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11 March 2010

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, GREENHAM
ON 10 MARCH 2010 AT 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: Mr T Forward (Chairman)
Mr P Planterose (Vice-Chairman)
Mr A Agutter
Mr C Austin
Mr P Barnett
Mr A Beal
Mrs S Huxtable
Mrs T King
Mrs D Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J Boston (Clerk)
PC S Hayward (Item 4 only).
1 member of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence was received and accepted from Mr B Drummond, Mr D Hale 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**".

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Mrs Huxtable said that she wished to clarify the statement at Item 8 of the previous Minutes. She had not in fact been asked to attend a meeting; she had merely been contacted by phone and asked for her views. Nevertheless, the Minutes reflected what had actually been said at the meeting in her absence and were therefore technically correct. The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2010 were

thus accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Neighbourhood Police Team. The Chairman introduced PC Steven Hayward who has recently joined the Neighbourhood Police Team. PC Hayward said he lives locally and his first visit to Newbury had been as an RAF Policeman when he was sent to RAF Greenham Common during the peace women demonstrations. Later he had served with the MOD Police at Aldermaston.

PC Hayward stated that at the moment all members of the Neighbourhood Police Team worked the same shifts but from June these would be split to provide cover from 8 am to 2 am. He also said that one of his aims was to regenerate the NAG, which could be a very effective local tool. Mr Barnett said he was a member of the Northeast NAG and it was certainly very effective; he wondered why some seemed to work better than others. The Chairman said that until very recently the Greenham NAG used to be held on the same night as GPC meetings which meant that Councillors were unable to attend. Also, it was held at the Greenham Community Centre which is not in fact in Greenham so Greenham people were disinclined to attend. Mr Agutter said that if he had known of a recent policing meeting at the Retail Park he would have attended. It was agreed that if PC Hayward lets the Clerk know of relevant dates he would include them in the website. There could also be better publicity in the NWN.

Reporting on the recent tour of the Parish that he had had with PC Hayward, Mr Forward said it raised interesting issues and helped with awareness of local topography, especially with respect to escape routes from scenes of crime. PC Hayward confirmed how useful this had been. It was then proposed by Mr Forward and accepted by Mr Austin that Mr Austin should conduct a tour with the Police and the Chairman on the Common as this area is an essential part of the Parish but was not accessible on the recent tour.

Following the above, access to the Common by the Police was discussed. The emergency services can always gain access by the use of bolt cutters but it was foreseen that there could be occasions when police would need access in the normal course of their duties. As Chairman of the Common Commission Mr Austin said he had no difficulty with the concept of the police having a key. It was thought that WBC would have spare keys and the Clerk will write to Paul Hendry asking for the release of one.

Ease of contact generally was also discussed. The Chairman will provide PC Hayward with Councillors' email addresses. Mr Forward, Mr Agutter and Mr Austin agreed to be all-hours points of contact if the Police needed urgent information. The Clerk will provide PC Hayward with their details.

The Chairman said that he thought the 0845 non-emergency number dissuaded people from contacting the police due to its high cost, particularly from mobile phones. He suggested that an 0300 number would be more popular. It was agreed that this suggestion should be pursued, Government departments such as DVLA, FSA and many others are moving towards providing 0300 numbers or providing them as alternatives. The Clerk will investigate.

The current Police boundaries were discussed. It was found that at the moment the TVP

Greenham area was different to both the Parish and the Ward. An example of this was discussed where currently the western end was policed by Newbury and the eastern end by Greenham, but only with access through the Newbury area. This inevitably would lead to problems which would be made worse when the Racecourse development was completed. It was understood that for the Police part of the development would be in Greenham and part in Newbury. Furthermore, some of the Greenham area could only be accessed via the Newbury area. The Clerk will write to the Police seeking a meeting to discuss this issue. Mrs Smith said she and the Clerk had already discussed security on the new development with Sarah Hordern where it was thought that an extension of the Warden scheme might be preferable to increasing the Racecourse in-house security during the initial phase (see also Item 8 below). It was suggested that the Police could attend a meeting between the RCWG and the Racecourse which was accepted. The Racecourse was considering at initial funding of additional wardens until the precept from the new housing could fund the scheme.

In a similar vein, Mrs Huxtable invited PC Hayward to become aware of the Parish Plan activity and the statistics gathered in relation to crime issues.

PC Hayward said that Community Officers were being trained on speed awareness which would allow them to not only conduct speed checks but to issue speeding tickets; this could not be done by response officers. (see also Item 18). Mr Austin recalled that he had previously been trained on SID and it was agreed that Councillors could usefully be used to operate laser guns. It was known that Hampshire Police were in favour of such a process; TVP had not been in the past but it was thought that their attitude might be changing. From the Public a comment was made by the NWN reporter that such an initiative was being carried out in the Pangbourne area; she will supply details.

Mrs King asked if high impact operations just resulted in problems moving elsewhere. An example was cited where a recent spate of thefts at the Retail Park possibly coincided with a reduction in Newbury. Following a comment from Mr Barnett about concerns raised by Newbury traders, PC Hayward reported that Newbury was also experiencing considerable crime. However, it was easier to provide dedicated high profile policing in the Town Centre because of the density of properties. On the down side, shop owners were often to blame for their own losses due to poor shop layout, insecure doors and a lack of CCTV coverage. PC Hayward described an example of poor coverage at the Retail Park. There was general concern over the proposed move of the CCTV Control Room which it was felt would lead to a loss of essential local knowledge.

PC Hayward confirmed that the Police could also be involved if there were concerns for Public safety and the Clerk would write to PC Hayward in respect of Item 6 below.

Mr Forward thanked PC Hayward for attending the meeting and hoped that the good relations between GPC and the Police would continue. PC Hayward said that he was most grateful for the invitation and he was sure that a close relationship would be of mutual benefit. PC Hayward then left the meeting to return to duty.

5. Matters Arising. The Clerk has now received the first tranche of completed ID cards from NTC and they were distributed. Remaining cards will be distributed on

completion.

6. Abbotswood/Pinchington Lane. The appeal by the HWRC operator against the Noise Abatement Order will be heard on 9 June. The Chairman said this should be interesting as the operator was working a site designed by WBC to WBC requirements yet WBC had imposed the Order, in effect against its own operations. The Chairman and Clerk continue to progress the fencing to the HWRC and balancing ponds. The Clerk has been in touch with HSE which advises that it is only responsible for industrial premises. As discussed in Item 4 above, the Police would take an interest if public safety was involved and the Clerk will write to TVP accordingly. The Chairman reported that the suggested names for the roads at the old HWRC development had been accepted. They will be Capability Way, Browns Walk and Woodhouse ?? (Gardens/Place etc to be decided).

7. Nationwide Data Centre. Andrew Kayes at the Data Centre has advised that the Diesel stand-by power should be test run in mid-March. However, due to the noise attenuation measures in place his personal view is that there should be no disturbance to neighbours. The Chairman had been unable to provide the contractor with email contact details for the neighbouring properties as some occupants did not want them disclosed. However, he had made them aware that some test running would be taking place.

8. Racecourse Development – the Way Forward It is now confirmed that GOSE will not be calling in the development plans; it remains to be seen what effect, if any, this will have on the Inspector's eventual review of the emerging LDF. Mrs Smith and the Clerk visited the Racecourse on 15 February to discuss the local impact of the plans. The Racecourse has appointed Harrison-Fraser to help define the character of the development and to ensure that it all fits together as a cohesive whole. The Racecourse Working Group has been formed and has held an initial meeting and agreed its TORs. One non-GPC member is Steve Wrzesinski, who is a former WBC planning officer. To ensure close integration with the Parish Plan activity, Mrs Huxtable will join the RCWG. This would also bring benefit to schooling issues due to her position as a Governor at the Willows. Mrs Smith has spoken with David Harris of Harrison-Fraser, who had not realised that the Racecourse was not in Newbury. Contact with Roger Hunneman of NTC had revealed concerns with the existing play park as this caused his residents problems with parking, road crossing and access. It had been agreed that moving the playground to the triangle in front of the Racecourse wall would be preferable as it would be better placed for the Racecourse development. A crossing on New Road would be needed for existing users but this would be needed in any case for Racecourse residents walking to Willows School. Mr Hunneman had said that a 20 mph speed limit will be imposed on Boundary Road and Eastfields. There is also a plan for traffic lights at the Boundary Rd/Hambridge Road junction which could also control crossing of the bridge. Mr Austin drew attention to the problems caused by parked cars in Boundary Road, which made it effectively single lane and said that he would like to see double yellow lines installed.. Mrs King said the flats had ample off-street parking but residents did not use it. Mrs Smith had had the chance to speak to Mr Cooch about extra wardens when the Racecourse development was built. As previously discussed The Racecourse was considering funding the extra manpower until GPC gained additional precept. Mr Beal commented that this showed the benefit of speaking with developers.

9. S.106 including Highways Improvements. The Clerk has been progressing the application to the S of S for the installation of bollards and Grasscrete parking at Stroud Green. The application will cover the northwest corner of Racecourse Road and the northern end of Vine Court. The grass surface in these areas is currently in an appalling condition. The Clerk has consulted all affected householders and he hopes to be in apposition to submit the application in the next week or so. The Clerk has chosen not to submit an application for bollarding in the area of the play park for 2 reasons. Now that the Racecourse Development has been permitted it seems likely that the area will need to be re-profiled in order to accommodate the proposed mini-roundabout so any expenditure may not be cost-effective. Additionally, there is an emerging suggestion that the play park should be moved to the triangle adjacent to the concrete wall. This would allow parking on the existing hard standing near the Racecourse entrance. The Clerk has written to WBC for an update on the other outstanding improvements suggested under the available S.106 funding. These include the installation of a raised mini roundabout at the Racecourse Rd/Boundary Rd junction, improvements to the Pinchington Lane traffic light phasing and improving pedestrian access to the Common. A reply is awaited. WBC is willing to undertake a traffic survey on consecutive days (one race day and one non-race day) in order that GPC can better understand traffic flow within Westwood (otherwise known as Racecourse) Estate. GPC is of the view that the use of Estate roads by traffic today to and from the Racecourse Development has been underestimated by WBC as the current usage is not properly recorded and was excluded from the Racecourse application figures. The Chairman stated that both he and the Clerk had emailed WBC on a number of occasions suggesting that the traffic figures to, from and within the Westwood Farm area were flawed and it was disappointing that Highways still seemed unable to grasp GPC's concerns. These related particularly to traffic using Lingfield and Westwood Roads. It was recalled that in the supporting traffic figures to the Racecourse application some 40 additional vehicles appeared on Racecourse Road without seemingly coming from anywhere. It was proposed by Mr Agutter, seconded by Mr Planterose and carried unanimously that WBC should be instructed to go ahead with both surveys, cost to be borne by the available S.106 monies. Following the submission of a comprehensive list of S.106 queries to WBC in October 2009, the Clerk has now received a response. This is currently being analysed and a full report will be made when this is complete (one question remains to be answered). The Chairman explained that correspondence had been currently been circulated to him, Mrs Smith and the Clerk as they had attended the original meeting. In order that Councillors are fully informed, the Clerk will email the correspondence to them.

Although outside the remit of the currently available S.106 funding, Mr Austin drew attention to the pressing need for a footbridge over the A339 to the College. He hoped that a Members' Bid could be introduced to further this. The Chairman gave his full support to this and suggested that the Ward Members be advised. There was also a need to improve the Boundary Road bridge. Although this was not in the Parish its inadequacy had knock-on effects as far as Racecourse Road. The Chairman reminded the meeting that part of the Racecourse application was to allow some off-street parking for Boundary Road residents. The Clerk will write to NTC to explore possibilities.

10. Planning.

(a) Applications

<u>No.</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
09/02204/COMIND	Newbury Rugby Football Club. Since the revised drawings/plans assessed at last month's meeting, members of the Planning Working Group have had the opportunity of a further meeting with the Planning Officer and the applicant's agent. The PWG had the following further comments:	

Greenham Parish Council shares the concern of the landscape consultants that there will be a definite impact on the visual amenity of the area and that if permitted there is little if anything that can be done to mitigate against this.

It would seem that concerns by highways about additional traffic due to the use of the all-weather pitch has been allayed if not resolved given that other pitches will not be used at the same time but feel this issue needs robustly dealing with. We also pleased to see that the new entrance is only to be temporary and that this part of the site is to be reinstated following highways request. The section 73 could vary this but we would expect highways to thoroughly check any revised proposal. Our concerns about wheel washing were addressed by the agent and a letter that was evidently sent to West Berks but this was not part of the further information sent to Greenham parish Council but we hope it will become part of the permission.

It seems surprising that as an all-weather pitch is only used when other pitches cannot be used and that this would generally coincide in more adverse weather conditions that no lighting has been proposed. Adverse conditions generally occur during the winter months when the days are short and you could reasonably expect lighting to be required. We however totally support the finding of the planning officer the condition will be put in place to prevent the installation of lighting and we would hope certain forms of public address. We are concerned though that such a condition could be argued against by the applicant as it prevents him from using the facility in the support of his commercial aspirations. There is plenty of case history where applicants have had conditions removed because they hamper the business use of the site. We urge the planners to consider this point robustly.

In summary almost all of the points that we have raised remain of concern to Greenham Parish Council and have to remain so as we are dependent upon consultees and the planning officers to make sure that any conditions and resulting permission deal effectively with these matters. Apart from the visual impact it is possible that all other concerns may be addressed by any permission except the concerns already voiced about the enforceability of certain types of condition or of future section 73 which seeks to vary them.

09/02701/FULEXT	Travis Perkins, Mill Lane Erection of 87 residential units David Wilson Homes	Object. See below
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- 1) GPC has a major concern about the densities. Some units are back to back, side to side and below/above. This is 'battery housing' and can not be acceptable in a modern development. The development is so crowded in fact that plotting of car and emergency vehicle routes necessary to demonstrate manoeuvring is only just possible, assuming that no selfish parking takes place.
- 2) There are no amenity areas apart from streets yet there are 2/3 bed homes here. Where exactly are children to play? The lack of amenity areas increases the potential danger of the nearby canal. Mr Barnett said that at the recent NTC meeting, the developer had unbelievably said that children could play at Stroud Green or Victoria Park, some considerable distance from the site.
- 3) Parking allowed is 1.3 spaces per dwelling. Against a norm of 1.5 spaces per dwelling this results in an overall shortfall of 17 spaces which can only be satisfied by parking on nearby streets or in inappropriate places (see Point 1 above).
- 4) GPC is concerned that the area is currently located in flood zone 3. Negotiations under way with EA to reduce this to zone 1 but it is considered this is driven by economic desire rather than an impartial assessment.
- 5) It is irrational that credit can be claimed for the dwelling where rainwater cannot be collected as there is no outside space! This is plainly ridiculous.
- 6) There are no actual traffic generation figures. Travel plans are basically just alternative travel to private car e.g. cycle, walk, car clubs, car hire, etc.
- 7) Travis Perkins has only moved some 150m to the east and is still accessed by the same road. Traffic generated by the proposed development will therefore be as well as, and not instead of, the Travis Perkins traffic. This road is often very slow moving at peak times and could easily become gridlocked if the development is allowed.
- 8) The proposal is totally contrary to saved policy ECON1. The area is allocated for business use and not for housing. The supply of land in West Berks for business purposes is rather stretched; only places like Reading have an over supply.
- 9) The application does not accord with PPS3 (item 70 – see below). West Berks has in excess of a five year land supply and in fact has a 6.5 year supply. Not only is this site not in the five year supply but it is not even an allocated site. On this basis alone the application should be refused.
- 10) GPC does not agree that the site satisfies questions asked in meeting the national standard “Building for Life”. Question 7 in particular justifies the layout as it prevents overlooking. However, it is clear from the detailed plans that large blocks in the development to the east will dominate the houses to the west and existing blocks of flats to the west will also dominate houses in the development on the western boundary. For the same reason little natural light will find its way to the houses in the site due to it being surrounded by high buildings.
- 11) The architectural design is very poor and does nothing to enhance the already poor quality design in the area.

PPS3 Item 70. In its entirety, this says: 'Where Local Planning Authorities have an up-to-date five year supply of deliverable sites and applications come forward for sites that are allocated in the overall land supply, but which are not yet in the up-to-date five year supply, Local Planning Authorities will need to consider whether granting permission would undermine achievement of their policy objectives'.

GPC therefore Objects to the application on the grounds that it is contrary to ECON 1 and PPS 3. Additionally, it is an over-development of the site. It lacks any amenity or play space and has insufficient parking space which is likely to compromise emergency service access. It is currently in Flood Zone 3. No traffic generation figures have been supplied.

Adjacent Parish Conversion to 2 x 1-bed flats
Mr James Pryer

1. There has been no neighbour or local community consultation.
2. Existing parking provision which is 2 spaces, this remains unchanged when conversion completed.
3. Post conversion floor plans now show ground floor living room will be moved from front of main house into rear extension with view to the side hence overlooking other properties The proposed first floor has the kitchen in the rear extension which overlooks next door but at first floor level.
4. Access to the bathroom/toilet is in both cases directly off the living room.
5. Overall the conversion may improve the visible exterior of the property but does not compensate for parking issue and other issues.

GPC therefore objects to the application.

10/00192/FUL	Land south of Pinchington Lane Erection of temporary Sales Office on location of approved garages together with associated car parking Mr R Storey	No Objection but require: Time limit for removal. Site returned to original purpose after removal. Permitted development rights removed from garage when completed.
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(b) Decisions

<u>No.</u>	<u>Proposal.</u>	<u>Decision.</u>
09/02612/HOUSE	3 Fir Tree Lane Conservatory	Granted
09/02619/FUL	Lower Farm Quarry S.73 variation	Granted
09/02621/FUL	Lower Farm Quarry S.73 variation	Granted
09/02703/HOUSE	10A Night Owls Various extensions	Granted
10/00048/FUL	Newbury College/Castle School Regulation 4 – special needs facility	Granted

11. Finance & Accounts for Payment.

The following cheques were presented for payment:

Mr J Boston – Clerk's salary & expenses	£1003.48
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax & NI	£420.33
SLCC – Mrs Haines Training Session	£100.00

Mrs Haines – Mileage 131.26 @40p	£52.50
SLCC Bookstore – Text Books	£245.80
Mr G Weir – Internal Audit	£46.60
BALC - Annual Membership	£542.66

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

Mr Weir conducted the Internal Audit on 5 March. He found no matters of concern and was satisfied that GPC's procedures are sound and well implemented.

The Chairman said that as the Clerk used a GPC-owned printer, it needed to undergo an electrical safety check and it was thought that as the Clerk's contract of employment allowed for the use of privately-owned equipment on GPC business this requirement might also apply to other electrical items. The Clerk was instructed to arrange the necessary checks.

The Chairman went on to say that he thought it advisable that the Clerk had access to Land Registry records (which is chargeable) and that his PC be equipped with a circuit protection system which would protect telephonic equipment. The Chairman also suggested that the Clerk's PC could benefit from other improvements such as an upgraded memory. He asked that these be considered at the next FWG meeting.

12. Parish Plan. Mrs Huxtable reported that as the next Steering Group meeting was the day after the GPC meeting there was little to report. The proposed Fun Day was on 6 June but there was uncertainty over parking and toilet facilities. The Clerk said that his wife, who was a member of the Steering Group, had been researching these topics. Mary Hare Junior School would make their grounds available for parking but was unable to open the building for toilet access due to security reasons (the School will be on half-term). Toilet hire was around £50 per unit per day, plus cost of transport.

13. Web Site & Contract. The Clerk has completed the first draft SLA and passed it to the Chairman and Mr Burgess for comment. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for an excellent draft which he thought would only need minor changes. The Clerk will copy the draft to Councillors for their information.

14. Allotments. The next Allotment Working Group meeting will be on 17 March. There is therefore nothing to report at this stage. It was agreed that the minutes would be included on the website.

15. New Model Standing Orders The Clerk reported that NALC has published new Model Standing Orders. In the Clerk's view the Model was very poor. It reflected the legal position but at the cost of good practice and common sense. For example, in law sub-committees can meet in private and their meetings do not have to be publicly advertised, yet they are empowered to make decisions on behalf of a Council. This is an anomaly that NALC has separately recommended should not be applied, yet it appears in the Model. Discussions with BALC, SLCC, and Graham Hunt, Chief Exec of NTC (in his position as Chairman of SLCC Berkshire) has resulted in a consensus that if current Standing Orders

suit a particular council there is no need to change them. It was agreed unanimously that GPC would continue to use its existing Standing Orders. The Clerk will however peruse the Model to see if there is any way in which GPC's own Standing Orders can be improved. At the same time the Clerk will take the opportunity to review GPC's financial regulations.

16. Local Development Framework. The proposed LDF Core Strategy has been published for consultation. There is limited time in which to reach conclusions, which must be made by 9 April. The summary document is notable in that it makes no specific mention of Greenham whatsoever. The Chairman said that in addition to this major failing, there is no substantiation of why our area is sustainable or why other areas are not sustainable and no sustainability study. He urged everyone to attend the public meeting.

17. Drainage Issues. The Chairman, Mrs Huxtable, Mrs Smith and the Clerk have recently been involved in 2 separate drainage issues. One is in the Bishops Green area and the other is at the northern end of the Bridleway. Both are problems of long standing which despite repeated efforts have never been satisfactorily resolved. Mrs Smith among others has already been liaising with Thames Water over leaks from hydrants. The Chairman has discussed the continuing problem of large volumes of water running off the Bridleway with WBC officials. It has been confirmed that the water is natural and does not emanate from Thames Water including the Fire Hydrant. There are several rivulets within West Wood that meet and run beneath the back gardens in Sedgfield. One property owner has covered over an access cover and it is here that there is a blockage. This prevents the water running into the surface water drain, The Clerk has taken digital photos of the problem which have been passed to WBC, which continues to investigate. Some proposals such as ditching have already been discussed which may need negotiation with Thames Water. The Chairman has had a site meeting at Bishops Green with Andy Reynolds of Highways. It had been confirmed that the water problem here was natural and may be caused by ditches on Common Land being in poor maintenance and partly filled in. Water rises up through the road surface and then freezes. It had been necessary for WBC to erect warning notices as a result. The Chairman informed Councillors of continued bursts of the water main in the area where houses have been flooded including one where a substantial claim has been made. WBC had also confirmed GPC's previous concerns over the type of drains fitted along the A339 which made it impossible to clear the drainage system and these might need to be replaced with a different type. The Chairman had discussed this on site along with other locations such as the Swan roundabout and western entrance to NGP. The regular flooding of the road on the A339 roundabout near the College was also mentioned and this will be referred to Andy Roberts. Mrs Smith had noticed a large degree of fly-tipping in the ditches along side the A339 which could only make the problem worse. There are ongoing concerns about the suitability of the open space provided by The Chase development and possible compromising of drainage there and this was also discussed.

18. Burys Bank Road – Verges. GPC continues to be concerned over the risk to livestock and motorists by the hedges along Burys Bank Road. WBC policy is that letting the hedges grow up to the road discourages speeding but this is not borne out by experience. Also, this makes it very difficult to see animals straying on to the road. Not only are cattle valuable they are large, heavy animals and cause a real road safety risk.

Experience in the New Forest proves that cutting back the hedges improves road safety and does not compromise it. Additionally, now that the Neighbourhood Police are properly trained with the ability to issue speeding tickets it will be easier to enforce speed limits here. The Clerk will write to WBC urging it to reconsider the policy of not cutting back verges.

19. Exchange of Information. WBC has announced consultation on the 2010 Report of the West Berkshire Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy. The Strategy and feedback form can be found on www.westerkshirpartnership.org. The District/Parish Conference will be held at Market Street on 17 March 2010 commencing at 6.00 pm. Topics include Adverse Winter Weather conditions and Influencing the Implementation of Planning Policy.

Mr Planterose said he would be attending a Hydropower conference in 15 March as a member of Sustainable Newbury. Mr Austin said it is well known that there is concern that river turbines could damage rivers and fish for little power output in return. Mr Planterose took an action to ask a question about this at the meeting.

Mrs Smith said that the consultation period for the Right of Way through West Wood was now complete. It was agreed unanimously to write a letter of thanks to Mr Herbert who had done so much to achieve the Right of Way. The Clerk cautioned that although the consultation period was now complete it would be sensible to wait until that Order was actually in force.

Mr Austin asked about the maintenance of the Public Open space behind The Chase. The Clerk said that he understood that WBC was waiting for outstanding work to be completed before it was adopted. However, there was concern that the original plans showed gravel/oggin drives and these did not appear to be in place. The Clerk will research the matter and advise Councillors.

Mr Austin said that the next round of charity distribution by the Trust would be on 11 March. He urged anyone with a suitable project to make an application for funding. Mr Agutter said he would ensure that the Needlework Museum had done so. It was also agreed that Councillors should try to make a group visit. Mr Agutter will provide the Clerk with the necessary contact details. Mrs Smith commented that the West Berkshire Partnership was trying to promote tourism and this should be included.

Mr Barnett said he supported the Chairman's view and would therefore like to see Mrs Appleby's dedication and public service over so many years properly recognised. He suggested a road name and thought there were precedents for allowing the naming after living people. Mrs Smith said that perhaps the proposed public centre at the Racecourse could be called The Appleby Centre.

Mrs Huxtable said that it was often impossible to access the WBC planning website. The Chairman said the situation was dire, and when access was achieved, very often necessary documents were not available. All electronic records for the housing on the old HWRC, which was very recent, appeared to have been deleted and the only way of getting information was to physically visit the WBC offices. The Clerk will write to WBC to ask

why the service is so poor and records deleted.

18. Date of Next Meeting. The Meeting closed at 9.50 pm. The date of the next meeting is on 14 April 2010 at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm.

A J Forward
Chairman
14 April 2010

Abbreviations:

BALC - Berkshire Association of Local Councils
GPC - Greenham Parish Council
HSE - Health and Safety Executive
NALC - National Association of Local Councils
NTC - Newbury Town Council
RCWG - Racecourse Working Group
S of S - Secretary of State
WBC - West Berks Council