

OLIVERS BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held at St. Marks Church Hall, Olivers Battery Road South, Oliver's Battery on the 4th December 2007. 7-30pm to 10-00pm.

1. PRESENT

Mr Sharman (Chairman); Mr Morris; Mrs Goodwin; Mrs Banister; Mrs Cope and Mr Stride.

County Councillor Charlotte Bailey and WPC Emma Port (Hampshire Constabulary) were also in attendance for parts of the meeting.

Apologies were received from Mr Pyke and City Councillor Brian Collin.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present wishing to make a statement or to speak under this item.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November 2007 were confirmed and signed as correct.

Oak Community Notice Board to Commemorate 50th Anniversary of the Parish

It was noted that defects in the notice board have been remedied by the manufacturers and the notice board returned to Mr Pyke and that it was hoped to erect the notice board very shortly.

4. PLANNING

The recommendation by the Planning Panel to make an objection in respect of a planning application (Case No. 07/02615/FUL – W.20891) for extension of garage and erection of foyer and for extension to create first floor accommodation with associated alterations at 21 Old Kennels Lane was confirmed. The objection refers to the excessive roof height and bulk of the proposed development and the blocking of views out of the parish.

A planning application (Case No. 07/02667/FUL – W.20913) for a replacement detached 4 bedroom dwelling following the demolition of the existing bungalow at 41 Compton Way was considered and it was decided to make some comments with regard to the design of the proposed new dwelling.

In respect of the proposed Village Design Statement for the parish, Winchester City Council have published the required statutory notice with regard to the Consultation Document with the consultation period for comments expiring on the 20th December 2007. Leaflets containing information in respect of the Village Design Statement have been distributed to all households in the parish and a public exhibition about the document was held at St. Marks Church Hall on the 24th November. The exhibition was a success being attended by over one hundred local residents and a number of interesting comments were received.

It was noted that Winchester City Council is drawing up a Local Development Framework for the City Council area which will contain proposals for future new housing based on government requirements for housing and this matter is to be kept under review.

5. FINANCE AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

Mrs Banister, Mrs Cope and Mr Stride declared a personal interest in respect of a letter from Olivers Battery Primary School requesting a grant for the school and they did not take part in the debate on this subject.

The transfer of £1500 from the Reserve Account to the Current Account was agreed and the following payments were authorised:

Corrys Countryside Services	Treatment of Japanese knotweed on public footpath	£150 – 00
B. A. Quartly	Photocopying leaflets for Village Design Statement	£ 25 – 00
Southern Water	Half years water charges	£23 – 05
MDS Water Services	New tap at Recreation Ground	£118 – 00
Serco Limited	Grass Cutting – Recreation Ground	£778 – 09

The Clerk reported that the audit of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007 has been completed by the Audit Commission without any comments thereon and the Commission have issued their certificate to such effect.

A request by Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Residents Community Association for a grant to assist with the cost of the annual bonfire and fireworks display was considered. After discussion it was agreed that it would not be appropriate for the Parish Council to make a grant for such purpose this year having regard to the believed healthy financial position of the Community Association and taking into account the provision of the recreation ground by the Parish Council and the cost of the required reinstatement to be undertaken by the Parish Council.

In respect of the gang mowing of the recreation ground in 2008 a quotation received from Serco Limited for 14 visits at £49-42 plus VAT per visit was considered . In view of the previous satisfactory service by such Company and as the quotation was only very slightly above the 2007 charge it was resolved that for the purpose of this service Financial Regulations be varied to permit one quotation and that the quotation from Serco Limited be accepted.

A letter from Oliver's Battery Primary School referring to projects already undertaken or to be undertaken by the school and which are not covered by the schools normal budget and requesting a grant from the Parish Council was considered. It was resolved that a grant of a sum to be agreed not exceeding £500 be made to the school to assist with the cost of a specific project for the improvement/development of the school grounds or for equipment for such purpose subject to the school putting forward a suitable specific project. The school is to be requested to provide further information to enable this matter to receive further consideration by the Parish Council.

The Chairman referred to the estimated/projected account for the financial year 2007/2008 and the list of unavoidable expenditure for 2008/2009 which had been distributed to Councillors. He also asked members to put forward any proposed projects which they had in mind and would entail expenditure in 2008/2009 and he gave a reminder that it would be necessary to fix the precept for 2008/2009 at the meeting of the Council in January 2008.

6. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY/ FOOTPATHS/ BRIDLEWAYS

In connection with the overgrown area around the parish boundary stone on bridleway 8 adjacent to the Conservation Area Mrs Goodwin mentioned that the arrangements for the required clearance work by the Community Service Section of the Probation Service remained to be finalised as she was waiting to hear further from the Probation Service representative.

With regard to the section of bridleway 9 being previously the lower part of Compton Way and which has recently been surfaced the Chairman and Mrs Goodwin have had a meeting with Hampshire County Council's Area Rights of Way Officer to discuss what barriers or bollards could be erected to prevent the use by vehicles. It was established that at a width suitable for a bridleway some bollards could be erected at each end of the section of bridleway where vehicles are to be precluded. It was also noted that some street and other signs would need to be amended. Arrangements are now to be made to contact the traffic engineer at Winchester City Council about the installation of bollards and alterations to signs.

A query has been received about the status and condition of a footpath from the footbridge over Badger Farm Road to bridleway 8 and this matter is to be taken up with the Public Rights of Way Section at Hampshire County Council. The Public Rights of Way Section at the County Council is also to be asked to clarify the status of the footpath which runs from Austen Avenue to the footbridge over Badger Farm Road.

7. RECREATION GROUND

The Clerk stated that the tap for the water supply to the recreation ground had been found to be faulty resulting in a leakage of water. The situation has now been remedied by the installation of a new tap.

With regard to the annual bonfire and fireworks display held at the recreation ground by the Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Residents Community Association it was indicated that there may be some doubt as to whether the Community Association would still have sufficient volunteers to run this event next year. It was thought that there is a desire for this community event to be retained and this matter is to be kept under review with the Community Association.

In respect of the adjoining Conservation Area Mrs Goodwin reported that some additional tree planting has been carried out.

8. ORNAMENTAL VILLAGE SIGN FOR THE PARISH

Mrs Goodwin reported on a site inspection and discussion by the Chairman and herself in connection with a proposed ornamental village sign for the parish. It was thought that the most suitable position for a sign would be on the grass mound (part of the ancient monument site) on the corner of Olivers Battery Road South and Downlands Road. It was acknowledged that permission would be required from English Heritage, the Highway Authority and the Planning Authority. A relevant design would have to be developed, maybe by way of a competition, and the sign would need to be made of a durable material with a feature underneath such as a seat or other form of built up base. A further brief for this matter will be prepared by Mrs Goodwin in the early part of 2008.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

In connection with a Notification from Hampshire Association of Local Councils in respect of a Planning Workshop "Responding to Planning Applications" to be held on the 7th February 2008, members are to advise the Clerk if they wish to attend this event.

The following were noted:

Notification from Hampshire Association of Local Councils in respect of the manner in which the Association will be communicating with Local Councils as from January 2008.
Notification from Hampshire Association of Local Councils in respect of Safer Young Drivers Course.

Report from Pam Vandersteen (Public Transport Representative) in respect of a meeting of Public Transport Representatives on the 17th November 2007 organised by Hampshire County Council.

Letter from Hampshire County Council as to the withdrawal of the Romsey to Winchester Rail Link bus service and improvements to bus services 66 and X66.

10. REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR

In her written report (copy herewith) County Councillor Charlotte Bailey referred to the situation in respect of the future of the Tower Arts Centre, the opening of the new library in Jewry Street, Winchester (now called the Discovery Centre), the action by the County Council with regard to proposed post office closures, the result of a Climate Change Commission Inquiry and the government withdrawal of funding for the new 101 telephone service for reporting non emergency situations.

11. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

WPC Emma Port gave a brief report on police matters including only two minor incidents in the parish since the last meeting. Emma also referred to action being taken to regenerate the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for the parish including a leaflet about the scheme being distributed to all households in the parish, a booklet for reference by co-ordinators and a public meeting to be held at St Marks Church Hall on the 16th January 2008.