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Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday 10th May 2011 at The White Horse Inn

Present:

Chairman	Mr J Smith
Clerk	Mrs N Campling
Highways & Transport, OCC	Ms L Hutchins
District Councillor	Mrs Y Constance
Ranger, National Trust	Mr A Foley
Police Community Support Officer	Mrs M Pack

and 23 parishioners

Mr T Osborne, Mrs J Twynam, Lt Col H Rogers & Mrs U Rogers, Mrs K Swash, Mrs L Walker, Mr & Mrs C Avenell, Mr & Mrs N Shorten, Mr & Mrs A Coulson, Mr H Smith, Mrs C Lawrence, Miss B Lawrence, Mr & Mrs S Searis, Mrs J Salmon, Mr & Mrs R Avery, Mr C Ryan, Mrs J Nelson.

Report from Ms L Hutchins, Highways & Transport, Oxfordshire County Council

As of the 30th May our Highways Agency representative will be Tony Currell (currently Keith Key). Ms L Hutchins is responsible for managing the Highways representative for the area. Highways & Transport at the OCC are involved in asset management of the roads in terms of:

- Cutting grips in verges to allow water off the roads
- Gritting roads and clearing snow
- Repairing potholes and other defects
- Patching areas of more significant damage
- Preparing identified roads for resurfacing

They also utilise a community payback scheme for the clearance of vegetation, but this requires toileting facilities to be provided. However, where there are mud and leaves on the road this comes under the responsibility of Verdant. In Woolstone the drains and gulleys are due to be cleared in November.

Lt Col H Rogers raised the issues of:

1. Assessors coming out and painting round potholes only for the paint to wear off before the pot fillers arrive.
2. Asphalt dumping in Marsh Way following the filling of identified potholes in March of this year.
3. The 9-inch drop in the road surface along Marsh Way, with a resulting badly broken road surface and no passing places. The road was resurfaced approximately 15 years ago using an experimental method that has not lasted the test of time.

The Chairman identified:

4. The need for resurfacing of the road around Cob Cottage.

Mrs C Lawrence asked and noted:

5. Why some potholes are filled whilst others in-between identified potholes remain unfilled.
6. Are workmen injured during the repair of defects?

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7. Whether cost-efficiency means it's more economical to repair defects than payout for claims on damaged vehicles.
8. The need for resurfacing of the B4507 (by Mrs M Seymour's property).

Ms L Hutchins responses to the points raised above were:

1. There are currently 3,000 identified defects out of date in the area. A new programme of work is due to commence in the next 2 weeks and all these defects will be reexamined. If a defect is classed as a 28-day defect then white lines will be painted around the pothole (in contrast, 24-hour defects require the area to be guarded and repaired within 24 hours).
2. Agreement to look into this issue.
3. A new contractor has been sourced within the last year and as such old works are not under guarantee.
4. Road resurfacing occurs through a different budget and department but the initiation of works starts through the Highways & Transport department. Technicians are currently checking for this year's programming of works utilising a points system for severity of the surface and road usage.
5. Only defects that have been programmed for repair are filled. It may be hazardous to repair some potholes, with some requiring either traffic lights or a stop and go system (which needs sufficient distance and notice for the workmen to be safe).
6. Workmen have been injured during the repair of defects.
7. No payout for a claim is required if the OCC did not know about the defect.
8. Refer to response 4.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Ms L Hutchins with details of:

- The road surface surrounding Cob Cottage.
- The road surface surrounding Mrs M Seymour's property.

Ms Hutchins agreed to:

- Email the Clerk with the OCC policy on pot holes for distribution to Parishioners.
- Examine the issue of asphalt dumping on Marsh Way.

Report from Mrs Y Constance, District Councillor

Mrs Y Constance thanked those present for re-election and noted that the Conservatives had been re-elected with control for the first time in 14 years. It was noted that Matthew Barber is the Conservative Leader, Faringdon.

Mrs Y Constance raised the following issues:

- Management of the waste contract
This was poor during the winter months, with no provision for small waste vans and the large trucks unable to get in or out of the villages. The Council had made redundant the senior manager who had drawn up the contract. The Chairman noted that the current contractual manager had been unable to answer questions on the maintenance of the contract (particularly in response to performance outputs and their measurement) despite a Freedom of Information request being placed. Mrs Y Constance recognised this issue and stated that the reporting and measurement of outsource contracts needs to be examined.
- Election services

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The distribution of voting cards and balloting papers was slow and problematic with cards not being sized to envelopes. The system was noted be poorly functioning.

- Free 2-hourly parking in local towns

This is to be introduced and has been of benefit in Witney.

- Review of business rates

Currently charity shops can utilise reduced rates therefore they have proliferated in local towns.

- Portfolios to be reorganised tomorrow (11.5.11)
- Localism bill

This will involve the devolution of powers, with parish councils gaining more power in relation to planning considerations. It may also require parish councils to draw up their own parish plans.

The Chairman asked for clarification on the distinction of roles between the district council and the county council. The response was as follows:

District Council Roles	County Council Roles
Clear waste	All “big spending” functions: Oxfordshire budget 1-2 billion p.a.
Planning	Social services
Election office	Education
Maintaining housing register	Transport
Dispense benefits	

Report from Mr Andy Foley, Ranger, National Trust

- “The good”

The White Horse Hill has been greening up with orchids following a long and hard winter. St. George’s Day was a great success with Morris Men on Dragon Hill and there were numerous visitors on Good Friday, particularly from the Old Berks Hunt.

- “And the bad”

Antisocial behaviour: These issues have gone on for years due to the remoteness of the site.

- Youngsters are lapping Woolstone, Dragon Hill and the Wantage Road in cars.
- Firing of air rifles, targeting gas canisters, blackbirds, the information trailer and the ticket machine.
- Wayland Smithy continues to be a rave site with communication occurring via ribbons and dustbin bags.

The roads are public roads therefore they are left open at night, but there have been debates whether to gate the car park (but walkers can return to their cars late in the summertime) and use methods of covert surveillance.

Mr A Foley urged those present to contact him on 07721 671 024 if any problems are noticed.

- A date for the diary

Community scouring will take place on 30th May. The Horse is currently suffering as the stones are harbouring weeds and a billiard table like surface is required.

Report from Mrs M Pack, Police Community Support Officer

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Mrs M Pack highlighted 4 current issues:

- **Raves**

Recently there have been 3 raves one in the woods near Bracknell, another in Stokenchurch and the third in West Tillsbury. The police are questioning whether the blockades on the Ridgeway should be made permanent. At present the police rely on a dedicated team of farmers over a large area to erect the barricades, which they do very quickly.

If a rave is occurring Mrs M Pack asked for Parishioners to ring 999 and the environmental protection team (OCC) on 01235 520 202.

- **Antisocial behaviour in the White Horse Hill car park.**

Dedicated teams of Faringdon and Wantage officers are combining, and there has been one arrest for drug usage. Mrs M Pack is of that view that due to the use of dispersal techniques of youngsters in Greenbridge (particularly at Tesco's) they may be congregating on the Hill.

If there are convoys of cars, or any vehicle is seen driving along the Ridgeway, Parishioners were asked to ring the Non-Emergency number 0845 8505505. (NB. All telephone numbers are in the Woolstone Directory)

- **Vehicle thefts**

This is continuing despite 2 arrests.

- **Knighton crossing**

Mrs M Pack asked the Parishioners to inform her if youths are congregating at this crossing (under the railway bridge on the way to Longcot).

Agenda

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr & Mrs A Spink, Mr & Mrs R Godfrey, Mr & Mrs B Campbell, Mr & Mrs D Campbell, Mr & Mrs J Golec, Mr J Twynam, Mrs A Fitzgerald O'Connor, Mr R Henderson, Mr & Mrs L Hollingworth, Professor W Davies, Mrs T West, Mr Q Finnigan, Mr & Mrs S Rains, Mr T Clifford, Mr & Mrs G Jones, Mrs C Ryan.

2. Adopt minutes of last meeting

Copies of the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 9th November 2010 were circulated and read by Meeting attendees. The Minutes were approved as proposed by Mrs J Twynam, seconded by Mr R Avery and unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Approval of accounts

Copies of the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011, together with relevant documentation, were circulated (year end balance £443.82). The Accounts were approved as proposed by Mr S Searis, seconded by Mrs P Coulson and unanimously agreed by the Meeting. The Clerk informed the Meeting that the Accounts are to be internally audited by Mrs K Swash before being sent for external audit with BDO, Southampton.

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5. Planning

Mrs J Twynam of the Planning Sub-Committee, reported that the Sub-Committee had met on 30th April and that the following have been processed:

Car parking tickets for White Horse Hill – Replacement tickets (valid until 2013) have been issued to all Parishioners.

Woolstone Conservation Area – A map of the area has been posted on the village noticeboard.

Pond House – The original planning order has been complied with by returning a flat to office usage.

Chalfont – The original plans for dormer windows have been examined.

Woolstone Farm – An application for conversion of barn space to provide a first floor flat has been withdrawn.

The next Sub-Committee meeting will be in May 2012.

6. Neighbourhood watch

Mr A Coulson, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for Lower Woolstone, stated that there had not been any issues that he had been made aware of. Where issues arise Mr G Foster, Uffington, informs Mr A Coulson.

7. Roads

This item was addressed during the report from Ms L Hutchins (see above).

8. Woolstone water

Mr J Tywnam, Chairman of Woolstone Water, in his absence had provided the Chairman with a written report, which was read during the Meeting. A meeting was held on 30th November 2010. Pressure issues have improved, cash reserves are building and the next meeting will take place 23rd November 2011.

9. Open Gardens

This year Open Gardens has reverted to the 1st Sunday in July (3rd July 2011). A meeting will be held on 1st June and the Chairman will contact Mrs L Irwin for further news.

10. Village party

This is to take place Saturday 16th July and tickets can be bought from Mrs J Salmon, Mrs T West and Mr C Ryan. The party will be hosted in the Salmon's field, with a hog pit roast.

11. Any other business

Woolstone Directory

This has been updated, printed (at a cost of £25) and posted through Parishioners letterboxes.

Friends of Woolstone Church

Mr J Smith, Treasurer for the Friends of Woolstone Church, stated that the current balance is £1182, following a £1000 payment for the new path up to the Church. A plan is being made for the next expenditure: either an

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appropriate handrail for the steps within the Church (which would require the necessary permissions), or perhaps padding for the pews.

Mrs C Lawrence asked what had happened to the rota for grass cutting. The Chairman will contact the Church wardens.

Day of next Meeting

It was agreed that the November Meetings will take place on Thursdays, with the May Meetings continuing to take place on a Tuesday. The Meeting voted on proposed venues including the Church, Mill House barn and White Horse Inn. It was agreed that the November 2011 Meeting will take place in the White Horse Inn, but that this will continue to be reviewed.

Litter picking

It was agreed that in addition to the annual litter picking week parishioners would be provided with an opportunity to “adopt a lane” in which to litter pick on a regular basis. Parishioners will be asked to pick a lane and collect litter there monthly. The Clerk and Chairman will distribute a map for volunteers to choose a lane.

12. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next Meeting be Thursday 10th November at 8pm, in the White Horse Inn.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

SIGNED (Chairman)

DATED

Unapproved