

Minutes of the Woodford-cum-Membris Parish Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 12 March 2013 in the Memorial Hall Woodford Halse Starting at 19.00 hrs.

C51/13 Present

Mr. Philip Bainbridge, Mrs. Kay Coles, Mrs. Robyn Davison, Mr. Robin Gilling, Mr. David Hawes, Ms. June Irani [Chairman], Mr. George Osborne & Ms. Julie Williams.

Nine members of the public including Mrs. S. G. Ogden OBE [County Councillor]

& Mrs. E. A. Griffin [District Councillor].

G. P. Smith [Parish Clerk].

C52/13 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from: Mrs. Heidi James, Mr. Peter Jay & Mr. Peter Stanyon.

Apology also received from PCSO Jane Coaley.

C53/13 Members' Declarations of Disclosable Interest

None were declared.

C54/13 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Council approved the minutes of its meeting of 12 February 2013.

C55/13 Matters Arising

- C35/13 Police Community Speed Watch Programme. The Police had advised that traffic speed checking in Byfield Road is imminent.
- C40/13 Ryefields Play Area - "Come & Play". Mr. Hawes reported that installation of the new children's play equipment would be completed this week with an opening event planned for Sunday 31 March 2013, which he urged all members to attend.
- C41/13 Village Centre - Former Air Raid Shelter. The Clerk will enquire when the structural survey might be completed. Mrs. Coles reported a broken window and possible break-in and confirmed the building had been secured.

C56/13 Public Session

No matters were raised.

C57/13 Halls Business Group

Council accepted the report & recommendations of the Group meeting, as follows:

Held: Tuesday 26 February 2013 in Woodford Halse Library between 19.00 hrs. & 20.30 hrs.

Attending: Parish Councilors Kay Coles, Robyn Davison, Robin Gilling, Davis Hawes, & June Irani.

Gary Smith [Parish Clerk].

Apologies: received from George Osborne & Peter Stanyon.

Dryden Hall

- *High and inaccessible inside hall should be cleaned. KC will discuss/obtain quotation from Unit Clean [Council's cleaning contractor].*
- *Kitchen and verandah floor in need of redecoration. KC. Await result of investigations re next item*
- *Verandah roof and side windows leaking [net curtains temporarily removed]. DH will obtain estimates for total replacement.*

Farndon & Hinton Rooms

- *Proposed lease as a commercial fitness centre would not now proceed. Prospective tenant has decided he cannot meet Council's full terms and has obtained alternative premises.*
- *Electrical assessments, rearrangement of toilets and redecoration of interior are required in order to return the rooms to condition suitable for letting [for commercial or community use]. JI to look into possibility of Probation/Community Service assistance.*

Former Air Raid Shelter

- *GS confirmed that David Smith Associates had been instructed to carry out a structural survey of the property and advise on its suitability for document storage.*
- *WH History Society and Photographic Archive both have interests in the retention and use of the building.*

Library

- *Large front window in need of repair - rainwater ingress through lower section. GS to obtain quotations for repairs.*
- *Exterior noticeboard. Cost of a replacement does seem high. JI to consult local trader about cost.*

Memorial Centre

- *KC had confirmed with Philip Grocott that he planned to redecorate the exterior of the MC as soon as some better weather arrives. Instruction already given by Council.*
- *Broken barrier between car park and Winston Close. JI to seek involvement of NCC Parish Enhancement Gang.*
- *Insulation of roof space. JI attending "green" information evening at ACRE soon - ideas and funding sources for loft insulation and air conditioning on the agenda.*
- *Interior decoration of hall should be considered at some stage.*

Members agreed with the Chairman that the Farndon & Hinton Rooms are more suitable for community use, not commercial letting. On Council's authority [at no cost to Council] Mr. Hawes will introduce a "project manager" to assess renovation costs, reporting to Council as necessary.

C58/13 Tree & Hedge Maintenance

Resolved: A project is undertaken to assess the maintenance requirements of all trees and hedges under Council's control and complete all necessary works during this autumn. This has particular relevance to the Ryefields Estate. The Clerk will progress the project.

C59/13 Pool Street/Hinton Road - Flooding

Mr. Gilling & Mr. Hawes had inspected the location and the course of the stream north from the Hinton Road culvert to Byfield Road, concluding that the road and pavement drains are blocked, the overflow pond in Larch Close needs clearing and the stream itself requires dredging to increase water carrying capacity. Resolution of the problems is complex and requires the involvement of the Highways Authority ["NCC"], Thames Water & landowners, having riparian responsibilities. The Clerk advised that NCC officers are actively considering the engineering issues involved and that he planned to meet officers on site, soon.

C60/13 Annual Risk Assessment

- Council approved its [February 2013] Annual Risk Assessment.
- Council thanked Mr. Cador Roberts for regularly testing the fire alarm and emergency lighting in the Memorial Centre, since its construction in 1992/3. Mr. Bainbridge will now assume this role.
- Council was grateful to Mrs. Bernadette Rogers who will kindly continue this duty in respect of the Village Centre [Dryden Hall and Farndon & Hinton Rooms].

C61/13 Dog Waste Bins

Resolved: Purchase three bins from Earth Anchors Ltd for £663.95 +VAT. Together with those in stock, bins will be placed [subject to consultations] at Membris Way/Fay Close, Sarafield on-site, Ryefields Play Area and Phipps Road midway.

Members remained very disappointed at the inconsiderate & irresponsible behaviour of some dog owners. A reminder will be placed in What's On In Woodford ["WoW"] urging owners to clean up after their animals.

C62/13 Broadband Provision

The Chairman advised that responses to the parish Broadband survey [see WoW & village website] were required by 31 March 2013. The survey would be an essential component of any bid by the Parish for fast broadband infrastructure.

C63/13 Parish Website

The Chairman reported that the new website is operating well and urged everyone to use it.

C64/13 Annual Parish Meeting

The date for the Annual Electors Meeting was set for 28 May 2013. Village organizations will be asked to participate and exhibit their activities.

C65/13 Receipts & Payments

Council noted receipts and authorized payments:

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Come & Play WH	7,000.00	G. Warner fallen tree & winter gritting	60.00
NCC grass mowing contribution	842.45	HMRC x 2 months	722.30
WoW advertising	20.00	Information Commissioner	35.00
Burial Fees	234.00	Playscapes Ryefields play area	8,400.00
		Eon gas Dryden Hall	314.87
		Eon gas Library	82.46
		Eon gas Memorial Centre	158.89
		NatWest standing charges	47.33
		Anglian Water Village Centre	125.24
		Anglian Water public toilets	105.96
		Anglian Water MC	229.25
		R. Coy Partnership Sarafield plans	600.00
		Colourburst Litho WoW printing	360.00
		Unit Clean MC, toilets, bus shelters	799.30
		D. Thornton Halls Secretary quarter	362.50
		G. Thomas estate maintenance	84.50
		M. Keeves clean VC	189.28

Ms. Williams confirmed that Hinton Carpets had sponsored March's full colour edition of WoW.

C66/13 Highway Verges - Slade Leys, Eydon Road

Members were very disappointed that heavy & laden vehicles passing to & fro the Slade Leys agricultural & construction vehicle/plant business in Eydon Road persistently destroy the surfaces of the grass verges particularly in Scrivens Hill, South Street and Eydon Road. The Clerk advised that Daventry District Council Planning Enforcement officers are currently considering, according to proper process, the complex legal issues surrounding applications for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the business and the change of use of land and retention of existing buildings for the storage & retail of agricultural vehicles & plant [retrospective]. [Council's observations, objecting to the applications - see Minute C252/12.] Instances of surface damage might be photographed and forwarded to the District & County Councils via their respective websites. The Police have visited the site operators in respect of the highway damage being caused. Encroachments by other vehicles, including school buses, have caused similar concern.

C67/13 There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.00 hrs.