



Clerk of the Council

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14 January 2010

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, GREENHAM
ON 13 JANUARY 2010 AT 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: Mr P Planterose (Vice-Chairman)
Mr A Agutter
Mr C Austin
Mr P Barnett
Mr A Beal
Mr B Drummond
Mrs P Hay
Mrs D Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J Boston (Clerk)

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting by thanking those members who had been able to get to the Church Hall. He explained that in view of the appalling weather and the Severe Weather Warning of freezing, icy conditions, only the absolutely essential matters would be dealt with; all other agenda Items would be held over to the next meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence. An apology for absence was received and accepted from Mr T Forward (Chairman), Mrs S Huxtable, Mr D Hale, Mrs T King and Mr J Swift-Hook
2. Declarations of Interest.

Mr Barnett stated that:

"Any views that I may express about planning matters and other business before this Council tonight are in my capacity as a member of *this* Council (Greenham Parish) and are based on the information before me tonight. If and when I consider any of the items at any future time in my capacity as a member of Newbury Town Council, I will consider each item on its merits at that time, taking full account of all the facts and information which are put before me at that time, as a result of which **I may well form a different view from any view I may express tonight**".

Mr Drummond stated that:

"Any views that I may express about planning matters and other business before this

Council tonight are in my capacity as a member of *this* Council (Greenham Parish) and are based on the information before me tonight. If and when I consider any of the items at any future time in my capacity as a member of West Berkshire District Council, I will consider each item on its merits at that time, taking full account of all the facts and information which are put before me at that time, as a result of which **I may well form a different view from any view I may express tonight''**.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The Clerk reported that due to a misunderstanding there was an error in Item 16 of the December Minutes. The phrase '*Greenham Common Trust would buy agricultural land*' should read '*Greenham Common Trust might be willing to consider buying agricultural land*'. Otherwise, the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2009 were accepted as a true record and signed by Mr Planterose as the Chairman of the Meeting

4. Planning.

(a) Applications

<u>No.</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
09/02392/FUL <i>Adjacent Parish</i>	Park House School, RG14 6NQ S.73 variation to permit use of artificial pitch Sundays 09.00 – 13.00 The Governing Body of Park House School	Object. See below.

Mr Barnett declared a personal interest as a governor of Park House School

1. The site has adjacent housing and it must be presumed that the original condition was imposed to protect the amenity of the residents (Policy OVS 2).
2. It is the view of GPC that Conditions are imposed by the Planning Authority for good reason and should only be relaxed when it can be shown that there has been a significant variation in the circumstances that led to the Condition being imposed. There is no evidence that there has been any such variation.
3. If the application is nevertheless granted, it is understood by GPC that any S.73 variation becomes, in effect, the new permission. Any other conditions originally imposed must therefore be carried forward to the revised permission.

09/02619/FUL	Lower Farm Quarry RG14 5TU S.73 variation to permit operation until 31/12/2011 with restoration complete by 01/07/2012 Tarmac Ltd	No Objection.
09/02621/FUL	Lower Farm Quarry RG14 5TU S.73 variation to permit retention of main site office until 01/07/2012 Tarmac Ltd	No Objection
08/02323/FUL	Lower Farm Quarry RG14 5TU. Notification has been received that the description in this application has been amended.	

(b) Decisions

<u>No.</u>	<u>Proposal.</u>	<u>Decision.</u>
09/01981/MINE	Concrete batching plant Hambridge Lane Temporary time limited extension	Granted
09/02191/HOUSE	Tilia, Water Lane. New attached garage/office, kitchen extension	Granted

The Vice-Chairman reported on the meeting to discuss the Rugby Club infill application held at the Rugby Club on the afternoon of 13 January. It was attended by Mr Planterose, Mr Agutter, Mr Beal, Mr Mackins from WBC and the applicant's agent (Mr Winchcombe). Mr Beal reported a personal interest as he is a member of the gym located at the rugby club. It was accepted that with prior consultation most of GPC's concerns would have been allayed. Mr Winchcombe apologised for not having done so but said that in his experience it was rare for a Parish Council to take the degree of interest shown by GPC. The remaining matters of concern to GPC were:

1. Since the source of the infill is unknown it is difficult to assess the impact of lorry movements on the road network. The applicant should identify the source of material and agree with Highways an acceptable route and timing of movements.

2. GPC remains concerned about the position of the pitch, particularly as a result of its elevated position, for the following reasons:

2 (a) No provision for floodlighting is included in the application. However, the current primary pitches are floodlit and if the artificial pitch is to be a substitute then it is difficult to see how it will not also need floodlights. The height of the pitch and proximity to housing is such that the floodlight situation should be addressed now rather than invite a further application.

2 (b) Councillors report that noise from the current pitch can be heard as far away as Sandleford and Pinchington Lane. The height of the artificial pitch is such that the noise level and consequent nuisance to nearby homes is likely to be increased.

2 (c) It is noted that no protective fencing is provided along Monks Lane to prevent balls flying on to the road. GPC believes that there is a clear road safety hazard here and Highways should advise on the height and type of protective fencing required. If a fence of more than 2m is indicated this should be the subject of a further planning application to be determined at the same time as the current application.

5. Finance & Accounts for Payment.

The following cheques were presented for payment:

Mr J Boston – Clerk's salary & expenses	£999.59
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax & NI	£420.33
WBC – Dog bin emptying	£76.68
CPRE – Membership Renewal	£29.00
Newbury Internet Services – website	£705.00

It was proposed by Mr Planterose, seconded by Mr Beal and carried unanimously that the cheques be approved for payment

The Clerk had drawn attention to the publication 'The Councillor's Guide' by Paul Clayden. (it is available from SLCC at £12.75 (publisher's price £15.95)). After discussion it was agreed that such a textbook would be essential reading for Councillors. It was proposed by Mr Drummond, seconded by Mr Agutter and carried unanimously that 14 copies of the guide be purchased (indicative price £178.50 plus p&p if applicable)..

6. Burys Bank Road – Verges. At the October meeting, it was resolved that the question of whether it was advisable or not to cut back the verges along Burys Bank Road should be an Agenda Item. The Clerk had not included this in the Agenda for November or December due to Mr Austin's inability to attend. There is conflicting advice regarding the cutting back of verges along Burys Bank Road. Current DoT advice is that wide verges lead to speeding. However, lack of vision, particularly with animals appearing suddenly from behind roadside vegetation, causes many accidents with valuable livestock. In the New Forest verges have been cut back significantly and this had greatly reduced the number of accidents. Attention was also drawn to Hungerford Common which was also open and had very few accidents, these being mainly as a result of fog. Mr Austin said that the danger to livestock was illustrated by another incident in which a cow had been knocked down by a car within the last 2 weeks. It appears that Countryside would have no objection to cutting back the verges but Highways will not agree as it is contrary to their policy. Mr Drummond undertook to take the matter up within WBC.

7. Date of Next Meeting. The Meeting closed at 8.15 pm. The date of the next meeting is on 10 February at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30 pm.

A J Forward
Chairman
10 February 2010

Abbreviations:

GPC - Greenham Parish Council
WBC - West Berks Council