

VERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Committee Meetings
Held on 25 May 2004 at the Community Centre, Overton

PLANNING (7.30 pm)

Present: Mrs M Atkins (Chair), Mr M Attwell, Mr J Bennett, Cllr P Baker, Mr B Langer, Mr G Hensman, Ms S Mills (arrived at 8.10 pm), Mrs P Taylor, Cllr I Tilbury (arrived at 8.00 pm), Mrs L Harley (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr P Baker, Dr S Johnson and Mrs L Sloane Williams.

2. CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS AS LISTED

BDB 58449 – change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage and erection of garage/storage building (retrospective) at Well House, Burley Lane, Ashe – Mrs Atkins and Mr Hensman both declared an interest. The parish council agreed to object to both the change of use of the land as it set a precedent and to the erection of the garage which was believed to be an over development of the site. As this was a retrospective application, the parish council would support the borough council in enforcement action to have the building removed. All who attended and could vote agreed to the objection. (It was noted that Ms Cardus attended the meeting to object to this application).

BDB 58342 – change of use of land to riding school at land adjacent to Hazel Cottage, Burley Lane, Ashe – the parish council agreed to object to this application but to write a covering letter to explain this decision. The applicant was applying for the change of use to a riding school, to enable herself to get a riding school licence so that the children being taught would be insured. The parish council did not have a problem with the small scale of the enterprise, which was to teach people vaulting, and would be happy for the application to go ahead if it were limited to the applicant only. However, the site was rented, and any subsequent tenant or owner could set up a riding school, which would be out of proportion with the site. There were concerns about the parking and access along a small lane. It was agreed that a representative of the parish council would attend the Development Control meeting if necessary.

3. OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

3.1 It was suggested that the parish council contact Croudace to ask if there was a start date for the London Road development.

Action clerk.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

1) BDBC – the following application has been approved by BDBC:

BDB 58160 – erection of single storey side extension and detached outbuilding forming garden room/storage at 8 Crawts Road - noted

2) BDBC – planning appeal for change of use of the land to include the siting of an approx 22m high telecommunications mast and ancillary equipment at land at Kennel Copse - noted

3) Local Plan Review – public consultation on pre inquiry changes – noted – nothing of relevance to Overton

4) BDBC – no objection to TCA 1644 to fell to ground level 1 Yew at Rowan House - noted

5) BDBC – house name changes - noted

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Present: Mr M Attwell (Chairman), Mrs M Atkins (left at 10.00pm), Cllr P Baker, Mr J Bennett (left at 10.30 pm), Mr G Hensman (left at 8.30pm), Mr B Langer, Ms S Mills, Mrs P Taylor, Mr I Tilbury, Mrs L Harley (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr P Baker, Dr S Johnson and Mrs L Sloane Williams.

2. APPROVE AND SIGN CHEQUES

The following cheques were approved and signed (p: M Attwell, s: B Langer):

1681	Southern Water	Water - cemetery	11.27
1682	Business Connections	Stationery	6.28
1683	BDBC	Playground inspections	59.93
1684	Ian Hills	Work to allotments	100.00
1685	Overton WI	Food for Annual Parish Meeting	125.00
1686	Overton Village Website	Transfer of money to website bank account	1750.00
1687	Laura Harley	Salary/expenses	607.44
1688	The Cellar Door	Drink for Annual Parish Meeting (reimbursement LHCC)	50.95
1689	HCC	Pension for Clerk	145.08
1690	TV Nurseries	Flower towers	821.00
1691	OCA	Room/office hire	350.50

St Mary's Hall Management Sub Committee

SO	E Williams	Salary	180.00
45	Southern Electric	Electricity supply	76.07
46	Business Connections	Cleaning materials	66.73

It was noted that the Employer's contribution to the Clerk's pension had increased from 215% to 225% from 1 April 2004.

3. NEWS AND VIEWS

3.1 Amendments to June issue – Jody Scheckter was intending to have an open day on 19 June, but no article had been received. Other minor amendments were made to the articles about Leisure Facilities and Sapley Lane Playing Field. Councillors asked to see any letters that had been sent to the Editor but had not appeared in News and Views in case they required a response.

Action Clerk.

3.2 Councillors of the Month for June – Mrs Sloane Williams, who was not at the meeting, had agreed to write the articles for the July edition of News and Views.

Mr Hensman left the meeting at 8.30 pm

4. TO DISCUSS

4.1 Prices and locations for notice boards – the councillors considered a number of different types of boards (metal, manmade and wood) from different manufacturers. Mr Attwell proposed that Timeless Structures be asked to make and install the notice boards because it was a local company with competitive prices. This was seconded by Mr Bennett and unanimously approved (Mrs Taylor declared an interest). The cost to build and install a 16 A4 sheet notice board from Iroko wood would be £900.00 which would replace the broken one on the side of the toilet. Smaller boards would be required for the Surgery and the Sapley Lane/Greyhound Lane junction. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask if the wood was from a sustainable source. The Clerk informed the council that it was hoped that the parish council would receive a grant from the borough council towards the cost of the boards.

Action Clerk.

4.2 Revised quotation for signs – the parish council had received a revised quotation for £994.00 from Focal Signs to produce a number of signposts around the village. It was agreed to check that the signs were protected from the sun and would meet with the criteria laid down in the Disability Discrimination Act. Focal Signs would be asked to proceed with the work once these two matters had been confirmed.

Action Clerk.

4.3 Conifer trees on the southern boundary of Town Meadow – a number of residents in Kings Meadow had complained about the size of the conifer trees that bordered Town Meadow by the B3400. It was noted that some of the residents would be prepared to make a financial contribution to the work of removing the trees and the Overton Recreation Centre had received a quotation of £1750.00 for lopping the trees and £1500.00 for felling the trees. The ORC was concerned that if the trees were removed, that a golf balls could fly into the road, but it was agreed that the course was designed so that balls would be driven away from the road, although the parish council would be prepared to contribute towards a replacement native hedge. The parish council agreed to support the removal of the trees, and suggested that the ORC apply for a grant towards the costs if they decided to go ahead with the project.
Action Clerk.

5. FOOTPATH MAP

Bob Reid had submitted some line drawings of local places of interest for the Overton map board. The parish council approved the drawings already done and the list of other locations, although there was some concern they might be too detailed. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit the drawings to the county council for comment, and that Mr Reid would be invited to the next FGP meeting to discuss the layout of the board.
Clerk to action.

6. HIGHWAY MATTERS

6.1 Off Street Parking – Following the agreement that the parish council take a more strategic approach to this problem, Mr Langer informed the meeting that he was to write to some residents about the shuttle bus. It was felt that if this service could be extended, that it might relieve some of the problems of parking within the village. Mr Attwell stated that Dr Johnson and himself, in their roles as school governors, had been tasked with looking into parking at the school – and he was intending to consult with parish councillors on this matter.
Action BL/MA.

6.2 Station Parking – Mr Langer was still in the process of analysing the results of this survey and asked for the item to appear on the FGP agenda.
Action for BL.

6.3 C29 railway bridge – councillors continued to be concerned about the safety of this bridge. It was agreed that the parish council should write to Cllr John Wall, copying the letter to Network Rail and the County Council.
Clerk to action.

6.4 Dead tree in Winchester Street – the County Council had stated that there was no money to replace this tree, however it had been requested that the dead tree be removed before the Sheepfair.

6.5 To look at section 278 Access Works on B3400 London Road – the plans for the bus shelters and lights were studied and noted.

7. RISK ASSESSMENTS

A list of the actions required from the Risk Assessments had been compiled and it was agreed that the priority was the loose headstones in the cemetery. The other maintenance work should be completed by the end of November 2004.

Action Clerk.

8. FORWARD PLANNING

The 2002 Community Strategy had been circulated to all councillors and it was agreed that matters arising from this document would be discussed at the next meeting, before any amendments were made.

Ms Mills reported that an informal survey of children at Testbourne School had elicited support for a zip line in Edward Kersley Playing Field. A space net and teenage shelter had also been favourably considered. Ms Mills agreed to talk to Mr Thomas about the need, or otherwise, for a trim trail at Sapley Lane Playing Field. Councillors were also asked to consider the needs of the elderly for discussion at the next meeting.

9. PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS

9.1 Parish council surgeries – it was agreed to cancel the parish council surgery on 29 May 2004.

9.2 Review and agree Financial Regulations – with the exception of the wording of 4.2, which was to be revised, the Financial Regulations were approved (proposed by Mrs Atkins, seconded by Mr Bennett and unanimously approved).

Mrs Atkins left the meeting at 10.00 pm

9.3 Presentation of parish council on Overton website – it was agreed that each councillor would have a short resume including length of service and photograph. The clerk agreed to look at the Longparish website to see how the levels of council were represented – and produce a draft document for consideration.

Action Clerk.

9.4 Liaison with new parishioners – it was agreed to have a regular article in News and Views asking neighbours to contact the parish council for a Welcome Pack for any new neighbours. It was agreed that a Welcome Pack should be delivered to all of the houses on the new developments. It was also agreed that a special event could be held for new residents.

Clerk to action.

9.5 Consider a request for a grant from the Overton Community Association to create a disabled persons parking space outside the Community Centre – Mr Langer proposed that the parish council pay the entire cost of £224.13 for this work and this was seconded by Mrs Taylor and unanimously agreed.

Recommendation: to make a grant of £224.13 for a Disabled Persons Parking Space at the Community Centre.

9.6 OBS hedgerow survey – the information regarding hedgerows was somewhat difficult to understand and it was agreed that it should be clarified with the OBS. It was suggested that an informal approach to landowners from the OBS might be appropriate with regard to work that needed to be carried out to hedgerows.

Clerk to find out more information.

10. REVIEW OF POSTAL CHARGES

The Post Office was proposing to make postal charges on the basis of both size and weight. The Clerk stated that this did not affect the parish council unduly, but it was agreed to inform other businesses within the village via News and Views.

Clerk to action.

11. REVIEW OF PUBLIC PAYPHONES IN THE OVERTON PARISH

British Telecom was intending to remove one public payphone from the Overton parish. The phone in question was allegedly situated in Trim's Court where no public payphone was sited. Cllr Tilbury agreed to look into the matter.

Action IT.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

1) HCC – employers' contribution – see item 2

2) Timeless Structures/Greenbarnes/Grippit – quotes details regarding notice boards – see item 4.1

3) Focal Signs – final quotation for all signs required for Overton – see item 4.2

4) Gordon Baker – re trees at Town Meadow (email) – see item 4.3

5) Mr B Reid – copy drawings – see item 5

6) HCC – highway tree enquiry – see item 6.4

7) Stuart Michael Associates – plans for works at London Road – see item 6.5

8) Cllr P Baker – request for grant for OCA - see item 9.5

9) OBS – hedgerow survey – see item 9.6

10) BT – meeting the needs of the community for public payphones see item 11

The meeting closed at 11.00 pm