautions at all to take account of the snow. This irresponsible behaviour by a few drivers certainly made the situation much worse.

I am disappointed to hear that such extraordinary weather conditions are not fully understood by some. It would be completely ridiculous to purchase, store and maintain tens more of Snow Ploughs - over decades - for the occasional snowstorm. Surrey County Council is not funded sufficiently to be able to do this - even if it felt this was the right approach. I heard that the life time of a snow plough is only about 15 years - even with constant maintenance and if we are to have snowfalls such as the one we had recently only every 18 years or so this makes a nonsense of the suggestion that we mothball them 'in case'.

I do however want to commend many social workers who still managed to reach their clients in extremely difficult conditions; using friends' 4 x 4s, shanks' pony and even asking and getting help from the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

I do agree that further salt bins might be useful and would ask the Parish Council to identify further appropriate sites.

Sally Marks
Surrey County Councillor - Caterham Valley Division
Executive Member for Adults and Community Care

Approve

2008/1723 Warren Cottage, Church Road - demolition of existing single storey extensions and erection of single extensions to both side elevations and hip-to-gable roof extension.

(Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development)

2008/1722 Warren Lodge, Church Road - erection of single storey side extension, single storey rear extension and hip-to-gable roof extension

(Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed development)

2008/1720 The Warren, Church Road - demolition of existing single storey side/front extension and construction of side and rear extensions including integral triple garage.

(Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development)

2008/1674 Chippings, Slines Oak Road - erection of conservatory

2008/1754 The Poplars, Lunghurst Road - removal of roof and dormer windows. Erection of single storey rear extension with pitched roof over and erection of replacement pitched roof over existing dwelling.

Refuse

2008/1748 Underhill, Station Road - erection of single storey side extension to each of the east and west elevations and erection of single storey and rear extension.

2009/72 High Drive House, High Drive - demolition of house and garage. Erection of 6-bed dwelling and detached triple garage incorporating a dormer window to front roofslope. Erection of piers and gates to entrance.

Withdrawn

2008/1191 Woldingham Dene, Woldingham Road (see beginning of Appendix A)

2008/1572 Woldingham Dene, Woldingham Road - retention of change of use of first floor room residential (classC3) to use for community, educational and social purposes. Variation of condition 1 of TA/2001/1606 to extend operating hours to 09.30-22.30 (Monday to Friday), 09.30-22.30 (Saturday, 10.00- 22.30 (Sunday and Bank Holidays) and terminal hour of 02.00 On New Year's Eve/New Year's Day.

Appeals

APP/M3645/A/08/2088201/NWF Site at Edgehill, Park View Road

Refused