

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2011

PRESENT:

John Godbold (Chair)
Fenella Jarvis (Vice Chair)
Ian Tait
Dean Upton
Will Hawthorne
Chrissie Sanders
Nicola Blencowe
Heather Nicholson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson (Clerk)
Cllr Brian Laming (WCC)
Cllr Charlotte Bailey (HCC)
PCSO Richard Nolan
Jool Heller-Dixon (Carroll Centre)
Nerissa Dean (Carroll Centre)
5 members of the public

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Lynda Banister (WCC)

990. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2011 were **AGREED** and signed as an accurate record.

991. Reports and Recommendations from Working Parties

a) Police

PCSO RN reported on the monthly crime figures. There had been:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| (i) | Honeysuckle Close | Burglary. Mountain Bike stolen from shed in rear garden. |
| | Plough Way | Criminal Damage. Vehicle window smashed. |
| | Bushfield Camp | Vehicle Nuisance – mini motor cycles |
- (ii) **RN** warned those present that there had been a spate of cycle thefts in the Winchester area and advised on security precautions.
- (iii) **JG** noted that motor cycles were also riding on Whiteshute Ridge and had already caused damage this year.

b) Open Space

MM reported that:

- (i) He had now signed the Trade Waste Service Contract with SERCO for emptying the new litter bins on the Central and Davis Kickabouts. The cost of emptying all three bins will be £982.80 plus VAT per year.

c) Planning

MM reported that:

- (i) 2 new applications had been received:

Ridgeway Replacement of existing 9m single user column with 10.8m dual user street pole with adjacent cabinet

Barley Down Drive Resubmission of amended plans for demolition of existing garage and conservatory and erection of a two storey extension to the right and a single storey extension to the rear.

Four members of the public then made representations about the application for a new phone mast. All were against the application and after considerable discussion the following principle objections were noted and will be included in the Council's response:

- (a) Visual Amenity and the height of the proposed pole
- (b) The lack of effective camouflage
- (c) The site of the control cabinet

Other matters raised by those present were health concerns about the RF radiation risk and other unsubstantiated technical hypothesis. These will not be included in the Council's response.

- (ii) No applications had been approved:

- (iii) No applications had been refused.

d) Play Equipment

MM reported that:

- (i) All play inspections were up to date.
- (ii) The Annual Play Areas Inspection for 2011 by Dunlop Playground Services on behalf of WCC was carried out on 7 February 2011. The Inspector's overall statement was that "Once again the standard of maintenance remains high".

Equipment	Site	Risk	Comment/Action
Central Site		Low/Medium	Edging is rotting
Goal Frame Kompan		Low	
Goal 5-a-side		V. Low	Lateral movement of cross bar
RSS Multi-Unit Obstacle Course	Central	Medium	Raised edges. Frayed ropes
Wickstead Bridge, slide and ramp	Central	Low	Step treads not level
Wickstead Cradle seats	Central	Medium	Provide barriers to direct children away from swings on

			entering.
Davis Site	Davis	Medium	Raised Edges – Since repaired
Wickstead Slide Unit	Davis	Medium	Replace missing cap. Some corrosion and aging – rough edges
Swing Cradle Seats	Davis	Low	Signs of perishing on rubber seats
Swing Flat seats	Davis	Medium	Unit is coming to the end of life. Loose eyebolts. Remove raised edges

The definition of a Low Risk is “monitor and take reasonable practical action if required.” The definition of a Medium Risk is “take action to reduce if possible”. Council **AGREED** to monitor the medium risk items. They further **AGREED** to note that the swings on the Davis Kickabout were nearing the end of their safe life and would need replacing in about a year.

e) Transport

KT had forwarded a report:

- (i) Engineering works on Sundays continues to affect trains to London and other cross country routes.
- (ii) The bus pass scheme for pensioners has been agreed by the County. There will be no changes for Badger Farm residents. New passes should be issued by the City shortly.
- (iii) The railway footbridge at Ivy Close will be closed for up to 3 months from 21st March for repairs. This will affect local residents who go to St Cross to catch the Blue Star services or the Stagecoach 69 service.

f) Parish Website

NTR

g) Finance

MM reported that:

- (i) The cleared bank balance on 1 March 2011 was £38,335.53. There were no un-cleared cheques. The bank statements and reconciliation for February 2011 were signed by **JG**.
- (ii) At the end of the fourth quarter of the financial year (31 March 2011) actual income & expenditure compared with budgeted income & expenditure is predicted to be:

Income				
Category	Budget to date	Actual to date	Shortfall	Surplus
Precept	27,900	27,900		
Other Income	180	2,267		
Total Income	28,959	30,167		1,208
Expenditure				
Category	Budget to date	Actual to date	Overspend	Underspend
Business	4,452	3,704		747
Clerk Salary	6,552	6,446		106
Donations	2,100	2,500	400	
Litter	1,824	2,358	534	
Open Space	504	725	221	
Play Equipment	1,500	2,792	1,292	
Whiteshute Ridge	10,008	6,266		3,742
Total	26,940	24,791		2,149

Income is likely to be £1,208 higher than predicted caused by the payment of an unbudgeted HCC Bio-diversity grant of £1,202. Expenditure will come in about £2,149 under budget mainly caused by not having to spray Whiteshute Ridge for ragwort.

Total predicted expenditure for 2010/11 is £24,791 against an authorised budget of £26,940 giving an underspend against budget of £2,149. Council **AGREED** that this situation is entirely satisfactory.

- (iii) Payment of the Biodiversity Grant of £1,202 was received in the bank account on 14 March 2011.
 - (iv) The 2010/11 second half VAT reclaim for £1,793.02 was forwarded to HM R & C on 14 March.
- h) Parish Proposals and Action Grid
- JG** reported that the steering group had had a very productive meeting two weeks earlier when they had reviewed the items on the grid and produced a more manageable and realistic set of objectives. He will publish the new grid before the next meeting.
- i) Community Centre Lease Compliance

NTR

j) Whiteshute Ridge

MM reported that:

- (i) On Friday 4th March sub-contractors working for Scottish and Southern Energy were carrying out their five yearly clearance of scrub and trees close to the 3 spans of 11Kv cable adjacent to Whiteshute Lane (Minute 969 para j) (iii) page 725 refers). Whilst carrying out this authorised work they had caused extensive damage over a wide area (substantially greater than the authorised 3 metres from the power line) including the complete destruction and removal of 135 yards of the hedge bordering Whiteshute Lane and the Clarendon Way. This damage not only destroyed a hedge that was at least four hundred year old but also caused the security of the Ridge to be breached allowing uncontrolled access by motor vehicles, travellers, off roaders and scramble bikes from Whiteshute Lane (a BOAT).
- (ii) The damage was inspected by Serco on Tuesday 8th March who agreed that the security of the ridge could be restored by the digging of a ditch and bund in place of the destroyed hedge. This work was authorised by **JG** at that time and was completed to our satisfaction within 24 hours.
- (iii) **JG** and **MM** met Mr Nathan Smith of Scottish and Southern Energy at the site on Wednesday 9th March, pointed out the damage, identified where a new railed fence would be required and informed him that his workforce would not be readmitted to the site until the Parish Council had received satisfactory undertakings that S & SE would pay for the temporary bund, the new fence and the replanting.
- (iv) On 14 March Nathan Smith informed **MM** that S & SE would erect the new fence as requested. **MM** will now seek written confirmation that they will also pay for the digging of the bund by SERCO and its subsequent refilling, and the provision of materials and the planting of the hedge.
- (v) The tree blocking the Harrow Down steps (minute 984 j) (iii) Page 736 refers) had been cut back.
- (vi) **JG** had succeeded in repairing the hinge and lid of the vandalised dog bin on the path up to the ridge without incurring any expense.

k) County Council Rep

CB reported on the following:

- (i) Highways. Oliver's Battery School has suggested making a pavement on the north side of Meadow Way from May Tree Close to Badger Farm Road to improve the safety of children walking to school. **JG** will review and comment.
- (ii) Grit Bins. A further tranche of bins will be considered in the summer. The Parish Council will apply to **CB**.

- (iii) Mobile Libraries. The Badger Farm service will be withdrawn
- (iv) HCC Budget. HCC is looking for £55m in cuts for 2011/12. The budget has yet to be agreed.

l) City Council Reps

BL reported on:

- (i) Open Space. Routine maintenance continues
- (ii) Highways.
 - (a) Some pothole repair work is under way
 - (b) Concern about road safety at the Sainsbury's roundabout
 - (c) OB underpass – not user friendly with steps at OB end
- (iii) Sainsbury's banners. Possibly subject of enforcement action
- (iv) Broadband. Unexplained delays to work that is not now expected until June 2011 in Badger Farm.

m). Notice Board Rep

NTR

n). Newsletter Rep

NTR

o). WDALC

NTR

992. Donations

MM reported that:

- a) At the last meeting Council **AGREED** that they would invite a representative from the Carroll Centre to this meeting before making a decision about a donation. Nerissa Dean, the Centre's fundraiser gave a useful presentation on funding issues and informed the meeting that about 20% of the attendees in the under 11 group came from Badger Farm. Council **AGREED** to a donation of £1,000.

993. Correspondence

The following correspondence was discussed:

- a) The next Parish Policing Partnership Forum will be held on Wednesday 30th March at 7.00pm in the Beeston Room, North Walls Police Station and will be chaired by the Commander of the Winchester District. **JG** will try to attend.
- b) The next BF & OB RCA User Group meeting will be held in the Community Centre on Wednesday 16 March at 7.30pm. **WH** will attend.
- c) WCC have organised a follow-up “Blueprint” meetings to discuss the responses received and explain the next steps in the process. It will be held in Itchen Abbas village hall on Monday 21st March at 7.30pm. **JG** will try to attend.

994. Payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved and signed:

1500	Carroll Centre	Donation	£ 1,000.00	-
1506	M D Macpherson	Clerk Salary (Feb)	£ 428.00	-
1507	SERCO	Repairs to Play Equipment	£ 640.30	£ 106.72
1508	SERCO	Litter Bin Emptying	£ 105.84	£ 17.64
1509	SERCO	Supply 2 litter bins	£ 411.84	£ 68.64

995. Any other business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2150.

Signed

Date