

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 11TH MAY 2010
AT WOOLSTONE LODGE

Present: Chairman	Mr J Smith
Clerk	Mrs A Hollingworth
Property Manager, NT	Mr R Henderson
PCSO	Mrs M Pack
County Councillor	Mrs A Fitzgerald O'Connor

and 24 parishioners

Mrs P Coulson, Mr & Mrs C Avenell, Mr & Mrs R Salmon, Mrs E Baber, Mrs C Lawrence, Miss B Lawrence, Miss J Loeb, Mr & Mrs S Searis, Mrs A Campbell, Mrs N Campling, Mr H Smith, Mr & Mrs A Spink, Mr Q Finnegan, Mr & Mrs R Avery, Mr & Mrs C Ryan, Mrs J Nelson, Prof W Davies, Mrs L McAuliffe

REPORT ON THE WHITE HORSE HILL: MR R HENDERSON,
PROPERTY MANAGER, NATIONAL TRUST

Borehole: planning permission had been granted for the installation of a borehole. Work is to commence soon.

Pay & Display Car Park Machines: a planning application has been submitted for the permanent installation of the car park machines. If planning permission is granted new car parking passes will be issued. It was noted that the money earned from the car park is “ring fenced” for the White Horse area.

Dog Fouling: this is a problem. The NT has been looking at the installation of dog bins which would be looked after by the VWHDC. This is not a preferred solution to the problem.

NT Warden: Miss C Searle, the NT Warden, is leaving in September to take up a position in the teaching profession. Recruitment will soon be under way for a new Warden

REPORT FROM PCSO MRS M PACK

Raves: there had been a rave, somewhere in the vicinity, on the weekend prior to this Meeting. All were encouraged to report by telephone, as soon as possible, any noise or activity which may suggest that a rave is taking place. From the telephone calls the Police/Environmental Team can then work out the area where the suspected rave is taking place. The Clerk is to put up the relevant telephone numbers on the Parish noticeboard.

Fly Tipping: all were encouraged to report any evidence of fly tipping to the Police and to the VWHDC.

Criminal Activity: even though the level of criminal activity in the area is extremely low everyone was asked to be vigilant and report any suspicious characters, vehicles or activities.

Alarms: the local police stations at Faringdon and Wantage have a supply of shed alarms for sale if anyone is interested.

Travellers: the site at Watchfield, just off the A420, has now been vacated. A High Court injunction was quickly sought and granted to evict the travellers as soon as it was noted that fencing had been put up and concrete paths and driveways had been laid on the site which is prime agricultural land. The owner of the land did originally appeal against the injunction but this appeal was subsequently withdrawn.

REPORT FROM MRS A FITZGERALD O'CONNOR, COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Finance: OCC need to make financial cuts in all areas. Consideration is to be given to OCC using voluntary services so as to lessen the impact on the users of the various services which are subject to cut backs.

Highways: claims against OCC for damage caused to vehicles by the bad state of the roads will only be successful if OCC have been advised of the defects. Therefore it is important that the existence of all potholes and other defects on the roads are notified to OCC. OCC are changing its highway contractors which, hopefully, will result in an improved service.

Salt Box: it was queried whether money from the Friends of Woolstone Church may be used to purchase a salt box (cost £145 approx.) for the hill by Hillside Cottage. (NOTE: this purchase would fall outside the charitable purpose for which the Friends was originally set up).

Any issues or concerns over County matters may be raised with Mrs A Fitzgerald O'Connor.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs L Walker, Mr L Hollingworth, Lt Col H Rogers & Mrs Rogers, Mr & Mrs D Blount, Mr & Mrs R Godfrey, Mr & Mrs G Jones, Mr & Mrs J Twynam, Mr T Clifford, Mr D Baber, Mr H Baxter, Mr A Coulson, Mrs C Smith.

2. ADOPT MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on 24th November 2009 were approved as proposed by Mr S Searis, seconded by Mrs P Coulson and unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2010

Copies of the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2010, together with relevant documentation, were circulated. There were no comments. The Accounts were approved as proposed by Mr R Salmon, seconded by Mr A Spink and unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

5. CONDITION OF ROADS

The Chairman reported that he had contacted OCC regarding the bad condition of the roads in and around Woolstone. An OCC official had come out to inspect the roads but, apparently, Woolstone roads are not due to be resurfaced! However it was noted that some repairs had been done in Lower Woolstone. All concerns regarding the condition of roads are to be directed to the Chairman.

6. TRAVELLERS AT WATCHFIELD

This item has been covered in PCSO Pack's report – see above.

7. NEW WASTE DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENTS FROM 4TH OCTOBER

The Chairman informed the Meeting that there are to be new arrangements for the collection of household waste. All parishioners should have either received an e-mail or a leaflet detailing these new arrangements. If not, the information is available on the VWHDC's web site: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

The VWHDC is holding a "passing of information" meeting on the 17th May to which no-one present at this Meeting was interested in attending.

A few concerns were raised over the proposed new arrangements: the number of bins each household would be required to have, people putting rubbish in other people's bins, the consequences of the bins being micro chipped, confusion as to which bins are put out on which weeks.

8. VILLAGE EVENTS

The Chairman wished to know whether there was a demand for more village events. The Meeting agreed that the number of events currently organised by the village was sufficient: Gardens Open Day, Musical Evening, Pub Party.

9. GARDENS OPEN DAY

This year's Gardens Open Day is to be on Sunday 27th June – a week earlier than usual.

All offers of help (putting up and taking down signs, car parking duty, baking cakes, help in the tea tent etc.) would be gratefully received and are to be directed to Mrs A Campbell.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

Mr A Spink, Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee, reported that the following planning applications had been processed by the Sub-Committee:-

Beech Tree Cottage	amendments to original application
Woolstone Farm	conversion of a barn into a storage and coffee room
NT Car Park	permanent installation of

Pay & Display machines

Woodruff Orchard

bathroom

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PCSO Pack's report - see above - has covered all relevant matters.

12. WOOLSTONE WATER

As Mr J Twynam, Chairman of Woolstone Water, was unable to be present at the Meeting he had prepared a short report which was read out to the Meeting by the Clerk:

Thames Water has been assessing houses in the village for water rates without first establishing whether they are in fact supplied or serviced by Thames Water. As a result a number of houses that are not supplied by Thames Water but by Woolstone Wells have been issued with back dated bills accompanied by rather threatening letters. Anyone in this position who has not managed to resolve matters with Thames Water may wish to contact the Chairman of Woolstone Wells who is corresponding with the Chief Executive of Thames Water.

13. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

After 13 years as Clerk Mrs A Hollingworth tendered her resignation. Only 1 nomination had been received for this position, Mrs N Campling. It was proposed by Mr J Smith, seconded by Mrs P Spink and unanimously agreed by the Meeting that Mrs N Campling be appointed as Clerk.

14. DAY AND VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Meeting agreed by a majority that the venue for future Parish Meetings shall be the White Horse Inn. It was further agreed that the meetings should continue to be held on the 2nd Tuesday in November and May.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Friends of Woolstone Church: it was proposed by Mrs P Coulson, seconded by Mrs E Baber and unanimously agreed by the Meeting that Mrs J Nelson be the Parish Meeting's nominated representative on The Friends of Woolstone Church.

Parochial Church Council: the PCC is seeking to appoint a new Treasurer. If anyone is interested they should contact either Mr J Moss or Mr H Baxter (the Churchwardens)

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust: the Meeting agreed that the details of the annual bicycle ride, which this year is to take place on Saturday 11th September, may be posted on the Woolstone village web site.

16.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next Meeting be Tuesday 9th November at 8pm in The White Horse Inn.

The Chairman thanked Mr R Henderson, PCSO Pack and Mrs A Fitzgerald O'Connor for attending the Meeting.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Meeting, thanked Mr C Ryan (outgoing Chairman) and Mrs A Hollingworth (outgoing Clerk) for all their contributions and help they have both given to Woolstone Parish Meeting over the last 13 years. As a token of the Meeting's appreciation each were presented with "very generous and thoughtful gifts". (Note: the words of the outgoing Clerk).

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

SIGNED _____
Chairman

DATED _____