

OVERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Committee Meetings
Held on 22 February 2005 at the Community Centre, Overton

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (7.30 pm)

Present: Mr M Attwell (Chairman) (arrived at 7.40 pm), Mrs M Atkins, Cllr P Baker, Mr P Baker, Dr S Johnson, Mr B Langer, Ms S Mills, Mrs P Taylor, Cllr I Tilbury, Mrs L Harley (Clerk).
9 members of the public including representatives from the Overton Society and Village Design Statement Team.
1 member of the press (Basingstoke Gazette)

1. APOLOGIES

Mr Langer took the chair for the early part of the meeting. Apologies were received from Mr J Bennett and Mrs L Sloane Williams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As Trustees of St Luke's Hall, both Mr Baker and Mrs Taylor expressed their interest in item 3. Cllr Baker declared that she would not take any part in the planning discussions and would leave the room during the debate on the St Luke's Hall plan as a near neighbour. Cllr Baker also declared an interest in cheque no 1784 as the Chair of the OCA Management Committee, in item 8.1 as a resident of Winchester Street and in 10.3 as the OCA had applied for a grant from the Sheepfair Committee.

Mr Attwell joined the meeting at 7.40pm and took over as chairman

3. BDB 60224/60225 – erection of new hall following demolition of existing at St Luke's Hall, Winchester Street.

Members of the public were asked to comment on the above plan. Members of the VDS Team felt that the size, scale and position would impact on the Conservation Area. Although the new hall would provide everything required by a community building it was felt that it did not fit in well to the surroundings. An initial impression was that the front of the building would be more in keeping if it were rendered. The VDS Team were also concerned about the amount of parking in front of the building, and felt that the continued problems of parking within the village would need to continue to be addressed.

Mr Langer was generally concerned that people who lived around the site would not have had the opportunity to view the plans. He felt that there should be more windows on the east side of the building, which backed onto the housing in Waltham Road. He stated that the design would not win any awards.

Dr Johnson felt that the design of the proposed hall was unsuitable and quoted from the Village Design Statement (page 20) 'There have, however, been some inappropriate designs, such as the HSBC bank, which must not be repeated if the village centre is to retain its character.'

Mrs Atkins felt that architecturally the design was not the right building on the right site; any building on the St Luke's Hall site should be brought forward to enhance the street scene. Moving the hall back on the site would result in a loss of the garden area (currently used by the Youth Club) and would increase complaints about noise. The increased parking to the front of the building would not be attractive. Mrs Atkins felt that the hall was not sustainable within a growing village; she still supported the building of a new hall on Overton Hill.

Mrs Taylor stated that the Trustees were interested in what the public had to say, and hoped that the design could continue to be improved once comments had been received. The design was not too lavish because there was not going to be a large quantity of money to spend on rebuilding the hall.

Mr Baker stated that there were a number of outdoor areas for youth within the village. The St Luke's Hall Trustees had designed the hall to be large enough to provide an indoor recreational facility in which football, hockey and cricket could all be played. He went on to say that parking to the rear was not an option, as it was considered unsafe by the mothers of children using the hall. Cars parked behind the hall would also be less secure, and could cause disturbances to neighbours when entering and leaving the site.

Cllr Tilbury stated that the planning application had been submitted quickly to meet the needs of the Overton United Hall Group, members of which were intending to put together a bid for funding for May 2005. The Trustees has been asked to produce a Design Statement for the new hall by the borough council, and this was currently being written.

In the light of this, it was agreed that the parish council would ask the borough council to hold a site viewing. Mr Langer proposed that the parish council defer making any decision on the St Luke's Hall application pending receipt of the design statement and any further feed back from members of the public and the various societies in the village. Mr Attwell seconded this. It was agreed to make a decision about the application at the next meeting on 9 March 2005.

Agenda item 09.03.05/ Clerk to display plans on the events notice board.

4. OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

4.1 The South East Regional Plan – Mr Langer agreed to write a report on this matter so that the parish council could make a response to the draft document before the April deadline.

Action BL.

The next item was taken out of order to accommodate a member of the public who was attending the meeting:

8. HIGHWAYS, BYWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

8.1 Parking in Overton

8.1.1 Report back from initial meeting with Chris Gregory of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council – Mr Langer and the Clerk had met with Mr Gregory and shown him around the village to look at the possible sites for extra parking and the problem areas around the village.

8.1.2 Consider the draft parking survey for inclusion within News and Views – Mr Gregory had agreed to draw up a parking survey for inclusion within the next edition of News and Views and this had been circulated to councillors who agreed a number of changes. The Clerk agreed to notify these to Mr Gregory. It was also agreed to put an article about the shuttle bus into the March News and Views together with a request to shopkeepers to distribute the survey to people from out of the village.

Action Clerk.

8.2 Traffic lights – Adrian Gray from HCC had written to the council to say that there would be no all red phase at the traffic lights. The council noted a letter from Mrs Clarke (who was at the meeting), which highlighted the problems of crossing the High Street by the traffic lights and trying to cross further to the east where the pavements were narrow. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Director of Environment at Hampshire County Council and invite her to come to Overton to look at the problem and then attend a public meeting. Mr Langer suggested that the Overton Society should be involved as they were also trying to set up a similar meeting.

Action Clerk.

8.3 To approve the proposed speed limit change between Dellands Lane and Harvey's Field – the change to the speed limit was as a result of the environmental traffic calming measures that the borough council were installing. Councillors agreed to support the change.

Clerk to notify Jamie Daly at the borough council.

8.4 Report back on the actions as a result of the meeting with Cllr Wall – via email, Cllr Wall reported that work was to be carried out to the C29 (Scrubs) railway bridge during the 2005/2006 year. He also reported that the shuttle bus would not run an extended service. Tenders for the service were out and should be back by 25 April 2005. Cllr Baker agreed to produce some typed minutes of the meeting in the next few days.

5) APPROVE AND SIGN CHEQUES

The following cheques for Overton Parish Council were approved and signed (p: B Langer, s: Peter Baker). Mr Baker and Cllr Tilbury signed the St Mary's Hall cheque.

1783	BDBC	News and Views/Playground Inspections	171.94
1784	OCA	Hire of Office	203.50
1785	J Hutchings	Allotment keys	9.00
1786	HAPTC	Subscription	436.00
1787	Overton Rugby Club	Advert in Festoval Programme	30.00
1788	Timeless Structures	Noticeboards	2490.11
1789	Laura Harley	Salary	610.37
1790	HCC	Pension	149.04
1791	K Birch	Clean bus shelters	15.00

SO	E Williams	Salary	180.00
61	Southern Electric	Electricity supply to the hall	77.02

Website

SO	Acclaim	Maintenance	45.00
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Ms Mills arrived at the meeting at 9.00 pm

6. NEWS AND VIEWS

6.1 Amendments to March issue – it was agreed to amend the article about Flashetts and add a piece about the Floodline.

Action Clerk.

6.2 Councillor of the Month for March 2005 – Mr Attwell agreed to be the councillor of the month for April.

Action Matt.

7. ST MARY'S HALL

7.1 Report back from the St Mary's Hall Committee meeting on 16 February 2005 - Mr Baker reported back from the recent meeting of the St Mary's Hall Committee. The refurbishment of the hall was due to start on 1 April 2005. The storage needs of the users were discussed. The Gazette had held a press launch in the garden on Monday 21 February, and Hardys Plants had offered to supply the plants and design the floral borders.

7.2 Consider the draft Business Plan for St Mary's Hall – it was agreed that the paragraphs should be numbered; that dog walking should be training; that the Disability Study should be included, and that the committee should consider having policies for equal opportunities, racial discrimination and children and vulnerable adults.

7.3 To approve the draw down of the loan of £148,000.00 to carry out the works for St Mary's Hall – the loan sanction had been received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and it was consequently agreed to draw down the loan of £148,000.00.

Action Clerk.

9. 2005 CELEBRATIONS

9.1 60th Anniversary for the end of World War II – Ms Mills reported that the weekend of 17 and 18 September had been set aside for this event, which would take place in the Institute. On the evening of 17 September there would be a big band and jitterbugging, and on the 18 September, a street party would be organised. The final details were yet to be agreed, and Ms Mills was intending to hold a meeting with Sue Berry of the Institute and ODS to make further arrangements.

Action SM.

9.2 Commemoration of the Battle of Trafalgar – the Clerk had received notification of a concert in the church to commemorate this occasion. It was still intended to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the dispatch of news of the victory at Trafalgar on 5 November, which also happened to be the 400th anniversary of Guy Fawkes Night.

10. PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS

10.1 New National Agreement on salaries, terms and conditions for the employment of Clerks – Mr Attwell reported that this affected many aspects of the Clerk's employment. He suggested that the Clerk should have a line manager, which could be the chair, vice chair or FGP chair. As FGP chair, Mr Attwell was happy to undertake the responsibility at present, and agreed to summarise the shortfalls to the Clerk's terms and conditions to enable discussion at the next FGP meeting.

Action Matt.

10.2 To discuss the draft rules for the match funding agreement for halls – a draft agreement had been circulated and was discussed. It was agreed to make some changes to the draft and reissue for the next FGP meeting.

Clerk to action.

10.3 To use remaining OPC grant budget to contribute towards the clubs and societies that have applied for grants from the Sheepfair Committee – councillors were unhappy to simply hand over the parish council's grant budget for the 2004/2005 year. Councillors did agree to consider any applications that were not successful in receiving funding from the Sheepfair, and the Clerk agreed to contact David Backers, the Sheepfair chairman on the matter.

Action Clerk.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) ODPM – Borrowing Approval – see item 7.3
- 2) Basingstoke and Deane community forum – minutes - noted
- 3) Chris Gregory (BDBC) – parking survey – see item 8.1.2
- 4) Adrian Gray (HCC) – traffic lights – see item 8.2
- 5) Mrs Clarke – traffic lights/High Street – see item 8.2
- 6) Jamie Daly (BDBC) – environmental traffic calming – see item 8.3
- 7) Cllr Wall – C29 Railway Bridge – see item 8.4
- 8) Cllr Wall – Overton shuttle bus – see item 8.4
- 9) Highways Agency – road works and traffic information - noted
- 10) Royal Star and Garter home – charity concert – see item 9.2
- 11) David Backers – Sheepfair funds – see item 10.3
- 12) ODPM – Citizen Engagement and Public Services: why Neighbourhoods Matter and Vibrant Local Leadership – Dr Johnson agreed to read the document and report back if necessary
- 13) DEFRA – Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill - noted
- 14) BDBC – Mayor's Charity Ball – 22.04.05 - noted
- 15) BDBC – Cabinet – 22.02.05 and Special Cabinet – 24.02.05 - noted

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm

